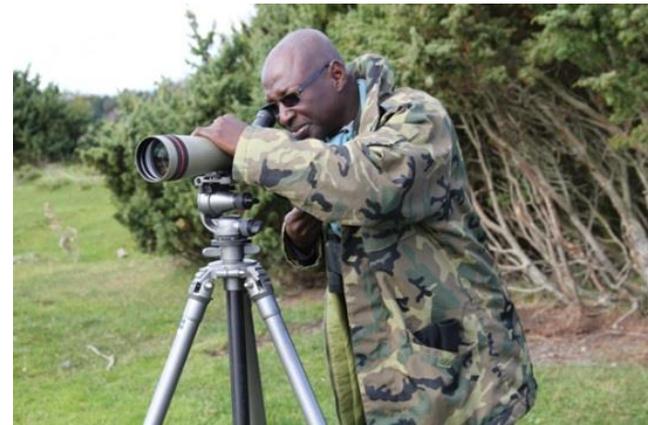


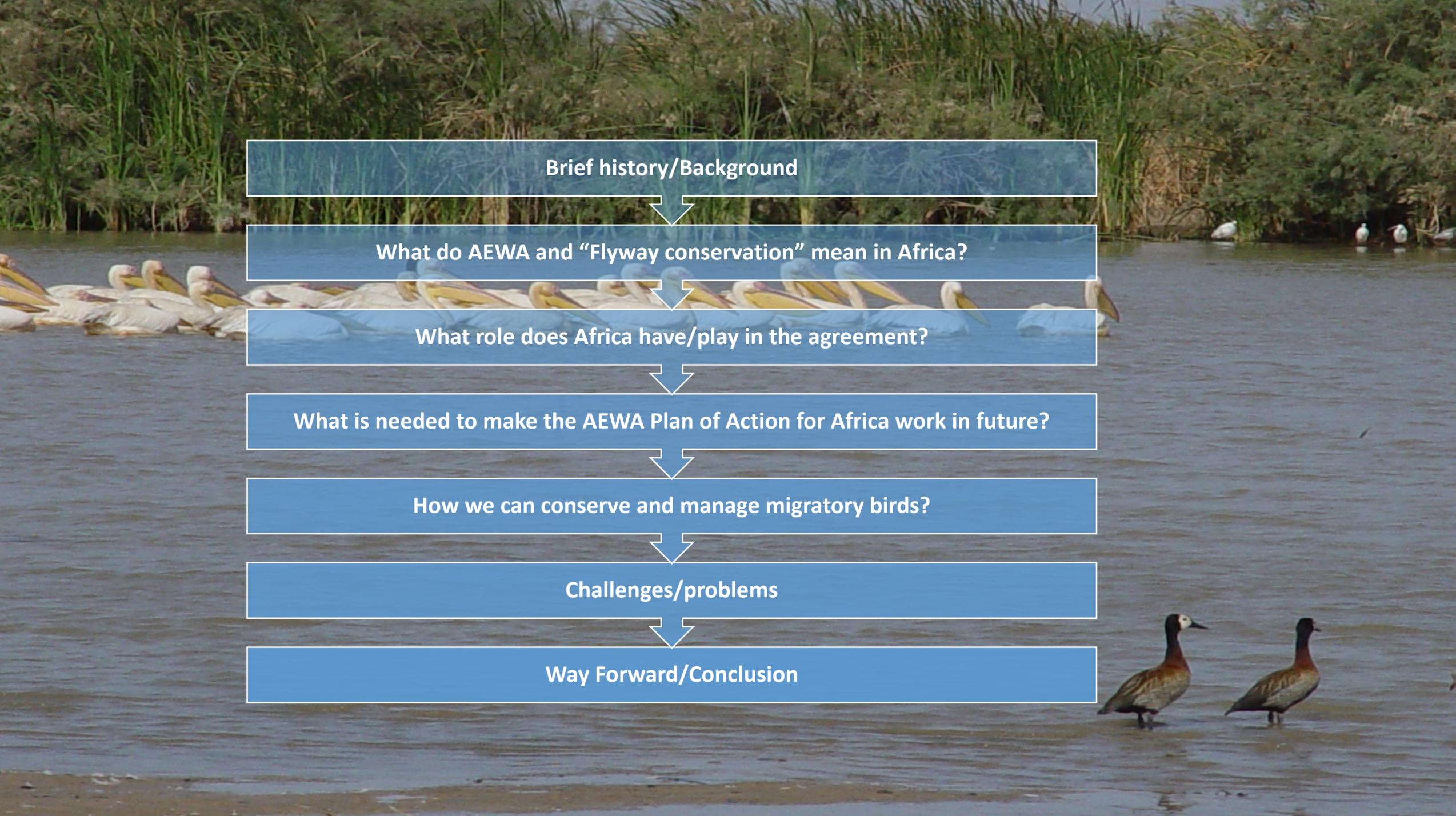
## The African Perspective on AEWA

By Col Abdoulaye NDIAYE

African Coordinator for the Technical Support Unit  
