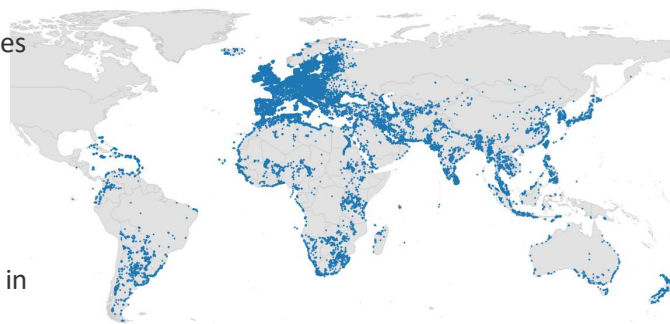




Good day to all, I am very pleased to present an introduction to the global IWC programme, of which the Asian Waterbird Census is an important part. This presentation is given on behalf of Taej Mundkur of Wetlands International, Coordinator of the Asian and global Census, who could not be with us today.

What is the International Waterbird Census?

- A worldwide monitoring programme, covering all waterbird species
- Initiated in 1967, it is the longest running global citizen science biodiversity monitoring programme
- Includes 5 regional schemes
 - Africa-Eurasia (AEWC)
 - Asia-Pacific (AWC)
 - Caribbean (CWC)
 - Neotropics (CNAAC)
 - Central America (CAC)
- Counts repeated annually in January and February – plus extra counts in South America in July



More on : www.wetlands.org/IWC
Contact: awc@wetlands.org



The IWC is a worldwide monitoring programme, covering all waterbird species. Initiated in 1967, it is the longest running global citizen science biodiversity monitoring programme, with tens of thousands of volunteer participants like yourself contributing to the success of the programme.

Globally, it includes 5 regional schemes

- Africa-Eurasia (AEWC), Asia (AWC) and Neotropics (CNAAC) coordinated by Wetlands International
- Caribbean (CWC) by Birds Caribbean
- Central America (CAC) by Manomet

The counts are repeated annually in January and February in most regions. In addition, plus extra counts in and South America in July

