

wings over wetlands

The UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project



The flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands: A Training Kit

Overall Training Kit

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The compilers and entire editorial team have strived to credit all sources of photos, figures, maps and other illustrations correctly. However in some cases it was not possible to trace the original source, or given sources were not entirely clear, in particular of some photos in the presentations. We apologise for any omissions or inaccuracies in this regard. If any reader can help us to fill any gaps or make corrections, please let us know by contacting training@wetlands.org, so that we can properly acknowledge all material in the online version and in any future printed versions.





The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project is the largest initiative to date in the Africa-Eurasian region for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the sites on which they depend. The project is a joint effort between UNEP/GEF (United Nations Environment Programme / Global Environment Facility), Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and a range of donors and local partners along the African-Eurasian Flyways.



As an independent international financial institution supported by member states, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) provides grants to developing countries for projects that benefit the global environment and promote sustainable livelihoods in local communities. Since 1991, the GEF has provided grants to more than 1,900 projects in more than 160 countries. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of the key agencies of the United Nations that is mandated with the implementation of GEF programmes worldwide. www.unep.org www.gefweb.org



Wetlands International is a global organization that works to sustain and restore wetlands and their resources for people and biodiversity. It's an independent, not-for-profit, global organization active in over 100 countries and at several, very different scales to tackle the most pressing problems affecting wetlands through its 20 regional, national or project offices, coordinated by the head office in Ede, the Netherlands. Its work ranges from research and community-based field projects to advocacy and engagement with governments, corporate and international policy fora and conventions. Wetlands International works through partnerships and is supported by government and NGO membership from around the world and relies on an extensive specialist expert network and tens of thousands of volunteers. Wetlands International is the leading scientific expert on wetlands & waterbird migration as well as peatlands & climate change and coordinates the International Waterbird Census, which provides the basic data for the assessment of the global state of waterbirds and for analysis of changes in their population. www.wetlands.org



BirdLife International is a global Partnership of national non-governmental conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. The Partnership operates in over one hundred countries and territories worldwide and is supported by over 10 million people. As a global community, it's the leading authority on the status of birds and their habitats. BirdLife promotes sustainable living as a means of conserving birds and all other forms of biodiversity. Partners work together on shared priorities, programmes and policies, learning from each other to achieve real results for conservation and development. www.birdlife.org



The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) is the largest of its kind developed so far under CMS. The AEWA covers 255 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle. The agreement range covers 118 countries from Europe, parts of Asia and Canada, the Middle East and Africa. The Agreement provides for coordinated and concerted action to be taken by the Range States throughout the migration system of waterbirds to which it applies. Of the 118 Range States currently 63 countries (as of December 2009) have become a Contracting Party to AEWA. www.unep-awea.org



The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN) is the central scientific authority of the German federal government for both national and international nature conservation. The Agency reports to the German Environment Ministry (BMU) and has key enforcement functions that arise under international species conservation agreements, in marine conservation, under the Antarctic Treaty and the German Genetic Engineering Act. In addition, the Agency does scientific research in the fields of nature and landscape conservation. www.bfn.de





The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) - the "Ramsar Convention" - is an intergovernmental treaty that embodies the commitments of its member countries to maintain the ecological character of their Wetlands of International Importance and to plan for the "wise use", or sustainable use, of all of the wetlands in their territories. The Convention counts 159 Contracting Parties (as per December 2009), which have committed themselves to ensuring the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Under the Convention, a list of wetlands of international importance (the Ramsar List) has been created and to date 1880 designated sites around the world have been recorded. Unlike the other global environmental conventions, Ramsar is not affiliated with the United Nations system of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, but it works very closely with the other MEAs and is a full partner among the "biodiversity-related cluster" of treaties and agreements. www.ramsar.org



The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) provide people, tools, and the operational know-how needed to get international projects up and running, and client goals met. This is accomplished by offering a range of services including procurement, recruitment and human resources administration, loan supervision, and certification. Established in 1995 as a distinct part of the UN system, UNOPS has more than a decade of experience in global project management. www.unops.org



The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) provides services to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), biodiversity-related Conventions, their member states and non-governmental bodies. It analyses and evaluates knowledge on biodiversity and makes it available to support the development and implementation of environmental policies. Among others it manages the the World Database on Protected Areas. www.unep-wcmc.org

Evolution and authorship of the Training Kit

This Training Kit is a key output of the UNEP/GEF Wings Over Wetlands project led by Wetlands International, BirdLife International and UNOPS. The need for and general remit of the kit was established by participants of project workshops in Almen (a small village in The Netherlands) in September 2007 and Wageningen (The Netherlands) in January 2008. At Almen, training needs and priorities were identified for the different project regions by key stakeholders from those areas. Regional Training Boards then played a major role in assisting the project personnel in developing a framework for the kit and formulating key elements to be included.

