

Report on waterbird monitoring development in the Agreement area (doc 8.26)

Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Secretariat



Why monitoring waterbirds?



Three main purposes of waterbird monitoring

- Dynamically identify the conservation status of species/populations
- Define conservation priorities
- Measure the impact of conservation work



Organisational development

- African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership
 - Organisations
 - Institutions
 - Regional reps of IWC national coordinators
- *Regional meetings* of the national International Waterbird Census (IWC) coordinators from Africa and the Western Palearctic
- Waterbird Fund



Capacity development and support

- Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative - supported countries from Mauritania to Angola (SOVON, BL, WI);
- The Mediterranean Waterbird Network Project - supported North Africa and Turkey (TdV/OFB);
- IWC development in Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau – 3-year project (WI/MAVA);
- RESSOURCE project in the Sahel (FAO/OFB/FFEM).



Technical developments & funding

- **New trend analysis method** was investigated, but rejected
- The Waterbird Population Estimates (**WPE**) are now available on an **online portal** in a searchable database
- Waterbird Fund – **€ 140,000** since July 2018
- Other funding support – **€ 1.2 million** in 2020 (project-based and short- or maximum medium-term)



Impact of developments

- Time lag of data use for status assessment maintained at 3 years (5 years in 2012)
- IWC count totals published annually
- 1% biogeographic population thresholds were updated if up/down by $\geq 20\%$ since 2012
- Population status assessment based on monitoring data – 35% increase since 2018 (54% of the AEWA populations) – still below the target of 66%

Key developments required

- Improving the regularity of waterbird counts in Africa (especially in the Sahel and East Africa)
- Establish adequate breeding bird monitoring schemes and assessment processes in Africa





THANK YOU!

MERCI!