



Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands, and awareness-raising for flyway conservation

Luanda (Angola), 27-31 January 2014



Report by the lead trainer (Paulo Catry)

Introduction

The present report concerns the international “Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands, and awareness-raising for flyway conservation”. The workshop, a joint initiative of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement and the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) project of the CWSS, took place in Luanda in 27-31 January 2014. It was attended by participants from all five Portuguese-speaking African countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé e Príncipe. Each country was represented by two participants, except for Angola, which had participants from 4 provinces, in a total of 15 people. The lead trainer (Paulo Catry) was assisted by Joãozinho Sá (from Guinea-Bissau), Tim Dodman (WSFI) and Evelyn Moloko (AEWA Secretariat).

Training course evaluation

The training course developed with no major difficulties and was overall very successful. The results of the final evaluation exercise can be observed in Fig. 1. The global evaluation was rated with maximum grade (3-point scale) by 22 participants and with intermediate grade by 3 participants.

Fig 1. Final evaluation of the training course by the participants (trainers excluded).

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EXPECTATIVAS CUMPRIDAS	x	x + v	++++x x++++ +++++
OBJETIVOS CUMPRIDOS		+++ ++	++++ x+x++ x x
CONHECIMENTOS RECORRIDOS			+ + x + + x + + + + + + + +
FORMAÇÃO FDI ÚTIL		x	+ + x + + x + + + + + + + +
DURAÇÃO/CALENDÁRIO HORÁRIOS		+ + x + + + x	+ + + + x - + +
LOCALIZAÇÃO/ALOJAMENTO LOGÍSTICA	+x++ xx+x	+ + +	+ + - + x + + - + x x
PROGRAMA	x	x + + + + x + + +	+ + + + x + + + + x
FORMADORES			+ + x + + + + + + x + + + + + + x + + + +
AVALIAÇÃO GLOBAL		+xx	+ + + x + + + + + + + + + + + + + x

The workshop was successful in gathering a number of people with responsibilities at the governmental level in various countries (including Ramsar focal points and people linked to several ministries of environment in different countries). The workshop likely made a decisive contribution to raise awareness amongst those people and facilitate the future implementation of international agreements such as the AEWA. It also contributed decisively, we believe, to build/consolidate national and international networks which will play a role in migratory bird and wetland conservation in Portuguese-speaking African countries.

The main difficulties pointed out in the final discussion concerned the location selected for the workshop. In fact the workshop took place in a hotel in Viana, in peripheral Luanda (about 17 km from the centre), resulting in difficulty of access by nationals (traffic in Luanda is chaotic) and in the impossibility of visitors to go and enjoy the city life of central Luanda after workshop times. Furthermore, and despite the general good conditions presented by the hotel, there were some difficulties in internet access during a couple of days, which frustrated participants wanting to keep up-to date with their emails. It must be noted, however, that the choice of this site resulted from a careful evaluation of available alternatives. Using a hotel closer to the centre of Luanda would have proved too expensive for the available budget; Luanda is one of the most expensive cities in the world.

One complication affecting the course was the retention by the Angolan customs of materials (binoculars, field guides, certificates of participation) sent from Europe to Luanda. These should have been available during the workshop. Bureaucracy in Angola is heavy, and when one is constrained by a series of events and factors to organise a workshop in little time, such mishaps may easily take place. Nevertheless, thanks to a diversity of materials brought by the trainers and some participants, there were just enough guides, binoculars and telescopes to make the fieldtrip a worthwhile one.

Although the focus of the training was not on ornithology, but on flyway level conservation, it was nonetheless noteworthy that the previous ornithological knowledge of most participants was virtually nil. For example, participants did not know how to correctly identify cattle and little egrets, two species extremely common in Africa. Only one participant (from Cape Verde) regularly worked in bird research (but his principal knowledge was of a single species, Fea's petrel). It is apparent that most of the Portuguese speaking African countries have virtually no national ornithologists (and none was presented as a candidate to participate in the workshop). This clearly limits the capacity of participants to deliver future training along the lines of the course. However, most participants should be able to build awareness about the importance of conserving migratory waterbirds and the sites on which they depend, and should be encouraged to do so.