Objectives of the IWC

Coordinated waterbird counts across the world

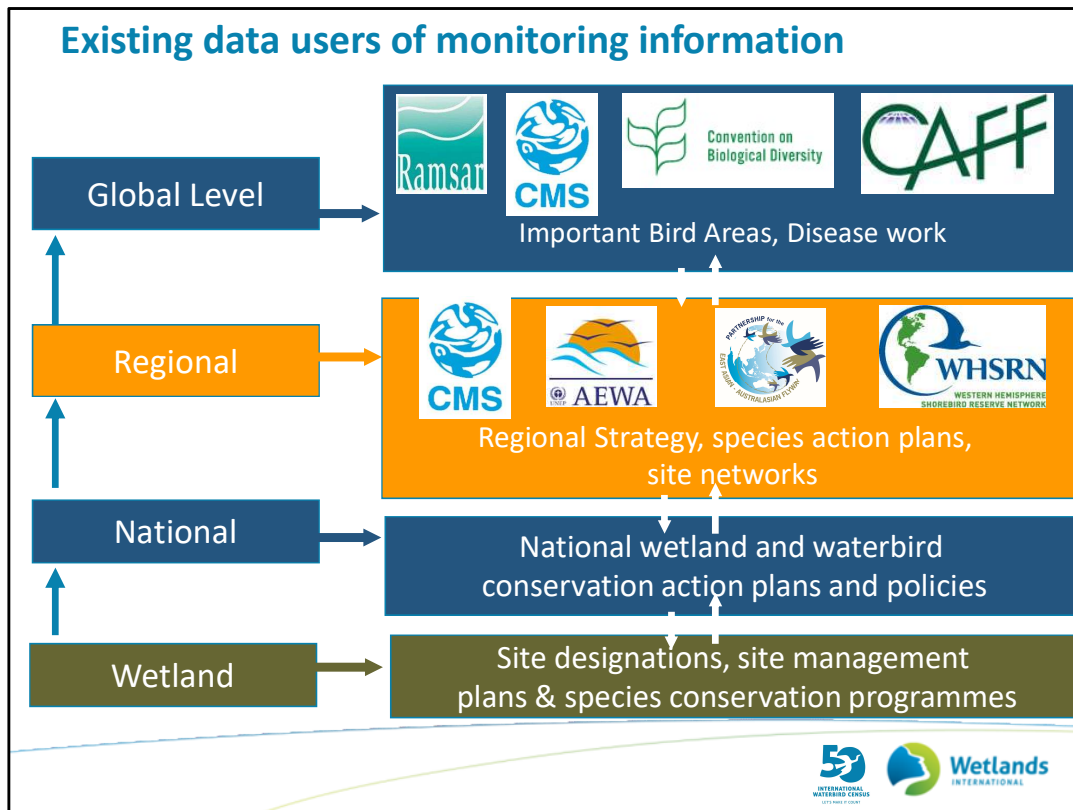


1. Obtain information of waterbird populations at wetlands on an annual basis, for monitoring of populations and evaluation of sites
2. Monitor the status and condition of wetlands on an annual basis
3. Encourage greater interest in waterbirds and wetlands amongst people, and thereby promote the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds.



The main objectives of the IWC globally are to :

1. Obtain information of waterbird populations at wetlands on an annual basis, for monitoring of populations and evaluation of sites
2. Monitor the status and condition of wetlands on an annual basis
3. Encourage greater interest in waterbirds and wetlands amongst people, and thereby promote the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds.

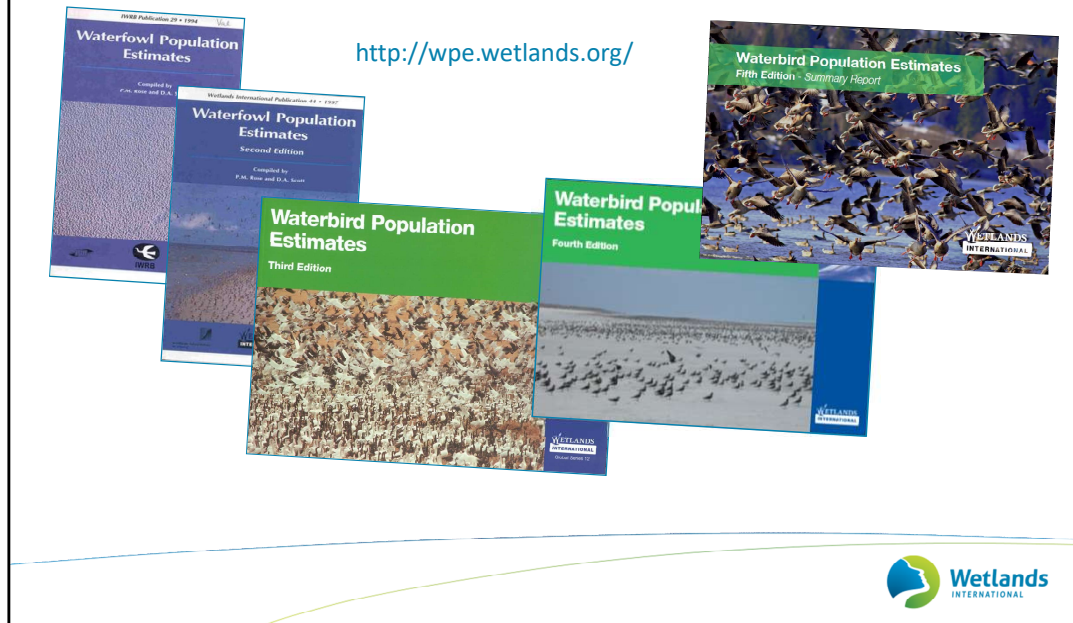


We see here the existing data users of the IWC at different levels.

- Starting at the site level, it has been most useful in site designations, site management plans & species conservation programmes
- While at national level, the information feeds into a range of National wetland and waterbird conservation action plans and policies
- At the flyway or regional level, it strongly supports the
- At the global level, it feeds into work to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention, Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on Biological Diversity.
- As well monitoring of Important Bird Areas. The IWC information has contributed greatly to Avian influenza research that affects poultry, people and waterbirds.

