

International Wader Study Group Forward Plan

Since 1992 the WSG has been following strategic directions indicated by the Odessa Protocol (drafted by conference participants at a meeting in Odessa, Ukraine). Table 1 indicates the achievements of WSG (and other relevant parties) against the strategic objectives outlined in the protocol. Table 2 indicates a selection of further actions that would benefit integrated flyway conservation (involving a variety of possible lead organisations as well as WSG). Over the course of the next three years, WSG will seek to further implement aspects of the Protocol and act catalytically to facilitate the uptake of the key flyway management issues highlighted in Table 2 by others.

The Group's overall aims and objectives will remain the same as stated in WSG's constitution (1.1). Actions to develop particular issues are highlighted below

Table 1: WSG summary of achievements against 1996-98 plan objectives

1996-98 triennial plan objectives	Achievements against plan objectives
<p>Aims The Wader Study Group will continue to develop its rôle as an international association of amateurs and professionals from all parts of the world interested in Charadrii. It will continue to provide a major forum for world-wide wader (shorebird) research, with the objective over the next three years of developing stronger links with members in the Pacific-Australasia and Western Hemisphere regions.</p>	<p>The WSG has continued to develop the scope and coverage of its work, initiating new projects and completing others. It has enhanced links globally and developed a range of co-ordination mechanisms. It has sought to further develop partnerships between amateurs and professionals as well as other organisations with complementary aims both national and international.</p>
<p>Priority issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved links (in parallel with IWRB/AWB/ WA developments) with wader groups in the Pacific-Australasia region and the Western Hemisphere. 2. Improved delivery of species and geographical coverage of wader population estimates, in the Western Palearctic and elsewhere. 3. Improved coverage of Arctic breeding conditions data for waders. 4. Improved flow of compiled baseline information on waders through expanded publication base. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Links have continued to improve, with formal co-operation with the Australasian Wader Studies Group developed. 2. There have been a series of related initiatives to develop expertise networks and technical workshops to support Wetland International's redevelopment of its database of wader counts and thus population estimates as outlined elsewhere. 3. Project and database established. 4. WSG's publications programme continues to develop with three <i>IWS</i> volumes published and eight <i>Bulletins</i> published since 1966, containing many review papers, notably that in 1997 of Piersma, Wiersma & Gils (<i>WSG Bulletin</i> 82: 22-33) reviewing global knowledge of plovers and sandpipers.
<p>Priority actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish three times per year <i>Wader Study Group Bulletin</i>, ensuring wide international coverage of subjects. <i>International Wader Studies</i>, each covering a species, topic or geographical area. Volumes in preparation for publication during this triennium include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wader Study Methods</i> Parts one and two; • <i>Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere</i>; • <i>Monitoring, conservation and management of shorebirds in the Great Basin, USA</i>; • <i>Migration and international conservation of</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieved. Three <i>Bulletins</i> published annually amounting to 541 published pages in seven issues since 1996 (average 77 pages/issue). Reed, M.J., Warnock, N., & Oring, L.W. (eds.) 1997. Conservation and management of shorebirds in the Western Great Basin of North America. <i>International Wader Studies</i> 9. 81 pp. Hötter, H., Lebedeva, E., Tomkovich, Gromadzka, J., Davidson, N.C., Evans, J., Stroud, D.A. & West, R.B. (eds.) 1998. Migration and international conservation of waders: Research and conservation on north Asian, African and European flyways. <i>International Wader Studies</i> 10. 526 pp. Hicklin, P. (ed.) 1996. Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere. <i>International Wader Studies</i> 8. 136 pp.

