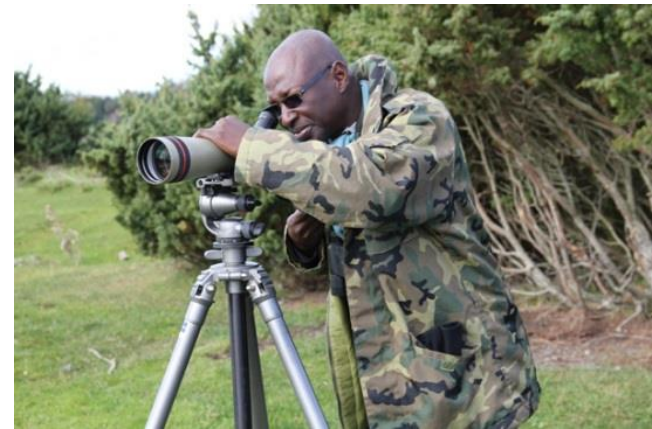


The African Perspective on AEWA

By Col Abdoulaye NDIAYE

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Associate expert of Wetlands International

Dakar - Sénégal





Brief history/Background

What do AEWA and “Flyway conservation” mean in Africa?

What role does Africa have/play in the agreement?

What is needed to make the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa work in future?

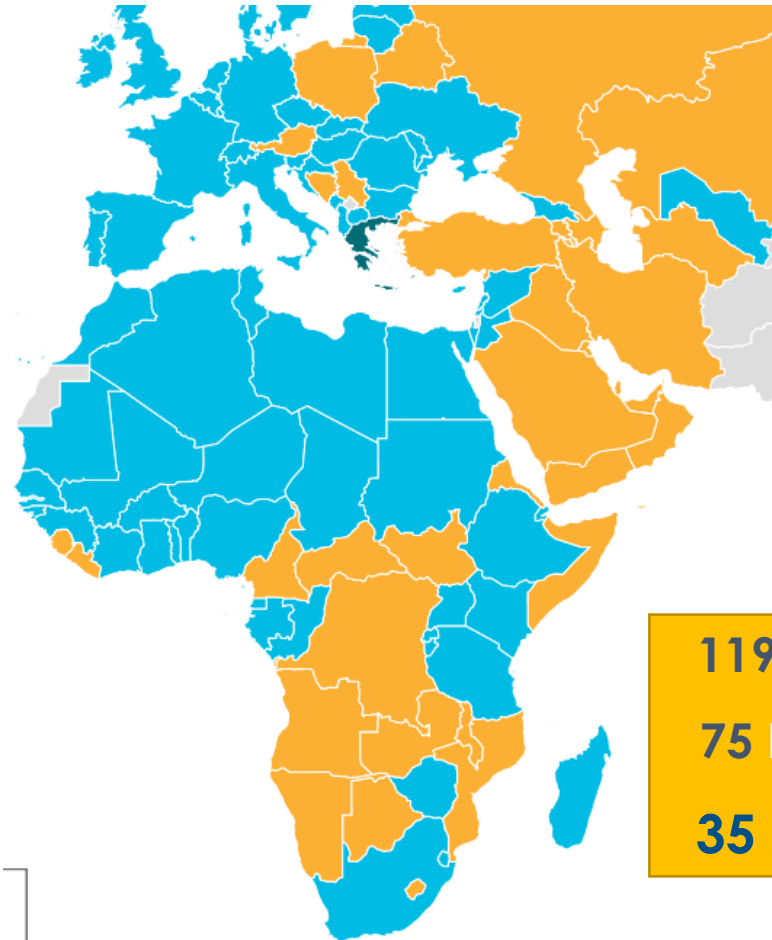
How we can conserve and manage migratory birds?

