

# The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

## Report 2012 for the monitoring activities



*Testing new counting equipment at Guinee-Conakry, April 2013*

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## Brief activity report 2012 of the Monitoring project of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

This work is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs through the Programme Rich Wadden Sea. The work have been carried out in close cooperation with the CMB project of Birdlife International and Wetlands International and with the capacity building part of the WSFI project. The project consists of four outputs which will be discussed below:

- Output 1. An integrated Monitoring Framework for the East Atlantic Flyway.  
This consists of a plan for the organizing of integrated monitoring in the whole coastal part of the East-Atlantic Flyway. Covering the regions Arctic, NW-Europe, West Africa and Southern Africa and the monitoring types abundance monitoring, vital rate monitoring and environmental monitoring.
  - A consultation draft of the framework and plan have been made in 2012 and discussed with an ad-hoc group of experts.
  - In the beginning of 2013 the comments of the experts will be incorporated and a second draft will be circulated, including to the members of the advisory board of the WSFI.
  - The plan have to be ready at the end of 2013 and will be printed and distributed in the beginning of 2014.
  
- Output 2. A monitoring strategy for coastal West Africa  
This consists of a plan for the monitoring of coastal sites at the Atlantic seaboard of West Africa with emphasize to the countries Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinee-Bissau, Guinee, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde. Here are the most important wintering grounds for populations from the Wadden Sea. It is as such a further implementation of the overall flyway plan (output 1). The focus is on abundance monitoring and on environmental monitoring.
  - A consultation draft of the monitoring strategy have been prepared in 2012 and discussed with stakeholders during a workshop in June 2012 in Dakar (Senegal).
  - There is a good consensus about the strategy which consists of yearly counts at a selection of sites and once in six years a total count of all key sites. Secondly with this counts an integration of methodologies of the International Waterbird Census (abundance monitoring) and monitoring of Important Bird Areas (environmental monitoring) will be carried out during the field work.
  - In 2013 comments on this strategy will be incorporated. After this a second draft will be circulated, including to the members of the advisory board of the WSFI.
  - The strategy document will be finalized during 2013 and will be printed and distributed in the beginning of 2014 (maybe second half of 2013 already).
  - As part of output 2 also guidelines for coordinators and counters carrying out the monitoring are prepared and site protocols for large and difficult key sites. In 2012 first drafts of these guidelines and protocols are made which will be further developed in 2013. These guidelines and protocols will be printed in 2013 so that they can be used during the total count of January 2014.
  - All winter counts of non-breeding waterbirds of coastal sites in West-Africa will be (as far as possible) included in the IWC database. A part of these counts are already available at this database but several others need to be added. The work has started in 2012 and will be finalized in 2013.

- Output 3. Pilot counts in West Africa
  - This will consist of counting of a selection of sites in January 2013 and a total count in January 2014.
  - In 2012 a field training workshop was carried out in national Park Diawling (Mauritania) in December 2012 with representatives of all countries of the cooperation (Sierra Leone, Guinee, Guinee-Bissau, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde and Mauritania). Training focused on species identification, counting methods, monitoring methods and description of environmental factors and threats at sites.
  - For the counts of a selection of sites in January 2013 all seven countries in West Africa have made project proposals in December 2012. After review of these proposals these will be granted (small grants from CMB and WSFI) in the beginning of January 2013 to enable the start of the monitoring.
  - During 2012 and especially in 2013 preparatory work will be carried out (defining all key sites, establishing counting units, formation of groups of counters etc.) for the total count of January 2014.
  - The assembling of the data from January 2013 will be carried out in the first half of 2013. The data of January 2014 will be assembled in the first half of 2014 and the report presenting and analyzing the results will be prepared after that.
  
- Output 4. Investigating future prospects for continuation of the monitoring in West Africa after 2014 and implementation of the integrated monitoring framework for the East Atlantic Flyway.
  - Work for this output is scheduled for 2014. However discussions about this will be started in 2013 (within the Dutch Ministry of EZ and others) in preparation of the Trilateral Ministerial Conference for the Wadden Sea in Denmark, February 2014.