

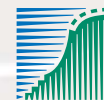
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# Waterbirds around the world

A global overview of the conservation,  
management and research of the  
world's waterbird flyways

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*Cover photography:* Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus* arriving at Martin Mere, England. Photo: Paul Marshall.  
([www.paulmarshallphotography.com](http://www.paulmarshallphotography.com))

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## 6.5 Building and sustaining capacity for waterbird conservation and research. Workshop Introduction

Tim Dodman

Wetlands International, Hundland, Papa Westray, Orkney, KW17 2BU, UK.

Dodman, T. 2006. Building and sustaining capacity for waterbird conservation and research. Workshop Introduction. *Waterbirds around the world*. Eds. G.C. Boere, C.A. Galbraith & D.A. Stroud. The Stationery Office, Edinburgh, UK. p. 883.



International collaborative projects greatly aid the transfer of skills and expertise. Training course participants counting Eurasian Cranes *Grus grus* at Lake Zharsor, Kazakhstan. Photo: Crawford Prentice.

Conserving migratory waterbirds depends not only on the commitment of many individuals but also on exchanges between networks of many different people. For conservation to be effective, these networks need to possess both practical ability and scientific know-how at all stages of migratory flyways. As there is a wide imbalance in capacity across flyways, it is thus important to develop and sustain capacity in areas where resources and experience are relatively low. This requires strategies and programmes that address training, institutional strengthening and network development.

The workshop reviewed capacity building strategies, many of which are summarised in the following papers which describe activities in west and east Africa, Central Asia and the Caucasus, and made the following recommendations:

Frameworks for establishing and implementing sub-regional strategies for capacity building need urgently to be developed. These should draw on the experiences of existing sub-regional initiatives in West Africa (Ndiaye), Central Asia (Solokha *et al.*), East Asia-Australasia and elsewhere.

Within such programmes, it is important to carry out a comprehensive training needs analysis, and to incorporate in these the requests for training and other aspects of capacity building, which will ensure a 'bottom-up' approach.

Training programmes for waterbird conservation and research should address the following main target groups:

- scientists, field workers and data managers;
- Government and local officials together with those involved with non-governmental organisations;

- Those managing wetlands or other protected areas; and
- community leaders and community groups.

They must in addition ensure the training of trainers, which is vital for execution of training.

Sub-regional training programmes should incorporate:

- academic training;
- practical training, for delivery through both regular, established courses and *ad hoc* initiatives in response to need and local situation;
- on-site field training; and
- the transfer of know-how through exchange.

These should be tailored according to needs of the target groups, to ensure that training programmes are appropriate.

In order to maximise partnerships and information exchange across the globe, it will be most cost-effective to develop transferable training modules, which may then be adapted for different levels or target groups.

Training materials in appropriate languages and formats, such as training manuals and tool-kits should be developed and disseminated.

Given that the need for training is widespread and long-term, exit strategies or self-supporting mechanisms need to be built into sub-regional training programmes to ensure their continuity.

This can include marketing training programmes, to raise funds for their execution and to gain strong local, national and international support.