

WOW – REGIONAL CENTRE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 2
REPORTING PERIOD: Nov 1st 2007- 31st May 2008
Report Prepared by: ME SRS

Country	Jordan
Regional Centre	Middle East SRS – Jordan
Countries Covered by this Regional Centre	Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, and Yemen
Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO	BirdLife International, Middle East Division
Total amount of funds under this Agreement	163,817
Expected project duration	24 months
Date of signature of the agreement	
Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Name: Ibrahim Al Khader Title: SRS WOW Coordinator e-mail: Ibrahim.khader@birdlifemed.org

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1. Executive Summary

The Middle East regional centre continues to operate and team in place. The center continues also to coordinate with PCU, BLI and WI to develop the various project components mainly the 'Critical Site Network' tool for the Middle East region and the training modules.

The center participated in the WOW team meetings to be held at the end of January 2008 in the Netherlands where a presentation on progress was made and contributed to various meeting sessions. The center has also successfully organized the ME sub region monitoring and gap filling workshop in April 2008 which was attended by most of countries in the region. The workshop assisted in re-establishing WI presence in the region.

The regional training Board under component two is established and operational through establishing specialized committees to take the lead on specified issues related to the programme such as communication, mobilizing resources and reviewing training modules. The center is currently finalizing the preparations for the major WOW Regional Training Modules Review and Adaptation Workshop planned in Amman in the period between the 8th and 16th of June 2008

The project during this reporting period has been disseminated and presented at various gatherings and workshops: Hanns Seidel Foundation: MENA COOPERATION FOR TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT, Amman, 25-29 May 2008; BirdLife Global Council, Doha, Qatar 13-15 May 2008; the specialized workshop organized by ICARDA and the Governorate of Aleppo on Sabkhet Al-Jaboul wetlands management, Syria, 13-14 April 2008. The later has been followed by the development of a proposal for Wise and Responsible Hunting of Birds at Jabbul which was prepared jointly with Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife and submitted to Syria GEF/SGP.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Holding the ME subregion Monitoring and gap-filling Workshop, Jordan 15 th – 18 th 2008 with participation of almost all countries in the region. This also assisted to Re-establish WI presence and contacts in the sub region
2	Regional Board operational through specialized committees with specific TORs and structure.
3	The board is maintained updated through regular communication and ensured the involvement of a representative from UAE.
4	The WOW project has been disseminated and communicated in various workshops and gatherings and plans are in place for further communications and dissemination in the next reporting period.
5	The Center in cooperation with AEWA secretariat has started prioritizing countries for AEWA accession from the region and has already facilitated communications and exchange of info for two candidate countries Yemen and Iraq.

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Failing to secure project co finance is having a significant negative impact on our regional	Identify potential donors	Ongoing	WI

	<p>centre and may prevent us from continuing our activities as of early 2009.</p> <p>This insecurity over longer term prospects has also already caused the loss of key staff.</p>			
2	<p>Level of board members commitment and contribution to the development, revision and adaptation of the modules is below expectations</p>	<p>Maintain regular communication with the board chairperson and members; Hold the regional modules revision and adaptation workshop in the Middle East Consider holding a sub-regional modules revision and adaptation workshop in the Middle East</p>	<p>Ongoing June 2008 December 2008</p>	<p>MESRS WI, MESRS MESRS</p>