Waterbird Population Estimates

1994, 1997, 2002, 2006, 2012



The IWC information has provided core information to development of the Waterbird Population Estimates, five editions of which have been produced to date. Importantly, it is also available online now at the website. The WPE serves as the main source of information for the official designation of Ramsar sites, Flyway Network sites and much more.

What sites are monitored in the IWC?

National Parks

Sanctuaries

Community Conservation Areas

Ramsar Sites

World Heritage Sites

East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network Sites

Western/Central Asian Flyway Site Network

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA)

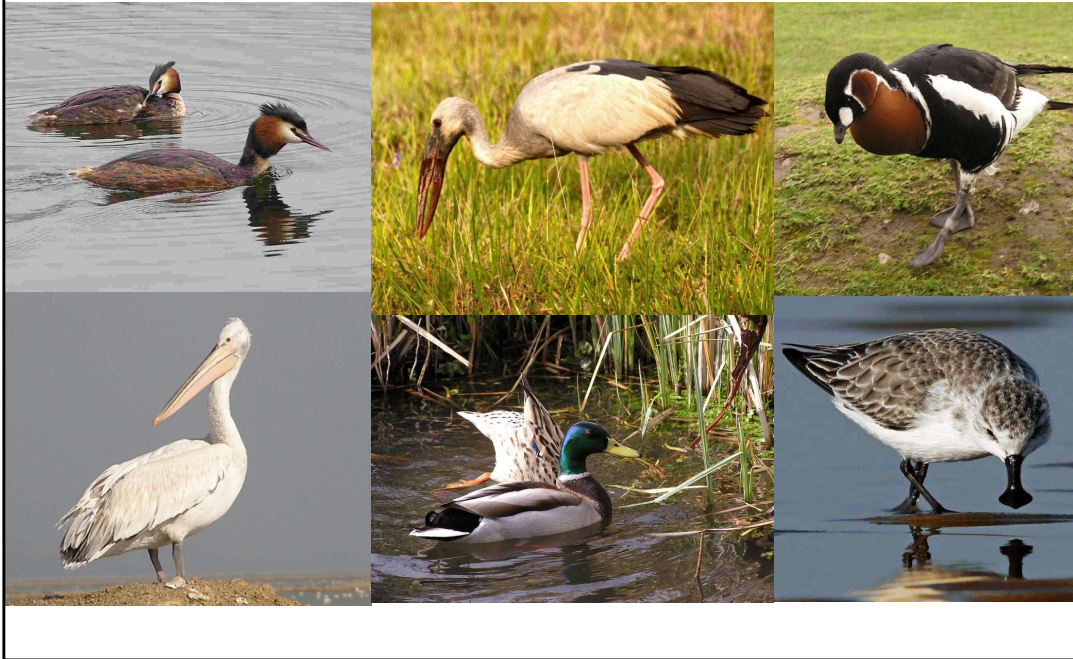
Privately owned areas

Unprotected areas

The IWC covers a wide range of wetland habitats including National Parks, Sanctuaries, Community Conservation Areas, Ramsar Sites, World Heritage Sites, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network Sites (Malaysia participates in this), Western/Central Asian Flyway Site Network, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites (in the Americas), Privately owned areas, Unprotected areas.

Many of these are also Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

Diversity of waterbird families covered by IWC



Here are the main groups of waterbirds being covered by the census, includes grebes, storks, geese, pelican, ducks, shorebirds, not all of which are recorded in Malaysia



As well as cranes, herons, terns, other shorebirds, moorhen, gulls, jacanas, flamingo and cormorants.

