



The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative: Conservation of migratory birds from the Arctic to Africa on the East-Atlantic Flyway

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Nationalpark
Wattenmeer

NIEDERSACHSEN



Why do we need a
worldwide
transboundary
management of bird
populations to
safeguard biodiversity in
the Arctic?



Foto: NASA; 2006

Millions on the move

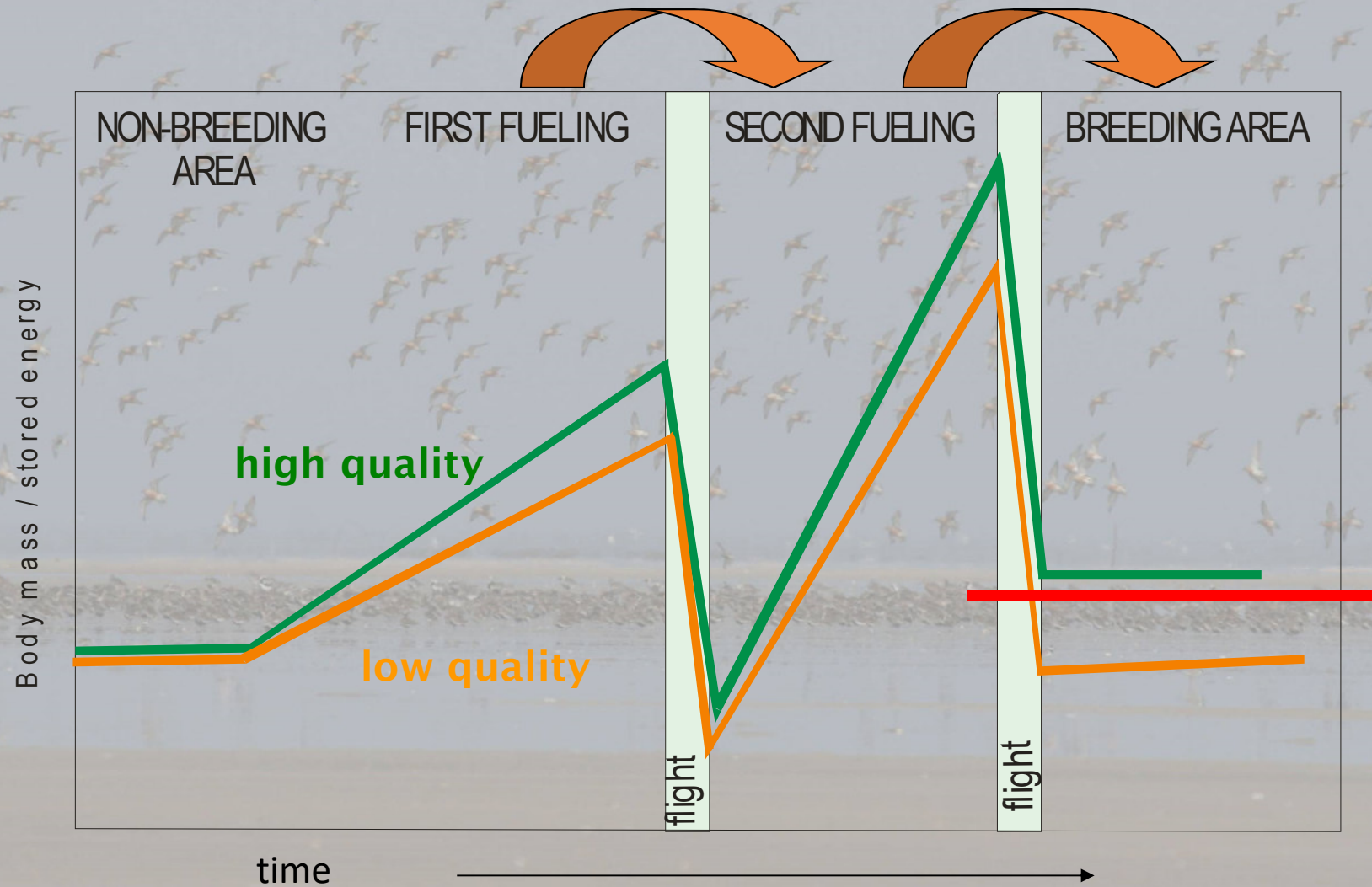
Birds connect the Arctic, Wadden Sea and Africa



**Migratory birds,
our shared
responsibility**

- East Atlantic Flyway
- Key sites for migratory shorebirds:
 - > 1 million birds
 - > 500,000 birds
 - > 100,000 birds
 - ⊙ World Heritage Site

Carry over effects



The Wadden Sea

- Largest unbroken stretch of mudflats world wide
- Highly productive ecosystem
- 10-12 mill. migratory birds pass through the area
- Shared by 3 countries