2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES Description of issues affecting project performance during the reporting period	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of decisions / actions to be taken	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	The insecurity over long-term availability of co-financing is negatively affecting our capacity to retain key staff (ref. below).			
Finance & administration	<p>ME Regional centre operational with BL existing capacity, full time capacity development officer and part time waterbird officer. Lack of resources will be apparent as of beginning of 2009 which can jeopardize centre continuity beyond mid 2009 and delivery of outputs.</p> <p>Specifically failing so far to secure the Co-financing by WI to support project components such as holding key regional activities, Limitation in the travel budget line which limits possible/needed meetings with partners in the region to minimum.</p> <p>We need to avoid overstretching of the BLME staff running the centre. Networking through BirdLife is very successful via the existing partnership resulting in less work load to the staff as partners are contributing a lot to the project activities, but we need to consider sustainability of the project and</p>	<p>WI to identify potential donors</p> <p>Fundraising the at the regional level for site/species related activities</p> <p>Depend more on virtual discussions over the phone and by emails</p> <p>Undertake GEF/UNEP/UNOPS contribution re-budgeting to support priority gaps and activities</p> <p>Initiate marketing and resourcing for the implementation of the training programme in coordination with ongoing efforts for funding gap resourcing</p>	<p>End of 2008</p> <p>End of 2008</p> <p>July 2008</p> <p>Mid 2009</p>	<p>WI</p> <p>ME SRS, WI</p> <p>ME SRS, PCU,</p> <p>WI, ME SRS</p>

	secure financing of this initiative			
Logistics & operations	None			
Reporting & communication	None			
Coordination with project partners	Level of board members commitment and contribution to the development, revision and adaptation of the modules is suboptimal.	Maintain regular communication with the board chairperson and members and increase the sense of ownership through specialized committees.	Ongoing	ME SRS
	There is a need to enhancing the sense of ownership of the programme among stakeholders involved	Hold the regional modules revision and adaptation workshop in the Middle East	June 2008	WI, MESRS
		Initiate resourcing for training programme implementation and sign at least three MOUs with candidate regional training centres	End of 2008	MESRS
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)	None			
Other				

2.2 Regional Training Board (TB)

Date of last TB Meeting	November 2007
Proposed Date for next TB Meeting	October 2008

Please provide updated list of TB Members (list the TB Chairperson first):

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Dr. Azzam Alwash (Nature Iraq) BL Network Org, Iraq	Chairperson	azzam@alwash.net	+962 7 955 555 69
Mr. Mohammed Yousef (RSCN) BL Partner, Jordan	Deputy Chairperson	mohammedyousef@rscn.org.jo	+962 6 533 7931
Dr. Saeed Mohammad Al Khuzai BL Affiliate, Bahrain	Member	saeed@alreem.com	+973 3 964 4771
Mrs. Yasaman Rajabkhalah (Ramsar Regional Centre)	Member	yasaman_rajabkhalah@yahoo.com	+982 1 882 416 59
Mr. Rami Jihad (RSCN)	Observer	rtraining@rscn.org.jo	+962 6 533 7931
Mr. Mohammad Al Salamah (NCWCD) BL Affiliate, Saudi Arabia	Member	mssalamah@yahoo.com	+966 1 441 5590
Dr. Akram Darwish (Ministry of Environment, Syria)	Member	akramisa@scs-net.org	+963 9 447 125 79
Dr. Omar Al-Saghier (YSPW) BL Afiliate,	Member	omar.alsaghier@undp.org	+967 7 777 101 74

Yemen			
Mr. Adnan Budiri (MedWet)	Member	adnan@medwet.org	+302 1 080 892 70
Dr. Salim Javed (UAE: Environment Agency –Abu Dhabi)	Member	sjaved@ead.ae	

3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

Legend: abbreviations of project structures/organisations/positions

AEWA	UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
BLI	BirdLife International
CO	Communications Officer (based in AEWA)
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SRS	Sub-Regional Subcontractor
WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WI	Wetlands International

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS NA Not scheduled for current reporting period IP In progress (% completed) C Completed	PROGRESS Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	ISSUES Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions / Actions to be taken
Component 1: Establishment of a fundamental tool to assist planning and management in flyway conservation				
Activity 5. Compile the network of critical sites using Ramsar and IBA criteria				
Consult experts in region on results	WI, BLI, SRSs	↑ C (New) IP (20%)	Priority WOW IBAs almost identified and gaps in the region identified This is related to agreed activity to launch consultations to identify IWC priority gaps in the region	New emerging consultations. No problems foreseen