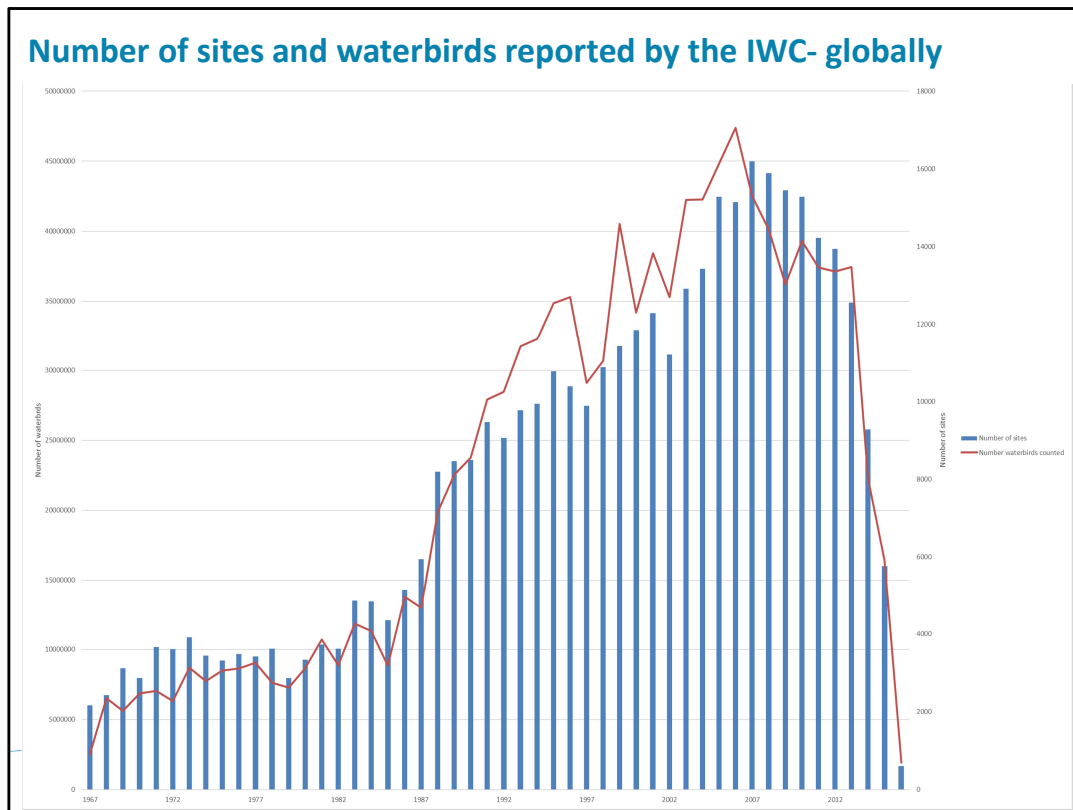
Why is the IWC important?

"IWC provides us with the scientific basis of actions for conservation. Without data, no action will be taken."

A quote from *Ms Kaori Tsujita*, former IWC National Coordinator for Japan, Japanese Ministry of the Environment



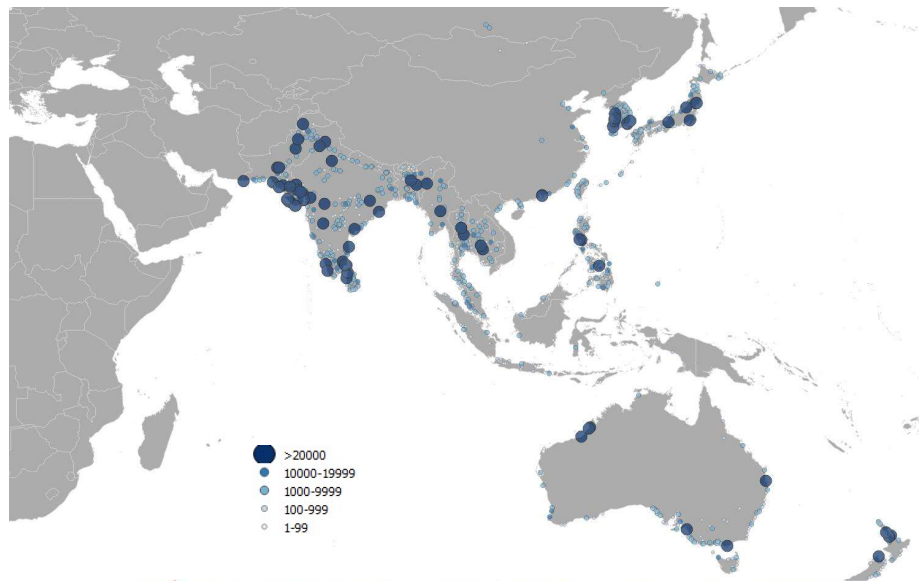
Read from the slide



Here we see how the global count has grown over time and having started in 1967 is the longest running programme. The blue bar gives the number of sites and red line the total number waterbirds reported.