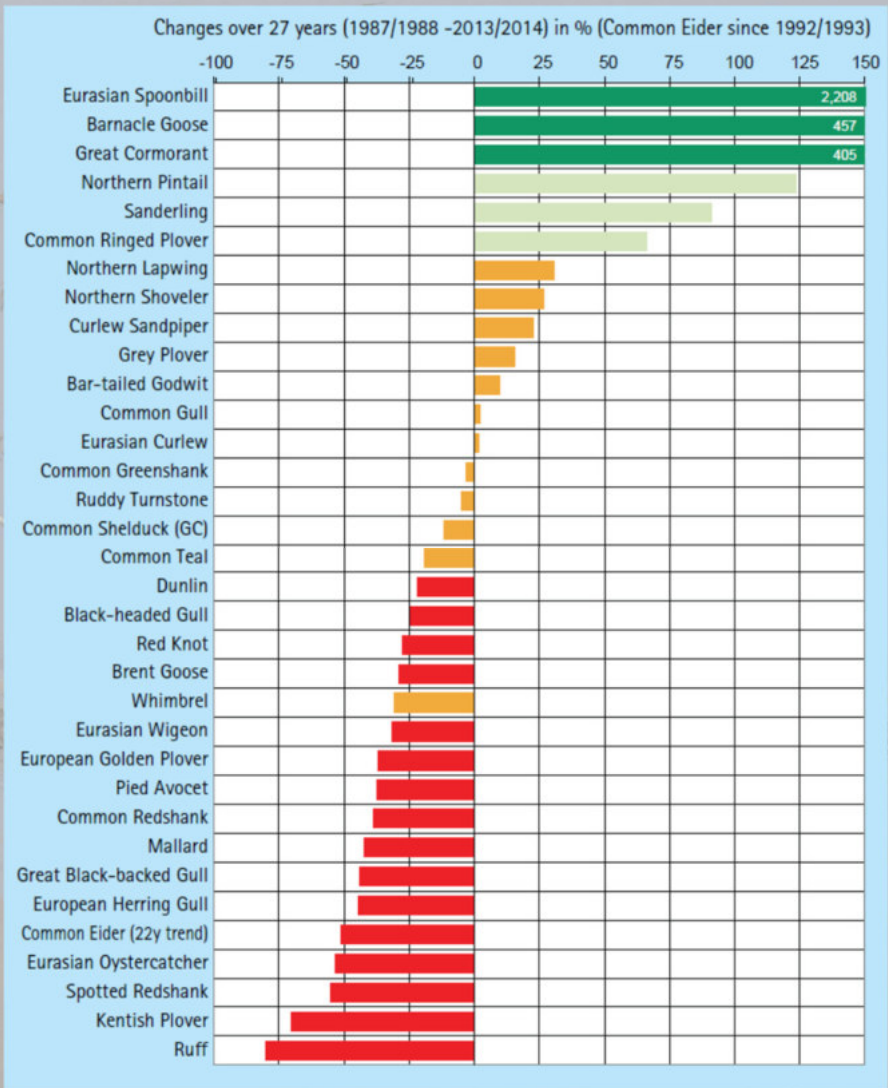
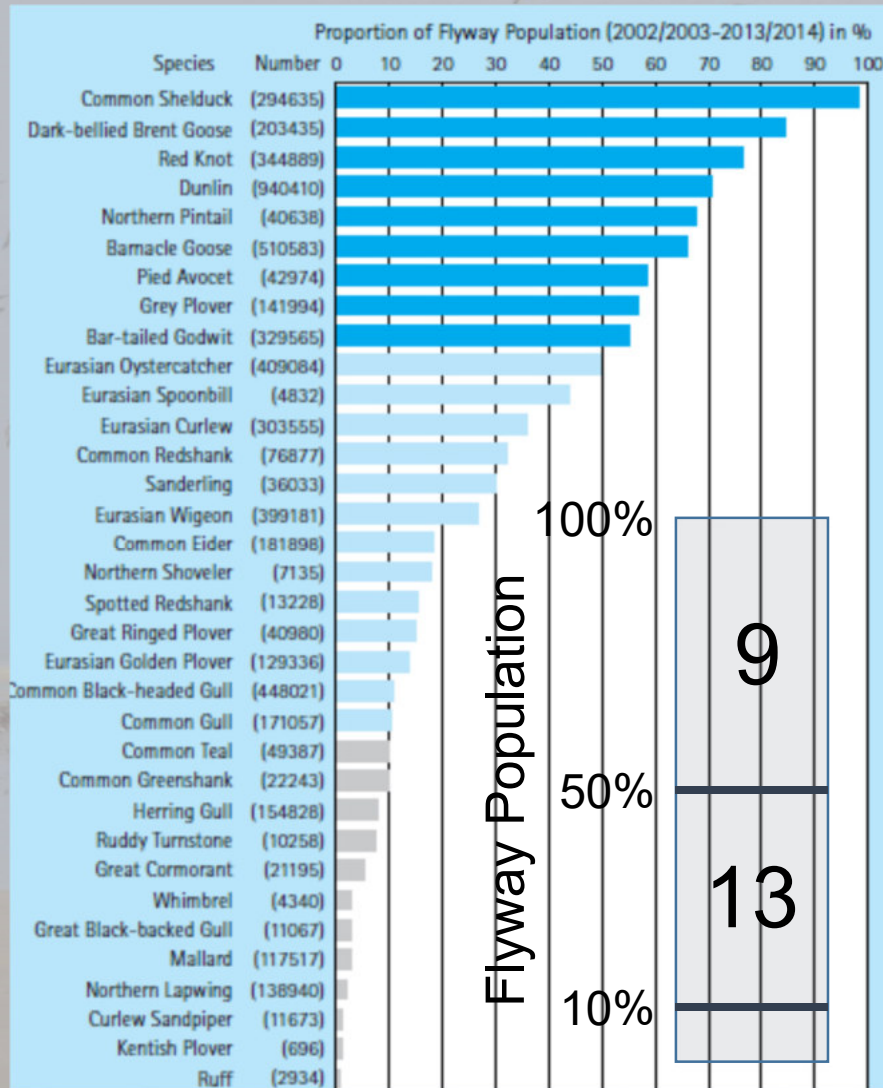


