

Wings Over Wetlands
The UNEP/GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project

Consolidated Progress Report n. 6

(1st January – 30 June 2009)

Prepared by: Project Coordination Unit

ESSENTIAL PROJECT DATA

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT #:	6
REPORTING PERIOD:	1 st January to 30 th June 2009
Project start:	January 2006
Project end:	December 2010
First disbursement:	20 June 2006
Project planned duration:	4 years
Geographical scope:	Regional (Africa, Europe, Western Asia). Countries: Estonia, Gambia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Turkey, Yemen
Project Partners:	Wetlands International, BirdLife International, UNEP-AEWA Secretariat, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre.
Total budget:	US\$ 12,195,229
Of which GEF Trust Fund:	US\$ 6,000,000

- Cumulative Project Disbursement as of 31 December 2008 (GEF + Co-financing): **US\$ 10,707,959.64** (including additional co-financing leveraged by demonstration projects during implementation. Previous report: **US\$ 8,742,064.45**)

- Cumulative GEF Disbursement as of 30th June 2009: **US\$ 5,467,804.56** – as per latest expenditure report and PIR data (previous report: **US\$ 4,585,385.45**)

- Total Co-financing Disbursed as of 30th June 2009: **US\$ 5,240,155.08** (including co-financing mobilized to date from the demonstration projects – previous report: **US\$ 4,156,679**)

- Total GEF Disbursement during this reporting period: **US\$ 432,571.29** (during previous reporting period: **US\$ 1,083,420.00**)

Report Prepared by: Project Coordination Unit

Project Overview

The overall project outcome will be the enhanced conservation of migratory waterbirds and their critical sites in the African-Eurasian flyways. Activities will be strategic and catalytic in nature addressing the flyway-scale causes of site degradation and related species decline. The network of sites of critical importance to migratory waterbirds will be identified and existing data / information resources improved and linked to create a tool for flyway planning and management. Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programmes will be developed in four sub-regions to provide the basis for individual and institutional capacity development. Best practice management will be catalysed through a number of demonstration projects showcasing approaches and techniques of how to implement an array of wetland management activities in different environmental and social contexts. Communications will be improved to enhance coordination and cooperation in the flyways between and within governments and NGOs.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AEWA	UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
BfN	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation - Germany
BLAPS	BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat
BLME	BirdLife Middle East Division
BLI	BirdLife International
BUWAL	Swiss Federal Office of Environment, Forest and Landscape
CA	Central Asia
CD	Capacity Development
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CO	Communications Officer (based in AEWA)
CSN	Critical Sites Network
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DFPP	Directorate of Wildlife and Fisheries – Niger
DPN	Department of National Parks – Senegal
DPWM	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management – The Gambia
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency - Sweden
GAINS	Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IBA	Important Bird Areas
IWC	International Waterfowl Census
FIBA	International Foundation for Banc D'Arguin
JOM	Junior Operations Manager
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
KWSTI	Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute
LFTF	Logical Framework Tracking Form
MAVA	MAVA Foundation for Nature Protection – Switzerland
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
ME	Middle East
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MESA	Ministry of Environment - France
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NCF	Nigerian Conservation Foundation
ONCFS	Office Nationale de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage
PAMETT	Protected Area Management Tracking Tool
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PNBA	Banc D'Arguin National Park - Mauritania
SC	Project Steering Committee
SRS	Sub-Regional Subcontractor
TB	Training Boards
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WCST	Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania
WI	Wetlands International
WIA	Wetlands International Africa (Dakar)
WMBD	World Migratory Bird Day
WOW	Wings Over Wetlands
WPRP	Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Programme
WWF	World Fund for Nature
YSPW	Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife

I. Executive Summary

1. The information set forth in this semi-annual report provides an overview of the status of project implementation since the previous reporting period. It reflects work conducted by the broader technical and field teams including all project lead NGOs and partners, regional centres and demonstration projects as well as the Project Coordination Unit (PCU).
2. This report covers a period of six months (January to June 2009). This report is prepared on the basis of PCU data and semi-annual technical reports provided by Wetlands International, BirdLife International, 11 demonstration projects and 4 regional centres.¹ All these reports are available at the PCU upon request, and will be posted intermittently as they become available on the documents section of the WOW website: www.wingsoverwetlands.org.
3. In general the project is progressing well and according to the new workplan endorsed in December 2008 by the Steering Committee. During the previous reporting period a revised list of activities was developed which takes into consideration activities which, have been either amended or dropped altogether due to insufficient co-financing. This list of activities was endorsed by the Steering Committee in December 2008 and activities that have been dropped no longer appear in the workplan.

Reminder of the New Project Structure and revised Logical Framework

4. Following the endorsement of the Project Steering Committee (January 2008), activities within the framework of the WOW Project are now divided into the following four Components:

Project Components (revised logical framework)

Component 1: CSN tool

Component 2: Capacity Development

Component 3: Demonstration Projects

Component 4: Communication & Exchange

Project Management, Operational Issues and Governance Issues

5. The WOW project went through significant changes in its overall management structure this reporting period. In February 2009, the PCU's Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) took up a new post at UNEP/GEF and the WOW PCU has since been downsized to one junior staff member. Terms of Reference of the PCU however have not been adjusted accordingly to adequately reflect changes in roles, reporting

¹ Reports from demonstration projects, regional centres and BirdLife International cover the period December 2008 to May 2009, while the report from Wetlands International covers the period from January to June 2009.

responsibilities and the additional workload needed to bring WOW to a successful closing. Nonetheless, the junior staff member is continuing to perform a dual role in spite of the absence of a CTA and clear TOR.

6. The former CTA remains engaged within the project and continues to oversee WOW as part of his role as UNEP/GEF Task Manager for Biodiversity and Natural Resources. The Task Manager also represents UNEP on the WOW Steering Committee.
7. In addition to the intermittent support from the UNEP/GEF Task Manager, the PCU is receiving regular advice and guidance on implementation issues from the designated focal points from both the Senior Lead and Lead contractors, as well as the WOW Steering Committee Chair. This group has inadvertently coalesced into a core management team. It convenes regularly (usually on a monthly basis) to guide the direction of activities and to address emerging implementation issues. This support, while essential and appreciated for the overall implementation of WOW, does not shoulder the additional workload on the PCU as envisaged by the technical support agreed upon at the third meeting of the Steering Committee in December 2008. Nonetheless, this has had a minimal impact on the project itself and the workload is expected to taper off in 2010.
8. As agreed by the Steering Committee in December 2008, the PCU is actively taking the necessary steps to wind down project operations in the Netherlands and move to Bonn, Germany. AEWA (via UNEP/CMS) took the necessary steps to officially request the move and formal approval by the Ambassador for Political Coordination at the UN Campus in Bonn was received in April 2009. The PCU is also taking the necessary steps to close down accommodation arrangements in the Netherlands and to find new lodging in Bonn.
9. It is envisaged that the PCU will officially take up operations at the AEWA Secretariat on 6 July 2009. The PCU staff member is also exploring possibilities of a flexible working arrangement that would allow him to split time between Germany and Canada. This arrangement is in line with UNOPS' *Work/Life Balance Policy* though still contingent on UNOPS endorsement. It is expected that this issue will be fully addressed in the next reporting period.

Team Issues and Dynamics

10. There are currently over 100 staff involved within the WOW project (ranging from Wetlands International, BirdLife International, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, and Project Coordination Unit, as well as the demonstration projects and regional centres in 17 countries). This does not however include the additional hundreds of staff members that are involved throughout the AEWA region, supporting this project as local partners, IWC and IBA coordinators, sub-contractors, field personnel and volunteers. The number of staff involved is expected to decline in the next reporting period as demonstration projects draw to a close.

11. Clusters of technical teams are in place and working diligently on each project component to ensure outputs are delivered on time. This team is fully operational, with activities well underway on all project components. In general technical work is progressing well and according to the new workplan endorsed in December 2008 by the Steering Committee.
12. The two focal points assigned to the project by Wetlands International and BirdLife International in mid-2008 continue to be engaged, and play a critical role in the overall management and planning of project activities, as well as to address project challenges, emerging issues and resource mobilisation opportunities. The focal points also liaise regularly with the Project Coordination Unit and core management meetings occur at intervals not previously seen within the implementation of WOW.
13. The intern supporting the PCU completed her internship programme this reporting period and will be joining the local demonstration project team in Wakkerstroom, South Africa to assist with local activities.
14. Although no meetings of the Project Steering Committee were conducted this reporting period, initial planning is already under way for the final face-to-face meeting to be held in Wakkerstroom, South Africa from 8 - 12 March 2010. It is also expected that a teleconference will be held later in 2010 to provide Steering Committee members with a progress update on all components.
15. WOW is at a critical juncture and the WOW partnership is already considering how best to move forward, so as to build effectively on what has been achieved within the framework of the project and how best to progress towards the vision where all countries along the Africa-Eurasian flyways share viable waterbird populations and people throughout the region understand, respect, facilitate and sustain the phenomenon of their migration. As such, a brainstorming session between core implementing partners (PCU, WI, BLI, Ramsar SC Chair and AEWA) was held from 10 – 11 March 2009 in Ede, the Netherlands. The discussion focused on the possibility of creating a new collaborative agreement among the WOW partners to convert WOW from a project into a broad partnership programme. It is expected that subsequent meetings will be required later in 2009 to define a new collaborative framework that forms an umbrella for current and planned conservation work in the flyway.²

Developing the Critical Site Network Tool (Component One)

16. Work on the development of the Critical Site Network Tool continues in joint collaboration between WI, BLI, UNEP-WCMC and the WOW regional teams. The technical team has formally renamed the portal to the “**Critical Site Network Tool**” this reporting period.

² Minutes from the brainstorming session and draft Memorandum of Cooperation available upon request from the Project Coordination Unit.

17. Data cleaning and coordinate checking has proven to be far more time-consuming than originally anticipated. This has resulted in a re-scheduling of the workplan of this facet of the overall work. Most data has now been cleaned to remove any errors ready for inclusion of an updated dataset in the CSN tool.
18. Progress has been made in developing draft criteria to define the Critical Site Network for each population. A CSN criteria document was updated following a process of external review and the CSN criteria were agreed on. In March 2009 a technical meeting was held between WI, BLI and UNEP-WCMC to further the development of the CSN tool.
19. Meanwhile, the development of the prototype of the CSN Portal has slowed down in an effort to conserve funds. Furthermore, there have some staff changes and turnover issues at UNEP-WCMC that will have to be rectified before portal work resumes. Portal development work is expected to resume once all back-end / data cleaning work has been fully completed. The prototype of the CSN Tool is still available online at <http://development-maps.unep-wcmc.org/wow/default.aspx> and is consistent with the WOW house-style.
20. It is looking increasingly likely that the launch of the portal will now occur in the latter half of 2010. This will leave little time for promotional and training efforts, as well as conflict with the timing of the final project evaluation. While this project component is behind schedule with respect to the “expedited” workplan drafted and adopted at the onset of the project, the delivery of the CSN Tool is ahead of schedule when compared to the five-year workplan contained within the project document (originally planned for month 6, year 5). This latter workplan however, is no longer viable since the project has already been shortened to four years by the GEF (at the request of the Steering Committee and PCU) at the onset of the project. The PCU will work with the relevant focal point and respective technical team to ensure an adequate solution is found and that indicators in the Logical Framework are attainable. All possible measures and steps are being explored to reduce the delivery time and work occurring at different stages of the CSN Tool’s development.

Capacity Development (Component Two)

21. Work on the WOW Flyway Training Programme (Component 2) is progressing very well and is very close to completion. All three training modules, exercises and supplementary information within the Flyway Training Kit have now been completed, comments duly incorporated and a technical review conducted.
22. The task of preparing the layout and design is well under way and has been sub-contracted out to NatureBureau. The task of formatting the accompanying PowerPoint presentations will be completed in-house by the WI focal point and the PCU.

23. Resources for translations in French, Arabic and Russian have been identified and translation work is imminent. It has been agreed that Ramsar is supporting the French translation, the WetCap project will cover the Arabic translation and the Russian version will be done in-house by the Regional Centre for Central Asia and Southern Caucasus Training Board.
24. The regionalization process has also been completed through the incorporation of regionally-relevant case studies within the generic training kit and within the accompanying exercises. Additional case studies are also being incorporated during the translation process to broaden the appeal and relevance of the modules within a given region.
25. Three out of four regional Training Boards (Eastern and Southern Africa, Middle East and Western and Central Africa) have formally approved the training modules with the fourth Training Board (Central Asia and Southern Caucasus) expected to support the package in the next reporting period after their translation process has been finalised.
26. Preparations for the delivery of two regional Training of Trainer (ToT) sessions using the WOW training resources are underway. Resources are available for the implementation of ToT sessions in West Africa (planned for November 2009 in Cameroon) and in Middle East (planned for August 2009 in Jordan).
27. A new Russian version of the WOW "building capacity for flyway conservation" leaflet was developed and printed. The new leaflet will help promote the flyway-scale training and capacity building activities and Flyway Training Kit of the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) Project in the Central Asian and Caucasus Region. The Russian version of the new flyer was kindly prepared by an international team consisting of Marina Koshkina in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Alexander Solokha in Moscow, Russia, Nicky Petkov at Wetlands International in Ede, The Netherlands and Svetlana Otto and Sergey Dereliev at the AEWA Secretariat in Bonn, Germany.
28. It is expected that the Flyway Training Kit will be printed and published in English by the end of 2009. There are no delays foreseen with this project component. All activities are proceeding well and according to the workplan. Individuals working on and supporting this pillar of the project, notably Tim Dodman, the WOW SC Chair and Umberto Gallo-Orsi have invested a tremendous amount of time in ensuring the flyway training package is of the highest technical standards.

Demonstration Projects (Component Three) and Regional Centres (supporting all components)

29. The operations of all 4 **Regional Centres** is well on track and are feeding contributions into all project components.

30. During the reporting period a major regional workshop was organised by the Western and Central Africa Training Board in Benin in support the implementation of the WOW Flyway Training Programme. This was the second Training Board meeting for the region which brought together 11 participants from Benin, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cameroon, and Canada. All participants attending were from national and international NGOs, training centres and River basin authorities, and everyone expressed a keen interest in seeing the training package be adopted by relevant conservation institutions within the sub-region.
31. In early January 2009, the Central Asia and Southern Caucasus sub-regional Waterbird Officer in partnership with local experts organised a training expedition for waterbird monitoring in the Bukhara region of Uzbekistan. The expedition was organised in the framework of the CSN Tool to support the local volunteer network engaged in the International Waterbird Census (IWC).
32. Furthermore in May 2009, the Central Asia and Southern Caucasus sub-regional Waterbird Officer drafted a summary report on gap-filling surveys conducted in Armenia and Uzbekistan in 2008. The field projects in Armenia and Uzbekistan were implemented to collect waterbird and habitat data from presumably important wetlands which were not previously covered by IBA and IWC monitoring.
33. The retention of Regional Capacity Building Officers remains an issue of concern for the project. Two out of the four Regional Capacity Building Officers have now moved on to pursue other endeavours. Remaining activities within the framework of the Flyways Training Programme continue with remaining capacity available at the regional centres. This will continue to be an issue as GEF funds are exhausted and this component draws to a close.
34. Together with Wetlands International and BirdLife International, the PCU has continued to support the demonstration projects to ensure effective delivery of each project's principal objectives and to bring them to a successful closure. All disbursements are flowing to contractors without delay and without issue. Of note this reporting period is the following:
 - Mission conducted in Mauritania (January / February 2009) by the PCU and Wetlands International Africa to provide technical support on national implementation issues, as well as personnel issues. Planning was also conducted on the remainder of activities and most notably on the delivery of the field guiding course for the local Imraguen community;
 - Mission conducted in Niger (March 2009) by the PCU and Wetlands International Africa to review progress in the field and to conduct planning for the launch of the community management plan that is at an advanced stage;
 - Mission conducted in South Africa (April 2009) by the PCU and BLI to verify progress on the ground and to plan for the delivery of income-generation activities;

- Mission conducted in Kenya (April 2009) by the PCU to address personnel issues related to the move of the PCU to Bonn;
 - Two missions conducted in Jordan by the designated BLI focal point to provide technical and management support to the Middle East Regional Centre and to the Yemeni local partner;
 - A number of missions were conducted to Bonn to allow the PCU to address logistical and protocol issues related to the PCU's move to Germany;
 - Mission conducted in Hungary (June 2009) by the PCU and BLI to review progress in the field, and hold discussions with MME on how to use surplus funds within the framework of the demonstration project;
 - Mission conducted in Lithuania (June 2009) by both the PCU and WI to assess floodplain restoration work and attend the official opening of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River Delta. This demonstration project has now delivered all outputs as per their TOR and has been brought to a successful closure. IEVU's contract with UNOPS has since been closed;
 - Although no final mission was conducted in Estonia, this demonstration project was also brought to a successful closure. All outputs have been delivered and UNOPS' contract with the Environment Boards has been closed;
 - Unfortunately, the demonstration project in the Dar Es Salaam wetland had to be closed. A Wetlands Education Centre - the primary outcome of the WOW demonstration project in Tanzania - will not now be built in the Dar es Salaam wetlands, due to complexities at the local level. Upon review of the documentation prepared by the PCU, the Steering Committee concluded that the proposal presented by WCST was not a viable option at this stage. WCST's contract with UNOPS has since been terminated.
35. An update on the status of each demonstration project is provided in Table 2, and in the following sections of the report (full technical reports provided by each project are available at the PCU and will be posted on the project website as they become available).

Communications and Exchange (Component Four)

36. The project website (www.wingsoverwetlands.org) is being effectively maintained and updated by the AEWA Communications Officer in collaboration with the wider project team. The project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org received significant attention from over 156 countries.
37. The project continues to gain visibility at the international level, being presented at various venues through the combined efforts of all project partners. A regular digest of stories is also being circulated to WOW Project staff intermittently.
38. This reporting period a number of communication materials were developed in line with the priorities of the Communication Strategy and accompanying style guide.