**(TSU)** of the AEWA African Initiative  
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?**

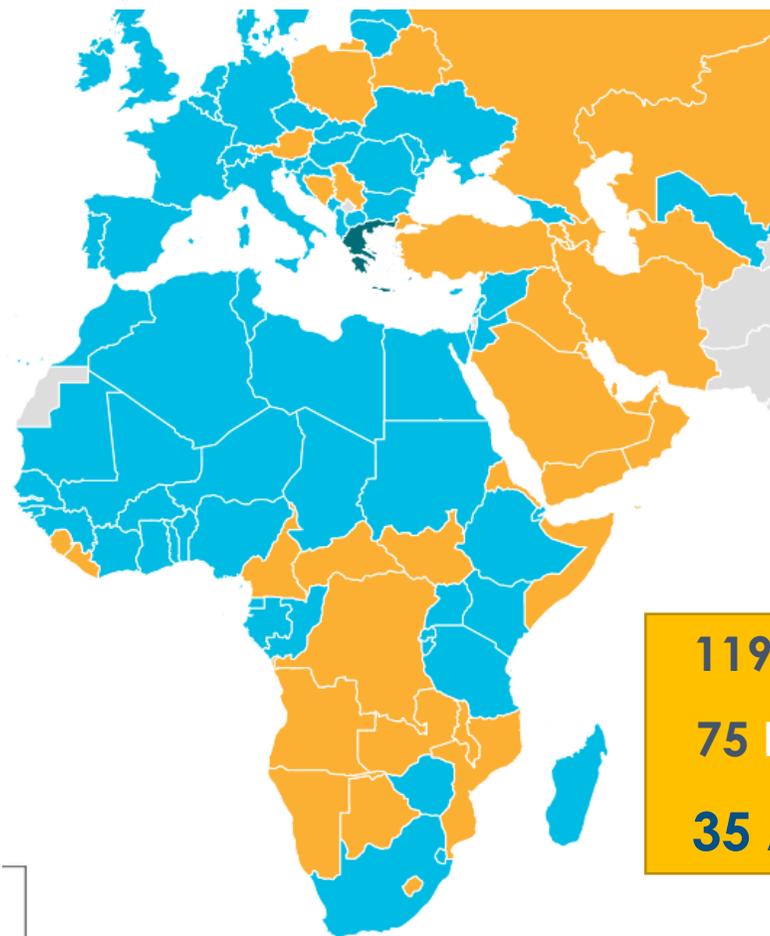
**How we can conserve and manage migratory birds?**

