

World Migratory Bird Day 2015

Energy – make it bird-friendly!



Statement from Jane Madgwick Chief Executive Officer of Wetlands International

World Migratory Bird Day is a celebration of the remarkable journeys that millions of migratory birds undertake annually from the Arctic to as far south as the Antarctic. It also reminds us of the many challenges these long-distance migrants encounter. Throughout their range, many species are facing threats as the wetlands they depend upon are transformed or disappear through human activity – such as developments to meet our energy needs, the theme of this year’s World Migratory Bird Day. Actions to minimise the threats from energy-related developments on migratory birds is an urgent concern across the world’s flyways. Wetlands that provide a vital lifeline for waterbirds and people are at the centre of the water-food-energy nexus. Wetlands International is promoting and informing inter-sectoral dialogues and pressing for sustainable development that recognises the full value of wetlands for people and nature.

Wetlands International is a proud supporter of World Migratory Bird Day and we hope that you will support us in protecting and restoring the wetlands that play such a crucial role in supporting the annual migrations of these amazing species.

I encourage you to get involved in one of the many events around World Migratory Bird Day that support wetland conservation along the world’s major flyways. For example, our offices around the world work with local partners to promote awareness raising and conservation action. In China we do this by convening an international workshop in Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve on the Yellow Sea, alongside the annual Dandong Bird Festival. This is timed with the northward migration of the Bar-tailed Godwit, where many are at risk from an increasing number of wind turbines and other coastal developments in the Yellow Sea. Soon they will fly non-stop to their Arctic breeding grounds in Alaska and the far east of Russia. While in Africa we are supporting a public awareness raising event in Saint Louis, Senegal this weekend. We are working with many partners in the Senegal Delta to restore the

fragile wetlands that provides a major stopover and breeding area for waterbirds of the East Atlantic Flyway.

Issues of energy developments including biofuel and hydropower production in West Africa and oil and gas drilling in the Arctic are front and centre for the future of many of the wetlands along this and other flyways. We are pleased to work with local people, governments and corporates to find ways to safeguard these vital wetland networks and to speak up for the waterbirds, whose journeys continue to astound and inspire us!

On behalf of Wetlands International, I wish you a successful World Migratory Bird Day.

Jane Madgwick

Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International