- A four-page A4 leaflet on the Capacity Building Training Programme in Russian was developed and printed to support advocacy and resource mobilisation efforts within the Central Asian and Southern Caucasus region;
 - Two digests, consisting of stories compiled by the PCU and project partners, were circulated by the WOW Communications Officer to the wider project team and to external stakeholders;
 - Efforts are underway to produce a new annual newsletter which will contain updated information on project implementation. This task was initially handed to the PCU intern but was then later given to the WOW Communications Officer to complete. It is expected this will be ready for print in the next reporting period;
 - A new standardised WOW PowerPoint design template was created for the accompanying PowerPoint presentations of the WOW Flyway Training Kit;
 - All demonstration projects are also producing attractive and innovative communications materials locally in the framework of their field initiatives.
39. The project continues to gain international visibility through the combined efforts of all WOW partners, and was presented at the following international meetings:
- January 2009: Saloum-Niumi Exchange Programme Workshop (attended by WI)
 - February 2009: European Green Infrastructure Project meeting (attended by WI)
 - February 2009: Red-breasted Goose Conservation Workshop (attended by WI)
 - April 2009: AEWA Technical Committee meeting (attended by WI)
 - April 2009: Adriatic Flyaway Conference (attended by WI)
 - May 2009: Conference on Flyways in occasion of the 30th anniversary of the PA network of Latium, Italy (attended by WI)
40. The Exchange Programme dimension of the WOW Project is being implemented, but currently depends entirely on BfN support (which is geographically restricted to the Africa region). Nonetheless, the project is making a concerted effort to implement the recommendations of the Exchange Planning Workshop which was held in February 2008. Two separate exchanges were effected this reporting period.
41. The first Regional Exchange Workshop for Western and Central Africa in the framework of the WOW Project was held from 17 - 19 February 2009 at the Headquarters of Saloum National Park in Senegal. The workshop brought together 20 wetland managers, waterbird conservation experts, researchers and government officials from Senegal, The Gambia, Niger, Mauritania, Mali and Guinea-Bissau. Participants pledged a more engaged partnership approach to tackling common wetland and waterbird issues and used the workshop to share experiences of the different national park authorities present.
42. Where possible the Project Coordination Unit is encouraging demonstration project exchange visits where surplus funding permits. The demo team from Estonia visited the Saloum-Niumi Complex in January 2009 to deliver survey and monitoring training and to assist with mid-winter counts. The exchange was very successful by all measures.

Funds Disbursement

43. The project’s financial delivery is well on track with a total of **US\$ 5,467,804.56** of GEF funds disbursed since the project’s onset in July 2006. This reporting period at total of **US\$ 432,571.29** in GEF funds were disbursed. Total cumulative co-financing received to date (including additional funds leveraged by the demonstration projects during implementation) stands at **US\$ 5,240,155.08**. Therefore the total cumulative project disbursement (GEF Funds + all Co-financing) stands at **US\$ 10,707,959.64**. The graphs below illustrate the status and trend in project financial delivery to date.

Figure 1.a GEF Funds – Cumulative GEF disbursement as of 30th June 2009

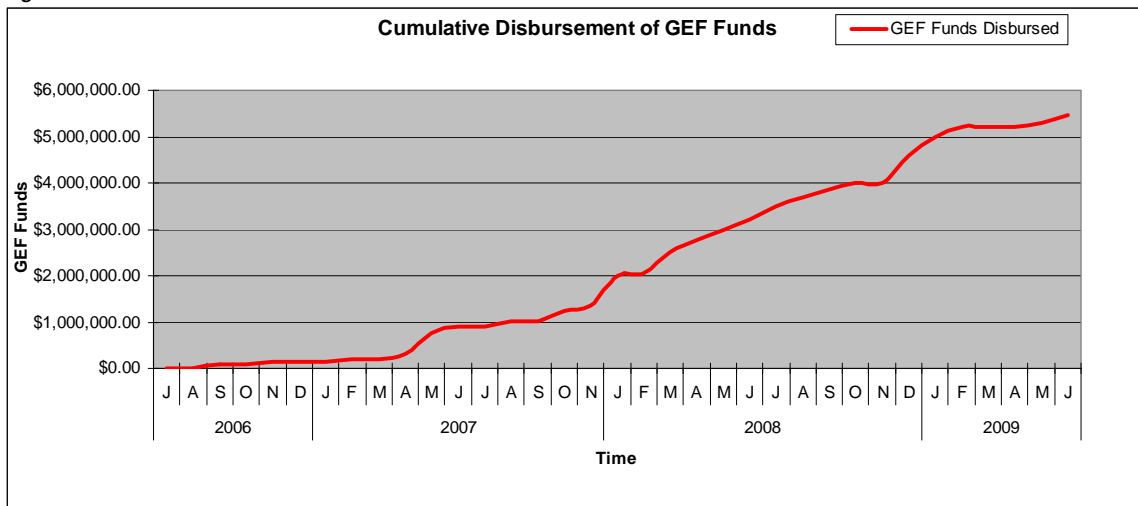


Figure 1.b BfN Funds – Projected BfN disbursement with trend line to the end of 2009

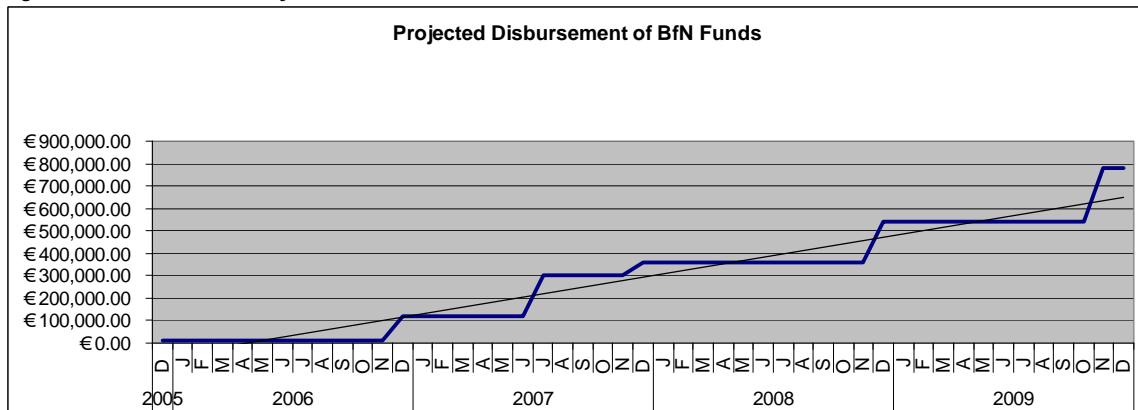
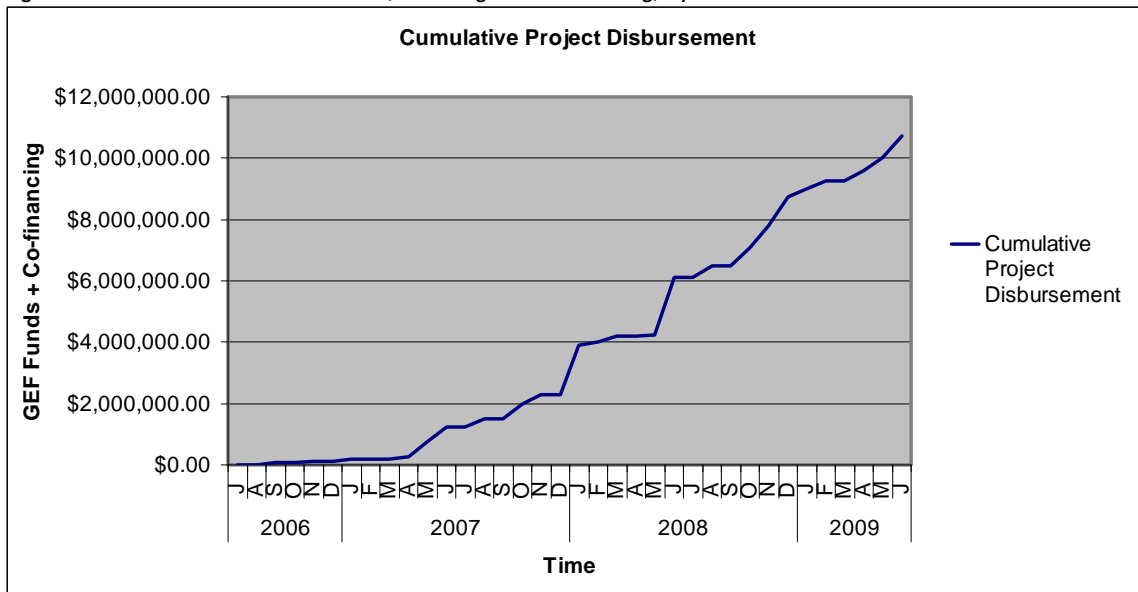


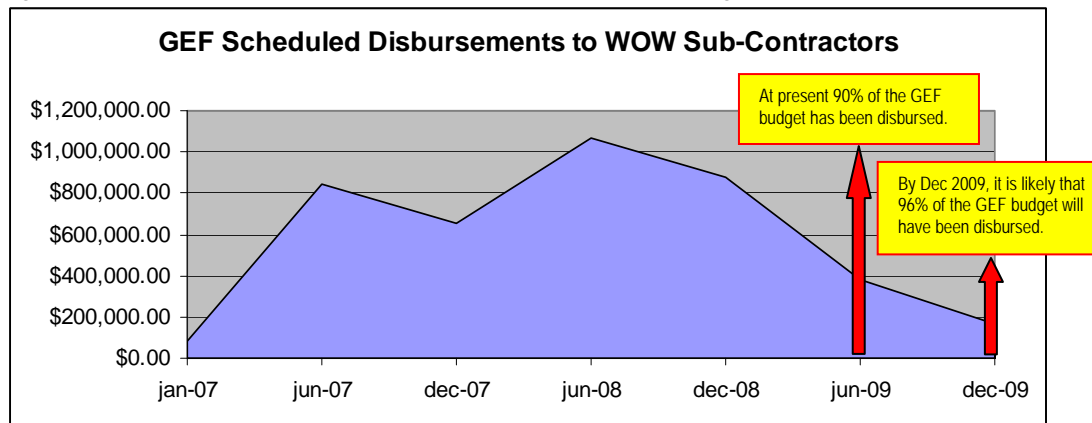
Figure 1.c Cumulative disbursement (including all co-financing) up to 30th June 2009



44. Figure 1.c above illustrates the collective effort of all project partners (including all regional centres, project partners and sub-contractors) to leverage the necessary co-financing for project activities. In some cases demonstration projects (Lithuania) leveraged more than 300% of the value of their co-financing commitments within their Terms of Reference, showing real traction of their field activities.

45. As of 30th June 2009, just over 90% of GEF funds have been disbursed to subcontractors and assuming that the current rate of expenditure, it is envisaged that approximately 96% of all GEF funds will have been disbursed by the end of 2009. However, due to the low expenditure by some demonstration projects, it is possible that several projects originally expected complete activities by December 2009, will instead do so by the end of the first quarter of 2010. This is not a major problem due to the fact that it is expected the PCU will continue operations until the end of the project.

Figure 2: GEF Disbursement Schedule to Sub-Contractors as per budget revisions



General Overview of the Co-financing Situation

46. Challenges in the mobilization of all pledged co-financing continue to negatively affect some aspects in the planning and delivery of some outputs envisaged in the original project document. Essentially, there is an overall gap of approximately US\$ 800,000 against pledged co-financing within the original project document.
47. However, to sufficiently address co-financing shortages, the project team and Steering Committee have developed and adopted a new workplan commencing from this reporting period, focusing on core deliverables and deleting some collateral outputs.
48. Therefore, an objective overall project assessment vis a vis the original project document has to account for the fact that some collateral project outputs are unlikely to be delivered as planned, due to the shortage of co-financing. This is compensated by the fact that the project team and Steering Committee have revised the scope and content of each activity so as to ensure that the core deliverables of the project will not be negatively affected, and that they will be delivered as planned.
49. This strategy has clarified and significantly mitigated the impact of the co-financing shortages, while still allowing the delivery of all critical outputs of the project.

Notable Successes in Resource Mobilisation this Reporting Period

50. Notwithstanding co-financing challenges, the entire WOW partnership's efforts to significantly step-up fundraising efforts have paid dividends this reporting period with a number of notable successes. An intense fundraising campaign has also borne fruit with several new donors pledging funds. A number of key proposals are still either pending or in the pipeline.
51. AEWA is making major headway with respect to its co-financing commitments and has come through with a total of approximately \$413,311.60 towards its cash contribution to WOW. At the request of the European Union, AEWA has been encouraged to submit a proposal under their thematic programme for "*Environment and sustainable management of Natural Resources*". WI, AEWA and the PCU jointly worked on a proposal this reporting period which was formally submitted in June 2009. A decision is anticipated at some point during the next reporting period.
52. The WetCap project (another AEWA initiative) has formally agreed in June 2009 to the translation and delivery of the WOW Flyway Training Kit in Arabic. BirdLife International has been sub-contracted for this work.
53. Fund-raising efforts have also resulted in new donors providing support. The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) agreed to support the WI and BLI management structure with 70,000 Euros.

54. Funding from the Scottish Natural Heritage has also come through for a significant proportion of the resources needed to print the WOW Flyway Training Kit.
55. The proposal to the United Arab Emirates developed by WI is still pending at the moment but a decision is expected during the next reporting period.
56. A contribution from the Ramsar Convention Secretariat is also being used towards the translation of the WOW Flyway Training Kit in French. All translation work is expected to commence at the beginning of the next reporting period.
57. While funds have been secured from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (US\$ 50,000) for the delivery of a ToT session in West Africa, a similar proposal for a ToT implementation in East Africa was unsuccessful. New opportunities are being explored.

Update on the Implementation of Activities

58. While previous workplans included a total of 106 activities, the workplan endorsed by the Steering Committee in December 2008 now contains 99 and divided into four components. In view of co-funding shortages, a number of activities were either modified or dropped altogether from the project workplan. Three of the activities that have been dropped in principle have been retained in the workplan.

Table 1: Summary of Progress by Project Component

Project Components	Total # of Activities	Overall % Progress by component (PCU Estimate)	Ongoing (previous report)	Completed (previous report)	not started and / or not planned for this period / dropped but retained in workplan by SC (progress from previous report in brackets)
Component 1 (CSN tool)	41	86%	14 (14)	19 (19)	8 (8)
Component 2 (capacity development)	20	80%	9 (8)	11(10)	0 (2)
Component 3 (demo projects)	11	75%	8 (11)	2 (0)	1(0)
Component 4 (comm. & exchange)	27	71%	12 (11)	9 (9)	6 (7)
Total	99	78%	43 (44)	41 (38)	15 (17)

Key project achievements during the reporting period

59. This section highlights the five most important achievements in the reporting period, other progress and achievements are detailed in subsequent sections.

Table 2: Key project achievements during reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Component one: the development of the Critical Site Network Tool has encountered some delays due to the underestimation of certain aspects of work. Nonetheless, the CSN Tool prototype was presented at several international meetings. Criteria for identification of WOW critical sites were reviewed and agreed, while further progress was made on IBA boundary digitisation and collation of spatial data for the CSN Tool. A revised workplan was drafted to account for delays in certain aspects of this work.
2	Component two: Tremendous progress was made with the WOW Flyway Training Kit. The consultants completed all work on the generic modules and PowerPoint presentations nearly finished. Modules were approved by 3 out of 4 Regional Training Boards. A design firm has been brought on to work on the layout. Resources for translations in all regional languages secured. Funds for printing of the generic module successfully secured. Finally, the leaflet promoting the ToT Modules was drafted and printed in Russian to assist with advocacy and fundraising efforts in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus.
3	Component three: Activities at all 11 demo project sites and 4 regional centres are ongoing and largely on track, with progress achieved to a variable extent in relation to the local context. The demonstration projects in Estonia and Lithuania have both reached a successful conclusion, have delivered on all outputs and are now closed. Unfortunately the demonstration project in Tanzania had to be closed. A summary on the status of each project is provided in the tables below.
4	Component four: The project website launched in March 2008 is receiving significant attention. As of 30 June 2009 the WOW website (start page only) had a total of 8626 unique visits from 156 countries/territories. This is well on track to meet project target and up 41% since the last reporting period. A wide range of publications and communication tools were produced by sub-contractors. The project continues to gain visibility at the international level, being presented at various venues through the combined efforts of all project partners. One exchange programme event was held in West Africa.
5	The project's financial delivery is well on track with a total of US\$ 5,467,804.56 of GEF funds having been disbursed to date. The total project expenditure to date (GEF + co-financing) stands at: US\$ 10,707,959.64

Table 3: Summary Status of Demonstration Projects (June 2009)