Recommendations

1. The participants of the Luanda workshop clearly enjoyed the opportunity to travel and share experiences with others from different Portuguese-speaking countries, and international training events in Portuguese hardly ever occur; this may have future long-term benefits in strengthening communication between these countries, especially in the framework of putting AEWA into practice. However, pooling people from countries with very different realities in a common workshop is not the best strategy for effective training in monitoring and conservation, as the needs in insular countries (Cape Verde and São Tomé e Príncipe) are very different from the ones in countries such as Angola or Mozambique. Furthermore, the degree of previous knowledge and expertise is far more advanced in some countries (e.g. Guinea-Bissau) than in others. Thus, a logical follow-on step to the regional training course is the organizing of national training workshops in each country, to achieve a more focused training adjusted to national needs, presumably attended by most of the relevant people in need of this type of capacity building. It would be excellent if the organizers worked with each country to promote the organization of such follow-on training and to identify means to finance them.
2. The participants underlined the advantage of having this type of training course delivered in Portuguese, rather than in a foreign language. They stressed that often training courses are delivered in other languages, which makes it difficult for them to easily follow the technical subjects being delivered and often prevents them from contributing comments, asking questions, etc. More training courses in Portuguese are desirable.
3. The participants also underscored the importance of having access to binoculars, telescopes, field guides and other technical literature (in Portuguese). The WSFI is currently producing a field guide in several languages (including Portuguese) that will be of great value and will help filling this gap. It is important that every effort is made to make sure that enough field guides reach relevant personnel, including not only the officials in the cities, but for example staff in national parks, NGOs, etc. Providing more binoculars to people engaged in field activities would also seem a major priority. There are relatively cheap binoculars available in the market and more should be sent to different countries. Supplying 2-3 pairs of binoculars per country, although useful, contributes little to satisfy the needs that are acutely felt at the present moment.

4. From the working sessions and debates we had concerning the conservation of waterbirds in the 5 countries covered in this workshop, it became clear that very little is being done with practical positive impact on the ground. There is a general lack of functional protected areas in these countries (Guinea-Bissau is, to some extent, an exception), and habitat degradation and direct persecution and disturbance of sensitive sites are common, with a tendency for conditions to worsen. The situation of protected areas in Angola seems to be particularly dire, although there probably are still plenty of wetlands with relevant ornithological values worth preserving. There is an urgent need to develop conservation initiatives with well-defined and realistic targets (preferably linked to protected areas) that can deliver positive outcomes and serve as an example for more widespread action.

ANNEX 1 – Program of the workshop



**REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA
MINISTÉRIO DO AMBIENTE
DIRECÇÃO NACIONAL DA BIODIVERSIDADE**

Programa de Seminário

*Workshop de Formação de Formadores (FdF) acerca da Abordagem “Flyway”
(Rotas de Migração) para a Conservação e o Uso Sustentável das Aves Aquáticas e
das Zonas Húmidas*

Luanda – 27-31 Janeiro 2014



Segunda-feira – dia 27

09:30 – Chegada, registo e café.

10:00 – Boas vindas e abertura formal do Workshop (António Nascimento, Evelyn Moloko, Tim Dodman).

10:30 - Apresentação dos participantes e expectativas para o curso (com jogo de apresentação aos pares) – *J Sá, moderador*

11:00 - O mundo maravilhoso das aves migradoras – *P Catry*

11:45 – Módulo 1, S1, L1 do WOW Training Kit – Introdução geral às rotas de migração “flyways” (ppt1) – *P Catry*

12:10 – Trabalho de grupo – desenhar uma rota de migração – *Tim Dodman, P Catry*

13:00 – Almoço

14:00 – Módulo 1, S1, L2 do WOW Training Kit. Introdução geral à migração e às estratégias de migração. *P Catry*

14:30 – Jogo da tarambola (desafios da migração). *J Sá & P Catry*

15:15 - Módulo 1, S2, L1 do WOW Training Kit. O conceito de área/sítio e a conservação de sítios (M2, S3, L1). *P Catry*

15:45 – Pausa para café

16:00 - Áreas Protegidas e áreas de conservação em Angola. *António Nascimento*

16:25 - Discussão em plenário - Desafios para a gestão de áreas protegidas. *J Sá*