DENMARK

GERMANY

THE NETHERLANDS

Importance of the Wadden Sea

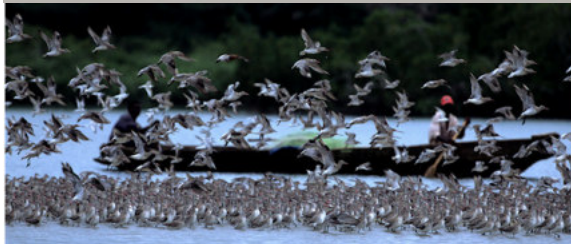


Wadden Sea World Heritage 2009

Inscription by UNESCO WHC including request:
... to strengthen cooperation on management and research activities with States Parties on the African Eurasian Flyways, which play a significant role in conserving migratory species along these flyways.



World Heritage Committee (WHC) Seville, 2009



THE
WADDEN SEA
FLYWAY INITIATIVE



Flyway Vision 2014



Signatories of the Flyway Vision,
12th Trilateral Governmental Conference 2014

Vision

Migratory birds find lasting refuge along the East Atlantic Flyway from northern breeding areas to their key Wadden Sea stopover and to the African coastline, and inspire and connect people for future generations.

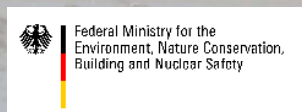


Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative



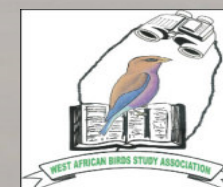
CAPACITY BUILDING

International co-operation for the protection of waterbirds along their flyways



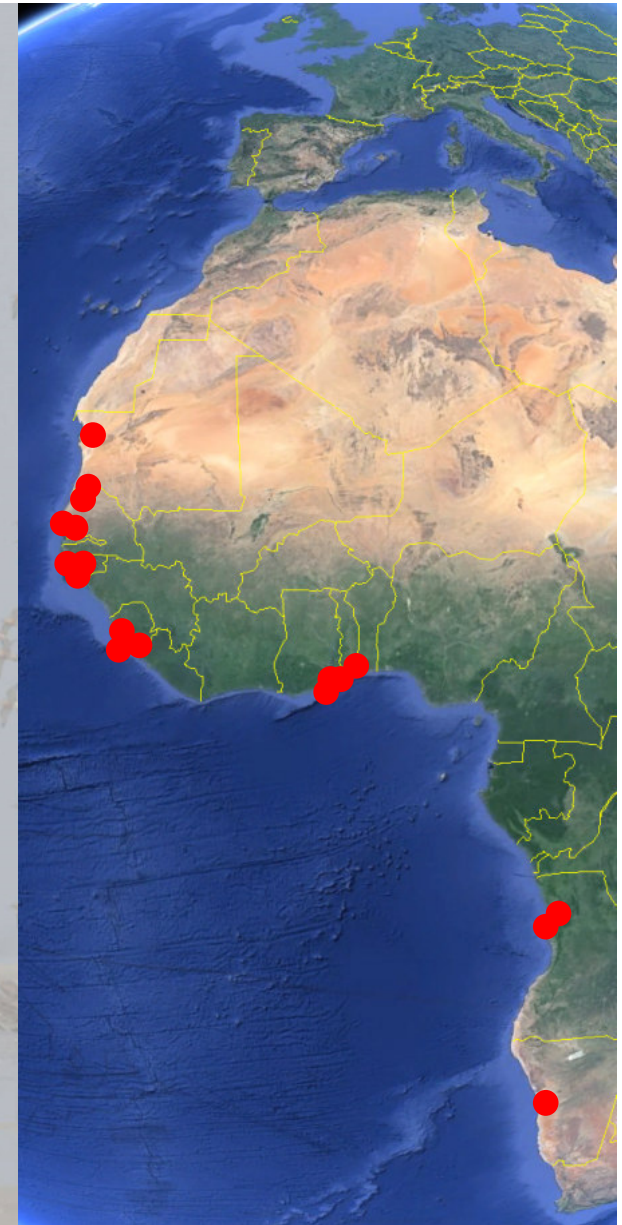
MONITORING

Establishing a monitoring framework for coastal waterbirds in the East-Atlantic Flyway with special attention to West-Africa