The recent decline is more because of data lag, including from Malaysia

Total waterbirds reported to the Asian Waterbird Census (2008-2015)



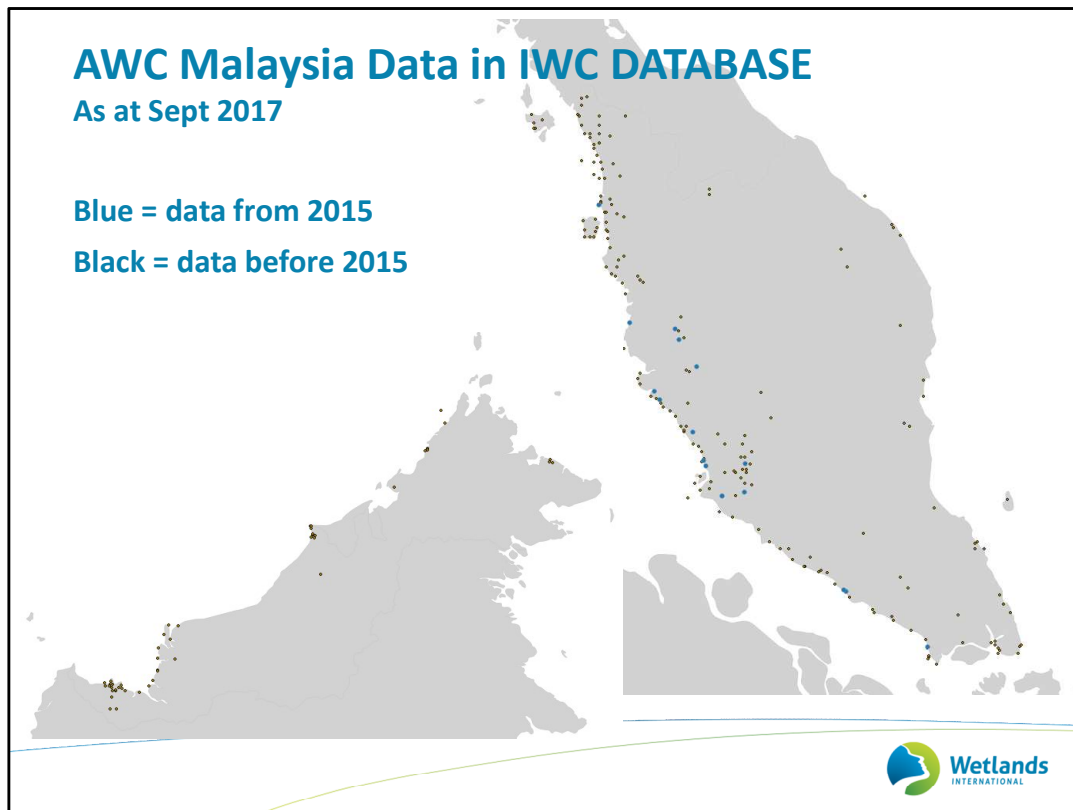
Source: Mundkur, T., Langendoen, T. and Watkins, D. (eds.) 2017. *The Asian Waterbird Census 2008-2015 - results of coordinated counts in Asia and Australasia*. Wetlands International, Ede.



Here we see the total waterbirds reported to Asian Waterbird Census for the 2008 to 2015 seasons.

The dark blue circles are sites supporting over 20000 waterbirds, with lighter blue dots locations where smaller numbers were reported.

We will look at the counts from Malaysia next.



Here you see locations where the count data is available at the Wetlands International IWC Database from Malaysia.

The blue dots are locations for which 2015 data is submitted. The black and red dots are locations of earlier data.

Data for the 2016 and 2017 counts have not been submitted yet.

We encourage participants to submit your counts to MNS by February at the latest, so that these can be collated and reported to Wetlands International by July


This will allow for your counts to be included in the online reports – we see this in a later slide.