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Activity 6. Publication of the network of critical sites on CD ROM, in printed format (as a static document), and launch of the dynamic and interactive version on the internet				
Launch portal	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSs	↑ IP (50%)	Major progress from the subregion through: Reviewing Flyway maps Conducting the regional Monitoring and gapfilling workshop Identification of gaps in the region Attending the WOW workshop at Netherlands during which relative activities were discussed thoroughly	Without utilizing of BL existing network, SRS would have not been able to achieve major progress
Activity 7. Raise awareness amongst practitioners, and train them in the use of the network of critical sites				
Disseminate concept of critical site network at appropriate occasions like conferences, meetings, workshops (active participation to raise awareness)	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSs	↑ IP (50%)	The concept has been disseminated and communicated during the Gap filling and monitoring workshop This concept has been also communicated during various meetings and gatherings in Jordan and Syria.	Plans are in place to continue disseminating and demonstrating the CSN tool in the region during the major Middle East Biodiversity Symposium planned in Amman, October 2008
Activity 8. Promote the network of critical sites as a conservation tool				
Develop communication plan for publicising the network of critical sites as a tool for conservation	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSs	↑ IP (20%)	SRS is helping relative NGOs identifying urgent conservation actions at some critical sites, namely in	These are ongoing activities of BLME that

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			Iraq and Syria	overlaps with WOW initiatives
Implement communication of network tool	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSSs	NA		
Activity 9. Production of a publication to raise awareness of key issues in the flyway using the network as the basis				
Produce and distribute publication	WI, BLI, SRSSs	NA		
Outcome 1.2. Primary data resources that underpin flyway conservation, planning and management activities enhanced to include all critically important sites in the AEWA region				
Activity 1. Identify gaps in spatial coverage and mobilise existing information				
Sub-regional check of coverage	WI, BLI, SRSSs	↑ C	All gaps in the sub region identified during the ME Monitoring and gapfilling workshop	Huge coordination and financial support needed to fill out these gaps
Compile existing information through sub-regions	WI, BLI, SRSSs	↑ IP (30%)	Being compiled	
Organise regional workshops	WI, BLI, SRSSs	↑ C	Gapfilling / Monitoring workshop successfully held in April 2008. A consolidated report covering all 3 sub-regional gap-filling workshops is in preparation. This report will outline the main contributions and achievement of the Middle-East workshop.	

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Activity 2. Fill the information gaps in the data sources				
Increase and focus sub-regional coordination of IWC and IBA to fill gaps	WI, BLI, SRSSs	↑ IP (10%)	WI presence re established during the Monitoring and gap-filling workshop. Coordination is strengthened between WI and BL in the region	There is an urgent need to appoint a regional IWC coordinator
Perform additional targeted censuses to cover and fill gaps	WI, BLI, SRSSs	↑ IP (10%)	Proposal applications developed and to be circulated regionally and uploaded to WOW website	Lots of gap sites and little capacities to fill and minimum budget available
Organise sub-regional workshops (same workshops as under act 1 of outcome1.2, above)	WI, BLI, SRSSs	↑ C	ME Monitoring and gap filling workshop conducted in Jordan 15 th – 18 th April 2008 with participation of representatives from almost all countries in the sub-region	None
Outcome 1.3. Flyway data gathering and monitoring capacity strengthened to support the updating and maintenance of primary data resources that underpin conservation of the network of critical sites				
Activity 1. Harmonizing and strengthening data gathering capacity, thus ensuring better compatibility between and sustainability of monitoring networks				
Develop input for manuals on streamlining and integrating monitoring activities	WI, BLI, SRSSs	↑ IP (5%)	Under discussion	
Sub-regional Workshops to implement integrated monitoring	WI, BLI, SRSSs	↑ C	The workshop has been held April 2008	