WSFI Capacity Building

- Enhancing conservation and sustainable management
- Regional monitoring training course
- Participatory awareness for the conservation of migratory birds
- Linking methods and people
- Boat building for bird monitoring
- Community waterbird training workshop
- Support for the creation of income-generating activities by communities
- Training Tour Guides for bird tourism promotion



WSFI Publications



Flyway animation



Manual for monitoring



WSFI Concept



African East Atlantic Flyway Guide

You will find all reports and information:
www.waddensea-secretariat.org/flyway

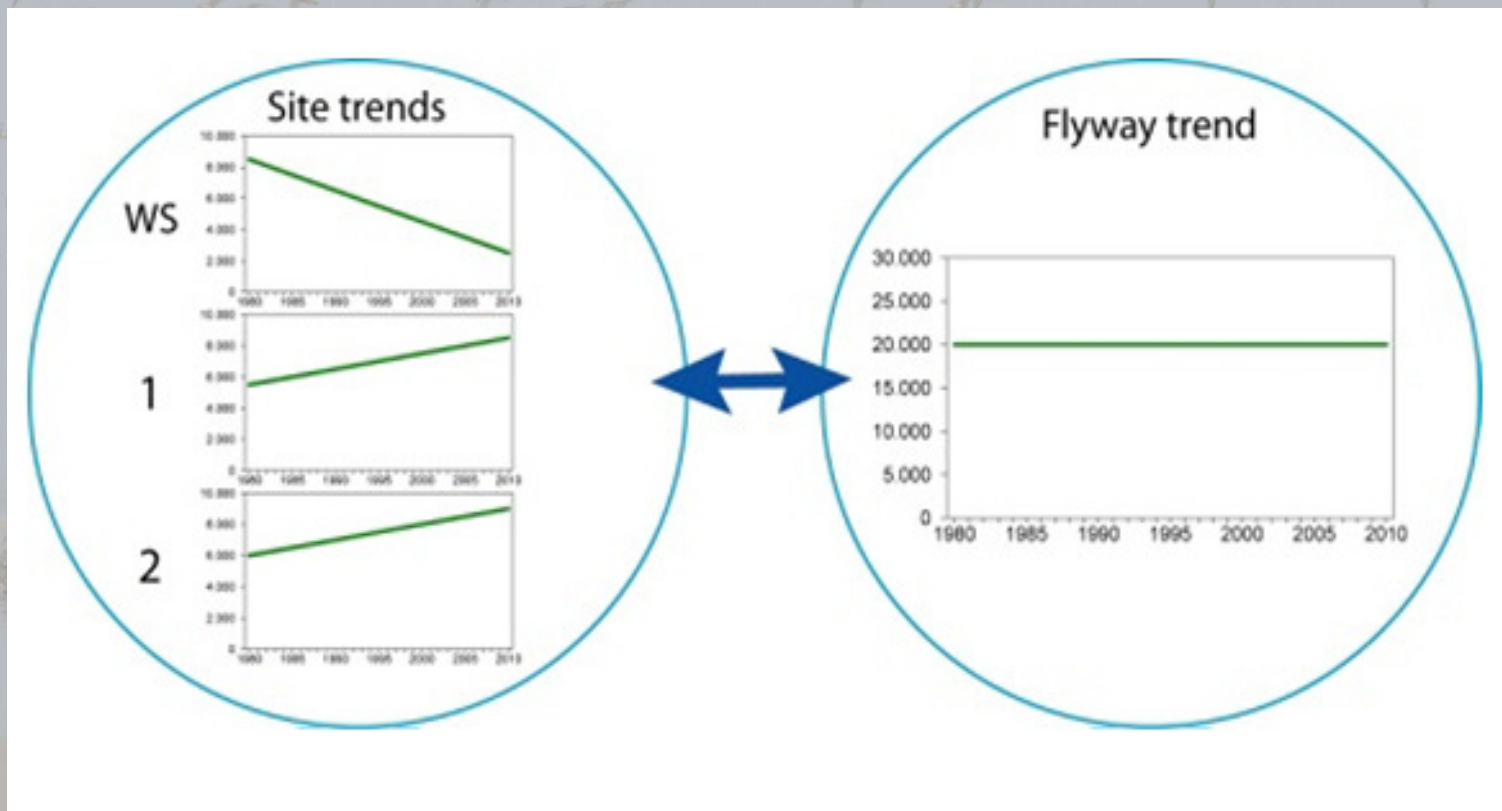
WSFI Monitoring

- Monitoring training workshops
- Adding old census data to the IWC database of Wetlands International
- Manual for monitoring along the Atlantic coast of Africa
- Total count in January 2014 and January 2017 involvement of 1,500 counters
2020 planned
- Counts of specific sites 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018
- Assessment of census data published in report