Challenges/problems

Way Forward/Conclusion



Brief history/Background



119 Range

75 Parties*

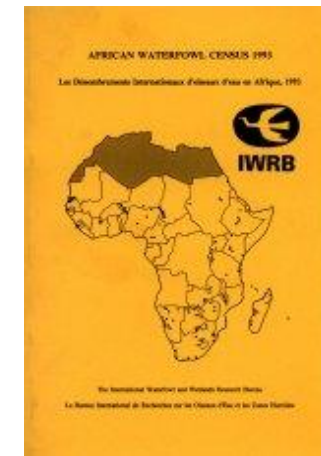
35 African

Contracting Party

Non-Party Range State

Signed but not ratified

- ❑ 1995 the negotiations to adopt the Agreement were concluded
- ❑ AEWA & IWC (AfWC) - important relationship due to a common goal on waterbird populations



What do AEWA and “flyway conservation” mean in Africa?



- ☐ Flyways?
- ☐ Probably, in reality, they don't mean very much :

- ☐ A taxi driver in Lagos,
- ☐ An athlete in Kenya
- ☐ A lady selling fish in Zambia

Ask them: 'what does flyway conservation mean?'

Surely they will have no good answer for you!

- ☐ A lady on the market selling waterbirds in Mopti (Mali);
- ☐ A tour guide in Saint-Louis (Senegal)

They will know very well that migratory birds means:

- ☐ They **come and go, and – they have a value?**

What do AEWA and “flyway conservation” mean in Africa?



- ❑ Government level, AEWA and flyway conservation are gaining relevance,
- ❑ AEWA level, it also means getting together to find solutions for managing our **shared resources?**
- ❑ **17 globally threatened sp.** in Europe Vs **59 in Africa**
- ❑ **98 decreasing populations** in Europe Vs **181 in Africa**

The need for shared effort leans much more towards African side

- ❑ More than half of the globally threatened waterbirds in Europe are truly shared with Africa but only 15% of African world-threatened waterbirds are shared with Europe.

➡ **Europe depends much more on Africa for the conservation** of its own globally threatened waterbirds than the other way round.

Shared resources = shared responsibilities to manage it, exploit it sustainably and conserve it



What role does Africa have/play in the Agreement?



- ☐ **Political support:** Fashionable to be CP but not fulfilling the obligations,
- ☐ **Size of the region** (Africa) BIG, and encompasses a large chunk of the Agreement area, and supports the highest biodiversity,
- ☐ Africa is the 'powerhouse' of the agreement, with the key filling stations etc.,
- ☐ Africa is therefore critical to the success of the agreement objectives.

Breeding colonies



Transboundary negotiation



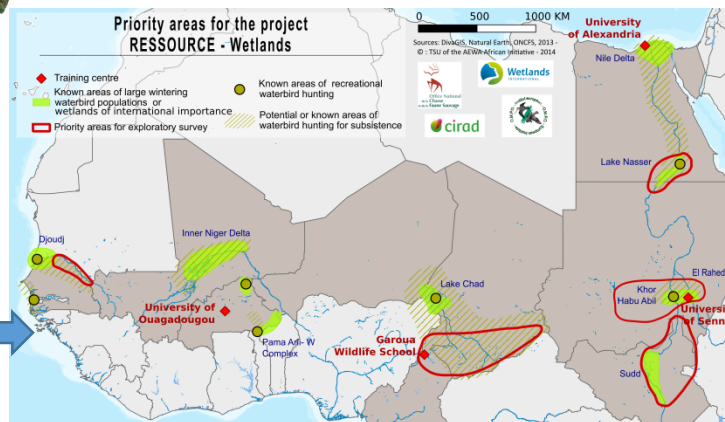
Public awareness



Habitat restoration



AEWA FOCAL AREAS FOR AFRICA



Gap filling



livelihood

**Capacity building
"practical one"**



What role does Africa have/play in the agreement – Priority issues?

Livelihoods and Conservation
think globally – act locally - Migratory birds for people



- ❑ Conserving a **network of critical** sites,
- ❑ Engaging a wide range of **partners at local level**,
- ❑ Linking improvement of **local livelihoods & conservation**,
- ❑ **Protected areas** as engines of economic growth,
- ❑ Socio- economic to uplift the **local economy**;

❑ **A framework: the African Initiative!**

What is needed to make the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa work in future?