**Challenges/problems**

**Way Forward/Conclusion**



## Brief history/Background



119 Range

75 Parties\*

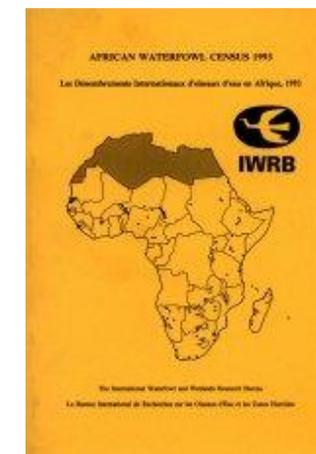
35 African

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**



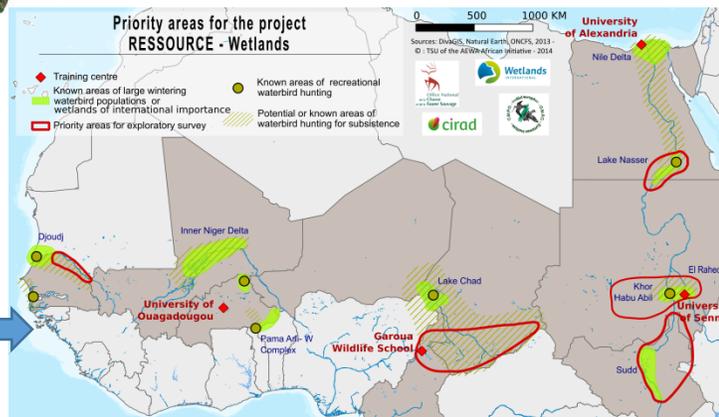
**livelihood**



**Capacity building  
"practical one"**



**AEWA FOCAL AREAS FOR AFRICA**

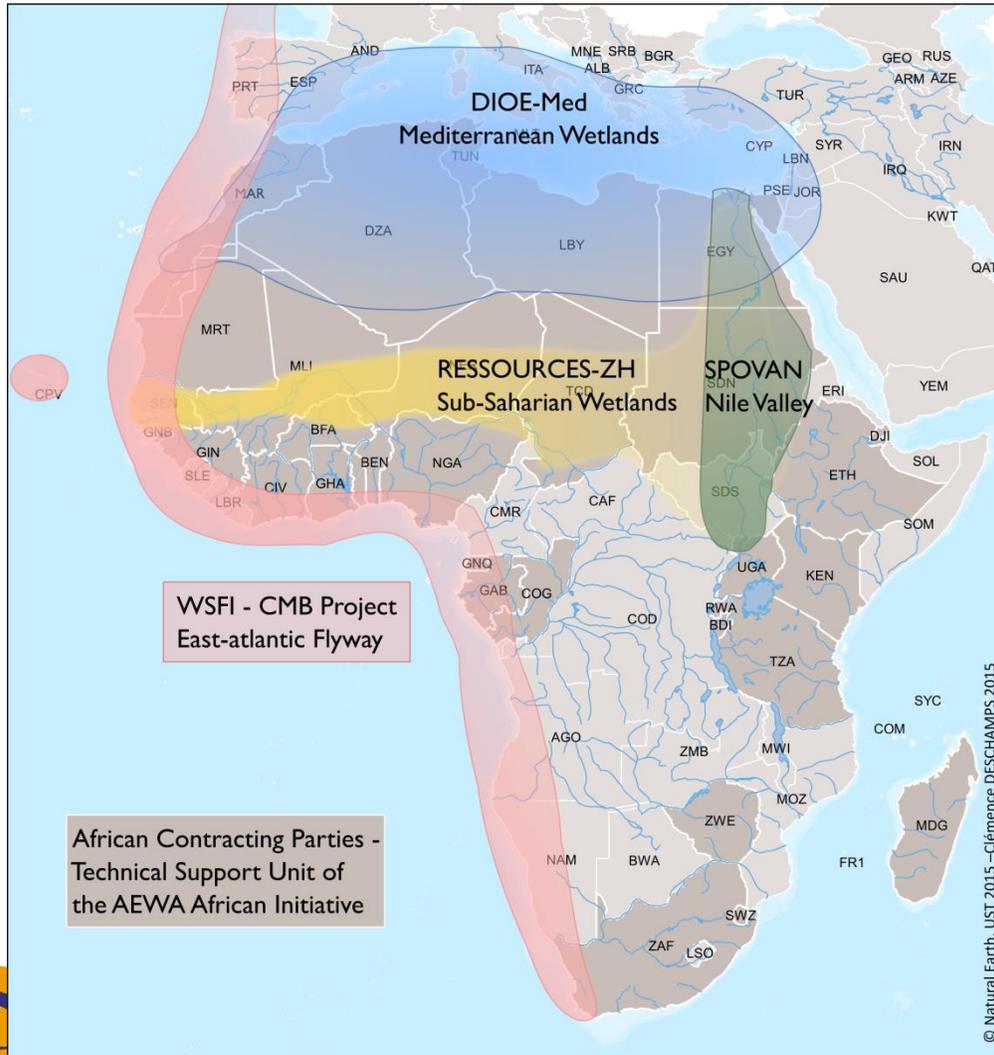


**Gap filling**

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

### Development of synergies

- ❑ **Monitoring:** Africa has become almost as concerned as Europe with mid-winter IWC
- ❑ Thanks to organisations which have covered most of the flyways.
- ❑ Thanks to the AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators and National Focal Points/ IWC Coordinators on the ground;
- ❑ Libya, who still pushes ahead with IWC, even in the complicate political situation.



