

News from the International Waterbird Census African-Eurasian Region Issue no. 1 – October 2011



PO BOX 471
6700 AL Wageningen
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 318 660910
Fax +31 318 660950
E-mail: post@wetlands.org
www.wetlands.org

Newsletter for national waterbird monitoring coordinators and other interested parties

The main purpose of this newsletter is to keep coordinators of national waterbird monitoring schemes in Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia up-to-date with developments in the International Waterbird Census (IWC). It is recommended that national coordinators distribute it to interested others in their country. This newsletter was compiled at Wetlands International's headquarters in Ede, The Netherlands. If you have questions, comments or IWC data to submit, please contact Tom Langendoen through email (tom.langendoen@wetlands.org), phone (+(31) 0318-660921) or skype ([tom_langendoen](https://www.skype.com/name/tom_langendoen)). General information on waterbird monitoring is also available through Wetlands International's [Waterbird Forum](#).

Waterbird forum

We recognise that regular feedback must be given to national coordinators and counters. Consequently, we have established the [Waterbird Forum](#) on the Wetlands International website. The forum is used to share important news and documents and to facilitate discussions throughout the waterbird specialist network. The forum includes:

- Guidance on waterbird monitoring, including a monitoring field guide by Simon Delany.
- Information on available funding opportunities,
- Wetlands International products using IWC data, such as annual national total reports.
- Detailed information on the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership and recent changes in the IWC coordination structure.

To participate on the forum, you will need to register on our website. Please follow instructions on the forum website and registration page.

IWC Coordination

Last year saw a number of significant changes in the coordination of the International Waterbird Census. Wetlands International stopped the contract with Simon Delany which was a difficult decision to take but necessitated by funding problems and the need for a different approach for the IWC. Despite this, we would like to acknowledge Simon's hard work for the IWC over many years and his many achievements under sometimes difficult circumstances. In the new situation it was decided that coordination of the IWC will be more streamlined according to flyways. That means that we will concentrate the coordination of the IWC in this part of the world on the whole African, Europe and West Asian region.

We will develop waterbird monitoring activities even more in partnership with other organisations than in the past. To this end, the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership was established in June 2011. The Partnership brings together many actors (AEWA, *Wetlands International*, *BirdLife International*, *European Bird Census Council*, *Specialist groups*, *Tour du Valat*, *SOVON*, *Aarhus University*, *BTO*, *Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust* and *FACE*) to share their expertise and improve the quality and consistency, not only for the International Waterbird Census, but for the entire waterbird monitoring programme. For more information on the Partnership, please refer to Wetlands International's [Waterbird Forum](#).

Status of the IWC in the African-Eurasian flyways

Questionnaire

As part of the IWC Coordination restructuring, in May Wetlands International sent out a questionnaire in English or French to national coordinators across the African-Eurasian region. We received 42 responses to the questionnaire, as well as a number of email responses. Where possible, we have followed up with telephone calls. This process has been invaluable in re-establishing some personal contact between WI staff and national coordinators, as well as giving us an insight into the current status of the IWC across the flyway. A summary report of the questionnaire responses is available from Wetlands International's [Waterbird Forum](#).

If any national coordinators did not receive the questionnaire and would still like to contribute, please contact tom.langendoen@wetlands.org.