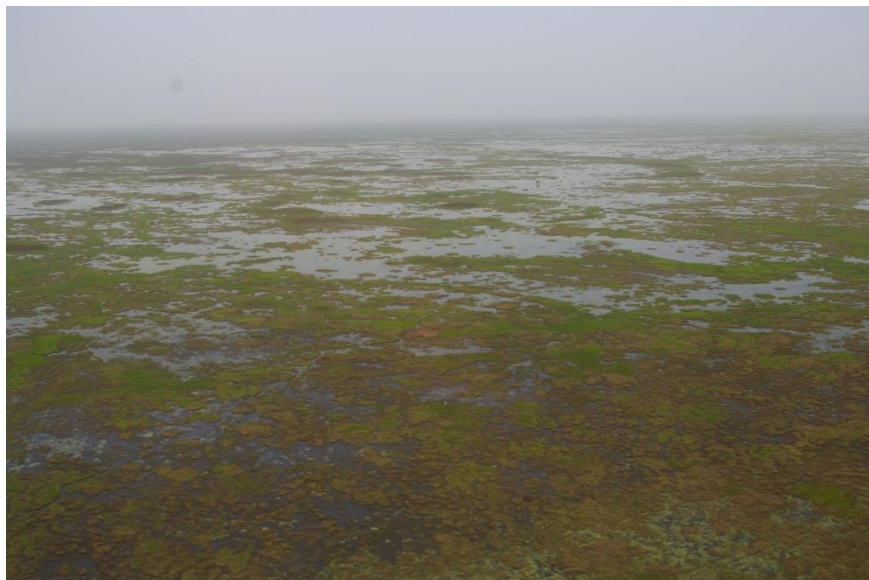
- ☐ **Implementation:** This is where Africa needs to focus its energy now.
- ☐ There is no point signing an agreement and coming to meetings without feedback/Results.
- ☐ **African focal points have to work in teams** back home to make the agreement come to life,
- ☐ **High competition due to other demands:** like elephants, forests, marine turtles and poaching...

What is needed to make the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa work in future?



- ❑ Focusing on the issues relating to **livelihoods**, eco-tourism, **capacity-building** etc. ...
- ❑ Key event is the **African Pre-MOP**: it has to continue,
- ❑ Key activities on the ground : **Wetlands management and waterbird monitoring** (support by the IPOs),
- ❑ Bringing the networks to work together (focal points and AfWC coordinators) in a close cooperation,
- ❑ Field projects and other programmes could be integrated under the African initiative.

What is needed to make the AEWA Plan of action for Africa work in future?



- ☐ **Different context and issues:** volunteering not an option, huge wetlands not yet totally destroyed thus inaccessible whereas all remaining wetlands in Europe are all small, and accessible thus easily surveyed,
- ☐ **Focus on surveying important wetlands:** Niger Inner Delta, Chad Lake, Sudd marshes, Okavango delta..
- ☐ **Fund-raising** is a key,
- ☐ Be sure the African contracting parties pay their dues,
- ☐ **Make national reporting more simple, more focused, feasible** so that information provided are reliable and thus useful,
- ☐ **Partnership development.**

What is needed to make the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa work? An example: the TSU



- ❑ Projects for continuation of the activities of the Plan of action for Africa
- ❑ **Technical and scientific support,**
- ❑ Importance of **capacity building,**
- ❑ **Improvement of data,**
- ❑ **Synergies** to be developed between ongoing programmes and projects within the region.



What is needed to make the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa work Latest developments and future prospects



14^{ème} CONGRES PANAFRICAIN D'ORNITHOLOGIE
PANAFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS (PAOC)
17-23 Octobre 2016, Dakar /Sénégal

THÈME :

« Changements globaux en Afrique : menaces et opportunités
pour les oiseaux »
« Overall Changes: threats and opportunities for birds in Africa »



❑ Pan African ornithological Congress (PAOC14)

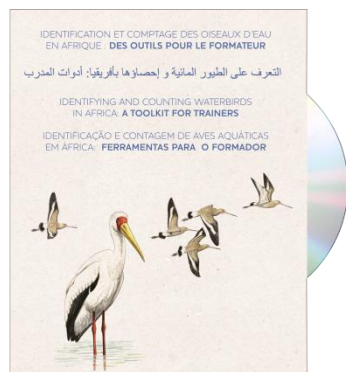
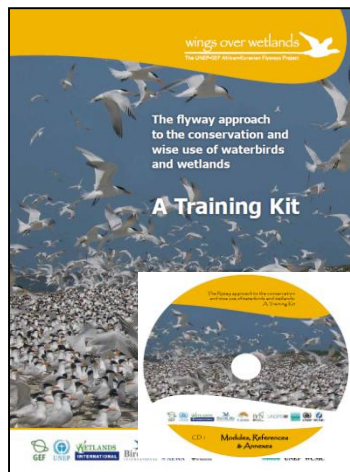
❑ young generation of experts and Master degree