DEMO PROJECTS	Status and Milestones						
	TOTAL amount of contract (US\$)	TOTAL amount disbursed to date (US\$)	% of funds disbursed	PCU / BLI / WI site visit (s)	Progress reports delivered	PROGRESS (Full details in specific progress reports)	MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN REPORTING PERIOD details in Section 3, and in demo projects reports (available at upon request or at www.wingsoverwetlands.org)
1. Estonia	\$200,000	\$200,000	100%	✓✓	5 (including final report)	100% Final report submitted and contract closed	<p>All outcomes delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three management plans covering 300 km² of protected area in North Western Estonia completed; • A Visitor Centre and enhancement of ecotourism opportunities in the project area have been completed; • Work continuing on nominating Haapsalu-Noarootsi as a Ramsar site; • The number of some endangered bird species is increasing at Haapsalu-Noarootsi demo site; • A total of 87 ha of coastal grassland has been restored; • 20 guides were trained in botany, ornithology, settlement history and heritage of island.
2. Hungary	\$201,370	\$181,370.00	90%	✓✓✓	4	95% Final report pending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first major project workshop was held to raise awareness on current fish farming issues in protected areas. More than 100 professional fish farmers, conservationists, scientists and other officers attended; • Ecotourism leaflet produced highlighting the eco-tourism facilities and wildlife of the project area; • Nature-friendly feeding method was introduced and continuously practiced by Agropoint Ltd. and is increasing the company's bottom line; • Conflict resolution meetings between principal stakeholders in the project area; • Preparations for final project workshop underway; • New ecotourism route being constructed and nearly complete.
3. Lithuania	\$296,000	\$296,000	100%	✓✓✓	5 (including final report)	100% Final report submitted and contract closed.	<p>All outcomes delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand opening of a new "Bird Observatory" (research and information centre of migratory waterbirds) in Rusne island and final project meeting held in June 2009; • Significant additional funds were mobilised during the reporting period for the restoration of natural open habitats important for waterbirds. Work will

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue post-project building on the successes of the WOW initiative; Nemunas River Delta Regional Park Receives European Destination of Excellence Award; Adoption of transboundary cooperation / conservation measures within the Nemunas River Delta; Final book <i>"The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park"</i> and of two informative booklets, describing nature values of this key wetlands complex, particularly its importance for migratory waterbirds published; Monitoring scheme of migratory waterbirds at the demonstration site incorporated into the State Monitoring Program.
4. Mauritania	\$200,000	\$188,000	94%	✓✓	4	85% mitigation measures put in place are working effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course modules for nature / ornithological training course produced; Nature guiding course for Imraguen community has commenced and close to completion; PNBA's management plan (2010 – 2014) developed and finalised; List of key species and sites within the PNBA developed
5. Niger	\$200,000	\$191,750	96%	✓✓	4	95% Very encouraging work in the field. All outputs nearly completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community management plan drafted and ready for final endorsement from local community and community leaders; Local code of laws governing the complex's natural resource use ready for endorsement; Donor round table being organised to secure funding for management plan activities.
6. Senegal / The Gambia	\$400,000	\$305,000	76%	✓✓✓	4	65% Behind schedule – although process of drafting a transboundary management plan under way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disbursements suspended until management plan is completed; Regional exchange visit organised with Eurosite; Training on field monitoring, survey techniques and winter counts done in collaboration with the Estonian demo project team; A series of training sessions organised for Park Wardens, Ecorangers, volunteers and woman in the complex;
7. Nigeria	206,500	\$191,500	92%	✓✓	4	90% Well on track – excellent work on typha clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive public awareness and advocacy, targeting various wetlands resource users, government officials and local pilot schools; PhD programme initiated at the Wetlands Education Centre; A total stretch of about 35km of channel has been cleared of typha. As a result, farmlands, fishing and grazing areas

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have been reclaimed. Flooding that used to disrupt agricultural and other human activities has stopped and local communities are catching larger fish; Preparations for a socio economic survey are been concluded and consultants are expected to commence work in the next reporting period.
8. South Africa	\$248,000	\$199,039	80%	✓✓	3	77% Implementation and progress has picked up since the PCU and BLI field verification mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased local awareness through the celebration of important environment events e.g. National Arbor Week, World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD); In January 2009 the Sappi Centre was staffed with two experienced managers to ensure that the venue is used as a hub for education, community projects, tourism and wetland management; Through the WOW PCU, the support from a intern from the Netherlands was mobilized, focusing primarily on developing a environmental education programme for local schools; Development of local income-generating activities and brand for local Wakkerstroom products.
9. Tanzania	\$100,000	\$28,000	28%	✓✓✓	3	This demonstration project has been closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This demonstration project has been closed. Due to complexities at the local level, the primary outcome of the WOW demonstration project in Tanzania - will not now be built in the Dar es Salaam wetlands; Contract with UNOPS terminated; The Project Coordination Unit, Steering Committee, WCST and all implementing partners deeply regret that this demonstration initiative was not able to progress to a successful conclusion.
10. Turkey	\$195,000	\$188,730	97%	✓	4	95% On track to deliver all outputs by the end of 2009. Fantastic results being achieved locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramsar site management plan fully developed an being implemented; Efforts on the environmental education programme that was being carried out in 4 pilot schools have been stepped up due to increased interest from local authorities and all schools in Burdur; Demonstration project drawing national and international attention through media efforts.
11. Yemen	\$253,243	\$214,254	85%	✓✓✓✓	4	70% Work on communications going well through management plan behind schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project organized a series of lectures and discussions with different public security forces in Aden Governorate. Lectures and discussions titled "Protected Areas in Aden and their Importance for Birds Migration" were presented. Following a film "Winged Migration". More than 350 officers, sub-

							<p>officers and soldiers from different public security units in Aden Governorate were in attendance. This event resulted in improved collaboration with them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project arranged activities regarding the two international events in the framework of the "Born to Travel" Campaign on 21/3/2009, and "World migratory bird Day" from 9-10/5/2009; • Regular monthly bird monitoring conducted by WOW team in the Aden wetlands this reporting period at 10 locations in Aden. Species data is being entered into www.worldbirds.org. • Management plan work is ongoing.
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Table 4: Summary of Regional Centres (June 2009)

REGIONAL CENTRES	TOTAL amount of GEF contract (US\$)	TOTAL amount disbursed to local entity (GEF funds, US\$)	% of GEF funds disbursed	PCU / BLI / WI site visit	Reports	PROGRESS (Full details in specific progress reports)	MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN REPORTING PERIOD (details in Section 3, and in demo projects reports (available at www.wingsoverwetlands.org))
W & C Africa	\$17,600	\$17,600 (activities ongoing through co-financing)	100% (GEF contract completed)	✓✓	3	95%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First CSN workshop held Dec 2007 • First TB meeting held Feb 2008 • Second TB meeting held in Benin in May 2009; • Funding mobilised through USFWS for the implementation of the ToT in November 2009; • Regional exchange visit conducted in February 2009 in the framework of Eurosite; • Gap filling field work more or less completed according to the available resources • The critical sites and other site coordinates have been updated and the data cleaning has also advanced.
E & S Africa	\$17,600	\$17,600 (activities ongoing with co-financing)	100% (GEF contract completed)	✓✓✓✓ ✓	3	85%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First CSN workshop held Nov 2007 • First TB meeting held Dec 2007 • Regional exchange visit organised for October 2008 • Second TB meeting held Dec 2008 • Regular project coordination meetings maintained and contact with the PCU regular. The hub successfully lobbies KWS to make Jane, the former CDO, available to participate in Wings over Wetlands project activities as and when the need arises; • A visit is expected to Mozambique to carry out scoping to undertake Monitoring Training. Very useful contacts were made and planning for the training.

Middle East	163,817	\$155,817 (centre runs on GEF funds only)	95%	✓✓✓✓	4	95%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First CSN workshop held April 2008 • First TB meeting held Nov 2007 • Training Module Review Workshop held June 2008 • 2nd WOW regional Training Board meeting for the regional adaptation of the WOW Modules 20th – 22nd Jan 2009; • WOW ME SRS is taking on a more active role in the implementation of the demonstration project in Yemen to ensure implementation of activities within the framework of the project; • ToT scheduled in August 2009 – preparations under way this reporting period.
Central Asia	\$173,689	\$166,689 (centre runs on GEF funds only)	96%	✓✓	3	85%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First CSN workshop held Mar 2008; • First TB meeting held Apr 2008; • Second TB meeting to be organised in late in 2009 when modules are translated into Russian; • Priority gaps identified through the regional workshop have been filled within the limited available budget; • WOW Project Brief and Capacity Building brochure were published in Russian with special focus on the CACS region.

Key issues & proposed solutions

60. This section highlights the most important cross-cutting project issues at the global level which require the focused attention of the UNEP/GEF, the Steering Committee and/or UNOPS. These issues are selected and extracted from sections 2 & 3 of this report, where additional details are provided.

Table 5: Key global issues and solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution (and action required from Steering Committee)	Deadline	Party Responsible
<i>Cross-cutting issues at the “GLOBAL” level</i>				
1	While there have been some fundraising successes this reporting period, not all pledged co-financing within the project document has materialised.	Appropriate measures to mitigate and pre-empt this risk were successfully implemented this reporting period. A new workplan was endorsed by the SC in December 2008 and there are several key proposals pending.	Nov 2009 at next SC teleconference	All WOW Partners in tandem with PCU

		<p>From a practical point of view the project is on track to deliver all core outputs though not all activities originally envisioned in the project document.</p> <p>A running list of resource mobilisation efforts was started in September 2008 to capture the efforts of each WOW partner. This will be reviewed periodically by the Steering Committee as decisions are rendered on pending proposals.</p>		
2	All WOW partners have raised the issue of what happens after the WOW Project is completed and how to carry on the effective cooperation that has been established.	An initial brainstorming meeting was held this reporting period from 10 - 11 March 2009 to identify scenarios and possible follow-up activities within the framework of the WOW partnership. A series of follow-up meetings will take place to develop a collaborative framework agreement under the WOW banner.	Nov 2009	All WOW core partners (WI, BLI, AEWA and Ramsar) with support of PCU and SC Chair.
3.	Need to establish a coordinated fundraising strategy for 2010 so as to avoid possible frictions among partner organisations.	Issue to be discussed at the next Steering Committee teleconference in Nov 2009 on how to approach donors jointly.	Nov 2009	All WOW core partners (WI, BLI, AEWA and Ramsar) with support of PCU and SC Chair.
4.	Changes to AEWA Annex II mean that there are now 255 species on the AEWA list, while the project only covers 240 species (the 235 listed at the project start plus 5 newly listed AEWA species which were already included in the WOW project's wider species list).	If additional funding could be secured the team could produce species range maps, flyway polygons and species ecology information for the extra 15 species as an additional piece of work.	To be discussed by appropriate technical team	AEWA/ WI/ BLI/ PCU

II. Project Management

61. Project management is a critical cross-cutting issue that affects all project components. This section highlights management issues that may affect project performance and achievement of expected outcomes, and describe proposed next steps.

Table 6: Key management issues and solutions

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	<p>i) The WOW project went through significant changes in its overall management structure this reporting period. In February 2009, the PCU's Chief Technical Advisor took up a new post at UNEP/GEF and the WOW PCU has since been downsized to one junior staff member. Terms of Reference of the PCU however have not been adjusted accordingly to adequately reflect changes in roles, reporting responsibilities and the additional workload needed to bring WOW to a successful closing. Nonetheless, the junior staff member has been performing a dual role since Feb 2009.</p> <p>The PCU is receiving intermittent guidance and advice on how to best implement activities from a core management group consisting of focal points from WI and BLI, as well as from</p>	The TOR of the PCU staff member should therefore be amended accordingly to reflect dual role being executed.	July 2010	UNOPS and UNEP to discuss this issue with the PCU

	<p>the WOW SC Chair. The former CTA is also Task Managing the WOW project as part of his new post at UNEP/DGEF. This support, while essential and appreciated for the overall implementation of WOW, does not shoulder the additional workload on the PCU. This workload, while expected to taper off in 2010, is currently not a one-person job.</p> <p>In December 2008 the Steering Committee agreed that 20% supervision should be allocated to assist the PCU with technical tasks. This has not transpired according to plan but nonetheless, there has been minimal impact on the implementation of the overall project.</p> <p>ii) Work on the CSN Tool is currently experiencing delays due to an underestimation of time needed on certain aspects of technical work.</p>	<p>Technical team for the CSN Tool to investigate whether additional staff inputs are possible at any stage to accelerate implementation and delivery.</p>	<p>December 2009</p>	<p>CSN technical team</p>
<p>Finance & administration</p>	<p>An updated overall analysis of actual gaps related to the core deliverables (as per revised workplan) needed as soon as possible so as to plan fundraising strategy.</p>	<p>WI to evaluate actual cost inputs required to deliver all core outputs in the revised workplan adopted in December 2008. This is expected to be lower than the pledged co-financing.</p>	<p>Nov 2009</p>	<p>WI</p>
<p>Logistics & operations</p>	<p>PCU is having difficulty establishing a support arrangement at the</p>	<p>PCU arrangement / contract with WI to continue assisting with support costs</p>	<p>Dec 2009</p>	<p>WI, AEWA & UNOPS</p>

	UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to front small ongoing operational costs. Discussions are ongoing.	should continue until the end of the project if a solution with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is not found.		
Reporting & communication	-	-	-	-
Coordination with project partners	-	-	-	-
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project sites for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-

Project Steering Committee (SC)

62. This section illustrates how the SC is working to support project implementation and the delivery of project outcomes.

Table 7a: Project Steering Committee

Date of last SC Meeting	6 December 2008
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	11 November 2009 (teleconference) 8 - 12 March 2010 (final SC meeting in South Africa)

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was this Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC?	This report is to be submitted as a draft to the SC for review and comments, before being officially endorsed at the next SC meeting
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC?	The revised workplan for year 2009 was approved at the third WOW SC meeting (December 2008).
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	As of December 2008 the SC is meeting regularly by teleconference, keeping in close contact with the PCU and project team. SC work is facilitated by a more hands-on approach and a new and actively involved Chairman.

Table 7b: List of the 8 Steering Committee members

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Gerard Boere	Chairman	gcboere@planet.nl	+31 (0) 575 49 3644
Ward Hagemeijer	WI	ward.hagemeijer@wetlands.org	+31 (0) 318 660938
Leon Bennun	BLI	Leon.Bennun@bridlife.org	+44 (0)1223 279840
Edoardo Zandri	UNEP	edoardo.zandri@unep.org	+254 20 7624380
Julie Klassen*	UNOPS	Juliek@unops.org	+254 20 7623490
Bert Lenten	AEWA	blenten@unep.de	+49 228 815 2414
Nick Davidson	Ramsar Convention	davidson@ramsar.org	+41 22 999 0171
Andrea Pauly	BfN	andrea.pauly@bfn.de	+49 228 8491 1428

Note: UNOPS is expected to formally nominate Bahaa Al-Asad as its WOW Steering Committee member in the next reporting period.

III. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

63. While previous workplans included a total of 106 activities, the workplan endorsed by the Steering Committee in December 2008 now contains 99 and divided into four components. In view of co-funding shortages, a number of activities were either modified or dropped altogether from the project workplan. Three of the activities that have been dropped in principle have been retained in the workplan.



Table 8: Summary of Progress by Project Component








Project Components	Total # of Activities	Overall % Progress by component (PCU Estimate)	Ongoing (previous report)	Completed (previous report)	not started and / or not planned for this period / dropped but retained in workplan by SC (progress from previous report in brackets)
Component 1 (CSN tool)	41	86%	14 (14)	19 (19)	8 (8)
Component 2 (capacity development)	20	80%	9 (8)	11(10)	0 (2)
Component 3 (demo projects)	11	75%	8 (11)	2 (0)	1(0)
Component 4 (comm. & exchange)	27	71%	12 (11)	9 (9)	6 (7)
Total	99	78%	43 (44)	41 (38)	15 (17)




Table 9: Summary of project progress


ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	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
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period. (German flag highlights activities also co-financed by the BfN)				
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 1.1 Establishment of inter-operability between the main data-sources.				
1.1 1.1 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 - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #1	
1.1 1.2 Develop and map quality standards for databases	WI/(WCMC), BLI	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #2	
1.1 1.3 Integrate standards, test	WI/(WCMC), BLI	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #5	




ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	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
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↗ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↘ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period. (German flag highlights activities also co-financed by the BfN)				
Application of integrated standards has been tested in the CSN prototype.				
1.1 1.4 Implement interoperability 	WI/(WCMC), BLI	IP: 80% - (80%)	Flyway polygons and their naming have been corrected in collaboration with BirdLife International. Further IBA boundaries were digitised, facilitating the process of matching IWC coordinates with IBAs. Attribute tables for all 753 flyway polygons were populated with key data and standardised to allow linkage with other data in the CSN tool.	Additional work beyond specifications in original ProDoc has been performed under this activity. Additional IBA boundaries were digitised, facilitating the process of matching IWC coordinates with IBAs. For verification of IWC coordinates please refer to 1.1.2.1 – The integration of IBA and IWC databases will take place as IWC coordinates are available.
Activity 1.1 2 Collection of spatial site reference data as a basis for database linkage in the site network				
1.1 2.1 Map available data, gather new data 	WI/(WCMC), BLI	IP: 80% ↗ (75%)	Significant progress has been made on verifying IWC coordinates. Verification of IWC coordinates have been completed for Africa and most of Europe. Available IBA data have been checked and any	This work was completed prior to the addition of extra species to AEW Annex 2. There are now 15 species in the AEW annex not covered by the WOW project.