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			However, the consultations is ongoing to agree the harmonized monitoring protocol under development	
Activity 2. Strengthening capacity for data gathering and monitoring				
Experts to lead surveys to train on (integration of) monitoring activities	WI / (consultants), BLI, SRSSs	0%		No budget allocations (co-finance) for gap filling surveys to the ME sub-region
Sub-regional training censuses	WI, BLI, SRSSs	0%		As above
Activity 3. Provide materials and equipment to facilitate and assist the training and data collection				
Develop, print and provide field guide in Russian	WI/(consultants), BLI, SRS Central Asia	NA		
Provide optical and other equipment	WI, BLI, SRSSs	0%		As above
Outcome 1.4 Species and critical site knowledge base supports management and planning decision-making in flyway conservation				
Activity 1. Compile existing ecological knowledge on species' migratory characteristics, site function and population delimitation				
Compile overview existing ecological knowledge and identify gaps in knowledge	WI / (consultant), BLI, SRSSs	NA		

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Activity 2. Facilitate research to cover the gaps in knowledge of the use of sites by migratory waterbirds and of population limitation				
Make available 'seed money' to help develop proposals to obtain funding for research to fill the gaps in knowledge	WI, BLI, SRSS	↑ IP (10%)	Proposal applications agreed and developed to be made available through WOW website	Restriction of funding
Component 2: Establishing a basis for strengthening decision-making and technical capacity for wetland and migratory waterbird conservation				
Outcome 2.1 Transferable model Training and Awareness Raising Programme framework produced for developing wetland and waterbird conservation capacity				
Activity 1 Develop a working draft of the model Training and Awareness Raising Programme				
Series of meetings with key training institutes	WI, SRSS	↑ IP (50%)	Meetings and phone conversations with RSCN and Ramsar Center representatives have been conducted. MOUs will be discussed in the next two months.	
Translate, print & distribute first draft model	WI, SRSS	↑ IP (50%)	First drafts of the three modules developed by external consultants were received in mid May 2008 from the CDO. Drafts will be reviewed at CD workshop in June 2008 (in preparation) and the CDOs, before distribution to the Regional Training Board.	Lack of funding for the translation of the modules

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Activity 2 Training and Awareness Raising Programme Development Workshop				
Hold Development Workshop	WI, PCU, SRSSs	↑ IP (50%)	After the Almen workshop (Sept 2007) a second CD workshop will be held in Amman, Jordan on the 8 th – 16 th June 2008 under the title of Regional Training Modules Revision and Adaptation Workshop. All logistic arrangements are being arranged by the Middle East CDO in cooperation with the PCU, the other regional CDOs and Partners.	Obtaining visa clearance, Ever increasing airfares especially from African countries to Jordan, Time and effort consuming process
Activity 4 Review of the programme model draft				
Perform external review of training and awareness model	WI, PCU, SRSSs	NA		
Conduct a full review of the model programme	PSC (sub-group), WI, PCU, SRSSs	NA	This will be conducted at the Amman workshop in June 2008 (in preparation)	
Activity 5 Finalise the programme model				
Translate & print final model, and distribute to contributing partners / networks and to project sub-regional centres for wide dissemination	WI, PCU, SRSSs	NA		

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Outcome 2.2: Wetland and waterbird conservation Training and Awareness Raising Programmes produced ready for implementation in four sub-regions				
Activity 1 Establish 4 Sub-regional Training Boards				
Informal meetings in sub-region to establish board	SRSs, WI, BLI	↑ C	Board is already established in Nov 2007, however, prospects for new members to join the board will remain valid as part of the board sustainability objectives	Publicizing the board at the regional and global level Some members level of commitments and response is less than expected
Organise & hold training boards meetings	SRSs, WI, BLI	↑ IP (50%)	First meeting held and communication is maintained on regular basis (update progress reports to the board members, phone calls, email exchanges, etc)	Lack of funding for the second board meeting
Meeting reports	SRSs, WI, BLI	↑ IP (50%)	Report on the board first meeting produced and published on the project website Progress updates produced and distributed to the board members	Lack of financial resources for the second board meeting and additional meetings afterward
Activity 2 Design and establish 4 Sub-regional Training & Awareness Programmes				
Produce draft Training and Awareness Raising Programme models for consultation	WI, SRS, BLI	NA		Long term concern beyond reporting period is the lack of funding for