Tunde Ojei was responsible for putting together the team of authors and principal contributors in late 2007, and served as project coordinator. He was supported closely by colleagues from Wetlands International, BirdLife International and UNOPS, notably Szabolcs Nagy, Camillo Ponziani, Edoardo Zandri, Jonathan Barnard and Ward Hagemeijer. Tim Dodman played the role of lead compiler of the overall kit, also writing significant parts of Module 1 and Module 2 in partnership with Dr. Gerard Boere. Ingrid Gevers and Esther Koopmanschap of Wageningen International jointly prepared Module 3. Draft texts were prepared in 2007/2008, which were circulated to regional Training Boards, participating organisations and other project stakeholders for comment.

A second draft of the texts and the first draft PowerPoint presentations were then prepared in time for the flyway training review and adaptation workshop held in Amman, Jordan in June 2008. The training was delivered principally by Tim Dodman, Szabolcs Nagy, Ingrid Gevers and Esther Koopmanschap, with further input from Tunde Ojei, Abdoulaye Ndiaye and Marina Koshkina. A workshop programme, session plans and exercises were also developed. During this workshop significant time was set aside for review of each module and its delivery, as well as a final Training Kit review. The results guided the preparation of 'final drafts' of the texts and presentations, which were carefully analysed by Tim Dodman and Gerard Boere during a project meeting in Cambridge (UK) in November 2008. By this time, Umberto Gallo-Orsi had taken on the role of project coordination.

The scale and remit of the Training Kit had grown since its initial expectations, so further development of the kit continued into 2009, when a number of new texts, presentations and exercises were added by Tim Dodman, and all the many images were sourced and permissions secured. The main texts were reviewed by David Stroud. Florian Keil and Bert Lenten (AEWA) and Sandra Hails and Nick Davidson (Ramsar) also contributed by putting together AEWA and Ramsar CDs for inclusion in the kit.

Finally, the layout of the modules, exercises and other printed matter was coordinated by Justine Pocock (NatureBureau), whilst Umberto Gallo-Orsi and Camillo Ponziani organised the templates for the PowerPoint presentations with the support of David O'Connell (BANG! creative communications).

At every stage, project stakeholders in Africa, Central Asia, Caucasus and the Middle East have been given the chance to contribute, which indeed they have done, in particular through their Regional Training Boards. We therefore hope and expect that this Flyway Training Kit will meet the information and training needs for these regions and will encourage a wide application of the flyway approach to conservation in full.



A large mixed flock of terns in the Tana Delta, Kenya (photo: Olivier Hamerlynck).





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Forewords

Foreword from UNEP-GEF

UNEP-GEF is proud to present the “Flyway Training Kit” contributing to the survival of one of the most amazing miracles of nature: Bird Migration. Based on work in the African Eurasian Region, this training kit is a first-of-its-kind example of ground-breaking joint international effort for the preservation of migratory waterbirds.

“The flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands: A Training Kit” stems from the capacity building programme of the UNEP-GEF “African-Eurasian Flyways Project” (also known as “Wings Over Wetlands”, or WOW). This training package is designed to provide a flexible common platform to support flyway training programmes across diverse regions. It also provides a basis for the enhanced understanding, application and dissemination of the “flyway-level” approach for conservation of migratory waterbirds and the critical habitats on which they depend.

This resource represents one of the key milestones of WOW, and it is closely interlinked with the other achievements of the project, including the innovative Critical Site Network tool, and the experience of 11 demonstration projects implemented at sites of global importance for migratory waterbirds.

Since its onset in 2006, WOW has brought together a wide range of partners and donors around the common objectives of the 118 Range States of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), which covers all of Africa, Europe, Central Asia and Southern Caucasus, the Middle East as well as the Canadian archipelago. WOW also supports the aims of other major Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS).