## 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.



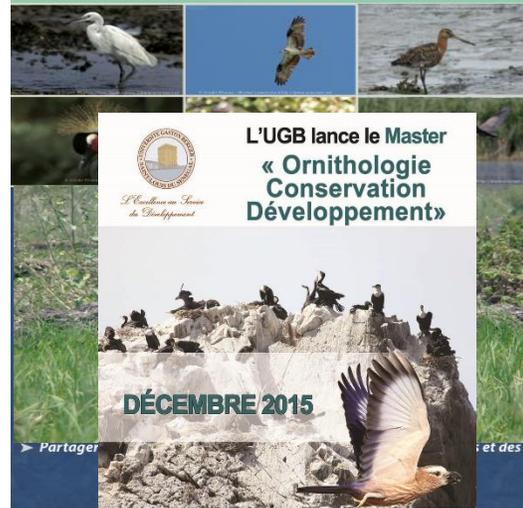
## What is needed to make the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa work Latest developments and future prospects



14<sup>ème</sup> 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 »



### Partenaires



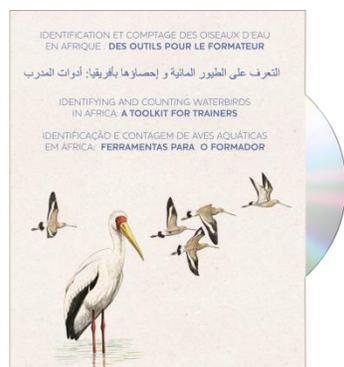
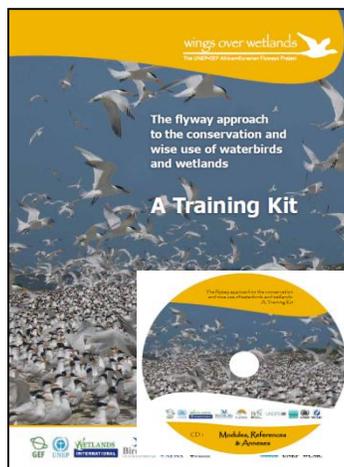
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Section de Géographie  
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- Pan African ornithological Congress (PAOC14)
- young generation of experts and Master degree
- The Madagascar Pond-heron Action Plan implementation in Madagascar since **September 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



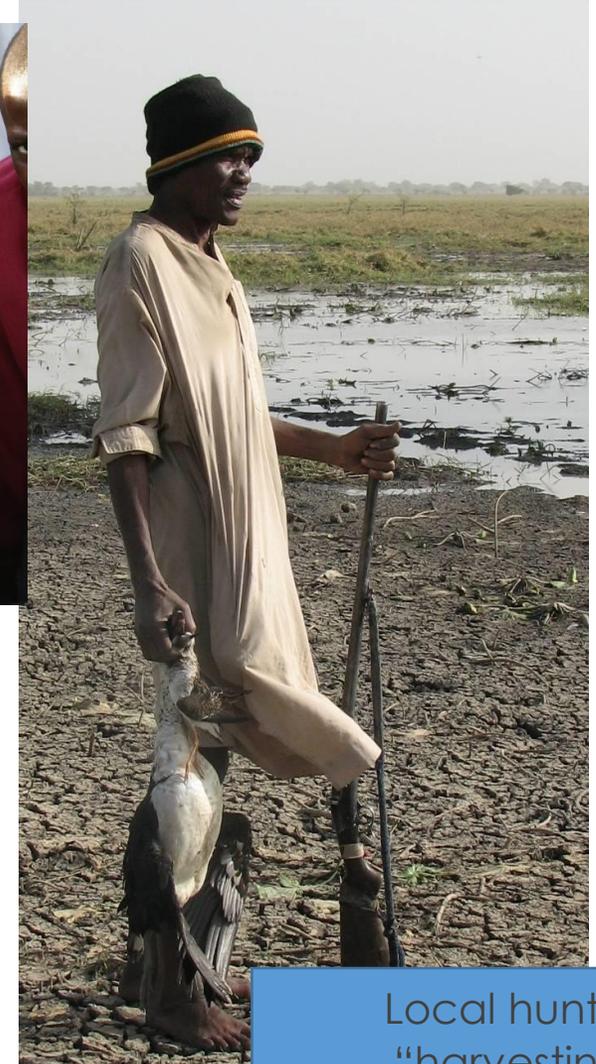
“Decision makers”