<p>waders; <i>Research and conservation on European and North Asian flyways</i>; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kentish Plovers in Europe</i>. 	<p>Papers intended for <i>Kentish Plovers in Europe</i> will now be published in <i>WSG Bulletin</i>. <i>Wader Study Methods</i> Part one due for publication late 1999 <i>Wader Study Methods</i> Part two due for publication in 2000</p>
<p>3. Establish a network of regional research group co-ordinators especially in the Western Hemisphere and Pacific/Australasia.</p> <p>4. Prepare a Wader Monitoring Action Plan for developing co-ordination of expanded Western Palearctic wader population estimates, so as to deliver on three-year and nine-year update cycles for the Ramsar Convention and to provide information to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds(AEWA) under the Bonn Convention. Effective delivery depends on the planned redevelopment by IWRB/IBN-DLO of the Western Palearctic Wader Database. Several WSG projects and initiatives will be developed to support this work, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Breeding waders in Europe II; ii. Non-estuarine wader counts in the UK and elsewhere; iii. Establishment of a 'surveys co-ordinator' to encourage gap-filling in geographical coverage; iv. Establishment, in conjunction with the IWRB Goose Research Group and others, of an annual Arctic breeding conditions survey and database. 	<p>3. Regional co-ordinators not yet formally appointed, although options considered and candidates identified.</p> <p>4. Monitoring Action Plan to be developed in next triennium. Action since 1996 has focused on assisting the complete redevelopment of the Western Palearctic Wader Database by Wetlands International, and the derivation of new estimates for as many Western Palearctic wader populations (especially East Atlantic Flyway populations) as possible. Next stages will involve promoting a strategic overview of current international census and monitoring activity to ensure programmed revision of international population estimates occur without the need for special activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Programme of proposed work developed by project steering group in 1996 and presented and discussed at a one-day technical workshop on 11 August 1997. ii. Project developed by UK WeBS partnership and fieldwork undertaken during winter 1997/98 in 14 European countries (from Iceland and Norway in the north to Croatia and Turkey in the south). iii. Survey co-ordinator post created within Executive Committee at 1996 Annual General Meeting. Post currently vacant and under re-evaluation. iv. Survey forms for six different arctic regions designed and agreed in 1996. Project currently being run from Moscow funded by Wetlands International. v. With WIWO, plan, undertake and publish results of census/surveys of the Banc d'Arguin and Baie d'Arguin, Mauritania in January and February 1997, and plan and undertake surveys in Cameroon in January/February 1998.
<p>Group structure and management will continue as present, but planned are:</p>	<p>Continuing to develop Group structure. Means of closer co-ordination with Australasian Wader Studies Group discussed at special meeting of Executive Committees in Brisbane in 1996 leading to the drafting of a Memorandum of Agreement summarising key areas of future co-operation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved links outside Western Palearctic developed through regional co-ordinators; 2. Stronger representation in the Western Hemisphere developed in association with the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network; 3. Target of 10% increase in membership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional co-ordinators not yet formally appointed 2. Liaison and communication with WHSN and North American wader networks further developed and strengthened. 3. Membership effectively stable during period. 4. Additional work undertaken to legalise status of WSG through development of a full constitution and registration as a Society in The Netherlands.

Table 2: WSG Action Plan for 1998-2001

Priority issues for action	Priority intended actions	Other actions to be pursued as possibilities and funding permit
<p>1. Improved links (in parallel with IWRB/ AWB/WA developments) with other wader groups in the Pacific-Australasia region and the Western Hemisphere and with other Wetlands International Specialist Groups.</p>	<p>1a. Formalise draft Memorandum of Agreement between WSG and AWSG.</p> <p>1b. Develop closer links with the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.</p> <p>1c. Establish network of regional co-ordinators with clear guidance as to roles (e.g. development of links with WSG project activity and needs of WI regional offices <i>etc.</i>).</p> <p>1d. Develop more effective networking within the WSG.</p>	