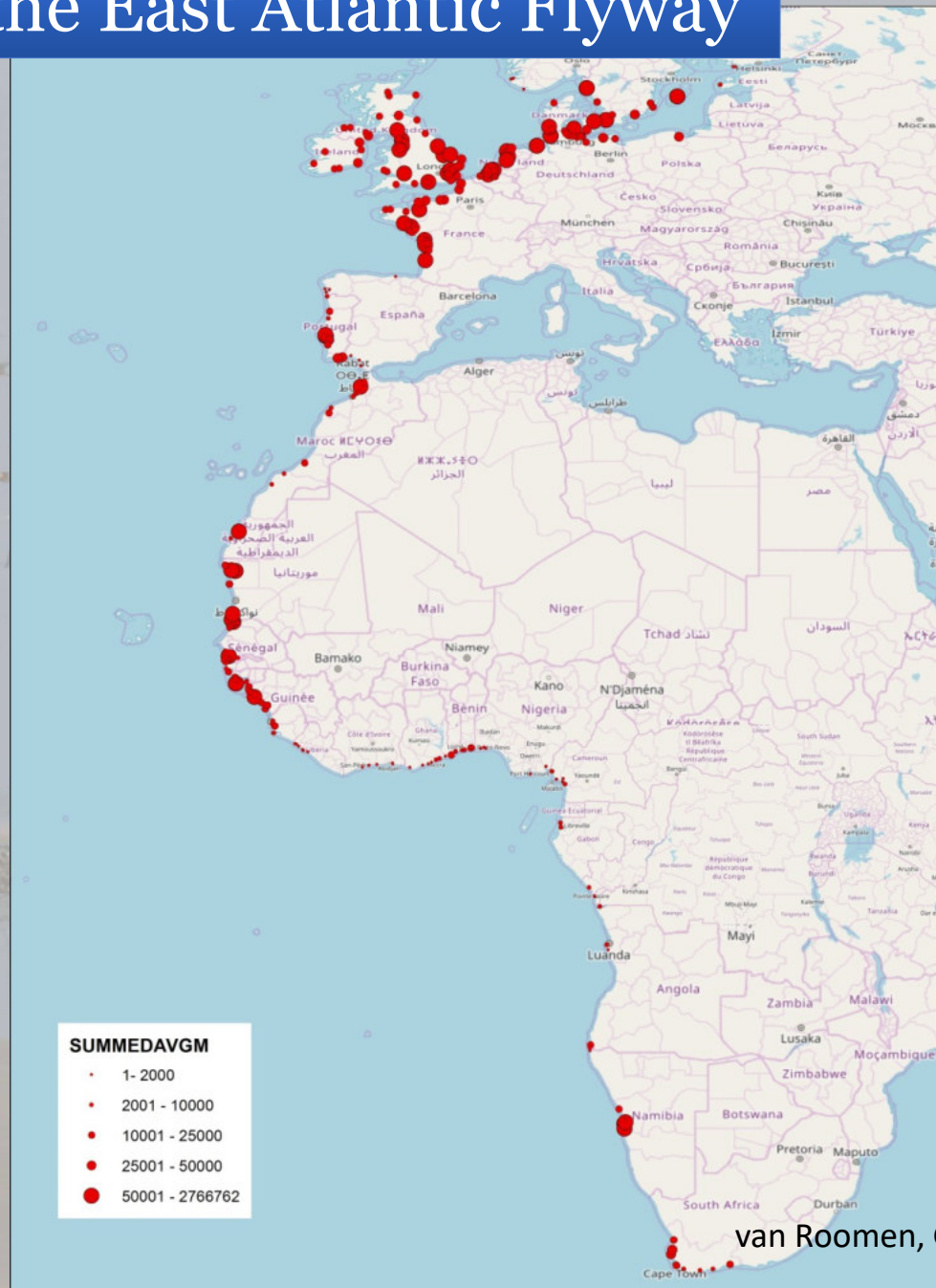


Monitoring of abundance

Flyway trends, site trends and the power of comparisons

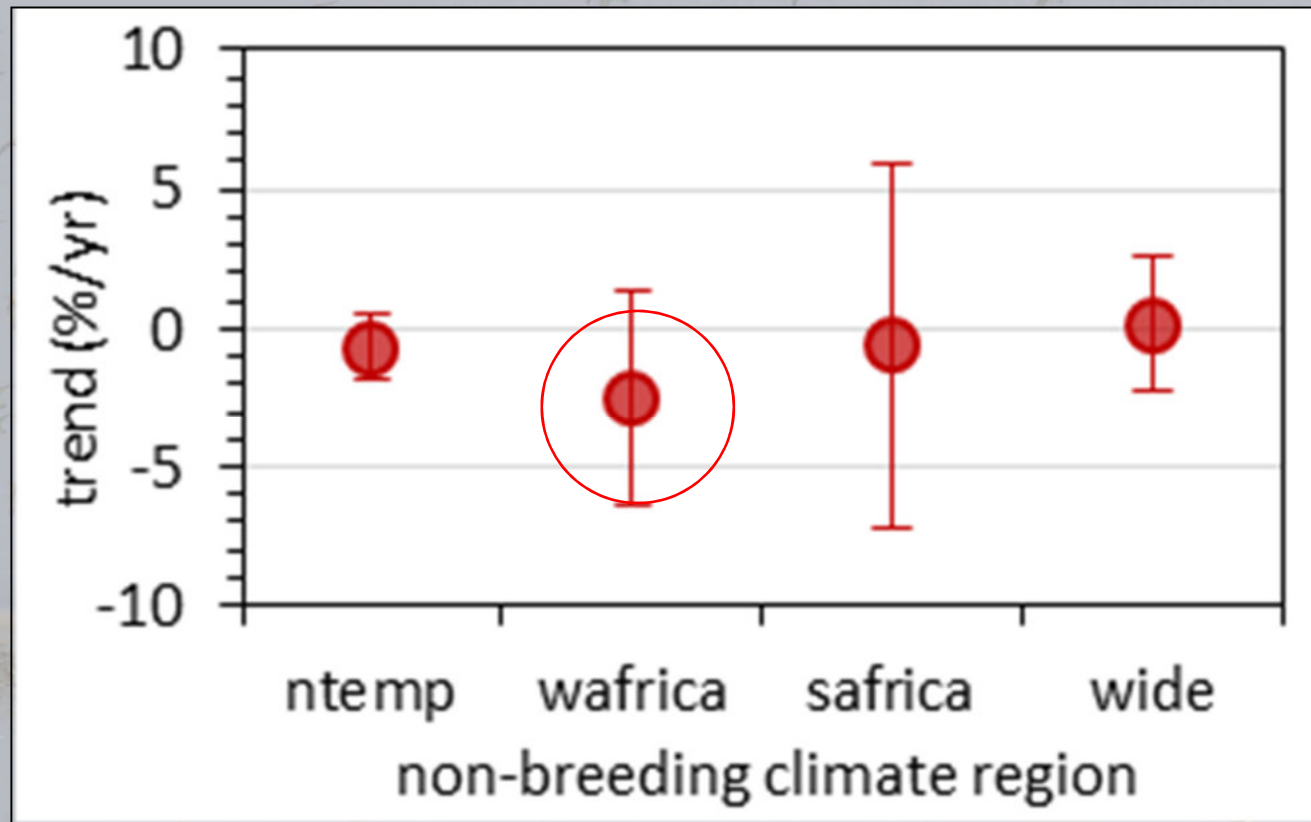