Our praise and congratulations go to the multi-national technical teams who made this possible and contributed to this publication. We are glad to support the historic role of Wetlands International (WI), the Senior Lead organization in WOW, in the promotion of the “flyway-level” approach for waterbirds conservation. WI’s experience in supporting capacity-building in developing countries, allowed the participatory involvement of over 40 training institutions and other WOW partners from the African-Eurasian Region. This effort was also enriched by the contribution of BirdLife International (the other Lead organization in WOW), with its active international network of partners that contributed with their hands-on conservation experience.

This training kit is quite comprehensive and complete. It is not designed as a definitive and static training package, but rather as a platform that will evolve and adapt to the ever-changing context and challenges of flyway-scale conservation. The UNEP GEF team is committed and looks forward to continuing to support this approach, and the commendable efforts of all WOW partners in flyway conservation.

Maryam Niamir-Fuller
GEF Executive Coordinator and Director
Division of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Coordination
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
11th August 2009



Foreword from AEWA

The Flyway Approach at work!

The "Flyway Approach" has become a key concept guiding the development of international initiatives for flyway-scale conservation covering many different migratory bird species in many parts of the world.

Since 1995, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) has become the central coordinating instrument established by countries for such international flyway-level cooperation for the benefit of 255 species of migratory waterbirds in Africa and Eurasia. AEWA provides the international legal framework for up to 118 countries in the African-Eurasian region to engage in co-ordinated measures to maintain or restore these migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status across their entire migratory range. Parties to AEWA are called upon to engage in a wide range of conservation actions which are described in the comprehensive AEWA Action Plan.

For the past several years, these international efforts to conserve migratory waterbirds have been given an unprecedented boost in the region covered by the AEWA through the WOW Project, one of the largest international flyway-scale projects ever undertaken. The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project with its two main outputs – the Flyway Training Kit and the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool has not only significantly contributed to the implementation of AEWA, but has also become a model for flyway initiatives in other regions showing how "The Flyway Approach" can be put into practice.

This Flyway Training Kit compiled by Gerard Boere and Tim Dodman in the framework of the WOW Project is a unique, comprehensive and targeted training resource with a distinct focus on flyway conservation tailored for the AEWA region. As a resource for both site managers and policy makers alike, the Flyway Training Kit could, funding permitting, also become the basis for actual flyway training programmes to be conducted throughout the AEWA region. In other words, The Flyway Training Kit is the blueprint and central resource needed for the development of exactly those training programmes envisioned in the AEWA Action Plan under the heading "Education and Information" (Section 6.1 – 6.3).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those governments, organisations and individuals which have contributed to the development of the Flyway Training Kit and who have made WOW possible. At the same time I would like to make a strong appeal to all stakeholders to keep the momentum going. The impact, achievements and outputs of the WOW Project have been tremendous and have significantly contributed to the implementation of AEWA.

With the Flyway Training Kit now available, our collective national and international efforts should turn to raising the funds which will allow us to use this powerful educational resource to actually conduct the necessary training foreseen in the AEWA Action Plan and to develop a comprehensive Flyway Training Programme.

I sincerely hope that what has started as the WOW flyway project will continue to grow into a true flyway partnership between supporting governments and dedicated organisations. A Flyway partnership for waterbird conservation in Africa and Eurasia, which is built upon the foundations laid by WOW and which will continue to demonstrate the "Flyway Approach at work" in the AEWA region.

Bert Lenten
Executive Secretary UNEP/AEWA
7th July 2009



Foreword from the Convention on Wetlands

The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty providing the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Presently, the 159 Contracting Parties to the Convention have designated 1847 wetland sites, totaling 181 million hectares, for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Some of these sites are part of large networks of critical sites, often referred to as Flyways, upon which waterbirds depend at various stages of migration. This Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project focuses on a very important flyway, the African-Eurasian Flyway, and the Ramsar Convention is committed as a partner in the WOW project to promote the relevant resources and materials evolving from it, such as the Critical Sites Network tool and this valuable training kit.

