

WINGS OVER WETLANDS

The UNEP/GEF African Eurasian Flyways Project

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL – Lead NGO

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 1

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 Jan 2007 – 31 May 2007

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Country	UK
Project Title	WOW
Contract ref. number	
Name of Implementing Agency/NGO	BirdLife International
Total amount of funds under this agreement	USD 225,930
Expected project duration	4 years (48 months)
Date of signature of the agreement	
Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Name: Leon Bennun Title: Director of Science, Policy & Information e-mail: leon.bennun@birdlife.org BirdLife International - www.birdlife.org

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1. Executive Summary

Provide a short summary of BLI contribution towards project progress and achievements. Highlight key issues, constraints, challenges, risks and mitigation measures during the reporting period. This section must be kept very short: **maximum 350 words**

Development of the Critical Sites Network tool continued and was further progressed through a Technical Workshop hosted by BirdLife and WCMC in Cambridge, UK in April and a follow-up technical meeting will be held by WI in Wageningen, The Netherlands in June. The Senior Technical Officer (CSN) was in position at BirdLife from February.

The species list and taxonomy standard for the project were agreed and methodology for the first phase of the gap analysis was developed and is being tested. Standards for digitizing species ranges and IBA boundaries have been agreed and datasets are being compiled. Planning of regional workshops has begun and will be progressed at the Wageningen technical meeting in June.

The setting-up of the two sub-regional training centres in Amman (Jordan) and Nairobi (Kenya) (Component 2) was supported by the Senior Technical Officer (Demonstration Projects) and financial and contracts managers in the UK. Discussions were also held to ensure maximum synergy with Components 1 & 3 and other complementary projects such as the forthcoming GEF/BirdLife “*Soaring Birds*” project.

Excellent progress has been made in reviewing all six BirdLife International supported demonstration projects (Component 3), and supporting them in concluding the signatures of their MOAs with UNOPS. Missions took place to five of the six countries during this reporting period to meet key stakeholders in Government and civil society organisations, help launch the projects nationally within the overall project context, and ensure that good communications channels were established.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

Highlight the most important 5 project achievements in the reporting period.

#	Key Project Achievements
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the Critical Sites Network (CSN) Tool (Component 1) continued. A CSN Technical Workshop was held in BirdLife and WCMC in Cambridge on 17th-18th April 2007 with 18 participants from WI, BirdLife and WCMC. A follow-up BirdLife/ WI technical meeting will be held at WI in Wageningen on 6th-7th June 2007.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A replicable method for establishing the project species list was developed. Using this method, the final species list for the project was agreed. The methodology for the first phase of the gap analysis was developed and is being tested. Standards for digitizing species ranges and IBA boundaries have been agreed and datasets are being compiled.

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning of the regional workshops is underway. The programme for the first workshop which is scheduled to take place in Africa in November, will be discussed at the Wageningen meeting in June.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missions to five of the six BirdLife International partner Component 3 Demonstration Projects were completed; the projects reviewed; key stakeholders consulted; MOAs finalized for signature; and all six MOAs signed with UNOPS during this reporting period.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The setting up of two Component 2 sub-regional training centres (Jordan and Kenya) was supported from the UK, and discussions were held with them to ensure maximum synergy with Component 3 and other complementary projects such as the forthcoming GEF/BirdLife “Soaring Birds” project.

1.2 Progress on project outcomes

Provide an overview of the contribution BLI has made towards progress & achievements for each project outcome during the reporting period.

Outcome #	Status (% achieved)	Progress & Achievements
Component 1: Establishment of a fundamental tool to assist planning and management in flyway conservation		
Outcome 1.1 The network of critical sites is available as a tool for use by practitioners to underpin planning and management of and catalyse site level activity in, flyway conservation.	15%	<p>BirdLife recruited Senior Technical Officer (CSN) – in position from February 2007.</p> <p>Development of the CSN tool is underway. A CSN Technical workshop was held in BirdLife and WCMC in Cambridge on 17th-18th April 2007 with 18 participants from WI, BirdLife and WCMC.</p> <p>Species range maps (which will be used in gap analysis and will be displayed in the final web portal) are being made available on project ftp site for more than a third of the WOW species; the remainder are in the early stages of development.</p> <p>IBA boundary digitization is continuing. Centroids for all IBAs in the AEWA region and boundaries for those IBAs already digitized have been provided for matching with IWC sites.</p>
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	12%	<p>Final species list for the project and taxonomy to be followed were agreed and species were split into priority 1 & 2 for gap analysis.</p> <p>Population data on WOW species have been collated for IBAs within AEWA and process of cleaning and integrating IBA and IWC data has begun.</p> <p>Methodology for first phase of gap analysis was developed and is being tested for ten WOW species.</p> <p>BirdLife/ WI gap analysis & regional workshop planning meeting will be held at WI in Wageningen on 6th-7th June.</p>
Outcome 1.3. Flyway data gathering and monitoring capacity strengthened to support the updating and maintenance of primary data resources that underpin conservation	10%	<p>Harmonisation of IWC and IBA monitoring was discussed at the Cambridge Technical Workshop.</p> <p>Analysis conducted of overlap in people/ organizations involved in IBA and IWC monitoring.</p> <p>At WI/ BirdLife Wageningen meeting in June planning will begin for regional workshops to address integration of IWC and IBA monitoring.</p>

