

The Regional Training Boards

Building capacity for flyway conservation

Flyway level training and awareness

There are already a number of site-specific training programmes on wetland and waterbird conservation in the African-Eurasian region. However, they are not yet well set up to tackle the long-term management of wetland and migratory waterbird resources from a flyway perspective. From the outset, the WOW Project has worked with the principal training institutions and stakeholders in Africa and Eurasia to assess needs, building consensus on the way forward and nurturing local ownership. The final product is a set of widely consulted, locally owned, flexible and practical training modules on wetland and migratory waterbird conservation.

A collective effort

Development of the training modules has been thoroughly participatory, through a series of meetings and major workshops involving the Regional Training Boards and the main project partners. A formal review and test run of the modules was held in Amman, Jordan in June 2008, involving a large number of project partners and potential users of the modules. The final version has been formally endorsed by the Regional Training Boards. The review process has helped to ensure that the modules are of the highest quality, practical, transferable and addressing the main knowledge gaps in the region. Importantly, there is a team of dedicated individuals already established through the Regional Centres to drive this process locally.

Each year, bird migration on the African-Eurasian flyway involves millions of waterbirds, moving between thousands of sites across well over a hundred countries. Conserving these species is a truly international undertaking. It requires concerted actions across the entire range of habitats where these species stop to feed, mate, rest and raise their offspring.

and waterbird conservation, for example by joining the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. However, some countries still have very limited capacity to plan, implement, monitor and engage in action for effective flyway-scale conservation.

The 'Wings Over Wetlands' training modules are designed to help build this capacity, by providing high-quality, targeted, practical and adaptable materials to support a range of training requirements.

This 'flyway-scale' conservation approach is vital, but it is also a challenge. Many countries on the flyway have already committed to wetland

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The WOW Project acknowledges with thanks the financial support of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service

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Package includes:

- Example-rich text
- Case studies
- Presentations
- Interactive games
- Exercises

...AND MORE!



Training Programme

WOW also supports demonstration wetland management projects in 12 countries, including Estonia, The Gambia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Turkey and Yemen.

To catalyse efforts in different parts of the flyway, Regional Centres have been established in Western and Central Africa (Dakar, Senegal), Eastern and Southern Africa (Nairobi, Kenya), Central Asia and the Caucasus (Almaty, Kazakhstan / Moscow, Russia), and the Middle East (Amman, Jordan).

Specific needs in a flyway perspective

A key product of the training programme is a set of four kits: in a generic English version, and regionalized versions in Russian, French and Arabic.

The modules are available at regional and national levels for use in training courses. Relevant training institutions are taking up delivery of the training: their own staff are priority candidates, to ensure institutionalization. The Regional Centres are using their networks to promote the modules within each region.

The modules provide a broad generic outline that can easily be adapted to the actual training needs of any target group in their country or region. They can be used for the training of trainers, and as support for the delivery of their training programmes in turn.

Module 1: Understanding the Flyway Conservation Concept

An overview of the essential concepts of flyway-scale conservation, this module also introduces trainees to the mechanisms and tools available for their use.

This module equips trainees to:

- Understand the Flyway Conservation Concept and appreciate its importance
- Obtain a good understanding of waterbird migration ecology, and its conservation implications
- Understand clearly the key policy, legal and practical actions required for flyway conservation

Module 2: Applying the Flyway Conservation Concept

This module explores in more detail the policy, legal, research and conservation tools available for flyway conservation, and where and how to apply these at local, national, regional and flyway level.

This module equips trainees to:

- Obtain a clear and detailed understanding of the inter-linkages between flyway conservation and the socio-economic values of wetlands and waterbirds
- Develop a prioritized list of practical actions required to support flyway level conservation
- Design, implement and co-ordinate flyway-relevant conservation measures in policy, legislation, research, monitoring and on-the-ground action

Module 3: Communicating the Flyway Concept

This module focuses on how to communicate the flyway conservation concept to a range of different audiences.

This module equips trainees to:

- Deliver modules 1 and 2, in full or shortened versions, to a wide range of target audiences at the national or regional level
- Link up and take better advantage of the broader WOW international network supporting flyway conservation (such as UNEP/AEWA, Ramsar, Wetlands International and BirdLife International)
- Be effective advocates for the flyway conservation approach

The training kit

Each training kit includes three modules with example-rich text, case studies and exercises, presented in a flexible ring-bound format and accompanied by a comprehensive set of PowerPoint presentations.

The format allows each user to extract and organise the contents to tailor the training to the specific needs of his/her target group. The accompanying CD includes not only PowerPoint presentations but a range of supporting documentation such as AEWA and Ramsar documents and guidelines.

Each Regional Centre has brought together a Regional Training Board represented by the leading regional training institutions and conservation organisations, and supported by a Capacity Building Officer. The Training Boards have worked together to develop practical and effective training modules for the flyway, and each will be facilitating the modules' regional adaptation and implementation.

Flyway conservation at work

The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) Project is a joint effort between UNEP/GEF, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, UNEP/AEWA, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNOPS, UNEP-WCMC and a range of other donors and local partners along the African-Eurasian Flyway.

WOW's goal is to promote the 'flyway scale' approach to conserving migratory waterbirds and the critical wetland habitats on which they depend to complete their annual migrations.

WOW aims to support Governments and civil society in waterbird conservation efforts across the flyway. WOW activities include development of an electronic portal, the Critical Sites Network Tool, that integrates and presents information from key databases for waterbirds; the creation of regionally tailored training programmes for conservation institutions across the region; and enhancement of communication mechanisms and opportunities for exchange along the entire flyway.