Network of AWC Coordinators



13

The AWC is coordinated in each country by a volunteer national coordinator, which may be the government agency or a NGO.
In Malaysia, the MNS coordinates the AWC

Using a Standard Monitoring Methodology	
 <p>Guidance on waterbird monitoring methodology: Field Protocol for waterbird counting</p> <p>Report prepared by Wetlands International</p> <p>March 2010</p> <p>Page 1 of 15</p>	<p>Contents</p> <p>Common Standards and field protocol for waterbird counting</p> <p>1. What are waterbirds?</p> <p>2. Why count waterbirds?</p> <p>3. What is the International Waterbird Census?</p> <p>4. Where to count waterbirds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site delimitation Counting complex sites Priority sites The importance of regular, standardized counting <p>5. How to count waterbirds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binoculars Telescope Identification Guide Notebook & pencil Electronic recording devices Tally counter Maps and GPS Recorders Identification Counting techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites prone to variable flooding or freezing Ground Count Boat Survey Aerial Survey Expeditions What to record How to count in "blocks" The importance of recording zero counts Specialised methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roost counts Counts of colonially nesting species Separate counts of different age and sex classes <p>6. When to count waterbirds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The January Census The advantages of more frequent census <p>7. Record keeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field records Site forms Count forms <p>8. Linking waterbird monitoring with other conservation and research activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording marked birds IBA monitoring

It is very important that the counts are done in a standard way, so that the results are of high quality and can be used for analysis and reporting.

Guidance has been made available. We encourage participants to download and familiarise themselves with this information. Coordinators also encouraged counting through organizing local training of the network.

Introduction to AWC Methodology

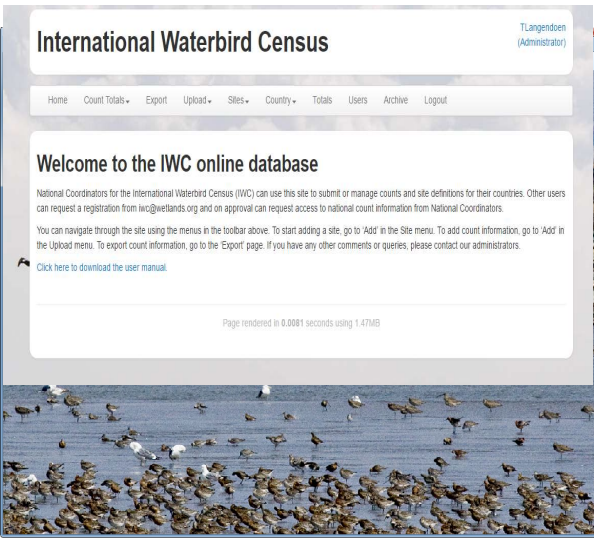
Standardising site definitions

- A key part of consistent coverage is recording the areas counted in a site – “count units”
- These units must be covered consistently year to year to be comparable. Typically, we advise an area that takes up to 3 hours to cover – this could then cover an entire site or just a part of a site. Boundaries should follow natural features which are easy to discern in the field, and should as far as possible reflect the usage of sites by birds.
- First step : drawing boundaries of “count units” – this can be done in google maps, google earth, GIS software or the IWC online database.
- To ensure consistent participant coverage each year – a site protocol can help. This is a simple guide prepared that provides details of the route, count points, timing and likely duration of a count.



One improvement we are encouraging is collecting standard information on sites as outlined here.

IWC Online Data Database



<http://iwc.wetlands.org/>

Purpose:

- For national & state coordinators to upload and review count information and generate reports
- Provide summary data for public access

Status:

- Finalised for Asia in 2016

Plans for 2017/2018:

- To improve site coverage and consistency display make location information publicly available

The count information participants collect is centrally by MNS and provided to Wetlands International.

To improve and streamline data flow at the national and international level a new online data management system is operational since last year. There are plans for future developments to improve information sharing.

Interactive Summary Reports through IWC online...