Outcome #	Status (% achieved)	Progress & Achievements
of the network of critical sites		
Outcome 1.4 Species and critical site knowledge base supports management and planning decision-making in flyway conservation	2%	ToR for subcontractor (to compile ecological information) agreed. BirdLife has started to compile ecological information for small number of test species as a template for sub-contractor.
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		
Outcome 2.2: Wetland and waterbird conservation Training and Awareness Raising Programmes produced ready for implementation in four sub-regions	< 5%	The STO(Demo projects) and financial and contracts managers in the UK supported the BirdLife International Middle East Division and Africa Partnership Secretariat in setting-up and contracting for the two sub-regional training centres in Jordan and Kenya. Discussions were also held on the importance of maximizing synergies with Components 1 & 3 (Demonstration projects) and the training components within the forthcoming GEF/BirdLife “Soaring Birds” project.
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	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missions to five of the six BirdLife International demonstration project s completed in collaboration with PCU; • All six demonstration project documents reviewed and revised as necessary; • Supported the signature of all six MOAs between UNOPS and the Demonstration Project National Partners • Established good communications channels with PCU, Demonstration Project National Partners, and key stakeholders; • Key project stakeholders met and consulted in five of the six demonstration project countries. • Mission plans to the remaining Demonstration project (Turkey) in early June 2007 finalised.
Outcome 3.2. Strengthened mechanisms for governments and NGOs to communicate and work together on wise use of wetlands and migratory waterbirds		
Outcome 3.3. Mechanisms of exchange between and within sub-regions for improved flyway-level migratory waterbird and		

Outcome #	Status (% achieved)	Progress & Achievements
wetland		
Outcome 3.4 The wise-use of migratory waterbirds and wetlands is better understood and implemented by governments in focal sub-regions		

1.3 Key issues & proposed solutions

Identify up to a maximum of 10 key project issues encountered by BirdLife requiring the attention of the UNEP/GEF, of the Steering Committee and/or of UNOPS. These issues will be selected and extracted from sections 2 & 3 of this report.

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Insufficient co-funding is currently available for the planned West African regional gap analysis and monitoring harmonization workshop and no provision has been made for inclusion of North African countries in regional workshops. However there are some major gaps in site networks for WOW species in North African countries.	Resources could be redistributed between workshops according to the number of participants. North African countries could be included in the planned Middle-East regional workshop. This would make practical sense, since the two areas share a common language.	August 2007	WI/ BirdLife
2	Further investigation of the web-portal requirements of a wide-spectrum of potential users could be useful in order to maximize the usefulness of the tool developed. In particular potential users of the tool at national or site manager level have not yet been consulted on functionality.	Make available a mock-up of the web portal (displaying anticipated content for a limited number of species) or design a questionnaire for participants in gap-filling regional workshops and also for managers from the demonstration projects. Collate comments and suggestions on functionality and feedback into portal design.	Ongoing until after regional workshops complete in June 2008	WCMC/ WI/ BirdLife
3	There is a need for stronger links between project components.	Organise at least one workshop for all demonstration project managers and other key project staff to share experiences and build communication links.	February 2008	PCU, PSC
4	Uncertainty of co-financing (Component 2) has made it difficult to plan effectively for implementing the Sub-Regional Training Centres programmes.	Co-financing should be secured as a high priority.	February 2008	WI, PSC
5				
6				
7				

8				
9				
10				

2. Project Management

Project management is a critical cross-cutting issue that affects all project components. Use this section to highlight issues that affect project performance and the achievement of expected outcomes, and propose next steps.