Flyways are featured as a key priority area under Goal 2 of the 2009 to 2015 Strategic Plan for the Convention, which aims to **“develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are important for the conservation of global biological diversity, including waterbird flyways and fish populations and for sustaining human life”**. Our 159 Contracting Parties are committed to appropriate management and wise use of this network of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and also other internationally important wetlands that are not yet formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified as qualifying for such recognition.

Through the Convention’s Programme on communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2009–2015, Parties recognize capacity building as an important vehicle for channelling knowledge to relevant sectors and it is therefore timely that this project has developed this material and that it is targeted at relevant groups for the Convention.

We are therefore delighted to have been a part of the development of this training kit and we are committed to promoting it across the Convention’s networks.

Anada Tiega
Secretary General, Ramsar Convention.
21st August 2009



Acknowledgements

The production of this Flyway Training Kit has been a highly participatory process under the implementation of the Flyway Training Programme of the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project, in which many people have been engaged. We therefore thank everyone who has been involved in this process in one way or another.

Thanks first of all to colleagues in Wetlands International, BirdLife International and UNOPS who have been directly involved in the management of the WOW project. Production of the Training Kit has been overseen by Tunde Ojei, and we thank Tunde for his many inputs, positive feedback, encouragement and patience. We thank Camillo Ponziani for his continuous support and advice, especially in relation to design issues. We also thank Umberto Gallo-Orsi, who has coordinated final production steps of the kit, and Szabolcs Nagy, Jonathan Barnard, Ward Hagemeyer and Edoardo Zandri for their direct support and advice. Communication between the regions has been greatly facilitated by the project regional Capacity Development Officers: Salim Bawaneh, Marina Koshkina, Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Majdi Salameh and Jane Wamboi, also Michael Brombacher. Further thanks to the WOW Steering Committee, who have played an important role in overseeing this and other components of the WOW project, and who have assisted in raising funds for the kit. Special thanks in this regard to Dr Gerard Boere, current Chair of the WOW Steering Committee, and a contributing author of this Flyway Training Kit.

We wish to thank the principal funders of the development of the Flyway Training Kit, specifically the Global Environment Facility, the German Government and the AEWA Secretariat. We also wish to thank Scottish National Heritage for its significant contribution to the printing of the Training Kit and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK) for also supporting its development.

A number of people have provided comments at various stages of the production of the Training Kit. We particularly thank David Stroud, who reviewed final drafts of Modules 1 and 2; his constructive comments and inputs have definitely resulted in a much more solid final output, and we greatly appreciate David's sound advice and commitment. Extensive comments were also provided by Jonathan Barnard, Tobias Garstecky, Sandra Hails, Szabolcs Nagy and Alfred Owino, all of which helped to strengthen in particular the development of the modules. We thank all others who provided comments on the kit, including: Julius Arinaitwe, Luba Balyan, Anne van Dam, Sergey Dereliev, Lincoln Fishpool, Umberto Gallo-Orsi, Vicky Jones, Florian Keil, Marina Koshkina, Edith Mayer, Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Sam Nyame, Bouke Ottow and Alexander Solokha. We further acknowledge the helpful inputs and contributions of the four regional training boards of the WOW project for: Western and Central Africa; Eastern and Southern Africa; the Middle East; and Central Asia, Southern Caucasus and Russia. Special thanks to their chairs: Francis Tarla, George Owiti, Azzam Alouash and Eldar Rustamov. The names of all current board members are listed below.

A significant part of the module development process was an inter-regional workshop held in Amman, Jordan in June 2008, which served as a test run for delivery of the Flyway Training Programme. We thank all who contributed and participated in the workshop, especially Majdi Salameh, Reema Hamdan and Ibrahim Khader for their organisational roles and support. All participants contributed very positively, for which they deserve thanks: Aboubacar Awaïss, Luba Balyan, Adnan Budiri, Nashat Hamidan, Sharif Jbour, Marina Koshkina, Edith Mayer, Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Sam Nyame, Alfred Owino, George Owiti, Samreen Quareshi, Alexander Solokha, Francis Tarla, Jane Wamboi & Mohammad Yousef. Special thanks to Szabolcs Nagy for developing and leading some of the presentations at short notice. We also thank participants and facilitators of earlier WOW workshops held in Dakar (Senegal), Almen and Wageningen (The Netherlands), who contributed to the development and direction of the WOW Flyway Training Programme, events that all helped to determine the need for, direction and key target groups of the Flyway Training Kit.