❑ The Madagascar Pond-heron Action Plan implementation in Madagascar since **September 2002**

❑ **Capacity building by Africans for Africans:**
MoU 3 wildlife colleges : CAWM (Tanzania) – Ecole de Faune de Garoua (Cameroon)- KWSTI (Kenya)



How we can conserve and manage migratory birds?



- ❑ Goal: **Maintaining well-managed sites of high quality, along the entire flyway,**
- ❑ **Capacity building:** Institutional and technical capacity,
- ❑ Training for **site managers of the region** (at site level) and recognizing the importance of these people as guardians of migratory waterbirds,
- ❑ **Network of sites and people:** mainly the critical sites both in wintering and breeding areas;

Main Challenges for consideration



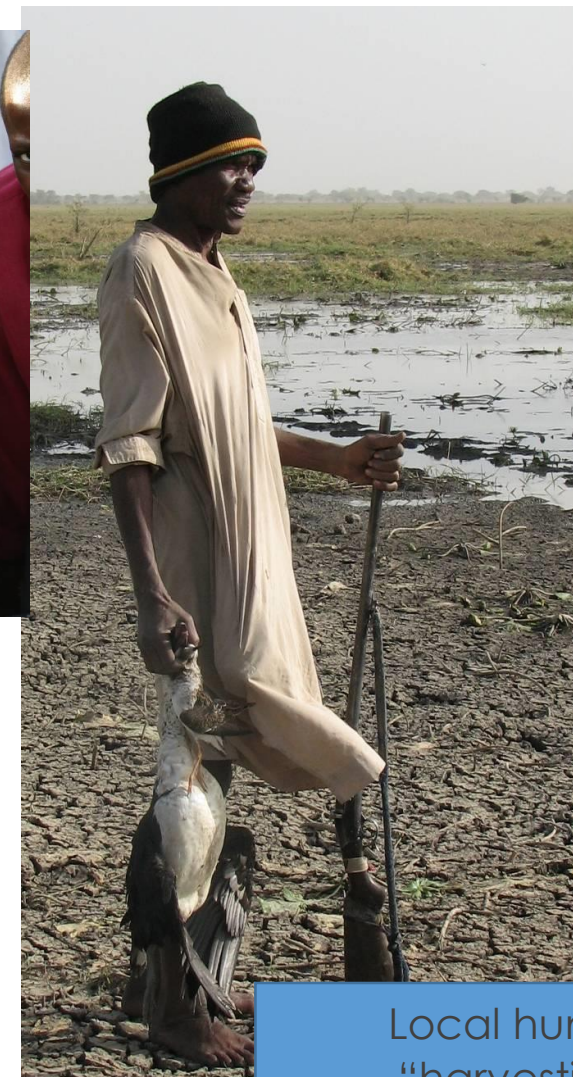
“Decision makers”