2.1 Key issues and proposed action

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	No issues with recruitment or staff management.	n/a		
Finance & administration	No issues	n/a		
Logistics & operations	No issues	n/a		
Reporting & communication	Within BirdLife, communication lines between Cambridge and sub-regional hubs in Amman and Nairobi need strengthening.	Set up regular phone meetings between project focal points in each location.	September 2007	BirdLife
	Lines of communication between project partners and contractors in E & W Africa sub-regional hub not sufficiently clear.	Clarify communication protocols, channelling through individual focal points for each organisation.	September 2007	WI/ BirdLife
	Misunderstandings have arisen over external communications, regarding how the roles of project partners are presented.	Agree generic text for describing the project and the role of the project partners.	July 2007	UNOPS

<p>Coordination with project partners & demo projects</p>	<p>No major issues within Component 3. Coordination has been good with all demo project partners, although some delays have been experienced due to need for project revision prior to the recruitment of staff in some countries (i.e. Hungary).</p> <p>Internal coordination between components could be improved (also see above).</p>	<p>Continue to maintain good communications with demo projects, including monitoring missions where necessary.</p> <p>Establish improved internal coordination through regular email and telephone communications between focal points for each component.</p>	<p>Next report</p>	<p>BLI, SRSs, Demo Projects</p>
<p>External issues (mobilization of co-funding, political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)</p>	<p>Probable \$10 000 shortfall in project co-financing from AEWA will impact Component 1 activities</p>	<p>Adjust workplan to take account of reduced financing; support other project partners in efforts to secure co-finance.</p>	<p>September 2007</p>	<p>WI/ BirdLife</p>
<p>Other (please specify)</p>				

3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

Provide an overview of the contribution BLI has made towards progress & achievements for each project outcome and activity during the reporting period.

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
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Component 1: Establishment of a fundamental tool to assist planning and management in flyway conservation

Outcome 1.1 The network of critical sites is available as a tool for use by practitioners to underpin planning and management of and catalyse site level activity in, flyway conservation.

Activity 1: Establishment of inter-operability between the main data-sources.

WI issues a subcontract/MOA with WCMC (as a pre-selected sub-contractor, also identified in the Project Document) for the provision of technical advisory services towards the implementation of this component	WI	C	WI-WCMC contract developed and issued in November 2006.	
Develop and map quality standards for databases	WI/(WCMC), BLI	C	Further discussions on site digitization standards held taking account of INSPIRE initiative guidelines (EU-Commission). IBA digitization guidelines complete.	
Integrate standards, test	WI/(WCMC), BLI	35%	Work by sites and species Working Groups completed (methods for linking databases agreed). Teleconference held on 19th Jan 2007 to review	

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			progress. Use of taxonomy agreed at Cambridge Technical Workshop. Building on the document ‘Selection of target species for the WOW project’, a replicable method for establishing project species list was agreed at the Cambridge Technical Workshop and refined. Final species list subsequently agreed and species split into priority 1 & 2 for gap analysis. Further discussion planned for BirdLife/ WI Wageningen meeting in June to continue process of integrating IWC and IBA data and developing gap analysis methodology.	
Implement interoperability	WI/(WCMC), BLI	10%	Population data on WOW species collated for IBAs within AEWA and process of cleaning and integrating IBA and IWC data began.	
Activity 2. Collection of spatial site reference data as a basis for database linkage in the site network				
Map available data, gather new data	WI/(WCMC), BLI	40%	Strategy for gap-filling in IBA digitization discussed	

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			further at Cambridge Technical Workshop and is now being implemented. Some new hard copy boundary information sourced. Completed species range maps are being made available for approx. one third of WOW species, remainder are in early stages of mapping process.	
Digitise information	WI/(WCMC)	10%	Process of IBA boundary digitization continuing, with African islands IBA boundary digitization almost complete and North Africa currently underway at Secretariat. Strategy developed to allocate funds to assist digitization of IBAs in-country where capacity exists.	
Make spatial info accessible	WI/(WCMC), BLI	15%	All completed WOW species range maps, all completed IBA polygons and centroids for all IBAs within AEWA area are being made available on project ftp site.	
Activity 3. Creation of the basis of the site network by linking the main data resources.				