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2.	<p>1e. Continue to develop, as an international common standard, the WSG Colour-marking Register (co-ordination of registration of wader colour-marking schemes (permanent and temporary marks)) and identification of colour-marking sightings for much of Europe.</p> <p>2a. Develop Wader Monitoring Action Plan in the context of anticipated Wetland International global review of global waderbird monitoring schemes.</p> <p>2b. Continue to further develop - to global extent - WSG's species expert network and undertake questionnaire survey of WSG membership in 1999.</p> <p>2c. Finalise and publish review of East Atlantic Flyway population estimates.</p> <p>2d. Commence review of other wader population estimates in the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement area, starting with the Black-Sea Mediterranean flyway.</p> <p>2e. Complete and publish data collected by the European Non-Estuarine Coastal Waterfowl Census of winter 1997/98.</p> <p>2f. Complete fieldwork for the WSG project Tringa glareola 2000 in autumn 2000, commence analysis of results and seek funds for publication of results in <i>IWS</i> series.</p> <p>2g. Publish results from 1998 WSG Cameroon expedition.</p> <p>2h. Further develop WSG project Breeding waders in Europe 2000 and (funding permitting) publish summary of phase 1 data in <i>IWS</i> series.</p> <p>2i. Complete and publish results of WSG Spring Ruff Census project.</p> <p>2j. Continue to work with WI on the development of the database of national and international wader census data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to 'Global Waterbird Alliance' of monitoring schemes - to improve information flow for international analyses - when/if established by Wetlands International
3.	<p>3a. Collate information on wader populations to underpin national and international conservation initiatives.</p> <p>3b. Co-operate with BirdLife International on the revision of wader accounts for the ornithological Red List in 2000 (<i>Birds to Watch III</i>).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of knowledge on globally threatened waders and populations, possibly developing an Action Plan for globally threatened waders.

Priority issues for action

Priority intended actions

Other actions to be pursued as possibilities and funding permit

3b.	Develop project with Wetlands international on African-Eurasian wader flyway atlas .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the degree to which existing site network provides effective coverage of globally threatened waders and develop shadow list of possible Ramsar sites that would contribute to the conservation of globally threatened waders (joint project with other Waterbird Specialist Groups).
3c.	Liaise with and offer assistance to the US Shorebird Conservation Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and facilitate an Asia-Pacific wader flyway atlas.
4.	Improve collation of data on arctic breeding conditions for waterbirds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to compile annual summaries of data for breeding waders and make these data accessible on a web site.
4b.	Circulate questionnaire forms and publish summary of results collected to date, if funds permit in the <i>IWS</i> series by 2001.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile population distributions including identification of Range States for waders on all other flyways.
5.	Improved flow of compiled baseline information on waders through expanded publication base.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish methodological standards drawing on 1993 workshop conclusions and other inputs.
5a.	Continue to publish and develop content of the thrice yearly <i>Wader Study Group Bulletin</i> , aiming to expand content to reflect WSG activity and ensuring wide international coverage of subjects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to develop to an advanced stage (or publish) at least three of other titles in the IWS series by 2001, possibly including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase one of Breeding waders in Europe 2000 Tringa glareola 2000 Proceedings of 5th Woodcock & Snipe Workshop (jointly with Woodcock & Snipe Specialist Group) Curlew Sandpiper Workshop European NEWS Arctic breeding conditions 1980-2000 International Wader Monitoring Action Plan
5b.	Publish, as funding permits, further volumes of <i>International Wader Studies</i> , each covering a species, topic or geographical area. Aim to publish three volumes this triennium including: <i>Wader Study Methods</i> Part one due for publication in late 1999. <i>Wader Study Methods</i> Part two due for publication in late 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop the dissemination of WSG project outputs via its WWW site.
5c.	Market, distribute and promote <i>IWS 10 (Migration and international conservation of waders: Research and conservation on north Asian, African and European flyways)</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop sourcebook and comparative assessment of species/populations on each flyway.
5d.	Publish in <i>WSG Bulletin</i> the final results from WSG Kentish Plover project .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Identification and Ageing of Holarctic Waders and publish in modular fashion.
5e.	Develop WSG web site.	

Priority issues for action

Priority intended actions

Other actions to be pursued as possibilities and funding permit

- Publish final results from WSG's **Inland Wader Counts Project** which commenced in 1979.
- Continue to **undertake single-species reviews** (e.g. as for Knots *Calidris canutus*) as expertise permits. Other priority species could include *Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta*.