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	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
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed;  increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged;  revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.  highlights activities also co-financed by the BfN				
			errors corrected to minimise problems in the CSN tool. Project partners have agreed on the best process for presenting data for sites in areas of flyway overlap. The WI WPE4 table which will be linked to the CSN tool has been updated by BirdLife to reflect updated information and now reflects the updated set of flyway polygons. BirdLife have contacted members of their network to request assistance with checking IWC site coordinates.	
1.1 2.2 Digitise information (IWC and IBA sites' boundaries) 	WI/(WCMC)	IP: 85%  (75 %)	Good progress continues to be made in digitizing WOW IBAs and the project target of 75% sites digitized has been surpassed for IBAs. Approximately 80% of IBAs hosting WOW species now have digitized boundaries. Further progress has been made on digitization of Middle East IBA boundaries at the BirdLife Global Secretariat. Boundaries for Ukraine IBAs in process of digitization at the BirdLife Global Secretariat and are approximately 30% complete.	Pending issues with regards to the digitalisation of IBA boundaries to Ukraine, as well as gaps concerning IBA boundaries have been fully addressed.
1.1 2.3 Make spatial info accessible 	WI/(WCMC), BLI	IP: 87.5%  (80 %)	The set of WOW species range-maps have been provided to UNEP-WCMC and are accessible in the test CSN tool. Site coordinates and IBA boundaries already digitised are accessible in the test CSN tool and further digitised IBA boundaries will be provided	





ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	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
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↗ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↘ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period. (German flag highlights activities also co-financed by the BfN)				
			to UNEP-WCMC as they become available. BirdLife have collated the set of 753 flyway polygons created by WI, including those amended after input from the review process. These have been standardised in format and coded for ease of linkage in the web-portal.	
Activity 1.1 3 Creation of the basis of the site network by linking the main data resources.				
1.1 3.1 Link data sources by coordinates 	WI/(WCMC), BLI	C - (C)	See SAR #5 All available IWC and Ramsar sites as well as protected areas are now spatially linked with the IBA boundaries in the prototype of the CSN test portal. The CSN portal is now designed so as to have the capacity to automatically reflect changes in the underlying databases, including the IWC coordinates. Therefore this activity may be regarded as essentially complete (in spite of the fact that some IWC coordinates are not yet available): the linking capability of the CSN portal is in place, the linking process has begun and will be completed for the entire AEWA region, once the full set of central coordinates for IWC sites gradually become available.	








ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	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
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period. (German flag highlights activities also co-financed by the BfN)				
1.1 3.2 Link data sources by boundaries 	WI/(WCMC), BLI	C - (C)	See SAR #5 All digitised IBA boundaries available (c.80% of IBAs containing WOW species) have been provided to UNEP-WCMC for linking and are available in the test portal. BirdLife continue to digitise site boundaries so further IBA boundaries will be provided to UNEP-WCMC as and when they are completed for linkage with other data sources.	Where IWC coordinates are available linking is taking place by matching IWC coordinates with IBA boundaries, or where boundaries are not available by matching IBA and IWC coordinates.
1.1 3.3 Analyse combined datasets	WI/(WCMC), BLI	IP: 55% - (55%)	For this activity, it was agreed at a technical meeting in April 2007 that information from the IWC data and from gap filling surveys and other sources shall be described similarly to the IBAs and stored in the World Bird Database also for non-IBA sites which meet the CSN criteria. Hence, this removes the need to analyse the IBA and IWC databases together and allows the team to focus efforts on the sites which meet the CSN criteria. IBA dataset was used for gap identification with consultation of regional experts. For CSN criteria application it was agreed that IBA and IWC databases will be analysed separately, allowing the team to focus efforts on the sites which meet the CSN criteria. Overlap between IBAs and IWC sites will be analysed in subsequent work.	

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	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
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↗ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↘ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period. (German flag highlights activities also co-financed by the BfN)				
Activity 1.1 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				
1.1 4.1 Develop plan for web based portal in consultation with custodians 	WI/(WCMC)	C (C)	Ref: SAR #4	
1.1 4.2 Programming of portal application, testing 	WI/WCMC/(BLI)	IP: 62.5% ↗ (60%)	Programming slowed down as data cleaning and mapping took more time. Workplan has been re-designed accordingly. Development of CSN tool discussed further during meeting (WI/ BirdLife/ UNEP-WCMC) in Cambridge, March 2009.	
1.1 4.3 Adapt databases for portal-linking 	WI/(WCMC), BLI	75% (-) (75%)	IBA data adapted and delivered to UNEP-WCMC in accordance with test portal requirements. Process for coding and storing WI flyway polygons devised and applied to allow portal-linking.	



ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	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
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (–) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period. (German flag highlights activities also co-financed by the BfN)				
Activity 1.1 5 Compile the network of critical sites using Ramsar and IBA criteria				
1.1 5.1 Review and apply criteria on datasets 	WI, BLI	IP: 20% - (20%)	The CSN criteria were finalised, taking into account comments received. In addition IBA data were checked and any errors corrected in readiness for application of the criteria.	There has been some delay in application of the criteria to the two datasets in relation to the original timetable.
1.1 5.2 Analyse resulting site network 	WI, BLI	NA	This activity will not take place until the CSN criteria have been developed and applied.	
1.1 5.3 Consult experts in region on results 	WI, BLI, SRSs	NA	This activity will not take place until the CSN criteria have been applied and the resulting site network has been analysed.	
Activity 1.1 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				
1.1 6.1 Compiling results of act. 1.1 1.5 into publication 	WI/(WCMC), BLI	Activity dropped by SC but should remain in the workplan.	In spite of funding shortages the WOW Steering Committee recommended that this activity be left within the workplan. The partnership agreed to work towards achieving this activity and continue to try to fill this gap as it is important.	Funding for this activity was included in the WI proposal for Abu Dhabi. Proposal still pending.

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1.1 6.2 Edit and publish network 	WI, BLI	Same decision as above. This activity will be retained and partnership will continue fundraising efforts to fill gaps.	Same as above	Same as above
1.1 6.3 Launch portal 	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSS	NA	Not planned for this period	
Activity 1.1 7 Raise awareness amongst practitioners, and train them in the use of the network of critical sites				
1.1 7.1 Disseminate concept of critical site network at appropriate occasions like conferences, meetings, workshops (active participation to raise awareness) 	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSS	55% ↑ (50%)	The leaflet on the Critical Site Network Tool was published (with German funding) and distributed at various project meetings and external events. The CSN tool is featured on the WOW website, where a test version is available. CSN also to be featured in upcoming annual WOW newsletter and has been presented at relevant international meetings.	



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Activity 1.1 8 Promote the network of critical sites as a conservation tool				
1.1 8.1 Develop communication plan for publicising the network of critical sites as a tool for conservation 	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSS	C (C)	Ref: SAR #4	
1.1 8.2 Implement communication of network tool 	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSS	IP 75% ↑ (70%)	CSN tool presented at several occasions: February 2009: Exchange Workshop in Saloum National Park and European Green Infrastructure project organized by the European Commission; April 2009: Adriatic Flyway Conference in Ulcinj (Montenegro) and the AEWA TC in Zagreb; May 2009: Conference on Flyway celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the PA network in Latium (Italy); June 2009: Closing Ceremony of Lithuania Demo Site; The WOW project and CSN tool continue to be publicised through Birdlife website. Concept of CSN publicised through its inclusion of the concept in a BCI paper and included in World Birdwatch magazine.	



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Activity 1.1 9 Production of a publication to raise awareness of key issues in the flyway using the network as the basis



1.1 9.1 Compile awareness publication 	WI, BLI	NA	Not planned for this period	The WOW SC decided that the compiling of information for the awareness publication should be done in-house. See activity 1.1.9.2 with regards to its production, publication and distribution.
1.1 9.2 Produce and distribute publication 	WI, BLI, SRSs	Although dropped for the moment, the WOW SC maintained that this is something the project ought to leave within the workplan and for which the partnership should continue fundraising efforts.	Not planned for this period	This activity is to be closely linked with activities 1.1 6.2 (edit and publish CSN). There is currently a funding shortage for this activity, although it is included in WI's Abu Dhabi proposal.


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 1.2 1 Identify gaps in spatial coverage and mobilise existing information


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1.2 1.1 Map coverage of databases 	WI, BLI	C (C)	Ref SAR #5 Consolidated Gap Identification workshop report and its data annex have been finalized. (Ref: Annex 2 of WI SAR #4)	
1.2 1.2 Sub-regional check of coverage 	WI, BLI, SRSs	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	
1.2 1.3 Compile existing information through sub-regions	WI, BLI, SRSs	C (C)	Ref SAR #5 Data annex developed and circulated among RWOs (Ref: WI SAR #4 - annex 2)	
1.2 1.4 Organise regional workshops 	WI, BLI, SRSs	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4 All sub-regional workshops were successfully completed as planned.	

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Activity 1.2.2 Fill the information gaps in the data sources				
1.2.2.1 Increase and focus sub-regional coordination of IWC and IBA to fill gaps	WI, BLI, SRSs	IP: 55% ↗ (50 %)	<p>Regional Waterbird Officers are following up the implementation of the Gap filling strategy. They continue to seek best ways to fill these gaps, whether through expanding existing monitoring or through special surveys.</p> <p>Key gaps were identified in each sub-region during the regional gap-identification workshops. The RWOs are following up with IWC and IBA national coordinators according to a plan to see how best to fill these gaps, whether through expanding existing monitoring or through special surveys.</p> <p>WOW funding is being allocated accordingly.</p>	
1.2.2.2 Perform additional targeted censuses to cover and fill gaps	WI, BLI, SRSs	IP: 75% - (75%)	See SAR #5. Resources have been allocated accordingly to ensure an improve IWC coverage.	The SC maintained that the project should neither focus nor earmark additional funds to gap filling efforts within fundraising efforts. Only existing funds (i.e.: already confirmed cash) should be used to complete gap-filling efforts.

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1.2 2.3 Organise sub-regional workshops (same workshops as under act 1.2 1.4 above)	WI, BLI, SRSs	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	
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 1.3 1 Harmonizing and strengthening data gathering capacity, thus ensuring better compatibility between and sustainability of monitoring networks				
1.3 1.1 Map and analyse overlap and differences in monitoring activities between IWC and IBA and Wetland Inventories 	WI, BLI	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #3 & #4	
1.3 1.2 Develop input for manuals on streamlining and integrating monitoring activities 	WI, BLI, SRSs	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	

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1.3 1.3 Sub-regional Workshops to implement integrated monitoring 	WI, BLI, SRSs	C (C)	See SAR # 5 Integrated monitoring workshops report completed and available on the WOW website.	
Activity 1.3 2 Strengthening capacity for data gathering and monitoring				
1.3 2.1 Print and provide monitoring manuals	WI, BLI	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	
1.3 2.2 Experts to lead surveys to train on (<i>integration of training census – incorporates 1.3.2.3 which is now dropped</i>).	WI / (consultants), BLI, SRSs	IP: 35% ⬆ (25%)	As agreed by the SC the funds tagged for fieldwork are being used also for training. Specific trainings aimed at improving the monitoring capacity are planned in Central Africa Republic and Mozambique, which are among the identified priorities. All surveys used to train local volunteers and staff as appropriate.	The SC decided that the same decision for activity 1.2 2.2 applies here as well. In addition it was agreed that all remaining gap-filling surveys conducted with WOW funding should continue to have a significant element of training for local personnel, as originally planned. See also comment in Activity 1.2 2.2



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Activity 1.3 Provide materials and equipment to facilitate and assist the training and data collection				
1.3 3.1 Develop, print and provide field guide in Russian	WI/(consultants), BLI, SRS Central Asia	(NA)	NA	The SC endorsed the idea that this activity is to be dropped from the main workplan but it should be kept on the side as it can be fundraised for.
1.3 3.2 Provide optical and other equipment 	WI, BLI, SRSs	IP: 65% ↗ (60%)	ONCFS has donated almost 800 copies of a field guide to the waterbirds in West Africa and the distribution of the books has started. List of equipment for Africa to be acquired agreed	SC agreed that this activity should continue to be implemented with available funding and then once funds have been exhausted it should be taken for complete.
Outcome 1.4 Species and critical site knowledge base supports management and planning decision-making in flyway conservation				
Activity 1.4 1 Compile existing ecological knowledge on species' migratory characteristics, site function and population delimitation				
1.4 1.1 Subcontract expert (consultant) to compile review of knowledge	WI, BLI	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #3 & #4	




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1.4 1.2 Consultation of network and literature	WI / (consultant – identified: BLI)	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4 Furthermore, literature search completed for all species, and information improved for the remaining threatened WOW species.	
1.4 1.3 Compile overview existing ecological knowledge and identify gaps in knowledge	WI / (consultant), BLI, SRSs	C (C)	See SAR #5 Overview of ecological knowledge now compiled for all WOW species. Accounts all brought up to a common standard for display in the web portal.	
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 2.1.1 Develop a working draft of the model Training and Awareness Raising Programme				
2.1 1.1 Develop the draft Programme	WI (consultant)	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	
2.1 1.2 Series of meetings with	WI, SRSs	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	






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key training institutes				
2.1 1.3 Translate, print & distribute first draft model	WI, SRSs	C (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	
Activity 2.1 2 Training and Awareness Raising Programme Development Workshop				
2.1 2.1 Plan workshop	WI, PCU	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #3	
2.1 2.2 Hold Development Workshop	WI, PCU, SRSs	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #3	
Activity 2.1 3 Draft the first full version of the model programme				
2.1 3.1 Draft first full version of model	WI (consultant)	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	
Activity 2.1 4 Review of the programme model draft				
2.1 4.1 Perform external review of training and awareness model	WI, PCU, SRSs	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4 Amman workshop report delivered in July.	



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2.1 4.2 Conduct a full review of the model programme	SC (sub-group), WI, PCU, SRSSs	C ↗ (NA)	Ref: SAR #4 The consultation process has been very comprehensive during the development of the Generic Modules. David Stroud (UK) has reviewed the final version of the generic module. TB from East and Southern Africa as well as the TB from West and Central Africa have expressed in writing appreciation for the quality of the Training Kit.	The WOW SC agreed that there will be no formal external evaluation of the training modules. However, an external technical advisor will carry out a rapid technical review before the text is finalised. WI Capacity Development team will obtain formal the endorsement of the final version of the training modules from all WOW partners and Regional Training Boards.
Activity 2.1 5 Finalise the programme model				
2.1 5.1 Prepare the final version of the programme model	WI	IP: 95% ↗ (80%)	T. Dodman (as a consultant) and G. Boere (on a voluntary basis since its' appointment as SC Chair) have been working since June 2008. By June 2009 the Training Modules were completed. Only the accompanying PowerPoint presentations need some updating following the finalization of the modules. This will be done in-house.	
2.1 5.2 Translate & print final model, and distribute to contributing partners / networks	WI, PCU, SRSSs	IP 50% ↗ (30%)	The lay-out has been contracted to a UK company (Nature Bureau) and it's ongoing (first draft of M1 completed in June 2009).	SC agreed that 1500 copies of the training programme should be produced.



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and to project sub-regional centres for wide dissemination			SNH has granted its support to cover 50% of the cost for layout and printing. Regional Translation in Russian done in house by CARSC CDO. Translation in French is planned by October 2009 with funds made available by Ramsar. The AEWA Wet-Cap project will contribute to the translation in Arabic.	Integration of WOW and WETCAP project need to be further developed in the next reporting period.
Outcome 2.2 Wetland and waterbird conservation Training and Awareness Raising Programmes produced ready for implementation in four sub-regions				
Activity 2.2 1 Establish 4 Sub-regional Training Boards				
2.2 1.1 Informal meetings in sub-region to establish board 	SRSs, WI, BLI	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	
2.2 1.2 Organise & hold training boards meetings	SRSs, WI, BLI	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	

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2.2 1.3 Meeting reports	SRSs, WI, BLI	C - (C)	Task completed: See SAR #4	
Activity 2.2 2 Design and establish 4 Sub-regional Training & Awareness Programmes				
2.2 2.1 Produce draft Training and Awareness Raising Programme models for consultation 	WI, SRS, BLI	IP: 70% ↗ (30%)	French and Russian adaptation and translation scheduled and fund-raised for (see 2.1 5.2). ME ToT planned for early August; training will be implemented by the training department of RSCN in Jordan with the external support from the main TK author. The Arabic version is planned in 2010 with the contribution of Wet-Cap project.	It is hoped that the WetCap project could cover not only the translation costs but also the printing, should the UAE application fail.
2.2 2.2 Training and Awareness Raising Programme Review Workshops & prioritisation of courses 	WI, SRS, BLI	IP: 75% ↗ (25%)	West and Central Africa Adaptation workshop held in Benin in May 2009. The ME TB has approved the TOT through a consultation process in January 2009, not a meeting. This will make possible the implementation of the first ToT in the ME in August 2009	





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			CASCR TB meeting planned for autumn 2009	
Activity 2.2 3 Finalise 4 Sub-regional Training & Awareness Programmes				
2.2 3.1 Prepare final draft for approval by Training Boards 	WI, SRS, BLI	IP: 75% ↑ (25%)	West and Central Africa Adaptation workshop held in Benin in May 2009. The ME TB has approved the TOT through a consultation process in January 2009, not a meeting. This will make possible the implementation of the first ToT in the ME in August 2009. CASCR TB meeting planned for autumn 2009	
2.2 3.2 Publish & print as needed the Training and Awareness Raising Programme 	WI	IP: 20% ↑ (0%)	Printing of the generic version planned in the second part of 2009 thanks to the contribution from the SNH. West Africa ToT course funded by USFWS scheduled for November 2009. Applications for West Africa and CA submitted to donors and decisions pending Application for the printing of the Russian Version submitted by the CASCR Centre.	WOW SC agreed to change the language of this activity to reflect the regionalisation process. The generic version of the training programme should be translated if possible. Regional Centres should receive resource copies of the generic programme in English. Each time a training workshop is to be held a set of copies in that particular language should be printed.



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2.2 3.3 Hold awareness-raising meetings to publicise & introduce the Training and Awareness Raising Programme	SRS, WI, BLI	IP: 45% ⬆ (25%)	<p>A brochure promoting the ToT modules which was produced in Nov 2008 was subsequently adapted and printed into Russian.</p> <p>WOW Flyway Training Programme presented at the following events:</p> <p>February 2009: Exchange Workshop in Saloum-Niumi and European Green Infrastructure project organized by the European Commission; March 2009: the AEWA TC in Zagreb; April 2009: Adriatic Flyway Conference in Ulcinj (Montenegro); May 2009: Conference on Flyway celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the PA network in Latium (Italy); June 2009: Closing Ceremony of Lithuania Demo Site;</p> <p>A presentation is planned in late August at the Ramsar NorBalWet Seminar in Turku.</p>	
Activity 2.2 4 Mobilise resources for the implementation of the sub-regional training and awareness raising programmes				
2.2 4.1 Mobilise resources outside the sub-regions	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU	IP: 30% ⬆ (25%)	50,000 USD for the implementation of the first TOT course in West Africa have been mobilized from USFWS by WI.	