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Link data sources by coordinates	WII/(WCMC), BLI	55%	Central coordinates of all AEWA IBAs provided, and process of matching with IWC/ Ramsar sites is underway.	
Link data sources by boundaries	WII/(WCMC), BLI	12%	Further discussion at Cambridge Technical Workshop. Site boundaries for those IBAs digitized so far were provided on project ftp site.	Depends upon completion of digitization for IBAs and IWC sites in the AEWA area
Analyse combined datasets	WII/(WCMC), BLI	7%	Discussion at Cambridge Technical Workshop of how the combined spatial data-sets will be analysed and presented.	
Activity 4. Development of a web-based portal to integrate the data from the main data sources, to display the network of critical sites to users via the Internet and to link into data on ecological requirements of species, site use and management advice				
Develop plan for web based portal in consultation with custodians	WII/(WCMC)	10%	Teleconference held 1 Feb to review progress in planning web-based portal. Plan for portal progressed during Cambridge Technical Workshop and content will be discussed further at WII/ BirdLife Wageningen meeting in June.	It could be useful to get feedback on web portal functionality from potential users of the tool to feed into the design process. In particular site-manager/ national level user requirements have not yet been investigated.

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Programming of portal application, testing	WI/WCMC	NA	Not planned for this period	
Adapt databases for portal-linking	WI/(WCMC), BLI	NA	Not planned for this period	
Activity 5. Compile the network of critical sites using Ramsar and IBA criteria				
Review and apply criteria on datasets	WI, BLI	NA	Not planned for this period	
Analyse resulting site network	WI, BLI	NA	Not planned for this period	
Consult experts in region on results	WI, BLI, SRSs	NA	Not planned for this period	
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				
Compiling results of act. 1.5 into publication	WI/(WCMC), BLI	NA	Not planned for this period	
Edit and publish network	WI, BLI	NA	Not planned for this period	
Launch portal	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSs	NA	Not planned for this period	

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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	4%	CSN concept initially presented as part of the WOW project at : AEWA TC (Bern 30 Oct 06); AEWA SC & press conference (Bonn 20 Nov 06); BirdLife, WCMC, GAINS, Ramsar, AEWA at CSN meetings on 5-6 Oct 06. WOW CSN concept outlined on 10-11 March at BirdLife 'Flyways Workshop', which involved partners from 9 WOW countries.	
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	10%	CSN communication and promotion discussed at first CSN meeting in Oct 2006. Communication strategy outlined.	
Implement communication of network tool	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSs	2%	WOW project featured on BirdLife website. Discussion planned for WI/ BirdLife Wageningen meeting in June on whether regional workshops can be used to highlight the network tool and collect	

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			feedback on web portal functionality.	
Activity 9. Production of a publication to raise awareness of key issues in the flyway using the network as the basis				
Compile awareness publication	WI, BLI	NA	Not planned for this period	
Produce and distribute publication	WI, BLI, SRSs	NA	Not planned for this period	
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				
Map coverage of databases	WI, BLI	55%	Coverage of IBA and Ramsar databases has been mapped and IWC coverage will be overlaid when the layer has been verified. This map will be used as a basis for identification of geographic gaps in site coverage for further analysis during regional workshops. Methodology is being developed (using ten test species), which builds on the geographic gap analysis by calculating the percentage of the species' total flyway population held at different sites during	IWC population data is being cleaned and IWC centroids are being checked by national IWC coordinators; both will be available from July.

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			each season. Species with poor site coverage during particular seasons can then be given special attention during regional workshops.	
Sub-regional check of coverage	WI, BLI, SRSs	1%	Once IBA and IWC population data have been integrated, site coverage will be checked at sub-regional level. Discussion planned for WI/ BirdLife Wageningen meeting re: materials required for regional workshops to aid sub-regional checking of coverage.	
Compile existing information through sub-regions	WI, BLI, SRSs	0%	BirdLife Regional / sub-regional coordinators to help make available relevant information on WOW species/ sites, published in regional literature. Participants in regional workshops will be split into sub-regional teams and asked to compile and present gap-filling needs of the sub-region.	
Organise regional workshops	WI, BLI, SRSs	1%	Regional workshop scheduling is under discussion and workshop participation, materials and scheduling will be discussed further at WI/ BirdLife Wageningen meeting in June.	Insufficient co-funding is currently available for the West African workshop and no provision has been made for inclusion of North African