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				external reviewers and for the translation and production of the modules
Training and Awareness Raising Programme Review Workshops & prioritisation of courses	WI, SRS, BLI	NA		Long term concern beyond reporting period that budget available for this workshop is 20,000.0 US\$ which can be less than needed especially for inviting wider range of participants from the region.
Activity 3 Finalise 4 Sub-regional Training & Awareness Programmes				
Prepare final draft for approval by Training Boards	WI, SRS, BLI	NA		Long term concern beyond reporting period is the lack of funding for external reviewers and for the translation and production of the modules
Hold awareness-raising meetings to publicise & introduce the Training and Awareness Raising Programme	SRS, WI, BLI	NA		Long term concern beyond reporting period is the lack of funding

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Activity 4 Mobilise resources for the implementation of the sub-regional training and awareness raising programmes				
Mobilise resources from within the sub-regions	SRSs, WI, BLI	↑ IP (15%)	Meetings and phone conversations with RSCN and Ramsar Center representatives have been conducted. MOUs will be discussed in the next two months.	
Component 3: Enhanced availability and exchange of information through improved communications capacity and resource provision				
Outcome 3.1: Demonstrations of best practice management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands available across the flyway				
Activity 1 Execution of demonstration projects				
Banc D'Arguin, Mauritania	WI (SRS West Africa) and the local executing agency			
Kokorou and Namga, Niger	WI (SRS West Africa) and the local executing agency			
Hadejia Nguru Wetlands, Nigeria	BLI (SRS East Africa) and the local executing agency			
Saloum/Niumi, Senegal/Gambia	WI (SRS West Africa) and the local executing			

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	agency			
Wakkerstroom, South Africa	BLI (SRS East Africa) and the local executing agency			
Dar es Salaam Wetlands, Tanzania	BLI (SRS East Africa) and the local executing agency			
Aden Lagoons, Yemen	BLI (SRS Middle East) and the local executing agency	↑ IP (30%)	BLME SRS Continue to ensure good linkages between the demo project and the SRS Aden project staff participated in the WOW team meeting Netherlands January 2008. SRS assisting in reviewing training and educational programs implemented and providing support and guidance on specific activities.	
Outcome 3.2. Strengthened mechanisms for governments and NGOs to communicate and work together on wise use of wetlands and migratory waterbirds				
Activity 1 Increase capacity for electronic exchange of information				

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Promotion of the new electronic communication facility	PCU, AEWA CO, SRSSs, WI, BLI, Ramsar	NA		
Activity 2 Augmentation of and increased access to flyway contact information				
Plan and implement data collection activities	AEWA CO, PCU, SRSSs	NA		
Activity 3 Provide project information (updates, progress reports, publicity materials) in four languages for stakeholders				
Disseminate newsletters	AEWA CO, PCU, WI, BLI, SRSSs	NA	Our team contributed to the dissemination of wow project brief 2007 in the region (distributed at both regional meetings held and at ad hoc presentations held in Jordan and Syria)	
Disseminate other project information	AEWA CO, PCU, SRSSs, Demonstration Projects	NA	Same as above	
Outcome 3.3. Mechanisms of exchange between and within sub-regions for improved flyway-level migratory waterbird and wetland management established				
Activity 4 Implement Exchange Programme activities				
Exchanges of key sites personnel within their sub-region	WI, SRSSs, demo projects, BLI,			

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Exchanges of demonstration site personnel	AEWA, Ramsar WI, SRSSs, demo projects, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar	NA		
Activity 5 Develop strategic partnerships and mobilise co-financing				
Promote partnerships through communication & liaison	WI, SRSSs	NA		
Develop strategic partnership proposals	PCU, WI, SRSSs			
Outcome 3.4 The wise-use of migratory waterbirds and wetlands is better understood and implemented by governments in focal sub-regions				
Activity 1 Development of sub-regional mentoring capacity				
Development of shadowing timetable for each staff member to coincide with appropriate MEA (Multilateral Environmental Agreements: i.e. AEWA, RAMSAR) activities	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU, SRSSs	NA		Funding for the implementation of this component is not available within the project budget. The implementation of this activity is therefore completely dependent on the mobilization of sufficient funding.