6. Develop group structure and management.

- 6a. **Further develop and formalise links with regional wader study groups** as to provide effective global coverage (see also section 1).
- 6b. **Develop existing 'species expert' network** through circulation of comprehensive questionnaire of members interests/expertise in 1999.
- 6c. **Revise and update Memorandum of Agreement** between IWRB (now Wetlands International) and WSG.
- 6d. Continue to **develop WSG membership** with a target of 700 subscribing members by 2001.
- 6e. Especially **seek membership** in countries and regions with known active wader workers but current poor WSG involvement (target countries especially include Australia, France, Ireland, South Africa, Hungary, New Zealand and Israel).
- 6f. **Review WSG's gratis membership list** and refocus in pursuing action 1c.
- 6g. **Hold annual conferences** (each comprising and Annual General Meeting, two days of general conference, followed by a one day workshop on a specialist theme) as follows:
1999: France
2000: UK (possible theme of conference or workshop: 'back to basics' - catching, ringing and marking as tools for understanding wader biology).
2001: The Netherlands (possible theme of conference or workshop: i) the state of wader science and research; ii) a review of current global knowledge of wader flyways and iii) implementation of flyway-scale conservation initiatives such as reserve networks and desired 'best practise' guidance)
- 6h. **Complete registration as a Society** in The Netherlands by end of 1999.

See also 1c.

7. Provision of advice and information to Wetlands International and others.

- 7a. **Use group networks** and expertise to respond to requests for information as volunteer co-ordinator time permits.
- 7b. Develop closer links and **co-operation with IUCN-SSC** and their strategic objectives with regard to waders.
- See also 3a and 3b.

Table 3. Implementation of the Odessa Protocol, 1992-1998

Note. This table described international wader research and conservation activity in the parts of the world that are the focus of the Odessa Protocol - Asia, Europe, Africa and Australasia. Other similar activities are underway in the Americas, notably through the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). The WHSRN initiative pre-dates the Odessa Protocol and has provided a model for some of the activities summarised below, especially those in the Asia-Pacific region.

Key

- AEWA African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
- AWC African Waterfowl Census
- A-PMWCS Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy
- AWC Asian Waterfowl Census
- AWSG Australasian Wader Studies Group
- BOU British Ornithologists' Union
- CoP Conference of Parties
- EFNCP European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism
- IWC International Waterfowl Census
- WHSRN Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
- WIWO Foundation Working Group International Wader and Waterfowl Research
- WSG International Wader Study Group
- WWF World-wide Fund for Nature

Odessa Protocol clauses	WSG actions		Relevant actions by others	
	undertaken/in progress	proposed	undertaken/in progress	proposed
<p>Flyway conservation strategies</p> <p>1. STRESSES the need for the production of international flyway conservation strategies for each of the wader flyways (East Atlantic, Mediterranean/Black Sea, West Asia/Africa, Central Asia/India; East Asia/Australasia), and recommends that the Wader Study Group should co-ordinate the production of such strategies;</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in 1996 • Finalisation of Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (A-PMWCS): 1996-2000 • Development of Action Plan for A-PMWCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed expansion of AEWA Action Plan to cover waders
<p>International site networks</p> <p>2. UNDERLINES the importance of the identification and effective conservation of international networks of sites and areas on which these birds depend;</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed African-Eurasian wader flyways atlas will contribute to knowledge base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement of East-Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network at Ramsar CoP6 and designation of 19 sites by 7 countries (by January 1998) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEWA to co-ordinate flyway network of protected areas in African-Eurasian Region

		WSG actions		Relevant actions by others	
Odessa Protocol clauses		undertaken/in progress	proposed	undertaken/in progress	proposed
<p>Common data standards</p> <p>3. RECOMMENDS that, to allow geographical comparisons and time-series monitoring, common standards for field methodology and data collection and handling be adopted by all organisations for work on wader populations, and that close co-ordination of systems depending on data exchange, such as ringing centres and other databases, be enhanced;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on field techniques held at WSG Conference in 1993 to identify best practise standard methods • Two <i>Wader study methods</i> volumes in prep., compiling research methods papers published in <i>WSG Bulletin</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of methodological standards drawing on workshop conclusions and other inputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEW, production of conservation guidelines relating to: single species Action plans; emergency measures; preparation of site inventories and habitat management methods; hunting practises; trade in waterbirds; tourism; reducing crop damage; and a waterbird monitoring protocol; in order to underpin implementation of AEW • Global review of waterbird monitoring programmes (Wetlands International) to enhance basis for making waterbird population estimates 		
<p>Resources for research in northern Asia</p> <p>4. RECOMMENDS that governments and non-governmental organisations provide resources to address present urgent needs in the study and conservation of waders in eastern Europe and northern Asia (especially Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tadzhikistan) which provide the areas of breeding and non-breeding usage for a high proportion of these shared populations;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than three person-years voluntary time contributed by WSG members to the editorial work required for this volume 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK's Darwin Initiative • Dutch government support for research in Siberian arctic and taiga regions • Joint Swedish-Russian Tundra Ecology Expedition 94 • Recent WIWO expeditions (<i>WIWO Forward Plan 1994-1998</i> gives strategic direction) • BOU has given priority in its small grants to projects in eastern Europe and northern Asia • EFNCP has extended its work to central and eastern Europe • BirdLife International and WWF has undertaken relevant activities impinging on waders 		

