



## Meeting report

### Databases and synthesis of 2013 IWC

*From 9 to 11 April 2013, Tour du Valat, France*

In the framework of Support Programme of International Waterbird Census (IWC) and conservation wetlands in the Mediterranean, a workshop on IWC in North Africa, prepared by Association “Les Amis des Oiseaux” (BirdLife Partner in Tunisia), was held the 8 and 9 October 2012 at Tunis. The participants of the workshop decided to implement several actions to improve IWC in this region such as the joint analyses of the IWC 2013 data. In order to carry on these efforts within the new network “Mediterranean Waterbirds”, Tour du Valat (TdV) and Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) invited all IWC national coordinators (NCs) from North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco) to meet from 9 to 11 April 2013 at the Tour du Valat (Le Sambuc , France). The participants of this meeting were the following:

- Mohamed Samir Sayoud (Centre cynégétique de Réghaia, DGF), Algeria.
- Wed Abdou (Nature Conservation Sector, EEA), Egypt.
- Essam Bouras (Environment General Authority, EGA), Libya.
- Khaled Etayeb (University of Tripoli), Libya.
- Mohamed Dakki (Institut Scientifique de Rabat / GREPOM), Morocco.
- Hichem Azafzaf (Association “Les Amis des Oiseaux”, AAO), Tunisia.
- Szabolcs Nagy (Wetlands International, WI), Netherlands.
- Anne-Laure Brochet, Clémence Deschamps et Christophe Germain (TdV), France.
- Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval et Pierre Defos du Rau (ONCFS), France.



Participants in the meeting of North African IWC NCs from 9 to 11 April 2013 at Tour du Valat (France) on Databases and synthesis of IWC 2013.

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**From left to right :** Germain C, Dakki M, Mondain-Monval JY, Sayoud SM, Nagy S, Defos du Rau P, Brochet AL, Etayeb K, Azafzaf H, Bouras E, Abdou W, Deschamps C.

## **Tuesday, 09.04.2013: Opening of the meeting**

The meeting started with welcome words by Mr. Jean Jalbert (director of Tour du Valat) and Mr. Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval (representative of ONCFS). This was followed by a round table. Then IWC NCs presented summaries of 2013 IWC in each country and Clémence Deschamps (TdV) presented an overview of waterbird data available in the IWC database.

The participants observed a minute of silence in tribute to Mindy Baha El Din, member of Nature Conservation Egypt, environment activist and a colleague, who had participated in the October meeting and who passed away recently.

## **09.04.2013, afternoon**

Mr S. Nagy, Mr C. Germain and Mr M. Dakki presented the Observado.org database, Medwaterbirds.net database and North African IWC information system respectively. Participants were encouraged to choose one of them to be used as a regional database for IWC in North Africa. However, the participants decided to exclude the Observado database and gave an additional period of five months for the two other databases to be completed, adapted and tested on line. It was requested by participants that data on all bird species could be input in these databases.

At the end of the day, Mr S. Nagy presented the different WI communication tools: the IWC online database, the communication facilities and the flyway level planning of monitoring activities.

## **Wednesday, 10.04.2013**

Bird watching field trips were organized by TdV and ONCFS to visit three different habitats. The first site was Vigueirat Marshes, with its rice fields, ponds, water streams and marshy habitats. Moreover, many of interesting species were observed such as Mustached Warbler, Red-Crested Pochard and Bittern. After a walk around the area, the participants attended a presentation on Vigueirat Marshes by the director of the site. The Crau was the second site visited by the participants. It is a steppe area characterized by grassland plains. Little Bustard, Lesser Kestrel, Yellow Wagtail, and Whinchat, were observed in this area. After that, the team moved to Alpilles, a mountain area with a completely different landscape from the previous sites. Fortunately, the

participants were able to see the Bonelli's Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Eurasian Sparrow hawk and Booted Eagle. A total of 66 bird species was observed during the day.

Presentation on Vigueirat Marshes by MR J.L. Lucchesi  
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### Thursday, 11.04.2013

Two sessions on synthesis of IWC 2013 in North Africa were held, led by Anne-Laure Brochet and Clémence Deschamps. These sessions were about the methods of analysis and mapping. Furthermore, informations from Birdlife International were presented about range distribution of some species. All participants were involved in a long discussion about the weak points of collecting the data and previous analyses.

### 11.04.2013, afternoon

Participants from North African countries and their partners discussed several points:

- Review of site information:

Following the presentation of the first analyses of IWC 2013 data it appeared that there are double entries of sites and wrong coordinates included in the IWC database and it was decided that WI will send by the end of April an Excel file of IWC sites included in the database for each country to the national IWC coordinators for review. The deadline for this review will be one month when the excel file will be received by IWC NCs

- With regard to the publication of IWC data: it was agreed to publish the results annually from 2013 on and to compare the data with those of previous years. In terms of the order in which authors will be mentioned it was agreed that the first author for 2013 will be the Algerian IWC NC (or a person designated by him/her). The following years the main authors will be:

Year	Country
2014	Morocco
2015	Tunisia
2016	Egypt
2017	Libya

TdV and ONCFS will also be co-authors of this publication.

- The participants designated the Tunisian IWC NC Mr. Hichem Azafzaf to coordinate between the authors and to propose the content of the publication in 2013 by e-mail before mid-May.

To summarize, the next deadlines are:

Objectives	Deadline	By who
Update the IWC sites	End May	North Africa IWC NCs
Finalise development of the databases including all the bird species	Mid September	M. Dakki and C. Germain
Submitting an article on the North Africa IWC 2013	Before the end of 2013	North Africa IWC NCs with the help of ONCFS and TdV

Before the closing of this meeting, the participants discussed the future of the Support Programme in terms of strengthening national networks of observers and regional coordination. In this context, Mr. Pierre Defos du Rau and Mr. Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval supervised the last session about the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop concerning the IWC in North Africa which will be held in Algeria from 2 to 6 June 2013. The workshop will include the AEWA focal points and the IWC NCs of North African countries (Algeria, Egypt Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia). All participants were involved in suggestions of items and headlines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop. Finally, they thanked the Algerian government, especially the Ministry of Agriculture for hosting the workshop in June 2013.

### **Acknowledgments**

The participants from North African countries have expressed their thanks to the organizers of this meeting. Special thanks to Anne-Laure Brochet for her excellent arrangements. Our heartfelt thanks also go to Pierre Defos du Rau, Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval and Clémence Deschamps. Lastly, many thanks to Tour du Valat for the hospitality and meeting facilities.

### **Report prepared by**

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