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			WI has submitted a new application to the USFWS for East Africa ToT, but was not successful. An application was submitted to CIDA (Canada) for a ToT in Central Asia. A proposal to the Dutch Government (Min of Foreign Affairs) for a ToT implementation in the SE Europe is planned for September 2009.	
2.2 4.2 Mobilise resources from within the sub-regions 	SRSs, WI, BLI	IP: 10% - (10%)	Abu Dhabi proposal pending and decision expected next reporting period.	
Component 3: Improved conservation status at sites critical for waterbirds, and knowledge is generated on how to enhance conservation across the African-Eurasian flyways.				
Outcome 3.1 Demonstrations of best practice management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands available across the flyway				
Activity 3.1.1 Execution of demonstration projects				
3.1 1.1 Haapsalu-Nooarotsi Bays, Estonia	WI (HQ) and the local	C ↑ (95%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 200,000 Disbursement to date: US\$200,000 (100%)	Final report submitted and contract closed as planned.

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	executing agency (Environment Board / State Nature Conservation Centre)		<p>Summary of progress this reporting period:</p> <p>(Final Report to be available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org)</p> <p>All outcomes delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three management plans covering 300 km² of protected area in North Western Estonia completed; • A Visitor Centre and enhancement of ecotourism opportunities in the project area have been completed; • Work continuing on nominating Haapsalu-Noarootsi as a Ramsar site; • The number of some endangered bird species is increasing at Haapsalu-Noarootsi demo site; • A total of 87 ha of coastal grassland has been restored; • 20 guides were trained in botany, ornithology, settlement history and heritage of island. 	
3.1.1.2 Biharugra Fishponds, Hungary	BLI (HQ) and the local executing agency (MME/ BirdLife)	95% - (95%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 201,370 Disbursement to date: US\$ 181,370.00 (90%) Planned Closure: December 2009 Summary of progress this reporting period:	After initial delays the project is now at an advanced stage of implementation and ready to delivery final results.

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	Hungary)		(Full details in Hungary Progress report #4, available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first major project workshop was held to raise awareness on current fish farming issues in protected areas. More than 100 professional fish farmers, conservationists, scientists and other officers attended; • Ecotourism leaflet produced highlighting the eco-tourism facilities and wildlife of the project area; • Nature-friendly feeding method was introduced and continuously practiced by Agropoint Ltd. and is increasing the company's bottom line; • Conflict resolution meetings between principal stakeholders in the project area; • Preparations for final project workshop underway; • New ecotourism route being constructed and nearly complete. 	
3.1.1.3 Nemunas River Delta, Lithuania	WI (HQ) and the local executing agency (Institute of	C ⬆ (97%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 296,000 Disbursement to date: US\$ 296,000.00 (100%) <u>Summary of progress this reporting period:</u> (Full details of project achievements in Final Report,	Final report submitted and contract closed as planned.

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	Ecology of Vilnius University)		available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand opening of a new “Bird Observatory” (research and information centre of migratory waterbirds) in Rusne island and final project meeting held in June 2009; • Significant additional funds were mobilised during the reporting period for the restoration of natural open habitats important for waterbirds. Work will continue post-project building on the successes of the WOW initiative; • Nemunas River Delta Regional Park Receives European Destination of Excellence Award; • Adoption of transboundary cooperation / conservation measures within the Nemunas River Delta; • Final book “<i>The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i>” and of two informative booklets, describing nature values of this key wetlands complex, particularly its importance for migratory waterbirds published; • Monitoring scheme of migratory waterbirds at the demonstration site incorporated into the State Monitoring Program. 	

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3.1.1.4 Banc D'Arguin, Mauritania	WI (SRS) and the local executing agencies (WIAP & PNBA)	85% ↗ (35%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 200,000 Disbursement to date: US\$ 188,000 (94%) Planned Closure: Dec 2009 <u>Summary of progress this reporting period:</u> (Full details in Mauritania Progress report #4, available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course modules for nature / ornithological training course produced; • Nature guiding course for Imraguen community has commenced and close to completion; • PNBA's management plan (2010 – 2014) developed and finalised; • List of key sites within the PNBA developed. 	Mitigation measures put in place this reporting period are working effectively and implementation well on track.
3.1.1.5 Namga-Kokorou Complex, Niger	WI (SRS) and the local executing agency (WWF & DFPP)	95% ↗ (80%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 200,000 Disbursement to date: US\$ 191,750 (96%) Planned Closure: Dec 2009 <u>Summary of progress this reporting period:</u> (Full details in Niger Progress report #4, available from PCU or from the project website)	Very encouraging work in the field. All outputs nearly completed

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			www.wingsoverwetlands.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community management plan drafted and ready for final endorsement from local community and community leaders; Local code of laws governing the complex's natural resource use ready for endorsement; Donor round table being organised to secure funding for management plan activities. 	
3.1.1.6 Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands, Nigeria	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (Nigerian Conservation Foundation)	90% ↗ (70%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 206,500 Disbursement to date: US\$ 191,500 (92%) Planned Closure: Dec 2009 <u>Summary of progress this reporting period:</u> (Full details in Nigeria Progress report #4, available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive public awareness and advocacy, targeting various wetlands resource users, government officials and local pilot schools; PhD programme initiated at the Wetlands Education Centre; A total stretch of about 35km of channel has 	Project is now well on track and has achieved some impressive results thus far.

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			been cleared of typha. As a result, farmlands, fishing and grazing areas have been reclaimed. Flooding that used to disrupt agricultural and other human activities has stopped and local communities are catching larger fish; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations for a socio economic survey are been concluded and consultants are expected to commence work in the next reporting period. 	
3.1.1.7 Saloum/Niumi, Senegal/Gambia	WI (SRS) and the local executing agency (Department of Parks & Wildlife Management, Direction des Parcs Nationaux)	65% ⬆ (45%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 400,000 Disbursement to date: US\$ 305,000.00 (76%) Planned Closure: January 2009 <u>Summary of progress this reporting period:</u> (Full details in Senegal & The Gambia Progress report #4, available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disbursements suspended until management plan is completed; • Regional exchange visit organised with Eurosite; • Training on field monitoring, survey techniques and winter counts done in collaboration with the Estonian demo project team; • A series of training sessions organised for Park 	Behind schedule – although process of drafting a transboundary management plan under way

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			Wardens, Ecorangers, volunteers and woman in the complex.	
3.1.1.8 Wakkerstroom, South Africa	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (BirdLife South Africa)	77% ↗ (57%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 248,000 Disbursement to date: US\$ 199,039 (80%) Planned Closure: March 2010 <u>Summary of progress this reporting period:</u> (Full details in South Africa Progress report #4, available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased local awareness through the celebration of important environment events e.g. National Arbor Week, World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD); • In January 2009 the Sappi Centre was staffed with two experienced managers to ensure that the venue is used as a hub for education, community projects, tourism and wetland management; • Through the WOW PCU, the support from a intern from the Netherlands was mobilized, focusing primarily on developing a environmental education programme for local schools; 	Implementation and progress has picked up since the PCU and BLI field verification mission

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of local income-generating activities and brand for local Wakkerstroom products; • Recommendations were made to enhance project outcomes and sustainability – particularly with regard to relevance and marketing of community products produced under the IGA component. The local demo team (BLSA) has acted on these recommendations. 	
3.1.1.9 Dar es Salaam Wetlands, Tanzania	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania)	C ↗ (10%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 100,000 Disbursement to date: US\$ 28,000 (28%) Demonstration project closed and contract with UNOPS terminated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This demonstration project has been closed. Due to complexities at the local level, the primary outcome of the WOW demonstration project in Tanzania - will not now be built in the Dar es Salaam wetlands; • Contract with UNOPS terminated; • The Project Coordination Unit, Steering Committee, WCST and all implementing partners deeply regret that this demonstration initiative was not able to progress to a successful conclusion. 	This demonstration project has been closed.

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3.1.1.10 Lake Burdur, Turkey	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (Doga Dernegi)	95% ↑ (85%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 195,000 Disbursement to date: US\$ 188,730 (97%) Planned Closure: January 2010 <u>Summary of progress this reporting period:</u> (Full details in Turkey Progress report #4, available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar site management plan fully developed and being implemented; • Efforts on the environmental education programme that was being carried out in 4 pilot schools have been stepped up due to increased interest from local authorities and all schools in Burdur; • Demonstration project drawing national and international attention through media efforts. 	On track to deliver all outputs by the first quarter of 2010 at the latest. Fantastic results being achieved locally.

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3.1.1.11 Aden Lagoons, Yemen	BLI (SRS) and the local executing agency (BirdLife International Middle East Division & Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife)	70% ↗ (60%)	Value of GEF contract: US\$ 253,243 Disbursement to date: US\$ 214,254 (85%) Planned Closure: Dec 2009 <u>Summary of progress this reporting period:</u> (Full details in Yemen Progress report #4, available from PCU or from the project website www.wingsoverwetlands.org) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project organized a series of lectures and discussions with different public security forces in Aden Governorate. Lectures and discussions titled "Protected Areas in Aden and their Importance for Birds Migration" were presented. Following a film "Winged Migration". More than 350 officers, sub-officers and soldiers from different public security units in Aden Governorate were in attendance. This event resulted in improved collaboration with them. • The project arranged activities regarding the two international events in the framework of the "Born to Travel" Campaign on 21/3/2009. and "World migratory bird Day" from 9-10/5/2009; • Regular monthly bird monitoring conducted by WOW team in the Aden wetlands this reporting period at 10 locations in Aden. Species data is 	Work on communications going well through management plan behind schedule

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			being entered into www.worldbirds.org . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan work is ongoing • Technical and managerial support has been provided to this demo project over this reporting period, and local progress is generally acceptable. However, there are a number of outstanding issues, primarily relating to the management plan objective, and additional support was arranged for this. A recommendation was also made to consider the awareness-raising objective complete and to focus on the management plan. • Security issues in Yemen prevented a support mission taking place during this reporting period as intended, and if security conditions improve then a mission will be held during the next reporting period. Nonetheless, several meetings were held with the manager of the local team during a workshop in Jordan (26-30 April 2009). 	
Activity 3.1.2 Publication of a book summarising the lessons learned from the demonstration project activities				
3.1.2.1 Consultant contracted and structure for the book worked out	WI, PCU	IP 5% ↗ (0%)	Discussion on the format of the final publication started.	SC has produced some guidelines but further work is needed to define the scope and format of the publication.



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				Potential donors have been approached. A short discussion document on this issue will be produced to narrow down the focus and to stimulate further SC discussion. A decision on how to proceed with this activity is expected by the end of 2009.
3.1 2.2 Demonstration projects contribute information for book	WI (consultant), BLI, PCU	NA	Not planned for this period	
3.1 2.3 Consultant compiles and edits the book	WI (consultant)	NA	Not planned for this period	The publication will be developed entirely with in-house capacity available from within the WOW team.
3.1 2.4 Book reviewed	WI, SC, PCU	NA	Not planned for this period	
3.1 2.5 Book finalised	WI (consultant)	NA	Not planned for this period	
3.1 2.6 Book printed, publicised	WI, PCU	NA	Not planned for this period	

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and disseminated

Component 4: Catalyzing the exchange of information for wetlands and migratory waterbird conservation

Outcome 4.1 Strengthened mechanisms for governments and NGOs to communicate and work together on wise use of wetlands and migratory waterbirds

Activity 4.1 Increase capacity for electronic exchange of information

4.1 1.1 Creation of project web area in the AEWA web-site	PCU, AEWA CO, WI, BLI	C (C)	See SAR # 4	
4.1 1.2 Creation of an intranet facility in the project web-site	PCU, AEWA CO, WI, BLI	C (C)	The WOW Communication Officer developed a dedicated intranet space that has already been used by WOW SC members.	
4.1 1.4 Promotion of the new electronic communication facility	PCU, AEWA CO, SRSS, WI, BLI, Ramsar	IP: 75% ↑ (70%)	The WOW website (hosting all the project's electronic communication and news items) is being widely promoted through the regular news digests circulated to all partners and a wide range of regional and national WOW partners, thus reaching a vast community of interested stakeholders worldwide. The WOW website is also consistently presented by all wow partners at a wide range of international	





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			meetings, as part of the WOW project. Regular digests are being circulated with WOW stories drafted by the project team.	
Activity 4.1 2 Augmentation of and increased access to flyway contact information				
4.1 2.1 Compile existing information from partner organizations for use in the contacts database	AEWA CO, PCU	(NA)	(NA)	The concept of a stand-alone database, as originally envisaged, is now deemed unsustainable and is to be dropped from the workplan. SC agreed that a page in the CSN Tool should be created to facilitate finding contacts but would not hold primary data of people involved in flyway-scale work.
Activity 4.1 3 Provide project information (updates, progress reports, publicity materials) in four languages for stakeholders				
4.1 3.1 Compile annual newsletters	AEWA CO, PCU, WI, BLI	IP: 75% ↗ (70%)	The WOW Communication Officer has continued from where the intern left off and the next annual newsletter is expected by the end of 2009.	



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4.1.3.2 Disseminate newsletters	AEWA CO, PCU, WI, BLI, SRSS	IP: 75% ⬆ (70%)	The existing newsletters in English, French and Russian are being widely distributed through the WOW partners' networks and at local and international meetings. Additional project materials are being circulated.	
4.1 3.3 Disseminate other project information	AEWA CO, PCU, SRSS, Demonstration Projects	IP: 75% ⬆ (70%)	A regular digest of stories is being circulated widely through the networks of partner organisations. The project continued to gain international visibility through the combined efforts of all WOW partners, and was presented at several international events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2009: Saloum-Niumi Exchange Programme Workshop (attended by WI); • February 2009: European Green Infrastructure Project meeting (attended by WI); • February 2009: Red-breasted Goose Conservation Workshop (attended by WI); • April 2009: AEWA Technical Committee meeting (attended by WI); • April 2009: Adriatic Flyaway Conference (attended by WI); • May 2009: Conference on Flyways in occasion of the 30th anniversary of the PA network of 	





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Latium, Italy (attended by WI).				
Outcome 4.2 Mechanisms of exchange between and within sub-regions for improved flyway-level migratory waterbird and wetland management established				
Activity 4.2 1 Establish informal networks along the main migratory flyways within the AEWA area				
4.2 1.1 Liaison with WI/BLI to agree on key sites / flyway networks	WI, BLI, AEWA, PCU	C (C)	See SAR # 4	
4.2 1.2 Develop preliminary networks of people for selected flyways	WI, BLI, AEWA, PCU	C (C)	See SAR # 4	
4.2 1.3 Detail and publicise networks on project website	WI, BLI, AEWA, PCU	C (C)	See SAR # 4 As the exchange programme focus on Demo projects (as reported in SAR #4) this is no longer relevant. Results of the Exchange Programme Planning Workshop are available on the WOW Website.	

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Activity 4.2 2 Designate focal points, responsible for servicing networks				
4.2 2.1 Identify & designate focal points for each flyway	WI	C (C)	See SAR # 3	
4.2 2.2 Focal points develop, maintain and service networks	WI	C (C)	See SAR # 3 NB: The WOW Regional Waterbirds Officers will play this role as part of their ongoing work.	
Activity 4.2 3 Exchange Programme Planning Workshop				
4.2 3.1 Organise and hold Planning Workshop 	WI, PCU	C (C)	See SAR # 4	
4.2 3.2 Distil flyway-level schedules and recommendations 	WI	C (C)	See SAR # 4	A follow-up plan was produced during the Eastern and Southern Africa exchange held in Dar Es Salaam in Nov 2008. This is a more detailed plan than what was envisaged in the Exchange Planning Workshop report.




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Activity 4.2 4 Implement Exchange Programme activities				
4.2 4.1 Exchanges of key site personnel between sites in different parts of the flyways 	WI	IP: 75% ↑ (50%)	Funds available for 2009 used for the West and central Africa workshop. This has resulted in the confirmed interest of Eurosite and more recently WWF NL	Due to the shortage of AEWA funding this activity entirely depends on BfN funding (which is geographically restricted to the Africa region). Therefore, in consideration of the conditions of the BfN funding, as well as the recommendations of the Exchange Programme Planning Workshop, activities to be implemented are restricted to demonstration projects in Africa (until all co-funding is secured).
4.2 4.2 Exchanges of key sites personnel within their sub-region 	WI, SRSs, demo projects, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar	IP: 55% ↑ (50%)	Eurosite has confirmed interest in help developing an exchange programme in East Africa involving the megasites: Mauritania (Bang d'Arguin and Diawling), Niger, Senegal (PNOD, Saloum) Gambia (Niimi), Guinea-Bissau, in the region. Eurosite participated to the Exchange workshop planned for February 2009 (see Activity 4.2 4.3)	Same as above

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			More recently also WWF NL has expressed interest in contributing to the implementation of the exchange programme in Africa.	
4.2 4.3 Exchanges of demonstration site personnel 	WI, SRSSs, demo projects, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar	IP 75% ↗ (25)	Exchange workshop for West and Central Africa held in February 2009 at the Saloum-Niumi Delta National Park in Senegal. It involved not only the regional Demo sites, but also other megasites in the region. Successful training and survey training in conjunction with the Estonian demo team implemented in January 2009.	The PCU also facilitated where possible exchanges between demonstration projects if a budget surplus was encountered.
Activity 4.2 5 Develop strategic partnerships and mobilise co-financing				
4.2 5.1 Promote partnerships through communication & liaison 	WI, SRSSs	IP: 20% ↗ (15%)	WI together with the WOW partnership are continuing to forge alliances and partnerships towards more effective flyway-scale conservation. Specifically, WI has had ongoing discussions with Eurosite throughout the reporting period. Preparatory meetings are also underway to define a follow-up to the WOW project once the GEF project is brought to a successful closure.	