The Flyway Training Kit has been greatly enriched by the numerous photographs, figures and other images used in the modules, PowerPoint presentations, exercises and other components. We sincerely thank everyone who provided these valuable resources so willingly and freely. It is not practical to include a long list of names here, but all photographers and/or sources are provided under each

image, and we thank you all! We also thank the various organisations that provided images, annexes and a range of documents for inclusion in the kit, notably UNEP/AEWA, UNEP/CMS, Ramsar, Wetlands International, BirdLife International and Wageningen International.

NatureBureau have done an excellent job in managing the layout of the modules; we thank in particular Justine Pocock and appreciate the regular opportunity to comment on various layout designs. We also thank Florian Keil (UNEP/AEWA) for his support in communications, design and layout.

Finally, the WOW Project Team thanks the authors, Tim Dodman, Gerard Boere, Ingrid Gevers and Esther Koopmanschap for their efforts, especially Tim Dodman and Gerard Boere for voluntarily spending a very significant amount of their own time in assuring the completion of this kit.

Wings Over Wetlands Project Training Board Members

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The flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands: A Training Kit



A flock of Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* in Kazakhstan (photo: Maxim Koshkin)

Introduction

1. What is the flyway approach to conservation?

The flyway approach to conservation addresses the ecological needs of migratory birds throughout their life cycles and the networks of sites on which they depend. A migratory bird's flyway encompasses its entire range, including the breeding and non-breeding areas and the resting and feeding sites in between, as well as the area within which it migrates. Changes at one site in this chain can influence the bird population as a whole, the impacts of which may be felt at other sites far away. The flyway approach to conservation therefore requires that all key sites along a bird's flyway are in good condition and are able to carry out their functional role in the bird's migratory cycle or pattern of nomadic movements. The need to conserve and manage all critical sites on a given migratory pathway (or flyway) is now widely recognised as an important component of flyway conservation.

An essential component of the flyway approach to conservation is that the networks of critical sites for birds are supported by networks of people engaged in the conservation of these sites.

2. The Wings Over Wetlands project

The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project is the largest initiative to date in the Africa-Eurasian region for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the sites on which they depend. The project is a joint effort between UNEP/GEF (United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility), Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and a range of donors and local partners along the African-Eurasian Flyways.

WOW aims to provide improved conservation and monitoring tools, enhanced capacity and partnerships towards the conservation of critical sites for migratory waterbirds within the AEWA region. This is achieved through three main components, which include a series of demonstration projects:

Component 1: The Critical Site Network Tool

In order to conserve the networks of sites on which migratory waterbirds depend, it is necessary to identify clearly these critical sites and the various roles they play in supporting migratory waterbirds. This requires reliable centralised information from across the flyways, information that is also widely available to support the shared monitoring and management of waterbird networks. A key output therefore of WOW is the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool, an electronic portal that integrates information from major databases:

- the Ramsar Sites Information Service and database
- the International Waterbird Census database
- the World Bird Database
- the World Database on Protected Areas.

The CSN Tool will serve as a fundamental resource for decision-makers, waterbird monitoring networks, wetland managers and others, and guide flyway-level conservation.

Component 2: Capacity Building

Functioning networks of sites depend on functioning networks of people. Therefore, developing capacity of these networks of people is essential for the long-term success of flyway conservation at different levels. WOW has contributed to this through the development and support of four training and awareness-raising programmes in West/Central Africa, Eastern/Southern Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia/Caucasus States. The regional centres for these programmes are each



guided by regional training boards, which have met to design training frameworks. A key output of WOW's capacity building programme is this training kit.

Component 3: Enhancing communication

Keeping networks of people engaged and motivated across the range of flyways requires cooperation and communication, and WOW has promoted this through the project website (www.wingsoverwetlands.org), as well as through the production of various awareness materials and an exchange programme.

Under Component 3, WOW also supports eleven demonstration projects in Africa, the Middle East and Eurasia. Each focuses on a different aspect of flyway conservation, but all have one aspect in common: they are hands-on partnerships with local communities. This Training Kit is enriched by some of the practices demonstrated by these projects.

