



**World Migratory Bird Day 2013
“Networking for migratory birds”**

**Statement from Ms Jane Madgwick
Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International**



Migratory waterbirds are spectacular and engaging ambassadors of wetlands. They connect people across the globe and the concerns about their conservation have played an important role of the creation of our organisation. Therefore, Wetlands International is a proud founding partner of World Migratory Birds Day along with the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), United National Environment Programme (UNEP) and BirdLife International.

The whole history of our organisation demonstrates the importance of networking and partnership. The International Waterbird Census has now run for more than 50 years and covers over a 100 countries, involving more than 15 thousand people worldwide. Through this joint effort, we provide regular updates on the status of waterbird populations. Thousands of scientists work together in the waterbird specialist groups associated with Wetlands International on their research and conservation. Our network of offices actively engage with international agencies, governments, NGOs, local communities and the corporate sector in a range of activities connecting science, policy and practice for the conservation and management of wetland habitats.

Wetlands International is proud to launch a number of new initiatives that feature strong networking and partnership components. The "[From the Arctic to Africa: migratory birds connecting people and nature](#)" project promotes improved conservation management along the East Atlantic Flyway, amongst others, though encouraging networking and collaboration amongst site managers in West Africa, European Union Member States and Arctic Russia. This complements and builds on the **Migratory Birds for People** programme, organised jointly with Wetland Link International and Staatsbosbeheer, that aims to establish a network of visitor centres connected through the theme of flyways. This year we will also establish new partnerships to **strengthen waterbird monitoring schemes** in developing countries.

We encourage participation in initiatives such as ours that support conservation along the network of sites upon which these birds and local communities, depend. On behalf of Wetlands International, I wish you successful World Migratory Bird Day celebrations.

Ms Jane Madgwick

Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International