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				countries in regional workshops, where gaps are known to occur.
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, SRSs	3%	Discussion at Cambridge Technical Workshop re: harmonizing IWC/ IBA coordination at sub-regional level. WI/ BirdLife Wageningen meeting in June to include discussion on practical ways of improving coordination and expanding network of IBA/ IWC monitoring. Sub-regional coordination of IWC/ IBA to fill gaps will be addressed in regional workshops.	
Perform additional targeted censuses to cover and fill gaps	WI, BLI, SRSs	NA	Not planned for this period	
Organise sub-regional workshops (same workshops as under act 1 of outcome1.2, above)	WI, BLI, SRSs	1%	Planning of sub-regional workshops has been initiated and will be continued at WI/ BirdLife Wageningen meeting in June.	
Outcome 1.3. Flyway data gathering and monitoring capacity strengthened to support the updating and maintenance of				

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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				
Map and analyse overlap and differences in monitoring activities between IWC and IBA and Wetland Inventories	WI, BLI	70%	Discussed at Cambridge Technical Workshop. WI produced a review of monitoring in the AEWA region and an analysis of overlap in people/ organizations involved in IBA and IWC monitoring.	Further analysis of national situations planned during regional workshops.
Develop input for manuals on streamlining and integrating monitoring activities	WI, BLI, SRSS	10%	At Cambridge Technical Workshop - planned input into IBA forms/ manuals highlighting the IWC scheme and vice-versa.	
Sub-regional Workshops to implement integrated monitoring	WI, BLI, SRSS	0%	At WI/ BirdLife Wageningen meeting in June planning will begin for workshops to address integration of IWC and IBA monitoring.	
Activity 2. Strengthening capacity for data gathering and monitoring				
Print and provide monitoring manuals	WI, BLI			
Experts to lead surveys to train on (integration of) monitoring	WI / (consultants),			

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activities	BLI, SRSs			
Sub-regional training censuses	WI, BLI, SRSs			
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			
Provide optical and other equipment	WI, BLI, SRSs			
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				
Subcontract expert (consultant) to compile review of knowledge	WI, BLI	10%	TOR agreed for sub-contractor.	
Consultation of network and literature	WI/(consultant)			
Compile overview existing ecological knowledge and identify gaps in knowledge	WI / (consultant), BLI, SRSs	3%	Ecological content of web portal was discussed at Cambridge Technical Workshop.	

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			BirdLife is starting to compile ecological information for a small number of test species as a template for sub-contractor.	
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	NA	Not planned for this period	
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				
Develop the draft Programme	WI (consultant)			

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Series of meetings with key training institutes	WI, SRSs			
Translate, print & distribute first draft model	WI, SRSs			
Activity 2 Training and Awareness Raising Programme Development Workshop				
Plan workshop	WI, PCU			
Hold Development Workshop	WI, PCU, SRSs			
Activity 3 Draft the first full version of the model programme				
Draft first full version of model	WI (consultant)			
Activity 4 Review of the programme model draft				
Perform external review of training and awareness model	WI, PCU, SRSs			
Conduct a full review of the model programme	PSC (sub-group), WI, PCU, SRSs			

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Activity 5 Finalise the programme model				
Prepare the final version of the programme model	WI			
Translate & print final model, and distribute to contributing partners / networks and to project sub-regional centres for wide dissemination	WI, PCU, SRSs			
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	IP (< 5%)	The STO(Demo projects) and financial and contracts managers in the UK supported the BirdLife International Middle East Division and Africa Partnership Secretariat in setting-up and contracting for the two sub-regional training centres in Jordan and Kenya. Discussions were also held on the importance of maximizing synergies with Component 1 and Component 3 Demonstration projects as well as the training components within the forthcoming GEF/BirdLife “Soaring Birds” project.	None
Organise & hold training boards meetings	SRSs, WI, BLI			

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
Meeting reports	SRSs, WI, BLI			
Activity 2 Design and establish 4 Sub-regional Training & Awareness Programmes				
Produce draft Training and Awareness Raising Programme models for consultation	WI, SRS, BLI			
Training and Awareness Raising Programme Review Workshops & prioritisation of courses	WI, SRS, BLI			
Activity 3 Finalise 4 Sub-regional Training & Awareness Programmes				
Prepare final draft for approval by Training Boards	WI, SRS, BLI			
Publish & print the Training and Awareness Raising Programme	WI			
Hold awareness-raising meetings to publicise & introduce the Training and Awareness Raising Programme	SRS, WI, BLI			
Activity 4 Mobilise resources for the implementation of the sub-regional training and awareness raising programmes				