3. Ramsar and AEWA

The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), also known as the Ramsar Convention, and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) provide the policy framework and the backbone of the WOW project. The relevance of these and other international agreements to migratory waterbird conservation is emphasised frequently throughout the modules of this training kit, whilst key Ramsar and AEWA resources are also provided on separate CDs. Countries join the Ramsar Convention to ensure that the vital services, functions and benefits provided by their wetlands are maintained (www.ramsar.org). The AEWA caters at a political level for the conservation of 255 migratory waterbird (and seabird) species and the sites on which they depend (www.unep-aewa.org).

4. The AEWA region

The AEWA region covers 118 Countries plus the European Community (EC) including all of Africa, Europe, Southwest Asia (including the Middle East and Central Asian States), Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago (Figure 1). This vast area includes an enormous diversity of sites and habitats, cultures and customs, flora and fauna, wilderness areas and developed landscapes, and threats and uses. It also supports the flyways of numerous waterbird populations, which link sites, cultures and people – including many people who depend on these waterbirds and networks of wetlands for their livelihoods, ecological services and recreation.

5. Purpose of this Training Kit

The overall purpose of the Training Kit is to strengthen networks of people to understand and implement the flyway approach to conservation throughout the AEWA region and beyond. It is designed for anyone who is closely involved in wetland and waterbird conservation or management. It has been aimed essentially at the level of a site manager and researcher, but should be useful to a variety of target groups, especially:

- Wetland and protected area managers
- Wetland and protected area researchers
- International Waterbird Census and Important Bird Area coordinators
- Environmental/conservation NGOs
- Government agencies, e.g. Ramsar/AEWA focal points, National Parks authorities, Wetland and Water authorities, Environmental departments etc.
- Academic institutions, e.g. universities, higher level training (natural resources management, ecology, conservation and development)
- Ornithological and wetland research centres
- Community leaders
- Interested individuals engaged in wetland and waterbird conservation.

The Training Kit is unique in that it brings together in one place a comprehensive introduction to all the main issues of relevance to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands in two technical modules, together with information for trainers in communication skills, and a practical



framework for trainers on how to hold workshops and deliver training in their regions.

The technical modules are designed to build a wide understanding of the many issues that make up the flyway approach to conservation, and to provide a key reference source, which is linked to many others, especially online resources. Module 3 provides trainers with guidance on communicating the flyway approach, vital for getting the message across and engaging stakeholders successfully.

The exercises, PowerPoint presentations and session plans are all templates that may be adapted by trainers according to their priorities and different target groups. The session plans provided cater for a workshop of around eight days duration, but users may alternatively select individual presentations for specific seminars, lectures or exercises in field or 'classroom' settings.

The Kit lends itself for regional adaptation, and users are encouraged to add their own case studies and exercises that reflect the priorities in their regions. However, it is important also to bear in mind that effective flyway conservation requires that people across the region appreciate the needs for migratory waterbirds in other regions. Therefore, users in Africa need to understand how, for instance, climate change impacts in the Arctic are relevant for many of the migratory waterbirds that spend half their lives in Africa. Likewise, users in Eurasia should understand the importance of migratory waterbirds to many local communities in Africa as a valued subsistence resource. The flyway approach is about cooperation and communication, and these elements should be at the forefront of any flyway training.

6. What's in the Training Kit?

This Training Kit comprises the following components:

- a. Technical Modules on flyway conservation (printed & on CD1)
- b. Trainers Module on Communication (printed & on CD1)
- c. Glossary, list of acronyms and full list of references and further reading (printed & on CD1)
- d. Annexes to the modules (some annexes are printed, all are on CD1)
- e. Example Session Plans for organising and holding a flyway conservation training workshop (printed and on CD2)
- f. Example PowerPoint presentations for use in a flyway conservation training workshop (CD2)
- g. Example Exercises for use in a flyway conservation training workshop (printed and on CD2)
- h. Ramsar CD (CD3)
- i. AEWA CD (CD4)
- j. Folder space in which to add additional materials, sheets etc.

All parts of the Training Kit are richly illustrated throughout by images and examples from across the AEWA region.

7. And lastly ...

We hope you find this Training Kit useful. We will always welcome your comments on any aspect of it. Please get in touch!