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Shadow activities in MEA offices	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU, SRSs	NA		
Shadow activities in the field	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU, SRSs	NA		
Activity 2 Production of key MEA texts and information in the predominant languages of the focal sub-regions				
Translation of key MEA texts	PCU, AEWA, Ramsar, SRSs, WI, BLI	NA		
Printing and dissemination of translated documents	PCU, AEWA, Ramsar, SRSs, WI, BLI	NA		

4. Funds Disbursement

4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds

Report on the status of GEF Funds managed under this Agreement with UNOPS.

Total Budget approved for the provision of technical services:	\$163,817
Funds advanced by UNOPS to date:	\$86,159
Total expenditure this reporting period:	\$55,120.70
Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule):	\$61,658
Balance (if applicable):	\$1,648.04
Date of the next request for funds:	1/7/2008

Certified by Project Manager: Ibrahim Al-khader

General Category of Expenditure	Total Budget	Total expenditure to date	Total budget balance	Opening balance this reporting period	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period	Balance at end of reporting period
Project Personnel	84,871	56,818.31	28,052.69	(1,933.72)	24,908.50	35,884.59	(12,909.81)
Travel on official business	5,000	3,810.01	1,189.99	(1,091.81)	1,750	1,218.20	(560.01)
Workshops & Training (Gap filling and monitoring workshop)	70,000	22,187.73	47,812.27	(5,864.73)	35,000	16,323.00	12,812.27
Equipment	4,000	1,694.91	2,305.09	4,000		1,694.91	2,305.09
Total	163,817	84,510.96	79,306.04	(4,890.26)	61,659	55,120.70	1,648.04

4.2 Status of co-financing

Please report on the status of funds received by other donors and partners as co-financing for this project using the following table.

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance
	NA				
totals					
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
BirdLife Middle East in-kind					
Personnel	0	0	0	16,913.79	
totals				16,913.79	

The ME SRS has participated in the specialized workshop organized by ICARDA and the Governorate of Aleppo on Sabkhet Al-Jaboul wetlands management in Syria, 13-14 April 2008. The SRS has participated in this workshop to present the WOW project and disseminate information about the CSN tool. This wetland is of particular interest to WOW since it is considered one of the key wetlands in the country and the sub-region, and research to fill gaps on information in the site is needed for the CSN component and hence contributing partially to gap filling surveys envisaged for the sub-region. A \$50,000 and 1.5 years, project proposal has been submitted to National GEF Small Grants Programme through the candidate BirdLife partner in the country, the Syrian Society for Wildlife Conservation (proposal attached).

An initial approval of the proposal has been given to SSWC but being a national funding programme, funds cannot be spent on international consultancy or support and hence no direct co-financing available for WOW project. However, the project is providing substantial funds for the cost for research and gap filling surveys and monitoring and hence contributing to CSN tool for this key WOW IBA. The final calculation of funds that can be attributed as part of co-finance to WOW project will be identified as the final approval of the project and start of activities and will appear hopefully in the next report.

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	(BLME staff), (BL Global Secretariat), (RSCN), (YSPW), (NI), (MedWet), (Ramsar Center), NCWCD, EDA, CEF, KEPS, SSCW, PWLS
# of NGO staff involved in this project	26
# of Government Staff involved in this project	3
# of Volunteers involved in this project	1
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	3
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	45
# of people involved in project workshops	50
# of people trained under this project	NA
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	0
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	1 (Radio programme featuring Marshes of Iraq)
# of publications produced under this project	NA
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	160 (excluding number of people who could be reached by media)

6. Key Lessons Learned

Please report on any lessons learned during project preparation and implementation. Please focus on issues that may (a) help in the design of future projects, and/or (b) help in improving performance of the WOW project, and (c) contribute to best practice in wetlands management and conservation of migratory waterbirds.