Year ▼

Region order ▼

Scientific name ▼

Common name ▼

Waterbird ▼

Red list ▼

Count ▼

Taxonomic order ▼

Month ▼

Region ▼

Country ▼

		Year					Totals
Region	Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
South-East Asia	Brunei	22	540	349	566	153	1,630
	Cambodia	110,157	27,449	94,403	63,194		295,203
	Indonesia	9,626	133	8,382	12,185		30,326
	Malaysia	5,525	987	4,669	35,177		46,358
	Myanmar		13,586	72	3,792		17,450
	Philippines	356,938	405,800	287,807	301,641	239,923	1,592,109
	Thailand	133,615	125,883	77,477			336,975
	Vietnam	5,637	2,826		10,368		18,831
Totals		621,620	577,204	473,159	426,923	240,076	2,338,882

<http://iwc.wetlands.org/>

17



The IWC online system provides summarised information to the public. Here it is possible to view different data, such as annual totals per country or species, by choosing different options.

IWC50 campaign

Let's Make It Count



Background

- 2016 marked the 50th count of the global IWC

Highlights

- In Jan/Feb 2016, 14 new countries participated
- Additional volunteers participated in many countries
- New important sites covered in several countries
- Greater involvement of governments and corporates supporting counts
- Widespread press coverage



Read text from the slide

Indian Ocean Coastal Waterbird Counts, January/February 2017



- Well promoted and new sites covered in several countries
- British Indian Ocean Territory and Timor Leste actively participated



And in 2017, the focus was on coastal sites and a special Indian Ocean Coastal Waterbird Counts, January/February 2017 was organised.

Impressive results have been submitted from most countries along the Indian Ocean, including many new sites along coasts and islands. These will be appearing on the IWC online website later this year. Hopefully counts from coastal sites from west Peninsular Malaysia will be submitted soonest.

Get involved in the AWC 2018!




- Support your local network:
 - join the counts
 - help train new counters
 - provide funding or logistical support to ensure the counts can go ahead.
- Collect information to promote the designation of [critical sites](#) as Ramsar Sites, Important Bird Areas, EAAF network sites and lobby decision-makers to protect additional areas.
- Get involved in the conservation of your local wetlands as a volunteer.
- Raise awareness: host events in wetland reserves, conduct birding tours or hold photo competitions.
- Use social media to spread the message; using the hashtags **#waterbirdscount** and **#IWC2018**.
- **Dates for IWC 2018 Asian Waterbird Census, 6 to 21 Jan**



How?

Read the text

New Waterbird Fund launched to support waterbird monitoring globally



Key activities we fundraise for are:

- Monitoring of waterbird populations
- Monitoring of key sites
- Making sure that waterbird harvest is sustainable
- Building capacity for waterbird conservation and management
- Support decision-making concerning waterbirds with data and advice

WATERBIRD FUND

[About us](#) [Programme](#) [Donate](#)

Funding for Waterbirds and Wetlands



Thank you for your interest in the Waterbird Fund. This is a fund that has been set up to strengthen the monitoring and conservation of waterbirds.

Waterbird Fund

Help us to make birds count! To be able to do that we need your support. Support waterbird monitoring by supporting the International Waterbird Census. Your support can help us to reach out to more countries and increase the number of census sites.

<https://waterbird.fund/>

[Donate Now](#)

Recognising that monitoring of waterbirds is a long term activity that in some developing countries needs support, we have launched a global Waterbird Fund in 2016.

All the funds raised are aimed to provide support to our network to :

- Monitoring of waterbird populations
- Monitoring of key sites
- Making sure that waterbird harvest, where it takes place is sustainable
- Building local capacity for waterbird conservation and management
- Supporting local and national decision-making concerning waterbirds with data and advice

We are encouraging donations from corporates, governments, foundations and individuals. More information is on our website.

We call on you to help raise awareness of this new opportunity. If you know anyone who might wish to contribute to this important mechanism of support, kindly let us know.

MEDIA LINKS

AWC website www.wetlands.org/awc

IWC website www.wetlands.org/iwc

IWC Coordinators www.wetlands.org/our-network/iwc-coordinators/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/IWC50

Email:

Asia awc@wetlands.org

Global iwc@wetlands.org



And finally, here are the latest links that would be useful to get more information about the IWC



We look forward to working with you all to ensure that waterbirds and wetlands are conserved for the future.
Enjoy your time in the field and contributing to these all important monitoring efforts!!