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
Mobilise resources outside the sub-regions	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU			
Mobilise resources from within the sub-regions	SRSs, WI, BLI			

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

Haapsalu-Nooarotsi Bay, Estonia	WI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see Annex I for project report)			
Biharugra's Ponds, Hungary	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see Annex I for project report)	IP (5%)	BirdLife and PCU completed a mission (27/02/07-02/03/07) to review the project and meet key stakeholders. The situation on the ground has changed significantly since project inception and BirdLife supported the local partner (MME / BirdLife Hungary) to revise the objectives. In consultation with	Lack of spare staff capacity to revise the project before the MOA was signed and a project manager recruited has delayed progress in this demo project. This was overcome by using a

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
			the PCU a preliminary review to conclude a revised problem analysis has been agreed, followed by a phased implementation of project activities. A MOA with UNOPS for this preliminary phase was signed during this reporting period. Please refer to the demo project progress report for further information about the demonstration project progress.	phased approach so that any significant revisions can be made in the next reporting period, and future payments linked to satisfactory delivery of the revised problem analysis and project document.
Nemunas Delta, Lithuania	WI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see Annex I for project report)			
Banc D'Arguin, Mauritania	WI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see Annex I for project report)			
Kokorou and Namga, Niger	WI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see			

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
	Annex I for project report)			
Hadejia Nguru Wetlands, Nigeria	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see Annex I for project report)	IP (10%)	BirdLife and PCU completed a mission (18/03/07-23/03/07) to review the project and meet key stakeholders. The situation on the ground has changed significantly since project inception and BirdLife supported the local partner (Nigerian Conservation Foundation) to revise the objectives. The MOA with UNOPS was signed during this reporting period. Please refer to the demo project progress report for further information about the demonstration project progress.	None.
Saloum/Niumi, Senegal/Gambia	WI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see Annex I for project report)			
Wakkerstroom, South Africa	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see	IP (15%)	BirdLife and PCU completed a mission (22/04/07-26/04/07) to review the project and meet key stakeholders. The situation on the ground has	None.

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
	Annex I for project report)		changed since project inception and BirdLife supported the local partner (BirdLife South Africa) to revise the objectives. The MOA with UNOPS was signed during this reporting period. Please refer to the demo project progress report for further information about the demonstration project progress.	
Dar es Salaam Wetlands, Tanzania	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see Annex I for project report)	IP (15%)	BirdLife and PCU completed a mission (20/04/07-22/04/07) to review the project and meet key stakeholders. The situation on the ground has changed since project inception and BirdLife supported the local partner (Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania) to revise the objectives. The MOA with UNOPS was signed during this reporting period. Please refer to the demo project progress report for further information about the demonstration project progress.	None.
Lake Burdur, Turkey	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see	IP (15%)	Good communications have been established with the national partner (Doğa Derneği), and the MOA with UNOPS has been signed. A monitoring mission	None.

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
	Annex I for project report)		with the PCU is scheduled for 11/06/07-15/06/07. Please refer to the demo project progress report for further information about the demonstration project progress.	
Aden Lagoons, Yemen	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (see Annex I for project report)	IP (10%)	BirdLife and PCU completed a mission (18/03/07-23/03/07) to review the project and meet key stakeholders The situation on the ground has changed significantly since project inception and BirdLife worked with our local partner (Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife - YSPW) and other key stakeholders, including the Environmental Protection Authority to revise the objectives. The MOA between UNOPS was signed during this reporting period, and BirdLife an agreement to subcontract national activities to YSPW was also signed. Please refer to the demo project progress report for further information about the demonstration project progress.	None.

Activity 2 Publication of a book summarising the lessons learned from the demonstration project activities

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
Consultant contracted and structure for the book worked out	WI, PCU			
Demonstration projects contribute information for book	WI (consultant), BLI, PCU			
Consultant compiles and edits the book	WI (consultant)			
Book reviewed	WI, PSC, PCU			
Book finalised	WI (consultant)			
Book printed, publicised and disseminated	WI, PCU			
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				
Creation of project web area in the AEWA web-site	PCU, AEWA CO, WI, BLI			

