

The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) Project is the largest international wetland and waterbird conservation initiative ever to take place in the African-Eurasian region.



Development of the Critical Sites Network (CSN) Tool. This online portal will:

- integrate data from major databases relevant to migratory waterbirds into one central portal,
- improve knowledge of the critical sites required by migratory waterbirds in Africa and Eurasia,
- help decision-makers and planners at the local, national and international level manage the network of critical sites.



Tailor-made tools to promote flyway-scale conservation. These include:

- modular training & awareness packages to promote flyway conservation to different audiences,
- an exchange programme within the African-Eurasian region to enable site practitioners to acquire hands-on experience in wetland management and waterbird conservation,
- training to improve flyway monitoring and address gaps in geographical coverage.



More effective communication among different stakeholders in the AEWA region. WOW will:

- establish a project website linking up all major partners along the flyway,
- provide a wide range of online tools to support flyway-scale conservation and facilitate information sharing,
- expand the network of organisations and practitioners working on migratory waterbird and wetland conservation. This will help link current site-based activities to the broader flyway context.



Four Regional Centres respectively covering Western and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia and the Caucasus States. These will:

- facilitate the coordination of project activities within each respective region,
- effectively forge regional ties and enhance contact with conservation institutions,
- act as hubs for training, professional capacity building and the exchange of information.



WOW supports field projects in the following 12 countries:

- Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal & The Gambia, South Africa, Tanzania, Turkey and Yemen. These focus on a range of issues such as community mobilization, management planning, ecotourism, field research, wetland restoration, control of invasive species, transboundary management, education and awareness, and alternative livelihoods.



how to contribute

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

Help your country become a Party to AEWA and Ramsar to strengthen the mandate of these Agreements



Implement existing international single species action plans and assist with the development of new ones



Join the network of field observers and contribute to the IWC and IBA databases



Use the Critical Site Network Tool to ensure that key requirements of migratory waterbirds are met



Support activities critical to flyway conservation by joining the partners and donors supporting WOW



The AEWA Region

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wings over wetlands

The UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project