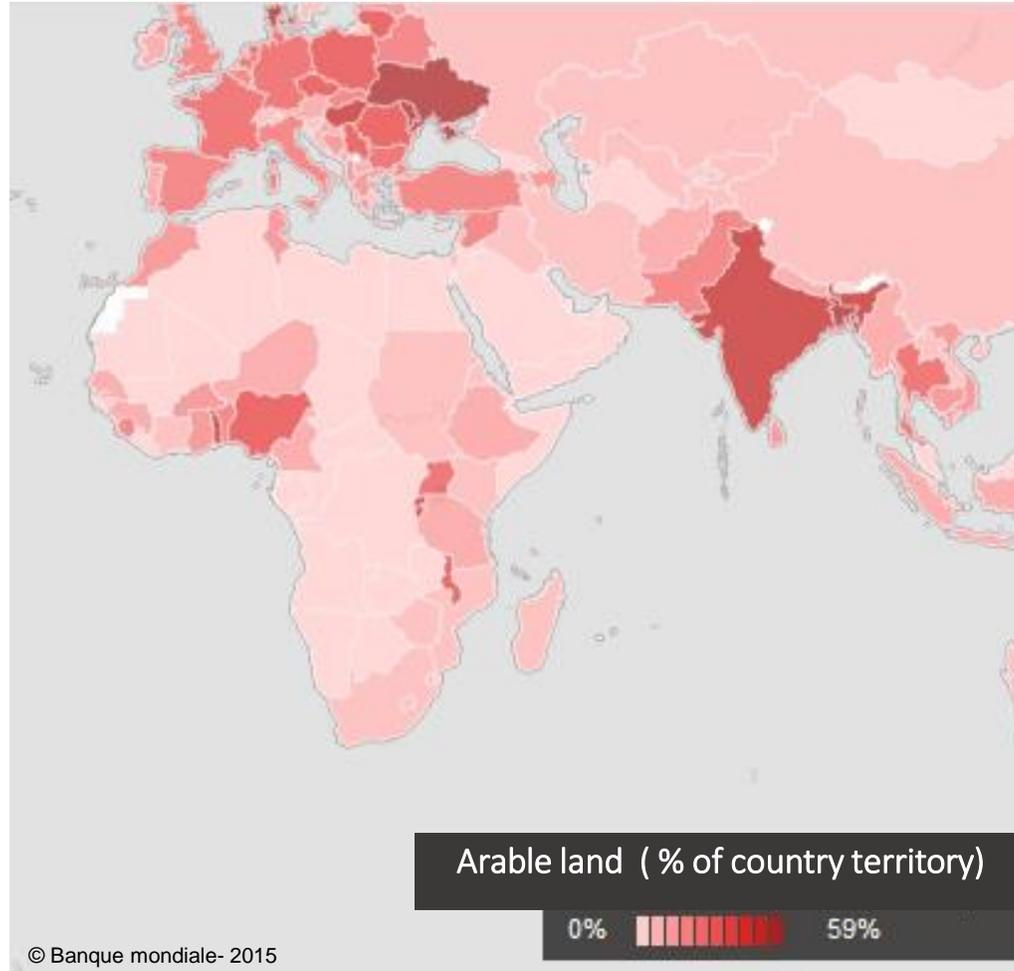
Awareness!!!



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