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
Creation of an intranet facility in the project web-site	PCU, AEWA CO, WI, BLI			
Creation of an email discussion group	PCU, AEWA CO, WI, BLI			
Promotion of the new electronic communication facility	PCU, AEWA CO, SRSs, WI, BLI, Ramsar			
Activity 2 Augmentation of and increased access to flyway contact information				
Compile existing information from partner organizations for use in the contacts database	AEWA CO, PCU			
Develop data agreement	AEWA CO, PCU			
Create, populate and maintain database on the AEWA web-site	AEWA CO, PCU			
Plan and implement data collection activities	AEWA CO, PCU, SRSs			
Activity 3 Provide project information (updates, progress reports, publicity materials) in four languages for stakeholders				

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
Compile annual newsletters	AEWA CO, PCU, WI, BLI			
Disseminate newsletters	AEWA CO, PCU, WI, BLI, SRSs			
Disseminate other project information	AEWA CO, PCU, SRSs, Demonstration Projects			
Outcome 3.3. Mechanisms of exchange between and within sub-regions for improved flyway-level migratory waterbird and wetland management established				
Activity 1 Establish informal networks along the main migratory flyways within the AEWA area				
Liaison with WI/BLI to agree on key sites / flyway networks	WI, BLI, AEWA, PCU			
Develop preliminary networks of people for selected flyways	WI, BLI, AEWA, PCU			
Detail and publicise networks on project website	WI, BLI, AEWA, PCU			
Activity 2 Designate focal points, responsible for servicing networks				

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
Identify & designate focal points for each flyway	WI			
Focal points develop, maintain and service networks	WI			
Activity 3 Exchange Programme Planning Workshop				
Organise and hold Planning Workshop	WI, PCU			
Distil flyway-level schedules and recommendations	WI			
Activity 4 Implement Exchange Programme activities				
Exchanges of key site personnel between sites in different parts of the flyways	WI			
Exchanges of key sites personnel within their sub-region	WI, SRSs, demo projects, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar			
Exchanges of demonstration site personnel	WI, SRSs, demo			

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
	projects, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar			
Activity 5 Develop strategic partnerships and mobilise co-financing				
Promote partnerships through communication & liaison	WI, SRSs			
Develop strategic partnership proposals	PCU, WI, SRSs			
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, SRSs			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.

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
Shadow activities in MEA offices	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU, SRSs			
Shadow activities in the field	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU, SRSs			
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			
Printing and dissemination of translated documents	PCU, AEWA, Ramsar, SRSs, WI, BLI			

4. Report on the use of Funds

4.1 GEF Funds

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

Total Budget approved for the provision of technical services: 225,930

Funds already advanced to date:

Amount of expenditures:

Funds requested:

Balance (if exists):

Date of the next request for funds: (DD/MM/YY)

Certified by: _____

Table 1. Financial Report

General Category of Expenditure		total budget	total expenditure to date	total budget balance	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period = in previous six months (including outstanding payments)	Balance at end of reporting period = of prior six months period (if any)	Next payment planned (from MOA payment schedule)
10	PERSONNEL COMPONENT							
	1100 Project Personnel							
	1101 Senior Staff Coordinator	5,349	1,642	3,707		1,642		
	1102 Senior Technical Officer (networks)	12,538	-	12,538		-		
	1103 Senior Technical Officer (demo projects)	90,790	5,256	85,534		5,256		
	1105 Technical Officer (Africa)	65,300	7,592	57,708		7,592		
	1106 Technical Officer (data management)	6,652	-	6,652		-		
	1199 sub-total	180,629	14,490	166,139		14,490		
	1600 Travel on official business	45,301	5,723	39,578		5,723		
	1699 sub-total	45,301	5,723	39,578		5,723		
	1999 COMPONENT TOTAL	225,930	20,213	205,717		20,213		
99	GRAND TOTAL	225,930	20,213	205,717	15,000	20,213	(5,213)	14,011

4.2 Status of co-financing

Include BLI financial report on the status of funds received by other donors and partners as co-financing for this project.

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance	Amount originally committed for reporting period	Actual amount received = in previous six months	Notes
BirdLife International	-	674,225	674,225	68,374	605,851	70,000	68,374	n/a
totals								
list any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation								
n/a								
totals								

5 Evaluation of Project Impact

Please provide relevant information for inclusion in the project monitoring and evaluation framework.

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of BLI staff involved in the implementation of the project	12 (Component 1) + 3 (Component 3) + 2 (Finance & Administration) = Total 17
# of Volunteers involved in this project	0
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of people involved in project workshops organised by BLI	Internal workshops only: 18 (Component 1)
# of people BLI has trained to date under this project	0
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles produced and disseminated by BLI featuring the project	5 (4 in BirdLife website news, 1 newsletter)
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues promoted by the BLI Communications team	0
# of publications BLI has produced under this project	0
Estimated # of people BLI has targeted through institutional communication efforts	12 participants in Flyways Workshop (9 from WOW area) representing 12 BirdLife partners. 45 participants from the Middle East/North Africa in BirdLife-organised “Sustainable Hunting Project” workshop. c. 8,500 via WOW-related items on BirdLife website.