Sites on the East Atlantic Flyway



van Roomen, Gueye, Citigetse & Nagy 2018

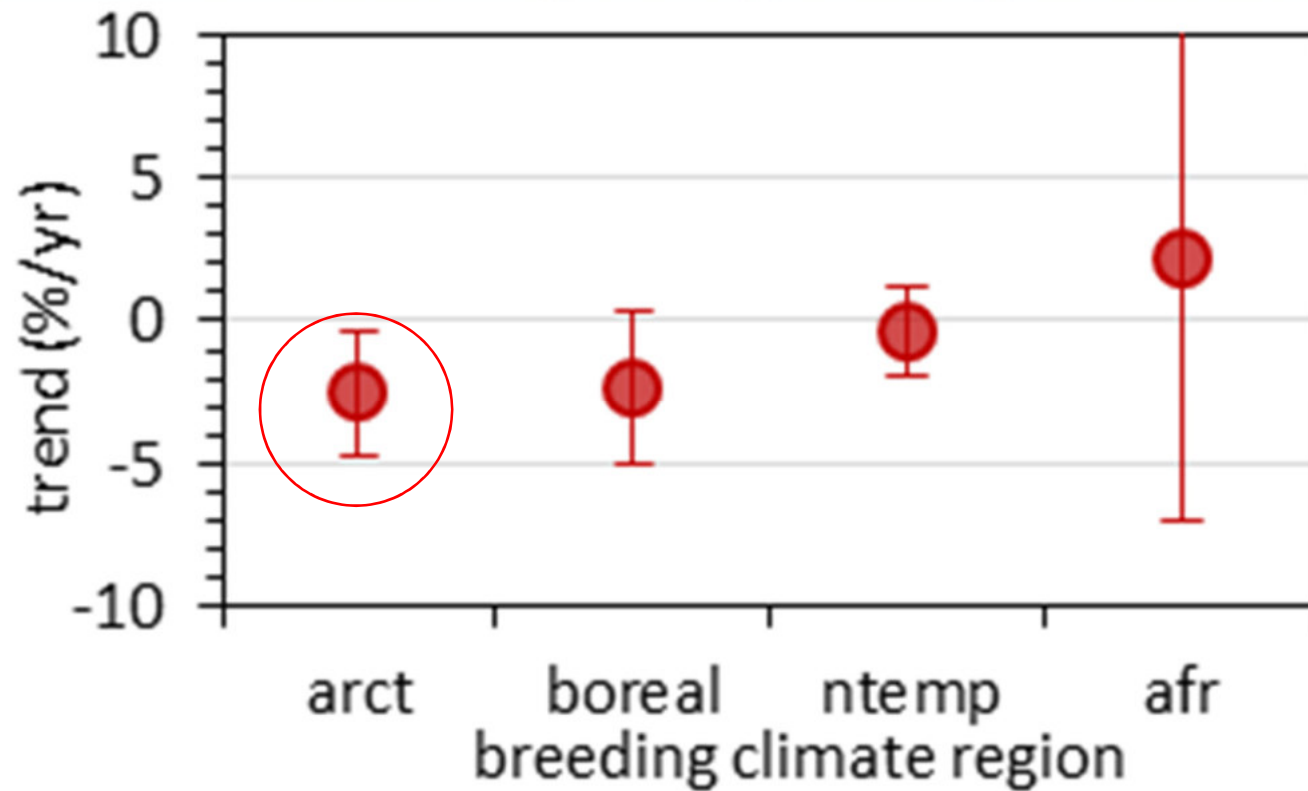
Wader trends and wintering region



