

## 20 Projects to Showcase 20 Historic Years of Environmental Finance



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



### Enhancing Conservation of the Critical Network of Sites of Wetlands Required by Migratory Waterbirds on the African/Eurasian Flyways (Wings Over Wetlands) WOW



#### Fast Facts

**Achieved:** Improved the effectiveness of conservation efforts for migratory waterbirds in the African-Eurasian region.

**Where:** Tanzania, Estonia, Yemen, Turkey, Niger, Nigeria, Lithuania, South Africa, Senegal, Mauritania, Gambia, Hungary

**Cost:** GEF funds: \$6.35 million; Co-financing: \$6.765 million

**When:** April 2006 to December 2010

**Partners:** Primary partners included Wetlands International, BirdLife International, Bundesamt für Naturschutz, UNEP-African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, UNOPS, RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

#### Achievements

The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project was an ambitious international flyway wetland and waterbird conservation initiative that benefited 118 countries in the African and Eurasian region. The project developed award-winning and innovative conservation tools that offer access to information on more than 300 species of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. It also supported wetland conservation field projects in 12 countries.

#### Legacy

WOW's influence continues with:

- The Critical Site Network Tool provides comprehensive information on waterbird species from 2,972 sites. It won first prize in the interactive web map category in the 2011 ESRI/SCGIS International Conservation Mapping Competition.
- The information collected supports the AEWA, the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands and the Bern Convention's Emerald Network goals.
- The Flyway Training Kit that serves as a resource for conservation site managers and policy makers.
- Enhanced professional capacity and understanding of flyway-scale conservation concepts among conservation professionals and decision makers in the region.
- The project's partnership continues to bring together major players in the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

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### What People Say:

*The CSN Tool is a powerful new resource that will help strengthen both the implementation of AEWA and the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands*

- Nick Davidson, deputy Secretary General of the RAMSAR Convention

*The Wings Over Wetlands project has put flyway-scale conservation firmly on the map.*

*WOW's legacy includes a joined-up, cross-border conservation approach to planning for migratory waterfowl, and a new era of cooperation.*

- from *World Birdwatch*, December 2010

### Publications:

Publications and tool kits can be accessed at [www.wingsoverwetlands.org](http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org)

### Outputs and Deliverables:

WOW succeeded in:

- Supporting 11 important wetland field projects in 12 countries.
- Raising awareness on the links between the sites needed by migratory waterbirds.
- Assisting with nature-friendly management and eco-tourism development in the Biharugra Fishponds in Hungary.
- Starting nature education programs in the Haapsalu-Noarootsi Bays in Estonia.
- Building education, research and eco-tourism facilities in the Nemunas River Delta in Lithuania.
- Developing a community-based management plan for the Namga-Kokorou Complex in Niger.
- Supporting livelihoods through ornithological ecotourism at Banc d'Arguin National Park in Mauritania.
- Clearing typha in the Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands in Nigeria.
- Fostering trans-boundary cooperation and community participation in the Saloum-Niumi Complex, Senegal and The Gambia.
- Developing Ecotourism near Wakkerstroom in South Africa.
- Raising awareness on the importance of wetlands and waterbirds near Dar es Salaam Wetlands in Tanzania.
- Raising awareness to generate site conservation support at Burdur Gölü in Turkey.
- Bringing attention to and creating an integrated management plan for Aden Wetlands in Yemen.

### Partners:

Additional partners included the European Commission, Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage of France, Environmental Protection Agency of Sweden, Danish Ministry of Environment, Energy Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in France, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Estonian Ministry of Environment, State Nature Conservation Centre in Estonia, Agropoint Ltd, Bihar Nature Conservation and Culture Public Foundation, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Lithuanian Ornithological Society, Lithuanian Ministry of Environment, Nemunas Delta Regional Park Directorate, Parc Nationale Banc d'Arguin, Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit, Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin, Regional and Coastal Conservation Program for West Africa, Fundacion para el Desarrollo, Ministère de l'Hydraulique de l'Environnement et de la Lutte Contre la Désertification, World Wildlife Fund, Université Abdou Moumouni, Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Komadugu Yobe Basin Wetlands Development Initiative, A.G. Leventis Foundation, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature - Direction des Parcs Nationaux, Department of Parks and Wildlife Management of The Gambia, BirdLife South Africa, Darwin Initiative, Endangered Wildlife Trust - South Africa Crane Working Group, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania, Doğa Derneği in the Burdur Municipality, Lisinia Project, Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Turkey, Environmental Protection Authority of Yemen, Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife, UNDP-Yemen.

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Photo Credit: Lesser Flamingos by Mark Anderson; the CSN Tool from [www.wingsoverwetlands.org](http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org).