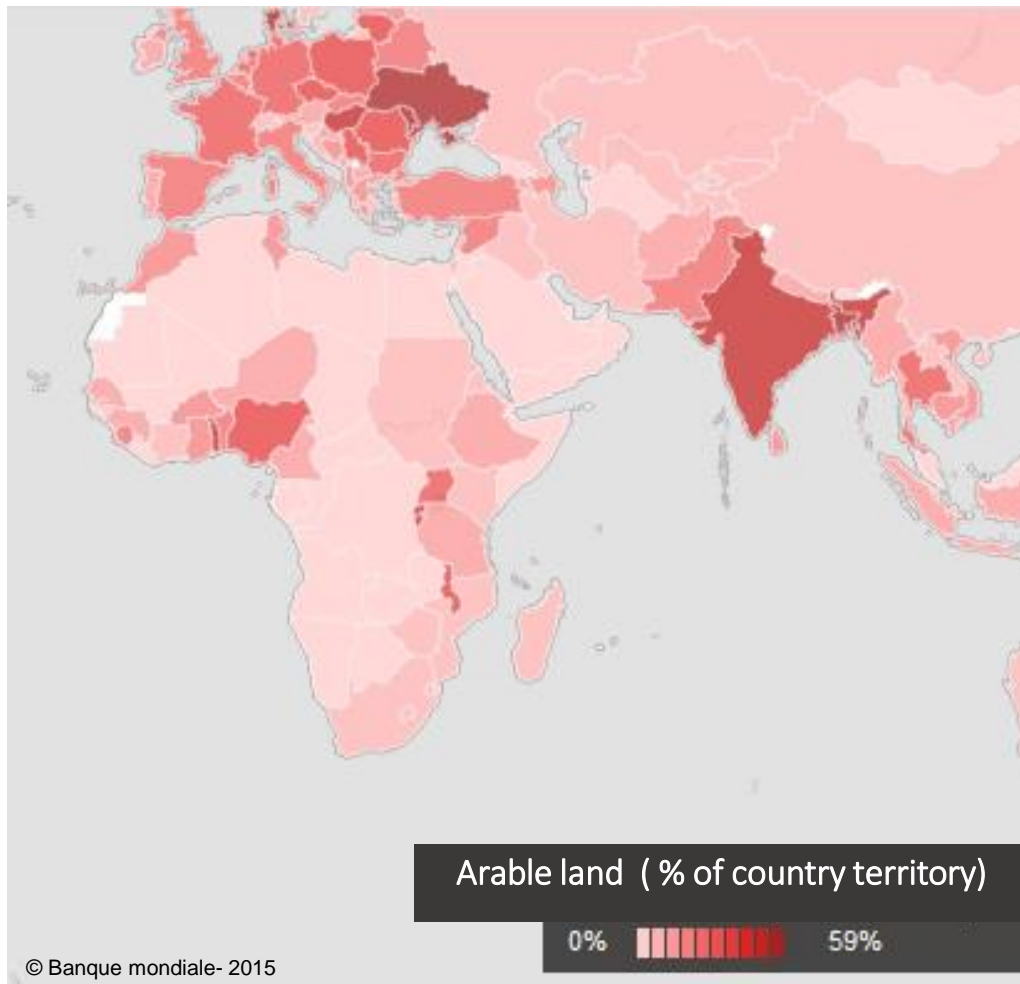
Awareness!!!



Scientists !!!



Local hunters
“harvesting”



Wetlands conservation: An urgent issue

- ❑ Over a quarter of Europe is now cultivated,
- ❑ In Africa, we are catching up with a 17% increase of arable land surface between 2002 and 2012,

➡ **We need to find solutions to conserve African wetlands!**

- ❑ Ecotourism will obviously help but for only very few wetlands,

Let African local communities use their wetlands in a sustainable way

Climate Change may increase threats globally for **people and ecosystems.**

Way forward & Solutions

Exchange information & linking

- ☐ Demonstrate **best practices available across the flyway**,
- ☐ **Site management planning**,
- ☐ Strengthen mechanisms to **communicate in a flyway** context,
- ☐ Increase **direct contact** and exchange between practitioners ,
- ☐ **Capacity building**,
- ☐ Promote accession & **implementation AEWA** and other MEAs,
- ☐ **Partnership-working together**,
- ☐ **Monitoring** to check if the management is keeping track,



Conclusion

Projects come and go.....

- **The AEWA African Initiative** should be seen as a long-term programme;
- Africa looks forward to **working together** for our **shared resources** under **the African Initiative** for generations – of birds and people – to come ...

Let us think together on the upcoming initiatives:

- **Ressource project**
- **Flyway Destination**
- **Migratory Bird for People**
- **Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative**
- **Conservation of Migratory Birds**
- **Others**

Implementation on the ground is a key.
The TSU has been very instrumental for the last triennium
thanks France and Senegal for their support.
I am sure others will join for the upcoming triennium.

Let us try beyond MOP6 again !!!
Thanks for your attention