ntemp	9
wafrica	14
safrica	3
wide	4

pr.
0,786
ns

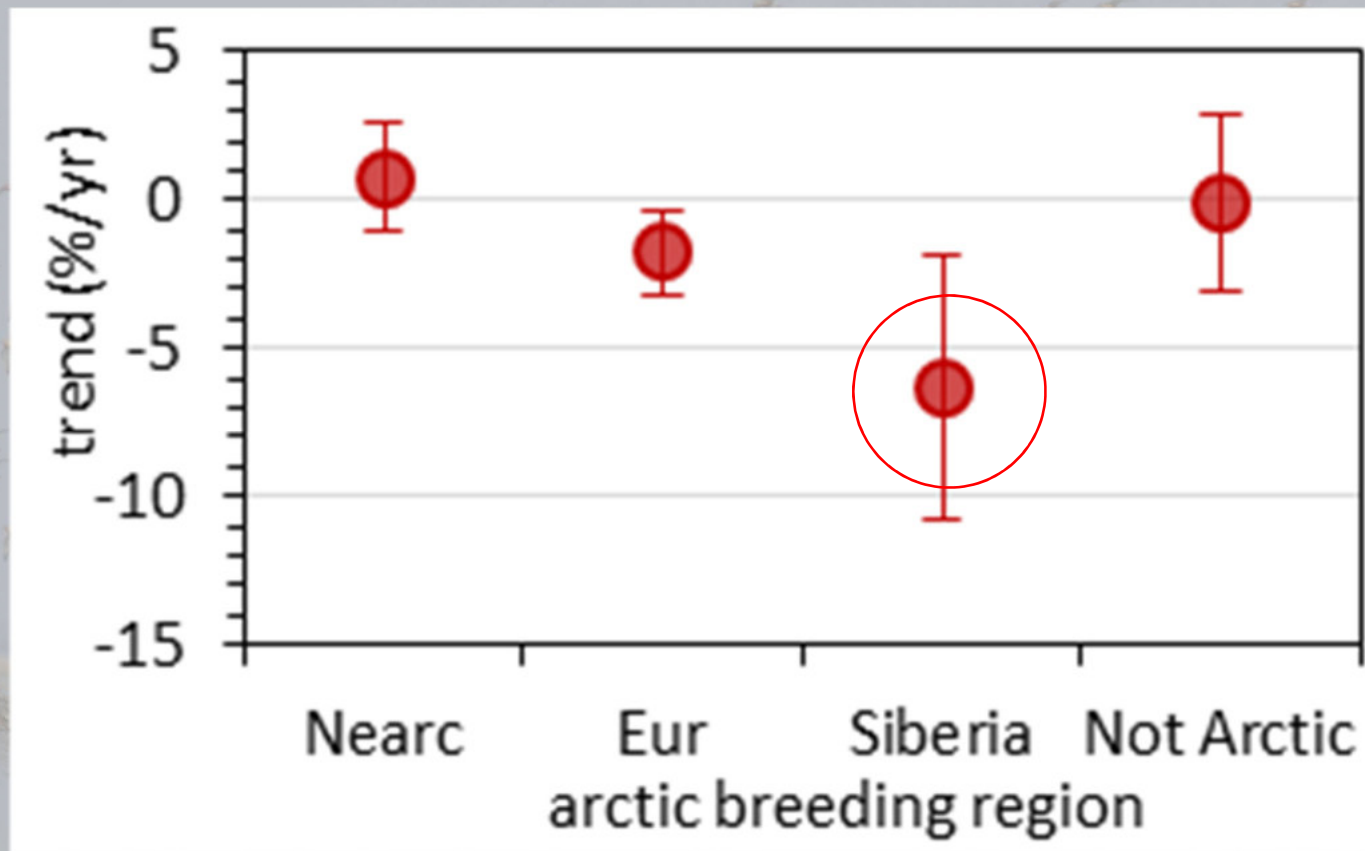
Wader trends and breeding origin



arct	15
boreal	6