Odessa Protocol clauses	WSG actions		Relevant actions by others	
	undertaken/in progress	proposed	undertaken/in progress	proposed
<p>Transfer of expertise</p> <p>5. EMPHASISES that all countries can learn from the experience of others and recommends that those people and organisations with experience in particular aspects should assist others by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing training and training materials, including publications, assisting in establishing compatible databases, arranging exchange visits, supporting and helping to arrange conferences, continuing co-ordination of colour-marking schemes, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training given during WSG expeditions to Banc d'Arguin, Senegal (1997) and Cameroons (1998) Arctic breeding wader database established Guidance on redevelopment of Wetlands International wader counts database Facilitation of editorial team meetings held at WSG meetings in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 & 1997 Conferences held in Hungary (1992), UK (1993), Germany (1994), Portugal (1995), Belgium (1996), Denmark (1997) Workshops held on Dumlins (1993), wader field techniques (1994), Kentish Plovers (1995), E. Atlantic flyway population sizes (1996), breeding waders in Europe (1997) WSG Colour Mark Register maintained and further developed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands International's training programme has targeted eastern and central Europe Several journal publishers are making their journals available at reduced rates Wetlands International establish international wader database to hold data from International Waterfowl Census and other sources (1997-1998) Much activity by BirdLife International Conference on Shorebird conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region convened by the Australasian WSG - 1996 Wetlands International developing draft colour-marking protocol for waders on East Asian-Australasian flyway and seeking widespread adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands International 2nd International Conference on Wetlands and development, Senegal 1998 - included flyway conservation workshop

Odessa Protocol clauses	WSG actions		Relevant actions by others	
	undertaken/in progress	proposed	undertaken/in progress	proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting with publication of results and raising public awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued publication of <i>Wader Study Group Bulletin</i> three times a year • Establishment of WSG WWW site • Establishment of <i>International Wader Studies</i> as second WSG publication series and publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Numbers and distribution of waterbirds in the Wadden Sea</i> - 1994 • <i>Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere</i> - 1996 • <i>Conservation and management of shorebirds in the Western Great Basin of North America</i> - 1996 • <i>Odessa proceedings volume</i> - 1999 • WSG continues to act and develop its rôle as Specialist Group for waders for both Wetlands International and IUCN's Species Survival Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued commitment to develop scope and content of <i>Wader Study Group Bulletin</i> • Further development of WSG WWW site • Anticipated publication of <i>International Wader Studies</i> volumes on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wader study methods: practical papers published in the WSG Bulletin. Part 1. Catching and handling birds and data</i> - 1999 • <i>Part 2. Feeding, census and survey techniques</i> - 2000 • Agreement of co-operation drafted between WSG and AWSG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication (1996) by Wetlands International of <i>Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 1996-2000</i> • Publication of <i>Shorebird Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region</i> by AWSG – 1997 • AEWA open for signature since 1996 (see above). • Slender-billed Curlew Memorandum of Agreement 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging further bilateral and multilateral agreements on co-operation; <p>and underlines the facilitating role which the Wader Study Group and other international organisations can play in these respects;</p> <p>Collaboration between volunteers & professionals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSG commitment to further such links through all of its activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many such initiatives included above 		
<p>6. RECOMMENDS that collaboration between volunteers and professionals be actively encouraged, with initial building of confidence, feedback of information, and other support;</p>				