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4.2 5.2 Develop strategic partnership proposals 	PCU, WI, SRSs	IP: 30% - (30%)	The BBI Matra-funded project continues. A proposal for the SE Europe is under development and will be submitted in September 2009 for the period 2010-2013.	
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Outcome 4.3 The wise-use of migratory waterbirds and wetlands is better understood and implemented by governments in focal sub-regions

Activity 4.3 1 Development of sub-regional mentoring capacity³

Activity 4.3 2 Production of key MEA texts and information in the predominant languages of the focal sub-regions

4.3 2.1 Translation of key MEA texts through the WetCap Project	PCU, AEWA, Ramsar, SRSs, WI, BLI	IP: 50% ↑ (10%)	Funding for the translation of AEWA MEA texts in Arabic have been secured through the WetCap Project. Implementation of the WetCap project will formally commence during the next reporting period.	SC members agreed to consider this activity as partly completed.
4.3 2.2 Printing and dissemination of translated documents	PCU, AEWA, Ramsar, SRSs, WI, BLI	NA	Same as above	Same as above

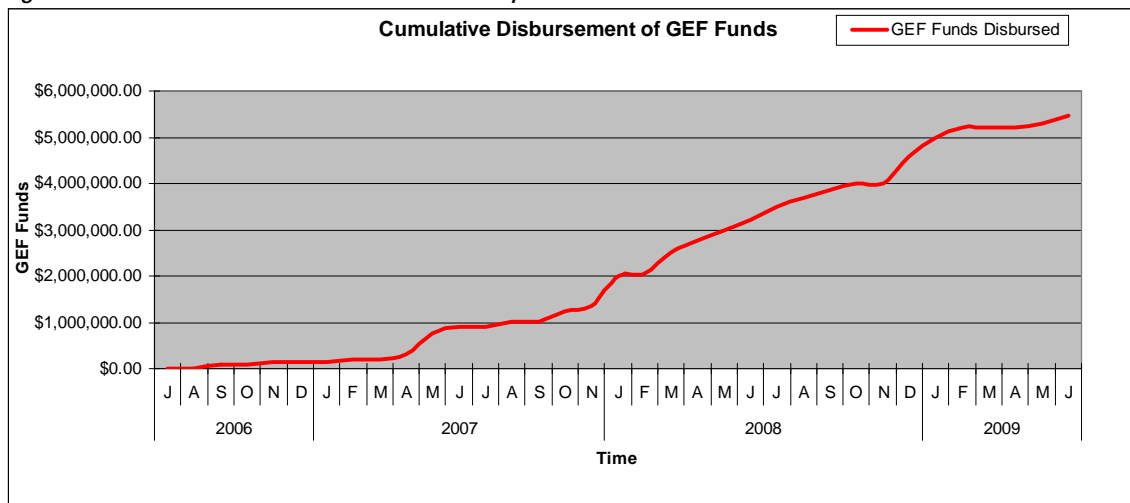
³ All sub-activities dropped as per SC decision in December 2008.

IV. Funds Disbursement

Disbursement of GEF Funds

64. The project’s financial delivery is well on track with a total of **US\$ 5,467,804.56** of GEF funds disbursed since the project’s onset in July 2006. This reporting period at total of **US\$ 432,571.29** in GEF funds were disbursed. Total cumulative co-financing received to date (including additional funds leveraged by the demonstration projects during implementation) stands at **US\$ 5,240,155.08**. Therefore the total cumulative project disbursement (GEF Funds + all Co-financing) stands at **US\$ 10,707,959.64**. The graphs below illustrate the status and trend in project financial delivery to date.

Figure 3: GEF Funds Cumulative Disbursement up to 30 June 2009





65. The ensuing table provides an overview on the status of disbursement of GEF Funds managed by UNOPS this reporting period.

Table 10: Summary of GEF funds disbursement. (Source UNEP/UNOPS financial report 1st January to 30th June 2009)

		2009 Budget (Approved by UNEP 9 June 2009)	Expenditure Report (1st January - 30th June 09)	Balance (remaining in 2009)	Cash Advance Request (1st July - 31 December 2009)	
10	PERSONNEL COMPONENT					
	1100	Project Personnel				
	1101	Chief Technical Advisor	121,871.32	25,666.18	96,205.14	-
	1102	Junior Operations Manager	176,544.13	54,225.66	122,318.47	122,318.47
	1103	UNDSS charges (field security)	7,962.98	2,412.25	5,550.73	5,550.73
	1104	After Service Health Insurance	-9,381.87	-	9,381.87-	-
	1105	Injury and illness Insurance charges	11,612.04	-	11,612.04	-
	1199	Sub-total	308,608.60	82,304.09	226,304.51	127,869.20
	1600	Travel on official business				
	1601	Chief Technical Advisor	7,309.35	6.00	7,303.35	-
	1602	Junior Operations Manager	38,884.99	11,080.94	27,804.05	27,804.05
	1699	Sub-total	46,194.34	11,086.94	35,107.40	27,804.05
1999	Component total		354,802.94	93,391.03	261,411.91	155,673.25
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT					
	2100	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LoAs for cooperating agencies)				
	2118	UNOPS	153,778.41	36,207.23	117,571.18	117,571.18
	2199	Sub-total	153,778.41	36,207.23	117,571.18	117,571.18



	2200	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LoAs for supporting agencies)				
	2201	Wetlands International	455,291.00	227,663.00	227,628.00	-
	2202	BirdLife International	99,573.00	-	99,573.00	51,349.00
	2203	West Africa Subcontractor	2,600.00	-	2,600.00	-
	2204	East Africa Subcontractor	0.00	-	-	-
	2205	Central Asia Subcontractor	149,689.00	14,000.00	135,689.00	-
	2206	Middle East Subcontractor	77,658.00	8,000.00	69,658.00	-
	2207	Estonia Demonstration Project Local EA	16,432.00	-	16,432.00	16,432.00
	2208	Hungary Demonstration Project Local EA	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	20,000.00
	2209	Lithuania Demonstration Project Local EA	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	-
	2210	Mauritania Demonstration Project Local EA	91,900.00	-	91,900.00	49,200.00
	2211	Niger Local EA	63,250.00	-	63,250.00	23,250.00
	2212	Nigeria Local Demonstration Project EA	53,750.00	-	53,750.00	30,000.00
	2213	Senegal/Gambia Demonstration Project Local EA	116,300.00	-	116,300.00	73,000.00
	2214	South Africa Demonstration Project Local EA	106,540.00	-	106,540.00	54,340.00
	2215	Tanzania Demonstration Project Local EA	22,000.00	-	22,000.00	-
	2216	Turkey Demonstration Project Local EA	22,170.00	-	22,170.00	22,170.00
	2217	Yemen Demonstration Project Local EA	110,961.00	-	110,961.00	35,987.00
	2299	Sub-total	1,418,114.00	259,663.00	1,158,451.00	375,728.00
	2999	Component total	1,571,892.41	295,870.23	1,276,022.18	493,299.18
30		TRAINING COMPONENT				



	3300	Meetings/Conferences				
	3301	Steering Committee Meetings	16,896.40	-	16,896.40	-
	3302	Project Partner Meetings	11,836.72	-	11,836.72	5,000.00
	3303	Teleconferences	10,273.64	-	10,273.64	-
	3399		39,006.76	-	39,006.76	5,000.00
3999	Component total		39,006.76	-	39,006.76	5,000.00
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT					
	4100	Expendable Equipment (items under \$1,500 each)				
	4101	Project Coordination Unit Office supplies	0.00	-	-	-
	4199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-
	4200	Non-expendable Equipment (see items listed on budget worksheet)				
	4202	PCU Computer hardware	0.00	-	-	-
	4203	PCU Office equipment	0.00	-	-	-
	4299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-
	4300	Rental of premises				
	4301	Project Coordination Unit office rent	0.00	-	-	-
	4399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-
4999	Component total		-	-	-	-
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT					
	5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment				



	5101	PCU Computer equipment / Network / Internet	87,653.81	42,955.82	44,697.99	44,697.99
	5102	PCU Photocopying	0.00	-	-	-
	5104	Other office equipment	0.00	-	-	-
	5199	Sub-total	87,653.81	42,955.82	44,697.99	44,697.99
	5300	Sundry				
	5301	PCU Communications (telephone, telex and fax)	0.00	354.21	354.21-	-
	5302	PCU Postage charges	0.00	-	-	-
	5303	PCU Translation Costs	22,652.57	-	22,652.57	22,652.57
	5304	UNOPS	0.00	-	-	-
	5375	UNDP reimbursable services	0.00	-	-	-
	5399	Sub-total	22,652.57	354.21	22,298.36	22,652.57
	5500	Evaluation				
	5501	Mid-term review	0.00	-	-	-
	5502	Final evaluation	0.00	-	-	-
	5599	Sub-total	-	-	-	-
5999	Component total		110,306.38	43,310.03	66,996.35	67,350.56
99	GRAND TOTAL		2,076,008.49	432,571.29	1,643,437.20	721,322.99



Status of co-financing

66. The ensuing table provides an overview on the status of co-financing against pledged funds within the WOW Project Document. It should not be taken as an assessment of the actual gap needed to complete activities as activities have been dropped, modified and in some cases covered by parallel initiatives. An actual assessment of gaps is presented in Table 12.

Table 11: Status of co-financing as per pledged amounts in project document (up to 30 June 2009)

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance
Wetlands International	\$379,826	\$280,480	\$660,306	\$481,610	\$178,696 (cash)
BfN (Germany)*	\$1,300,000	\$0	\$1,300,000	\$719,686	\$580,314
UNEP-AEWA**	\$1,083,460	\$282,000 (Communication Officer)	\$1,365,460	\$695,311.60	\$670,148.40 (cash)
ONCFS	\$0	\$353,755	\$353,755	\$353,755	\$0
EPA (Sweden)	\$30,090	\$0	\$30,090	\$30,090	\$0
Ramsar Convention***	\$0	\$21,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Denmark	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0
MESA (France)	\$104,000	\$0	\$104,000	\$0	\$104,000
Birdlife	\$0	\$674,225	\$674,225	\$330,759	\$343,466
UNEP-WCMC	\$0	\$27,619	\$27,619	\$7,113	\$20,506
BUWAL (Switzerland)	\$44,623	\$0	\$44,023	\$44,023	\$0
Other (Demo projects and additional sources leveraged during implementation)				\$2,540,807	\$0
Totals				\$5,240,155.08	\$1,897,130

*: The contribution of the German Government is in Euros but due to variances in exchange rates over the course of the project, it is difficult to assess exactly the amount in US\$. At the time the Project Document was written this was estimated at \$1,114,410, though the contributions of current disbursements are higher and therefore an average exchange rate of 1.30 was used.



** The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has done a tremendous job of mobilising financial resources this reporting period. There are several proposals pending that will cover a large proportion of the gap. Furthermore, the WOW project can no longer expect co-financing commitments according to pledged amounts in the Project Document. These amounts include provisions for activities that have been dropped, modified or covered by other projects. A re-evaluation of the gaps to complete the WOW project’s core outputs is presented below.

*** The Ramsar Secretariat has come through with significant funding for the translation of the WOW Training Kit in French. The Secretariat’s original pledge was for an in-kind contribution towards shadowing activities which have been dropped from the workplan. Therefore, Ramsar’s financial pledge to the project has been exceeded.

67. The WOW project can no longer expect to receive co-financing commitments according to pledged amounts outlined in the Project Document. These original amounts include provisions for activities that have been dropped, modified or entirely covered by other parallel projects. A re-evaluation of the actual gap to complete the WOW project’s core outputs is presented below.

Table 12: Re-assessment of actual gaps against standing contractual obligations and remaining activities (Source: Wetlands International)

Outcome	Inputs	Contract Needed to be Covered						Grand Total
		NL1118.001-BLI Cambridge	NL1118.002 - WCMC	NL1118.003 BLAPS	NL1118.004_ West Africa	Oliver Nasirwa	WI staff time	
1.1 CSN	Assistant		\$1,564					\$1,564
	Equipment		\$1,949					\$1,949
	Senior Staff		\$13,157					\$13,157
	Senior Technical Officer	\$27,165	\$22,317				\$131,605	\$181,087
	Technical Support Officer		\$14,410					\$14,410
	Travel Senior Technical Officer		\$2,100					\$2,100
	Travel Technical Support Officer		\$1,050					\$1,050
1.3 Monitoring	East Africa Waterbird Officer					\$21,047		\$21,047
	Sub-regional Waterbird Officer				\$10,798			\$10,798
2.1 Generic mod.	CDO						\$5,865	\$5,865
2.2 Reg Training	Travel on official business			\$2,000			\$10,206	\$12,206
3.2 Communication	Sub-regional Logistics Officer			\$31				\$31
		\$27,165	\$56,547	\$2,031	\$10,798	\$21,047	\$147,676	\$265,264

Figure 4: Project Disbursement – cumulative disbursement up to 31st December 2008

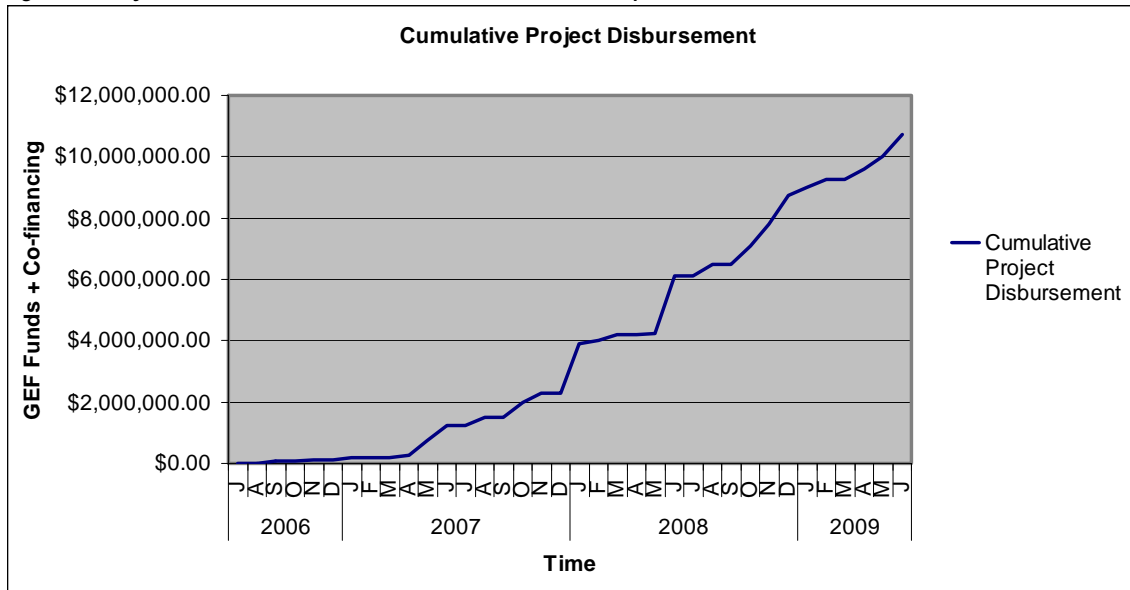
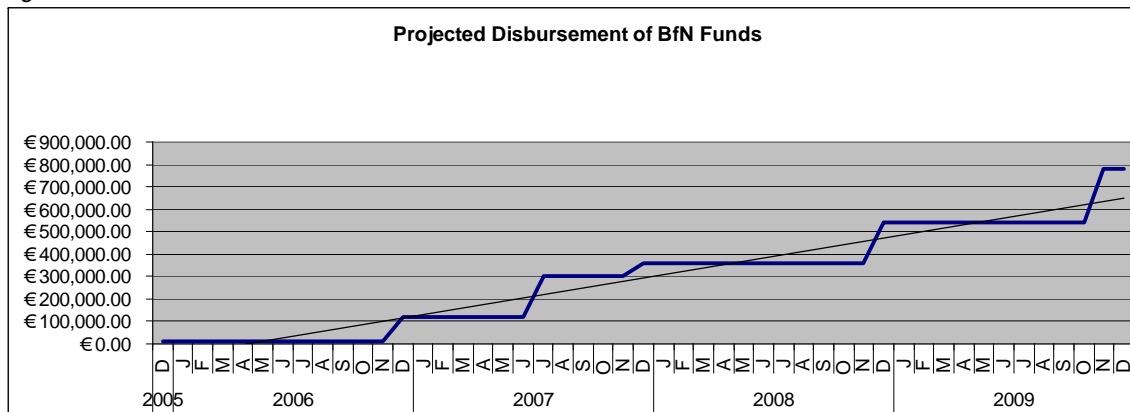


Figure 5: BfN Funds – Cumulative BfN disbursement as of 31st December 2008



V. Performance Evaluation

68. The project Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is based on three main elements, including:

- A revised and updated Logical Framework Tracking Form based on the outline set out in the project document, fully revised in October 2007, and endorsed by the Project Steering Committee in January 2008.
- The results of Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool questionnaires (set out as a GEF requirement for all GEF supported Protected Areas in the world), to be performed at each of the project demonstration sites at outset and end of project.
- Standard information requested regularly from demonstration projects and project partners.

Logical Framework Tracking Form

69. The Project was designed during the period 2000-2004 and started operations in mid/late 2006. The project document includes a monitoring and evaluation framework. However, the following developments since the project design process underscored the need for a revision of the framework's scope and main elements:

- The project context and baseline have changed significantly due to the dynamic process related to UNEP-AEWA and all partners involved in WOW;
- Inflation in many countries means that the available project budget may be less than the actual costs;
- The initially expected GEF contribution did not materialise, meaning there was a reduction in the budget before final approval, although it is not clear if there was a thorough review of project strategy in response to that external shock;
- Some anticipated co-financing has not yet materialised. This required some re-focusing of project activities to achieve at least minimum critical objectives.