6. Key Lessons Learned

Report on any key lessons learned by BLI 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 as a whole, and (c) contribute to best practice in wetlands management and conservation of migratory waterbirds.

1. As a large project team, dispersed across different organizations and countries, it is vital to meet regularly in order to keep up momentum and ensure that every-one is kept up-to-date with project developments. While this has been working well within components, there may be a need for more communication between components to ensure that the project maintains cohesion.

2. Where methodologies are being developed as part of the project, a certain amount of flexibility needs to be built into the activities and scheduling. Exact requirements may not be apparent at the project outset and as methods are developed it may become necessary to build new activities into the programme.

3. It is important to be as clear as possible about which data-sets will be required by when in order for dependent activities to remain on schedule. This requires a continuing process of review, and detailed joint forward-planning by all organizations involved.

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

Provide BLI's overall project workplan, to reflect the actual start date and status of project activities.

See attached Excel workbook "WOW Workplan Updated June07.xls"

7.2 Workplan for next six months

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

See attached Excel workbook "WOW_detailed_workplan_Jun-Dec07.xls"

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 the “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
- ✓ Photographs representing main aspects of project work, and illustrating project impact (i.e. of workshops, field research, education and awareness, ecotourism, volunteer groups etc. Please provide pictures that may help illustrating the impact of the project, i.e. of the situation “before”, “during” and “after” the project)
- ✓ 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 (original 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 (BLI-convened meetings only)

No	Meeting Type ⁴	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Component 1 Technical Workshop	WOW Technical Workshop	BirdLife, Cambridge	17/04/07 (18/04/07 at WCMC)	BirdLife	Alison Stattersfield	18		English	
2.	Presentation	Wings over Wetlands general multimedia presentation	BirdLife, Cambridge	05/06/07	BirdLife	Jonathan Barnard	c. 50	n/a	English	n/a
3.										

b) Printed Materials

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

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)

1.	Technical Report	Selection of target species final	Szabolcs Nagy and Alison Stattersfield	N/A		28/02/07	No
2.	Technical Workshop report	April 07	Szabolcs Nagy (see WI report annexes)				
3.							

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	For Grants and Fellowships		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.	Staff mission / workshop	Hosting international workshop on “ <i>Compliance with international conventions and the phasing out of lead</i> ”	Amman (Jordan)	2 days (13/05/07-14/05/07)			

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

		<p><i>shot in wetlands”</i> for government, NGOs and hunters from Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, plus selected individuals from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq. (see attached participants list “Annex 1_List of Participants.pdf”)</p>					
2.	Staff coordination	<p>BirdLife Senior Technical Officer (Demonstration Projects) is ensuring full synergy between the WOW project and a forthcoming GEF/BirdLife 10-year, 11-country, project <i>“Mainstreaming conservation of migratory soaring birds into key productive sectors along the Rift</i></p>	UK & Jordan	Ongoing			

		Valley/Red Sea flyway”.					
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e) Other Outputs/Services (e.g. Networking, Query-response, Participation in meetings etc.)

No	Description	Date
1.	Mission to Hungary demonstration project to review project and establish communications with partner and key stakeholders.	27/02/07 – 02/03/07
2.	Mission to Nigeria demonstration project to review project and establish communications with partner and key stakeholders.	18/03/07 – 23/03/07
3.	Mission to Tanzania demonstration project to review project and establish communications with partner and key stakeholders.	20/04/07 – 22/04/07
4.	Mission to South Africa demonstration project to review project and establish communications with partner and key stakeholders.	22/04/07 – 26/04/07
5.	Mission to Yemen demonstration project to review project and establish communications with partner and key stakeholders.	28/05/07 – 02/06/07
6.	Meetings in Jordan to discuss implementation of Yemen demonstration project, setting-up of Sub-Regional Training Centre, and synergies with other projects.	12/05/07 – 17/05/07
7.	Mission to Kenya to meet key stakeholders, discuss setting-up of Sub-Regional Training Centre and synergy with Demonstration projects and other projects	15/04/07 – 20/04/07