Odessa Protocol clauses	WSG actions		Relevant actions by others	
	undertaken/in progress	proposed	undertaken/in progress	proposed
<p>Use of existing information</p> <p>7. RECOMMENDS that full use is made of existing relevant information, which should be made available, after being gathered by simple techniques including questionnaires, initially on aspects such as site inventories of wader habitats, information on trends in wader population sizes with time, and analyses of human activities potentially affecting these habitats;</p> <p>Collaborative flyway research</p> <p>8. RECOMMENDS that programmes of research into crucial gaps in knowledge of the biology of waders be developed by the collaboration of relevant organisations along flyway routes;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordination of international database collating information on arctic breeding conditions Ramsar Convention calls for further development of International Waterfowl Census (1996: Res. C. VI.4) as a basis for the identification of site networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> production of flyway atlas of wader populations in Africa and Eurasia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three-yearly publication cycle of <i>Waterfowl Population Estimates</i> by Wetlands International commenced 1994 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed funding of flyway atlas of wader populations in Africa Eurasia by Wetlands International and others
<p>Collaborative flyway research</p> <p>8. RECOMMENDS that programmes of research into crucial gaps in knowledge of the biology of waders be developed by the collaboration of relevant organisations along flyway routes;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International collaborative research facilitated by WSG projects on: Non-Estuarine Coastal Waterfowl Counts - 1997/98 Ruff migration project - 1997-1999 collaborative WTW/WSG/National Park authorities survey of Banc d'Arguin (1997) Cameroon (1998) research survey to provide new population estimates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSG survey project on Slender-billed Curlew and Sociable Plover in Kazakhstan (planned for 1999) Global wader flyway characteristics: compilation of a sourcebook for flyway conservation strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timetable for future revision of international waterfowl population estimates endorsed by Ramsar Contracting Parties at CoP6 - 1996 (Res. C.VI.4) 	
<p>Implementing international agreements</p> <p>9. RECOMMENDS that all states along wader flyways sign and implement relevant international agreements;</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEWA signed and/or ratified by The Netherlands, Sudan, Germany, Guinea, Ireland, UK, Switzerland, Jordan, Egypt, Mali, Morocco, Togo, Luxembourg, Equatorial Guinea, Spain, Greece and the European Community (as at June 1998) Since 1992, many new Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention and new designated wetlands of international importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Conference of Parties to AEWA scheduled for October 1999

Some recommended future priority activities for wader flyway conservation

Topic	Suggested activities	Possible lead organisation(s)
Improving the knowledge base		
Characteristics of flyway populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sourcebook and comparative assessment of species/populations on each flyway review of knowledge on globally threatened wader species and populations 	WSG AWSG/WSG/WHSRN
Population distributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to undertake single-species reviews (e.g. as for Knots <i>Calidris canutus</i>) as expertise permits, including publication of Kentish Plover <i>C. alexandrinus</i> results. Other priority species could include Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>. African-Eurasian wader flyway atlas Asia-Pacific wader flyway atlas 	WSG Wetlands International/WSG ?Wetlands International/AWSG
Population sizes and trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> compilation of population distributions including identification of Range States on all other flyways Development of the IWC especially in poorly covered areas (as requested by the Ramsar Convention in 1996) Co-ordination of international wader monitoring via IWC 	WSG Wetlands International Wetlands International/WSG
Proportions of populations in protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> further development and maintenance of wader counts database maintenance, development and accessibility of IWC component censuses (WPWC, AfWC, AWC) to provide key wader count data for population assessments as requested by the Ramsar Convention global review of waterbird monitoring programmes and development of a global census alliance as basis of improving inputs to waterbird population estimates update on East Atlantic flyway populations, including non-estuarine species review of population sizes on Black Sea - Mediterranean flyway development of wader species expert network for advice on population sizes/trends 	Wetlands International Wetlands International Wetlands International WSG WSG WSG WSG for AEW
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> global Ramsar site coverage of threatened wader populations prioritisation of training needs required 	WSG with Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group Wetlands International
Flyway conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan for globally threatened waders Development of a flyway conservation strategy (and wader reserve network) for the East Atlantic flyway 	AWSG/WSG/?WHSRN/IUCN-SSC AEWA to refine requirements