- Existing BirdLife partnership is very suited to take a lead on IWC scheme. However, this requires identifying coordination needs and mechanisms. This was apparent from the latest gap filling and monitoring workshop.
- The regional partnership is also well suited to help and support accession to MEAs.
- Board committees are now established to facilitate implementing the board work plan and maximize the use of human resources (board members) involved.
- Local communities are eager to understand the status of their neighbouring wetlands on which they are dependant in many ways. This was learned during the workshop held at Jabbul/Syria and after the presentation of the WOW project to the workshop participants.

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

Please update the overall project workplan, to reflect the actual start date and status of project activities.

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7
O1.1 Activity 5. Compile the network of critical sites using Ramsar and IBA criteria. Consult experts in region on results		X					
O1.1 Activity 6. Publication of the network of critical sites on CD ROM, in printed format (as a static document), and launch of the dynamic and interactive version on the internet Launch portal							X
O1.1 Activity 8. Promote the network of critical sites as a conservation tool. Produce and distribute publication							X
O1.2 Activity 1. Identify gaps in spatial coverage and mobilise existing information. Sub-regional check of coverage Compile existing information through sub-regions Organise regional workshops		X	X	X			
O1.2 Activity 2. Fill the information gaps in the data sources. Increase and focus sub-regional coordination of IWC and IBA to fill gaps Perform additional targeted censuses to cover and fill gaps Organise sub-regional workshops (same workshops as under act 1 of outcome1.2, above)		X					X X
O1.3 Activity 1. Harmonizing and strengthening data gathering capacity, thus ensuring better compatibility between and sustainability of monitoring networks. Develop input for manuals on streamlining and integrating monitoring activities Sub-regional Workshops to implement integrated monitoring				X			X
O1.3 Activity 2. Strengthening capacity for data gathering and monitoring. Experts to lead surveys to train on (integration of) monitoring activities Sub-regional training censuses							X
O1.3 Activity 3. Provide materials and equipment to facilitate and assist the training and data collection. Provide optical and other equipment							
O1.4 Activity 1. Compile existing ecological knowledge on species' migratory characteristics, site function and population delimitation. Compile overview existing ecological knowledge and identify gaps in knowledge			X				

O1.4 Activity 2. Facilitate research to cover the gaps in knowledge of the use of sites by migratory waterbirds and of population limitation Make available 'seed money' to help develop proposals to obtain funding for research to fill the gaps in knowledge								X
O2.1 Activity 1 Develop a working draft of the model Training and Awareness Raising Programme Series of meetings with key training institutes Translate, print & distribute first draft model				X	X	X		
O2.1 Activity 2 Training and Awareness Raising Programme Development Workshop Hold Development Workshop					X	X		
O2.1 Activity 4 Review of the programme model draft Conduct a full review of the model programme						X		
O2.1 Activity 5 Finalise the programme model Translate & print final model, and distribute to contributing partners / networks and to project sub-regional centres for wide dissemination						X		
O2.2 Activity 1 Establish four regional Training Boards Informal meetings to establish boards Organise & hold meetings Meeting reports			X	X	X	X		
O2.2 Activity 2 Design & Establish four working regional Capacity Development Programmes Produce draft Training Programme modules Training Programme Review Workshops					X			
O2.2 Activity 3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes Prepare final drafts for approval by Boards Publish & print Training Programmes Meetings to introduce Training Programme						X	X	
O2.2 Activity 4 Resource mobilisation for implementation Resource mobilization outside the focal sub-regions Resource mobilisation inside the sub-regions				X	X	X	X	
O3.1 Activity 1 Execution of demonstration projects			X	X	X	X	X	
O3.2 Activity 3 Provide project information (updates, progress reports, publicity materials) in four languages for stakeholders - Disseminate newsletters, Disseminate other project information			X	X	X	X	X	
O3.3 Activity 5 Develop strategic partnerships and mobilise co-financing Promote partnerships through communication & liaison				X	X	X	X	
O3.4 Activity 1 Development of sub-regional mentoring capacity. Development of shadowing timetable for each staff member to coincide with appropriate MEA (Multilateral Environmental Agreements: i.e. AEWA, RAMSAR) activities					X			
O3.4 Activity 2 Production of key MEA texts and information in the predominant languages of the focal								X

sub-regions							
Translation of key MEA texts and Printing and dissemination of translated documents							

7.2 Workplan for next six months

Please provide a detailed workplan for the coming six months period. You may add rows under each planned activity, do reflect any sub-activity that may be envisaged.