16:45 – Final

Terça-feira – dia 28

09:00 – Habitats e sítios importantes para as aves aquáticas migradoras nalgumas províncias de Angola. *Participante(s) do país*

10:00 - Habitats e sítios importantes para as aves aquáticas migradoras na Guiné-Bissau. *Participante(s) do país*

10:30 – Pausa para café

11:00 - Habitats e sítios importantes para as aves aquáticas migradoras em Moçambique. *Participante(s) do país*

11:30 - Habitats e sítios importantes para as aves aquáticas migradoras e aves marinhas em Cabo Verde. *Participante(s) do país*

12:00 - Habitats e sítios importantes para as aves aquáticas migradoras e aves marinhas em São Tomé e Príncipe. *Participante(s) do país*

12:30 – Debate plenário – Lacunas no conhecimento e conservação das aves aquáticas migradoras nos PALOPS.

13:00 – Almoço

14:00 – Módulo 1, 2 & 3 kit ONCFS – revisão de conceitos básicos e técnicas de identificação de aves. Saber identificar uma espécie. *J Sá, P Catry*

14:45 – Módulo 4 kit ONCFS – Porquê contar aves aquáticas? *P Catry, J Sá*

15:15 – Contagens, monitorização e conservação de aves ao longo das rotas de migração Euroasiáticas – Africanas. As organizações, os acordos internacionais e a cooperação internacional para a conservação. *T Dodman, E Moloko, P Catry*

15:45 – Pausa para café

16:00 – Introdução à monitorização de uma zona húmida, fichas de registo de contagem e desenho de mapas. *J Sá, T Dodman*

16:30 – Módulos 5, 6, 7 kit ONCFS – Contar ou estimar? Saber contar as aves de um pequeno bando. Saber estimar o efetivo de um grande bando. *P Catry, J Sá*

17:00 - Final

Quarta-feira – dia 29

Visita de campo ao Mussulo para observação, identificação e contagem de aves aquáticas. Familiarização com material ótico e GPS. Familiarização e uso de guias de campo. Exercícios de identificação. Exercícios de contagem. Exercício de estimativa de bandos de aves e estimativas de substitutos, utilizando grãos de arroz ou feijão. Exercícios de descrição de sítios e de registo de ameaças. Observação de aves marinhas. Pequenos debates sobre temáticas relacionadas com a conservação de zonas húmidas e aves aquáticas e com as técnicas de estudo e conservação.

Quinta-feira – dia 30

09:00 – Recapitulação da saída de campo.

10:30 – Pausa para café

11:00 - Módulo 1, S3, L1 do WOW Training Kit. Ecologia populacional e conservação. O conceito de competição e capacidade de carga. *P Catry*

11:30 – Jogo ‘ecologia populacional’

12:00 - Módulo 1, S3, L1 do WOW Training Kit. Ameaças nas rotas de migração. *Participante a seleccionar*

12:30 – Trabalhos de grupo. Ameaças às aves aquáticas e marinhas nos diferentes PALOPS e nas várias regiões de Angola. *Todos*

13:00 – Almoço

14:00 – Trabalhos de grupo. Ameaças (cont.)

14:30 – Preparação das apresentações de resultados a serem efetuadas por cada grupo. *Todos*

15:00 – Apresentações e debate. *Todos*

15:45 – Pausa para café

16:00 – Ameaças globais às aves marinhas. *P Catry*

16:30 - Final

Sexta-feira – dia 31

Seminário sobre zonas húmidas

09:00 – Para além das aves. A importância das zonas húmidas para a restante biodiversidade e para as pessoas. *P Catry*

09:30 - Gestão e conservação de colónias de aves aquáticas. *P Catry, Participante voluntário*

10:00 – Trabalhos de grupo. Quais os passos seguintes? Criar um programa de monitorização de zonas húmidas e constituir uma rede de monitorização em cada país [A pausa-café será feita por cada grupo durante o trabalho]. *Tim Dodman, Todos*

11:30 – Apresentação dos planos nacionais para os passos seguintes. *Todos*

12:30 – Avaliação final do workshop. *Todos*

13:00 – Encerramento / Entrega de certificados; Almoço