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Finally, we hope that you enjoy using this Training Kit. Wetlands are wonderful places to visit, and migratory waterbirds still capture the imagination of so many of us across the world. Training workshops and related activities should be enjoyable events that link people together, and which help us all to appreciate and understand better the phenomenon of migration and the roles of critical sites for nature and for people.



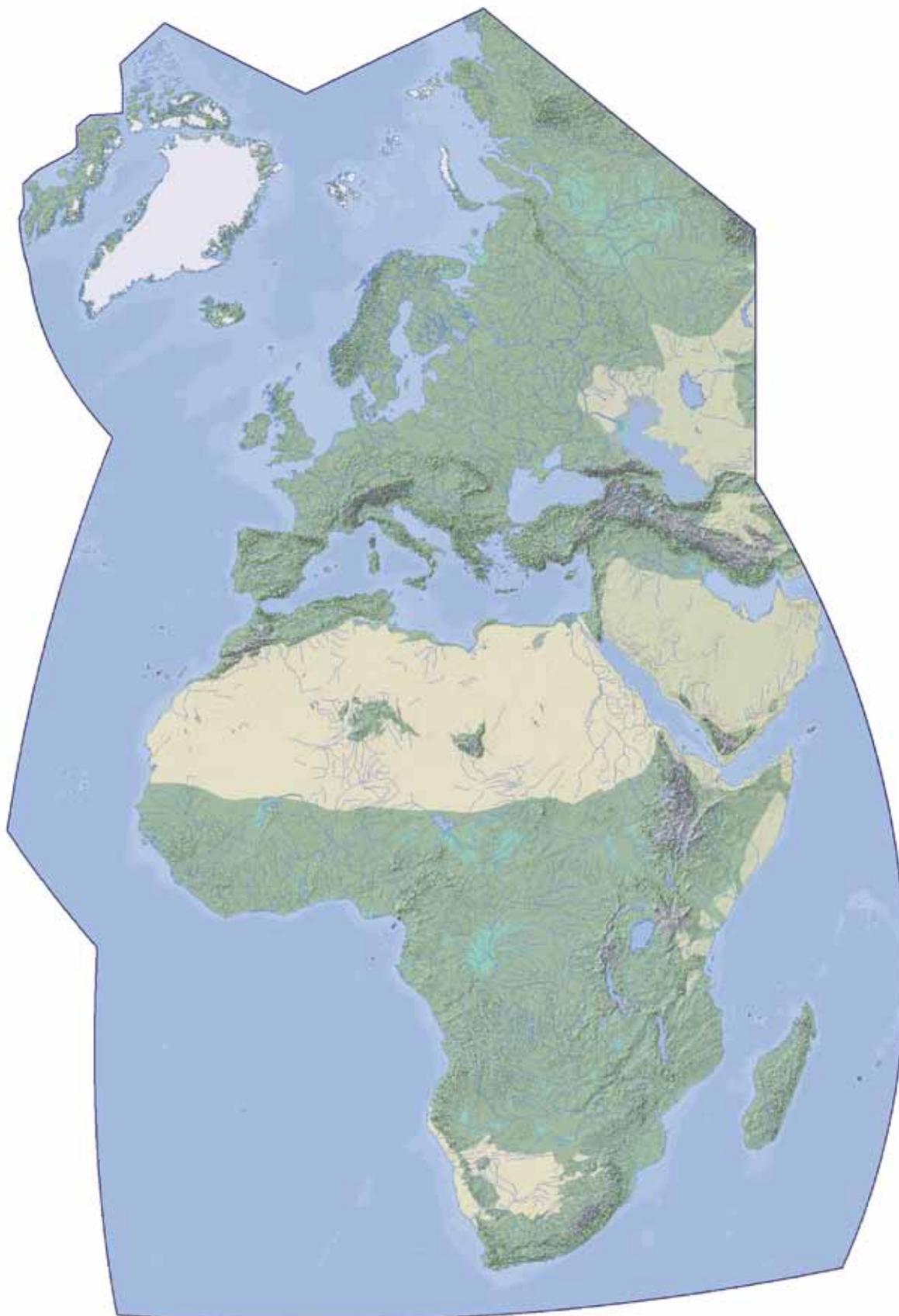


Figure 1. The AEWA region as a geopolitical flyway (source: UNEP/AEWA).