70. Moreover, during the period 2004-2007, GEF issued a series of guidelines on M&E⁴, meaning additional requirements on the M&E framework. These also suggested the need to revise the WOW M&E framework. Finally, in recent years, there have been a series of lessons learnt from similar GEF projects regarding M&E. These lessons include:

- Monitoring and evaluation have not always contributed adequately to project management, and have been used more for *reporting*;

⁴ A presentation on these guidelines, and their relevance to the WOW project was made during the workshop. This is included in the workshop report (available from the PCU).

- Most likely, inadequate M&E has been a factor limiting project success in some cases;
- Most likely, improved M&E during projects would lead to substantive changes to the project approach and project activity framework, in some cases;
- If logical frameworks are incomplete or inadequate, it is difficult to have effective M&E;
- Given these and other factors, there is a tendency in some projects to simply ‘do’ the activities listed in the project document, without sufficient analysis to *why* and *how*, and with little consideration of alternatives.

71. For the above reasons, the WOW Project Steering Committee, upon a recommendation from the Project Coordination Unit set-out in the first semi-annual progress report, agreed to hire an independent consultant (IC) to facilitate a review and revision of the WOW M&E framework.

72. This consultant worked closely with the PCU, WI, BLI and other partners in September and October 2007 in a two-stage process. The first step was to review the internal M&E framework for each of the 11 demonstration projects. Based on the frameworks provided by the demonstration project teams, the PCU and consultant developed a proposal for a revised M&E framework for each of the demonstration projects. The second step was to hold a two-day workshop, involving representatives of each partner, to review and revise the overall WOW Project M&E framework. This process led to a revised logframe and M&E framework. The revised logical framework was endorsed by the WOW Steering Committee (ref. Minutes of Meeting SC meeting #2, January 2008), and is presented below.



Table 13: Part One –Updated Project Log frame

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicators	Baseline level	Mid term target (no mid-project targets defined in project document)	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2009	Progress rating
Development Objective⁵ (Conservation of globally significant migratory waterbirds and wetlands enhanced in the African – Eurasian flyways.						
	D1. Overall extinction risk of AEWA waterbirds, as measured by the red list index for AEWA region ⁶ (in line with AEWA SAP, 2009-17).	AEWA/BLI Red List index value (pre-2005) was: 0.93932	AEWA/BLI Red List index value (2008) is stable at: 0.93932	No increase in overall extinction risk. RLI value remains stable at approximately the same value: 0.94 ⁷	Target not reassessed in 2009 (<i>see footnote 16 below</i>). RLI value can be reassessed again in 2012. At mid-term the target was met since RLI value remained stable in the period 2004-2008	S
	D2. The numbers of sites designated using Ramsar Convention criteria 5, 6 (specific criteria based on waterbirds) as Internationally Important wetlands under the Ramsar Convention in the 119 countries of the AEWA region.	Number of Ramsar Sites fulfilling criteria 5, 6 in AEWA region as of July 1 st , 2006 (from Ramsar Database) is 198.	10 new Ramsar sites designated (target 208) At mid-term this target was exceeded: 42 new Ramsar sites designated (total stands at 240)	An increase of 10%, with respect to the start of the project, i.e. 20 new Ramsar sites designated by project end (target 218).	A total of 7 additional Ramsar Sites in the AEWA region fulfilling criteria 5 and 6 were designated in FY 2009. The total now stands at 247, exceeding the end-of-project target by 13%.	S

⁵ In line with OECD/DAC and GEF terminology, the WOW Project only *contributes* to this objective. WOW can neither be held responsible or claim credit at this level.

⁶ Additional explanation of every indicator is provided in the M&E consultant report (available from the PCU).

⁷ The Red List assessment process occurs on a four-yearly cycle, so the 2004 RLI for AEWA species can be used as the baseline figure for the WOW project, the 2008 RLI can be used as the mid-term figure and the 2012 RLI could be used as the end of project indicator. However there will not be a Red List assessment between 2008 and the end of the WOW project (December 2010), so from that perspective it won't be possible to assess whether or not the project had met its target with this indicator until 2 years after the project's end. The project technical team is looking into alternative ways of undertaking this assessment in 2010 for the project's purpose.



Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicators	Baseline level	Mid term target (no mid-project targets defined in project document)	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2009	Progress rating
	D3. The number of countries ratifying AEWA (in line with AEWA SAP, 2009-17).	3. The number of countries ratifying the AEWA stood at 53 at project outset (source: AEWA Website).	62 countries (+9 on baseline)	85 by 2011 (End of project plus one year) ⁸	As of 30 June 2009, 62 countries have ratified AEWA (no change with mid-term target + 9 with respect to baseline)	S
Immediate Objective: Strengthened strategic capacity to plan and manage the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the critical sites along their flyways.						
	I1. Aggregate score of WOW Capacity Scorecard	Baseline survey completed May 2008. Baseline aggregate score from 26 respondents from the four regional training boards members: 345	No mid-term target. No survey planned as it would be too close to baseline. Survey will be repeated at the end of the project.	380 (10% increase in aggregate score)	Baseline survey completed in May 2008 (just over one year ago) and will be repeated at the end of the project. Not enough time has elapsed for a meaningful result in the responses since key products are still under development and have not been utilised.	S
	I2. The level of satisfaction with the WOW products across the AEWA network practitioners (members of WOW team database).	Aggregate score of baseline survey measuring satisfaction of WOW products (namely: CSN tool, Training Programme and website) is 428 (June 2008 – source MTE report & PCU)	No mid-term target. No survey planned as it would be too close to baseline.	471 (10% increase in aggregate score)	Impossible to measure satisfaction with WOW products at this stage as project outputs are still under development and have not been utilised. Survey will be repeated at the end of the project to measure this indicator.	S
Component 1: <i>Conservation activities strengthened through the development and use of a comprehensive, flyway scale, critical site network planning and management tool.</i>						
	C1.1 Critical site network tool makes required information available in an appropriate format for planning and management.	Information is scattered and incomplete.	The AEWA Technical Committee endorses <i>prototype</i> . The initial feedback from IWC and IBA coordinators on the	AEWA Technical Committee, Ramsar STRP and 8 site managers endorse the tool.	In FY 09 the prototype of CSN Tool was presented to: - AEWA MOP 4 Antananarivo - RAMSAR COP 10 Changwon - CMS COP 9 Rome - AEWA TC8 Bonn - AEWA TC9 Zagreb	S

⁸ This end-of-project target is to be re-confirmed by the AEWA Secretariat in 2009



Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicators	Baseline level	Mid term target (no mid-project targets defined in project document)	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2009	Progress rating
			<i>prototype</i> critical site network tool is generally positive (ref: Final report of the project Mid-Term Evaluation).		Feedback still generally positive.	
	C1.2 Number of registered CSN users	0	Not applicable (this will apply only at project end)	At least 100	Not applicable (this will apply only at project end)	n/a
	C1.3 Evidence that registered CSN users are <i>repeatedly</i> using the tool.	Not applicable	Not applicable (this will apply only at project end)	At least 50 registered users have accessed the tool at least twice.	Not applicable (this will apply only at project end)	n/a
Component 2: Establishing a basis for strengthening decision-making and technical capacity for wetland and migratory waterbird conservation						
	C2.1 Availability and quality of multi-modular, multi-target group regional training programmes	Understanding of needs but no specific training programmes	Framework training programme available for review by Regional Training Boards. Mid-term target was met: framework training programme was reviewed by all 4 Regional Training Boards	All four regional training programmes approved by the four concerned Regional Training Boards.	Flyway Training Kit in final stages of design and already being used by Regional Centres for Training of Trainer sessions.	S
	C2.2 The usefulness of the training programme.	Understanding of needs but no specific training programmes	Framework training programme available Mid-term target was met: draft framework training programme is available	Implementation of modules of the training programme in at least two sub-regions.	Flyway Training Kit in final stages of design and already being used by Regional Centres for Training of Trainer sessions. Regional centres working towards ensuring that major training institutes adopt the training programme	S



Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicators	Baseline level	Mid term target (no mid-project targets defined in project document)	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2009	Progress rating
<i>Component 3: Improved conservation status at sites critical for waterbirds, and knowledge is generated on how to enhance conservation across the African-Eurasian flyways.</i>						
	C3.1 The effectiveness of Protected Areas management at the 11 WOW Demonstration sites (total area approx. 17,332 km ²), is improved by an average of 20%	Protected areas supported by the project do not have a PAMETT score at project start. PAMETT is applicable at 9 out of 11 demo sites.	All 9 applicable sites have a PAMETT. This allows identification of a realistic end-of-project target Mid-term target was met: 10 (more than the anticipated 9) demo projects have completed their PAMETT. This allowed: (a) the definition of a benchmark average PAMETT score of 49,5 (b) setting a realistic end-of-project target at 55	All 9 sites have a PAMETT repeated at project end. Average PAMETT score: 62	PAMETT re-submitted for 2 out of the 9 sites. In both cases there was an increase in score of nearly 20%.	S
	C3.2 Reaction from a review panel on the 'lessons learnt product'.	Not applicable	Clear understanding of the scope, contents and approach to the product, and initial consultation with panel members. Scope and format of publication still not decided upon by the	Positive response from 80% of reviewers.	The feasibility of this project activity is still in question due to co-financing shortage. At the last SC meeting it was agreed that this publication should be produced in-house, but the modalities of how to achieve this have not been fleshed out. Therefore progress on this indicator is currently on hold. It is expected that	MS



Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicators	Baseline level	Mid term target (no mid-project targets defined in project document)	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2009	Progress rating
			Steering Committee.		this will be discussed at a Steering Committee teleconference over the next several months.	
Component 4: Catalyzing the exchange of information for wetlands and migratory waterbird conservation						
	C4.1 The number and geographical diversity of stakeholders accessing the website.	Baseline is zero as no WOW website available at project start	At least 2500 hits on the new WOW website from at least 70 countries Mid-term target was exceeded: 2688 hits on the new WOW website from 130 countries (April 2 nd -June 30 th)	At least 10.000 visitors from at least 160 countries.	As of 30 June 2009 the WOW website (start page only) had a total of 8626 unique visits from 156 countries/territories. Well on track to meet project target	HS
	C4.2 No. of documents downloaded from the website	Baseline is zero as no WOW website available at project start	At least 30 documents downloaded, monthly Mid-term target was exceeded: Over 50 documents downloaded, monthly (April – June 2008)	At least 50 documents downloaded, monthly	As of 30 June 2009, over 80 individual documents have been added to the Documents section of the WOW Website alone, many of which have been downloaded a few hundred times. For example the Executive Summary of the WOW Project Document has been downloaded 373 times since April 2008.	S

Table 14: Part II – Outcomes

Project Outcomes	Project Deliverables	Expected delivery date or milestone	Progress	Comments
Component 1 - Conservation activities strengthened through the development and use of a comprehensive, flyway scale, critical site network planning and management tool.				
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.	1. The CSN tool	Prototype: end 2008 Final: mid 2010	CSN database under development and most activities on schedule.	Work on certain aspects has been underestimated.
	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.	1. Documents identifying all Gaps	All four available by mid-2008	All four Gap filling workshops successfully completed as planned and consolidated report submitted January 2009 by WI.
	1. Surveys to fill key gaps	Mid-2009	Ongoing: surveys being implemented at small number of gaps already found. Other surveys planned compatibly with available funding.	
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.	1. Field counters trained.	- 50 counters trained by end 2007 - 100 trained by 2010	Ongoing. Over 65 counters trained as of 30 June 2008 (ref. WI report #3 section 5.3). Project is well on track to meeting goal in 2010.	Field surveys and training conducted at over 120 sites
	2. Field counting equipment delivered.	Ongoing	Equipment being gradually dispatched throughout the Africa region ⁹ 105 new binoculars, 6 telescopes, 92 field guides have been purchased and additional 12 second hand binoculars have been delivered to Africa.	

⁹ It is currently not possible to purchase equipment for the Middle East and Central Asia Regions due to shortage of co-financing.

Project Outcomes	Project Deliverables	Expected delivery date or milestone	Progress	Comments
<p>Outcome 1.4. Species and critical site knowledge base supports management and planning decision-making in flyway conservation.</p>	<p>3. Field Guide in Russian produced.</p>	<p>July 2009</p>	<p>Additional equipment expected to be dispatched during the next reporting period.</p> <p>This activity was assigned lower priority and postponed due to shortage of AEWA funding (ref. prior report). However, during the reporting period some preliminary contacts occurred between WI and the FAO for possible FAO support to such publication. The issue is being followed up by ACBK on behalf of the WOW Central Asia and Caucasus regional centre.</p>	
	<p>4. Modified guidelines for IWC and IBA (in order to become harmonized).</p>	<p>July 2009</p>	<p>Task largely completed. In view of improved coordination and integration between IBA and IWC the foreseen modified guidelines are no longer necessary at this stage.</p>	
	<p>10. proposals to fill information gaps submitted to external donors.</p>	<p>End of Project</p>	<p>This activity is currently on hold due to shortage of co-financing. It is proposed to be dropped.</p>	

Project Outcomes	Project Deliverables	Expected delivery date or milestone	Progress	Comments
Component 2 - <i>Establishing a basis for strengthening decision-making and technical capacity for wetland and migratory waterbird conservation.</i>				
Outcome 2.1. Transferable model Training and Awareness Raising Programme framework produced for developing wetland and waterbird conservation capacity.	Draft generic transferable model Training and Awareness raising Programme framework ready for regional adaptation, and endorsed by all regional Training Boards	November 2007	Completed, and draft T&A framework endorsed by all 4 regional training boards.	
Outcome 2.2. Wetland and waterbird conservation Training and Awareness Raising Programmes produced ready for implementation in four sub-regions.	Generic Training Programme completed, and endorsed by Training Boards	June 2009	Progress on this outcome is on schedule. The complete generic training programme has been finalised and has been sent to a design firm. Three out of Four Training Boards have endorsed the modules.	
	Regionally-adapted Training and Awareness Raising Programmes produced and ready for implementation in four sub-regions, and endorsed by the regional Training Boards	June 2009	Generic modules have already incorporating some degree of regional adaptation (ahead of schedule). Translated versions in French, Russian and Arabic will include other regionally-relevant case studies.	

Project Outcomes	Project Deliverables	Expected delivery date or milestone	Progress	Comments
Component 3 - <i>Improved conservation status at sites critical for waterbirds, and knowledge is generated on how to enhance conservation across the African-Eurasian flyways.</i>				
Outcome 3.1. Demonstrations of best practice management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands	2 out of the 11 demo project have been brought to a successful	June 2007	Completed. All project were operational by June 2007	

Project Outcomes	Project Deliverables	Expected delivery date or milestone	Progress	Comments
available across the flyway.	conclusion. 1 demo project has been closed and contract with UNOPS terminated.			
	Funds for the final publication earmarked/identified	Dec 2009	In progress. Funding for the completion of this outcome will have to be earmarked at the Steering Committee teleconference later in 2009.	The realisation of this publication is highly dependent on funding available
	All 11 demo projects completed	February 2010	In progress. All demo projects are currently scheduled for closure by January 2010, barring external factors. Two were successfully completed but one has been terminated.	
	Review conducted of elements of best practice and lessons learned, and distilled into a final publication. Publication printed and widely distributed.	June 2010	Not applicable and funding-dependent (see above and comments)	

Project Outcomes	Project Deliverables	Expected delivery date or milestone	Progress	Comments
Component 4 - <i>Catalyzing the exchange of information for wetlands and migratory waterbird conservation</i>				
Outcome 4.1 Mechanisms for governments and NGOs to communicate between themselves and with each other strengthened.	WOW Website established and user statistics being collected.	October 2007	Completed in March 2008 However website is rapidly gaining visibility (ref. relevant sections of this progress report #4)	
	First Exchange programme workshop held and priorities defined	January 2008	Completed January 2008 (ref. workshop report available at www.wingsoverwetlands.org)	
Outcome 4.2. Mechanisms of exchange between and within sub-regions for improved flyway-level migratory waterbird and wetland management established.	Exchange programme started	June 2008	Milestone met: planning/preparation for first exchange programme activity completed in December 2007 and activity implemented in July 2008	
	Exchange programme completed	December 2010	Ongoing and will run until project end	
	MEA Shadowing programme developed	N/A	This outcome dropped from the workplan endorsed by the Steering Committee in December 2008.	
Outcome 4.3 Wise-use of migratory waterbirds and wetlands is better understood and implemented by governments in focal sub-regions.	Key MEA texts translated	N/A	MEA text translation to be done through WetCap Project.	

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

73. The Protected Areas Management Tracking Tool (PAMETT) is a standard questionnaire developed by the WB-WWF Forest Alliance and based on the IUCN WPA framework. This was later adopted by the GEF as a mandatory tool for monitoring effectiveness of GEF interventions worldwide.
74. The PAMETT was performed for all WOW project demonstration sites during year 2007. This will provide the baseline information to monitor subsequent changes in key indicators and in the overall status and management effectiveness of protected areas supported by the project.
75. The PCU briefed all site teams on PAMETT aims and provided guidelines for PAMETT implementation. Therefore project teams were able to prepare PAMETTs for their respective sites, in consultation with local stakeholders and protected area managers. The results of individual PAMETTs are presented below. An issue paper with an analyses of preliminary results was discussed with all demo project teams at the WOW team meeting (January 2008). The table below provides a summary of PAMETT results, linked to the size of protected areas affected, as per most recent GEF monitoring and evaluation requirements. Estonia and Lithuania have completed follow-up PAMETT documents. Others are expected in late 2009.