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period June – Nov 2008					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
CSN : continue coordination : Correct IBA data + boundaries	X	X				
CSN : Correction of IWC coordinates					X	X
CSN : continue support and feed to portal design and functionality	X	X	X			
CSN : review criteria and regional consultation on criteria			X	X		
CSN : prepare report on gapfilling/Monitoring subregions						
Organizing and holding the Project Regional Modules Review and Adaptation Workshop	X					
Prepare and finalize MOUs with the RSCN and the Ramsar Center		X	X	X		
Prepare and finalize MOUs with the NI and NCWCD					X	X
Hold the sub-regional training modules development (review and adaptation) workshop						X
Prepare marketing materials for the implementation of the training modules						X
Prepare concept for a proposal for the regional implementation (TOT) of the training modules					X	

ANNEXES

In each report, please include the following information in the annexes:

- ✓ List of workshops (title, date, location, # of participants) held in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of technical reports produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of media communication (TV/radio/press) released in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of publications produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ Updated inventory of equipment purchased with project funds (please use the table provided – double-click on the file icon below, insert items, and then “save” the file)



inventory

Please send by email to the PCU:

- ✓ 1 photograph of the project team as a group, and passport size photo of project manager (if not already submitted)
- ✓ Photographs representing main aspects of project work, and illustrating project impact (i.e. of workshops, field research, education and awareness, ecotourism, volunteer groups. Please take pictures illustrating the impact of the project, i.e. of the situation “before”, “during” and “after” the project)
- ✓ general photographs illustrating the environment of the site
- ✓ Soft copy of technical reports produced by project
- ✓ Soft copy of workshop reports

Please keep records of (for later review/consultation by the PCU)

- ✓ Financial records (invoices, receipts) of all expenditure incurred with project funds
- ✓ Hard copy of press articles and publications produced by the project
- ✓ Copy of TV/radio programs

Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type ⁴	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Workshop	ME Monitoring and gap filling workshop conducted in Jordan 15th – 18th April 2008 with participation of almost all countries	Amman Sadeen Hotel	15-18 April 08	ME SRS	ME SRS	25	Scheduled end June	English	

b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.							
2.							
3.							

⁴ Meeting types (Inter-governmental Meeting, Expert Group Meeting, Training Workshop/Seminar, Other)

⁵ Material types (Report to Inter-governmental Meeting, Technical Publication, Technical Report, Other)

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.	http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/content.aspx?audioID=21687	May 08
2.		
3.		

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	Additional information for Grants and Fellowships ONLY		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.							
2.							

e) Other Outputs/Services (e.g. Networking, Query-response, Participation in meetings etc.)

No	Description	Date
1.	Participation in a workshop at Jabbul/Syria with the title of a Framework for integrate Wetland Management of Jabbul Agro-Ecosystem which was organized by Governorate of Aleppo and ICARDA. About 55 participants attended the workshop and short presentation on the WOW project was delivered.	13-14 Feb 2008
2.	A proposal for Wise and Responsible hunting of Birds at Jabbul submitted to Syria GEF/SGP	May 2008
3.	Presentation on Flyways initiatives in ME during the Hanns Seidel Foundation: MENA COOPERATION FOR TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT, attended by 25 participants from ME and North Africa.	Amman, 25-29 May 2008
	BirdLife Global Council, Doha, Qatar	13-15 May 2008;

⁶ Technical Cooperation Type (Grants and Fellowships, Advisory Services, Staff Mission, Others)