Table 15: Overview of PAMETT results

Country	Protected Area	Size (km ²)	Date of PAMETT	1 st PAMETT Score	2 nd PAMETT Score
Estonia	Haapsalu-Noarootsi Bay	90	10 May 2007	60	84
Hungary	Biharugra Fishponds	20	16 October 2007	63	Expected in late 2009
Lithuania	Nemunas Delta	300	20 June 2007	64	75
Mauritania	Banc D'Arguin	11,730 (1.200.000 ha)	3 February 2007	52	Expected in late 2009
Niger	Kokrou & Namga	27	3 October 2007	46	Expected in late 2009
Nigeria	Hadejia Nguru	3,500	5 October 2007	43	Expected in late 2009
Senegal / Gambia	Saloum-Niumi NP	780	15 Oct. 2007 8 October 2007	70 28	Expected in late 2009
South Africa	Wakkerstroom	13 (700 Hectares)	25 May 2007	35	Expected in late 2009
Tanzania	Dar Es Salaam Wetlands	610	n/a	n/a	n/a
Turkey	Lake Burdur NP	237	26 Oct. 2007	48	Expected in late 2009
Yemen	Aden Lagoons	25	November 2007	35	Expected in late 2009

Project Impact

76. Information on the following measurable indicators of project impact is derived from the progress reports obtained from sub-contractors.

Table 16: Synthesis of project impact over the reporting period

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	314 as per sub-contractor reports
# of Government Staff involved in this project	320 as per sub-contractor reports
# of Volunteers involved in this project	2869 as per sub-contractor reports
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA & Ramsar Convention in particular)	53 identified in sub-contractor reports 185 (including approximately 100 Ramsar focal points and 60 AEWA focal points within project range states)
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	A total of 183,247 direct beneficiaries is currently the number identified by all 17 sub-contractors in their latest semi-annual reporting estimates.
# of people involved in project workshops	2820 cumulative to date
# of people trained under this project	1391 cumulative
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	103 cumulative
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	47 cumulative
# of publications produced under this project	27 cumulative
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	thousands via website and newspaper circulation ⇒ millions through radio and TV media outreach

VI. Key Lessons Learned

77. The focus of this section is 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 in general.
78. The UNEP GEF Task Manager for Biodiversity and Natural Resources (and former CTA of this project) spearheaded a consultative effort this reporting period to collate experiences from two flyway-scale conservation initiatives currently being successfully implemented by UNEP GEF in collaboration with a wide range of partners. The result of this process is a briefing document examining lessons learned from these similar projects.
79. While premature to fully evaluate all lessons at this stage as both projects have not been formally concluded, the lessons learned which appear in this publication offer real insight into how different aspects, design and implementation of similar projects can be adjusted in the future. As an important pillar of the knowledge management dimension of the WOW project, this document is being finalised and will be available in the next reporting period.

VII. Workplan

Workplan for next six months

80. This section provides a general snapshot of the project's updated workplan, divided by component. This "snapshot workplan" is meant to make the project's complex workplan tables more readable. For this purpose, activities are grouped into clusters that are just meant to capture the key elements of project work. This workplan has been endorsed by the WOW Steering Committee in December 2008.

COMPONENT ONE	2009 / Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
THE CSN TOOL: 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.				
1.1.1 Establishment of inter-operability between the main data-sources.				
1.1.2 Collection of spatial site reference data as a basis for database linkage in the site network				
1.1.3 Creation of the basis for the site network by linking the main data resources				
1.1.4 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.				
1.1.5 Compile the network of critical sites using Ramsar and IBA criteria				
1.1.6 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				
1.1.7 Raise awareness amongst, and train practitioners in the use of the network of critical sites				
1.1.8 Publicise the network of critical sites as a conservation tool				
1.1.9 Production of a publication to raise awareness of key issues in the flyway using the network as the basis				
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.				
1.2.1 Identify gaps in spatial coverage and mobilise existing information				
1.2.2 Fill the information gaps in the data sources				
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				
1.3.1 Harmonizing and strengthening data gathering capacity, thus ensuring better compatibility between and sustainability of monitoring networks				
1.3.2 Strengthening capacity for data gathering and monitoring				

1.3.3 Provide materials and equipment to facilitate and assist the training and data collection				
OUTCOME 1.4 - The species and critical site knowledge base supports management and planning decision-making in flyway conservation				
1.4.1 Compile existing ecological knowledge on species' migratory characteristics, site function and population delimitation				
1.4.2 Facilitate research to cover the gaps in knowledge of the use of sites by migratory waterbirds and of population limitation	DROPPED			

COMPONENT TWO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: Establishing a basis for strengthening decision-making and technical capacity for wetland and migratory waterbird conservation	2009 / Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	OUTCOME 2.1 - Transferable modules framework for regional strengthening of wetland and water management conservation capacity.			
2.1.1 Draft the first full version of the modules programme				
2.1.2 Review of the programme modules draft				
2.1.3 Finalise the Programme modules				
OUTCOME 2.2 - Wetland and water management Capacity Development Programmes developed for four distinct regions (same activities are below broken down by sub-region):				
Eastern and Southern Africa Region				
2.2.1 Establish and operate regional Training Board				
2.2.2 Design & Establish working regional Capacity Development Programme				
2.2.3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes				
2.2.4 Resource mobilisation for implementation				
Western and Central Africa				
2.2.1 Establish and operate regional Training Board				
2.2.2 Design & Establish working regional Capacity Development Programme				
2.2.3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes				
2.2.4 Resource mobilisation for implementation				
Middle East				
2.2.1 Establish and operate regional Training Board				
2.2.2 Design & Establish working regional Capacity Development Programme				
2.2.3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes				
2.2.4 Resource mobilisation for implementation				
Central Asia				
2.2.1 Establish and operate regional Training Board				
2.2.2 Design & Establish working regional Capacity Development Programme				
2.2.3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes				
2.2.4 Resource mobilisation for implementation				

COMPONENT THREE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: Improved conservation status at sites critical for waterbirds, and knowledge is generated on how to enhance conservation across the African-Eurasian flyways	2009 / Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	OUTCOME 3.1 - Demonstrations of best practice management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands available across the flyway.			
3.1.1 Execution of 11 Demonstration Projects in 12 countries				
1. Estonia				
2. Hungary				
3. Lithuania				
4. Mauritania				
5. Niger				
6. Nigeria				
7. Senegal & The Gambia				
8. South Africa				
9. Tanzania				
10. Turkey				
11. Yemen				
3.1.2 Publication of a book summarising the lessons learned from the demonstration project activities.				

COMPONENT FOUR COMMUNICATION & EXCHANGE: Catalyzing the exchange of information for wetlands and migratory waterbird conservation	2009 / Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	OUTCOME 4.1 - Strengthened mechanisms for governments and NGOs to communicate and work together on wise use of wetlands and migratory waterbirds			
4.1.1 Increase capacity for electronic exchange of information				
4.1.2 Augmentation of and increased access to flyway contact information	DROPPED (including sub-activities)			
4.1.3 Provide project information (updates, progress reports, publicity materials) in four languages for stakeholders				
OUTCOME 4.2 - Mechanisms of exchange between and within sub-regions for improved flyway-level management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands established.				
4.2.1 Establish informal networks along the main migratory flyways within the AEWA area				
4.2.2 Designate focal points, responsible for servicing networks				
4.2.3 Exchange Programme Planning Workshop				
4.2.4 Implement Exchange Programme activities				
4.2.5 Develop strategic partnerships and mobilise co-financing				
OUTCOME 4.3 - The wise use of migratory waterbirds and wetlands is better understood and implemented by focal sub-regions.				
4.3.1 Development of sub-regional mentoring capacity.	DROPPED (including sub-activities)			
4.3.2 Production of key MEA texts and information in the predominant languages of the focal sub-regions.				

Updated overall project workplan

This section provides a general snapshot of the project’s updated workplan, divided by component. A detailed workplan as an Excel file is available upon request.

COMPONENT ONE THE CSN TOOL: Establishment of a fundamental tool to assist planning and management in flyway conservation	YEAR (year 2006 is considered as preparatory phase)															
	2007 / Year 1				2008 / Year 2				2009 / Year 3				2010 / Year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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.																
1.1.1 Establishment of inter-operability between the main data-sources.																
1.1.2 Collection of spatial site reference data as a basis for database linkage in the site network																
1.1.3 Creation of the basis for the site network by linking the main data resources																
1.1.4 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.																
1.1.5 Compile the network of critical sites using Ramsar and IBA criteria																
1.1.6 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																
1.1.7 Raise awareness amongst, and train practitioners in the use of the network of critical sites																
1.1.8 Publicise the network of critical sites as a conservation tool																
1.1.9 Production of a publication to raise awareness of key issues in the flyway using the network as the basis																



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.																		
1.2.1 Identify gaps in spatial coverage and mobilise existing information																		
1.2.2 Fill the information gaps in the data sources																		
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																		
1.3.1 Harmonizing and strengthening data gathering capacity, thus ensuring better compatibility between and sustainability of monitoring networks																		
1.3.2 Strengthening capacity for data gathering and monitoring																		
1.3.3 Provide materials and equipment to facilitate and assist the training and data collection																		
OUTCOME 1.4 - The species and critical site knowledge base supports management and planning decision-making in flyway conservation																		
1.4.1 Compile existing ecological knowledge on species' migratory characteristics, site function and population delimitation																		

COMPONENT TWO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: Establishing a basis for strengthening decision-making and technical capacity for wetland and migratory waterbird conservation	YEAR (year 2006 is considered as preparatory phase)															
	2007 / Year 1				2008 / Year 2				2009 / Year 3				2010 / Year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
OUTCOME 2.1 - Transferable modules framework for regional strengthening of wetland and water management conservation capacity.																
2.1.1 Draft the first full version of the modules programme																
2.1.2 Review of the programme modules draft																
2.1.3 Finalise the Programme modules																
OUTCOME 2.2 - Wetland and water management Capacity Development Programmes developed for four distinct regions (same activities are below broken down by sub-region):																
Eastern and Southern Africa Region																
2.2.1 Establish and operate regional Training Board																
2.2.2 Design & Establish working regional Capacity Development Programme																
2.2.3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes																
2.2.4 Resource mobilisation for implementation																
Western and Central Africa																
2.2.1 Establish and operate regional Training Board																
2.2.2 Design & Establish working regional Capacity Development Programme																
2.2.3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes																
2.2.4 Resource mobilisation for implementation																
Middle East																
2.2.1 Establish and operate regional Training Board																



2.2.2 Design & Establish working regional Capacity Development Programme																
2.2.3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes																
2.2.4 Resource mobilisation for implementation																
Central Asia																
2.2.1 Establish and operate regional Training Board																
2.2.2 Design & Establish working regional Capacity Development Programme																
2.2.3 Finalise four regional Capacity Development Programmes																
2.2.4 Resource mobilisation for implementation																



COMPONENT THREE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: Improved conservation status at sites critical for waterbirds, and knowledge is generated on how to enhance conservation across the African-Eurasian flyways OUTCOME 3.1 - Demonstrations of best practice management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands available across the flyway.	YEAR (year 2006 is considered as preparatory phase)															
	2007 / Year 1				2008 / Year 2				2009 / Year 3				2010 / Year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3.1.1 Execution of 11 Demonstration Projects in 12 countries																
1. Estonia																
2. Hungary																
3. Lithuania																
4. Mauritania																
5. Niger																
6. Nigeria																
7. Senegal & The Gambia																
8. South Africa																
9. Tanzania																
10. Turkey																
11. Yemen																
3.1.2 Publication of a book summarising the lessons learned from the demonstration project activities.																

COMPONENT FOUR COMMUNICATION & EXCHANGE: Catalyzing the exchange of information for wetlands and migratory waterbird conservation	YEAR (year 2006 is considered as preparatory phase)															
	2007 / Year 1				2008 / Year 2				2009 / Year 3				2010 / Year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
OUTCOME 4.1 - Strengthened mechanisms for governments and NGOs to communicate and work together on wise use of wetlands and migratory waterbirds																
4.1.1 Increase capacity for electronic exchange of information																
4.1.3 Provide project information (updates, progress reports, publicity materials) in four languages for stakeholders																
OUTCOME 4.2 - Mechanisms of exchange between and within sub-regions for improved flyway-level management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands established.																
4.2.1 Establish informal networks along the main migratory flyways within the AEWA area																
4.2.2 Designate focal points, responsible for servicing networks																
4.2.3 Exchange Programme Planning Workshop																
4.2.4 Implement Exchange Programme activities																
4.2.5 Develop strategic partnerships and mobilise co-financing																
OUTCOME 4.3 - The wise use of migratory waterbirds and wetlands is better understood and implemented by focal sub-regions.																
4.3.2 Production of key MEA texts and information in the predominant languages of the focal sub-regions.																

VIII ANNEXES

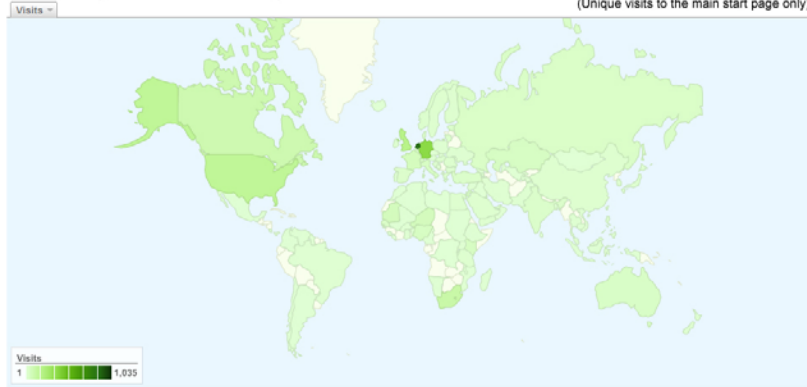
Annex 1: Web Statistics

Visits to the WOW Project Website :

www.wingsoverwetlands.org

Jan 1, 2009 - Jun 30, 2009

(Unique visits to the main start page only)



3,409 visits came from 127 countries/territories

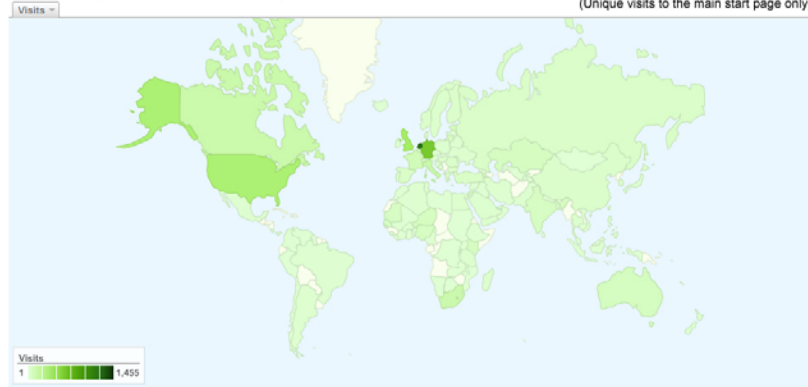
Map prepared by: F. Keil for WOW PCU

Visits to the WOW Project Website :

www.wingsoverwetlands.org

Jul 1, 2008 - Jun 30, 2009

(Unique visits to the main start page only)



5,905 visits came from 137 countries/territories

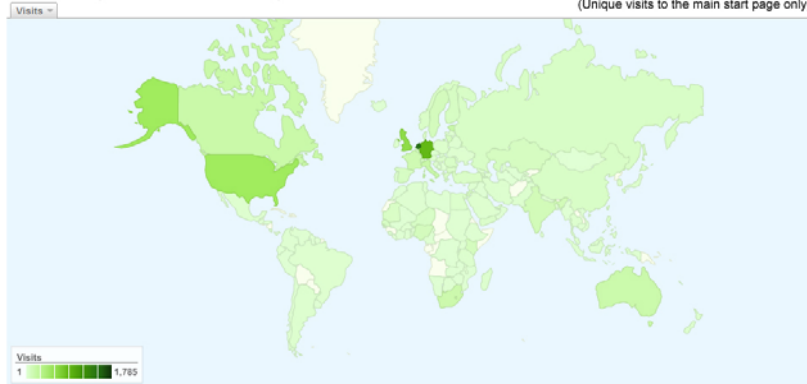
Map prepared by: F. Keil for WOW PCU

Visits to the WOW Project Website :

www.wingsoverwetlands.org

Apr 1, 2008 - Jun 30, 2009

(Unique visits to the main start page only)



8,626 visits came from 156 countries/territories

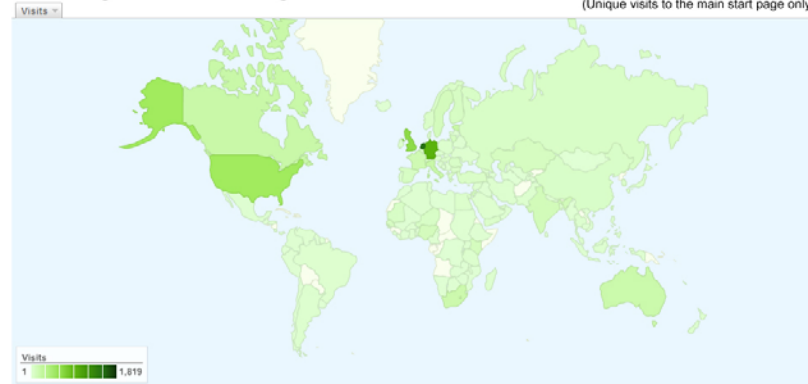
Map prepared by: F. Keil for WOW PCU

Visits to the WOW Project Website :

www.wingsoverwetlands.org

Apr 1, 2008 - Jul 22, 2009

(Unique visits to the main start page only)



8,856 visits came from 156 countries/territories

Map prepared by: F. Keil for WOW PCU