ntemp	4
afr	5

pr.
0,385
ns

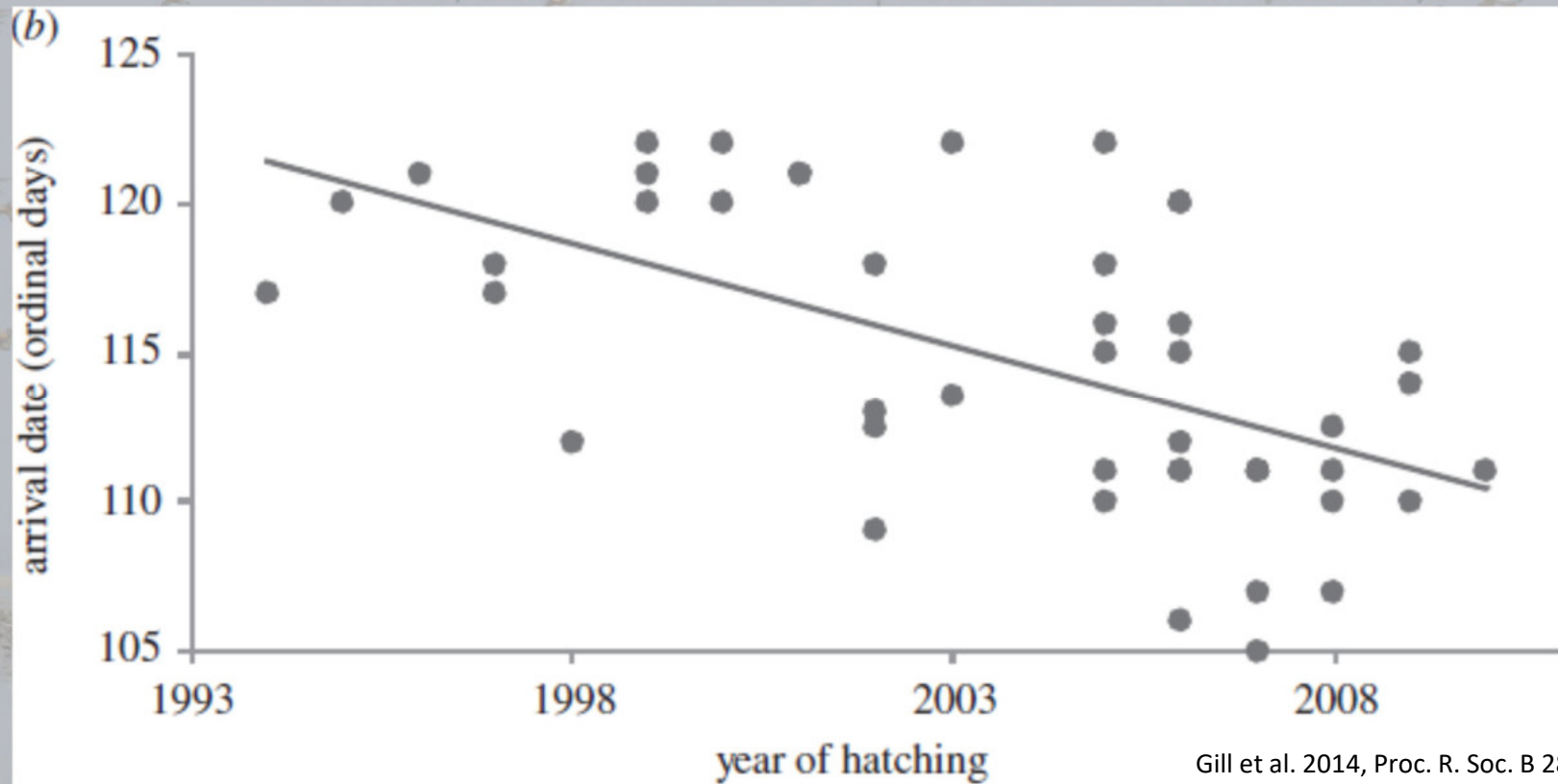
Wader trends and Arctic breeding region



Nearc	3
Eur	6
Siberia	5
Not Arctic	16

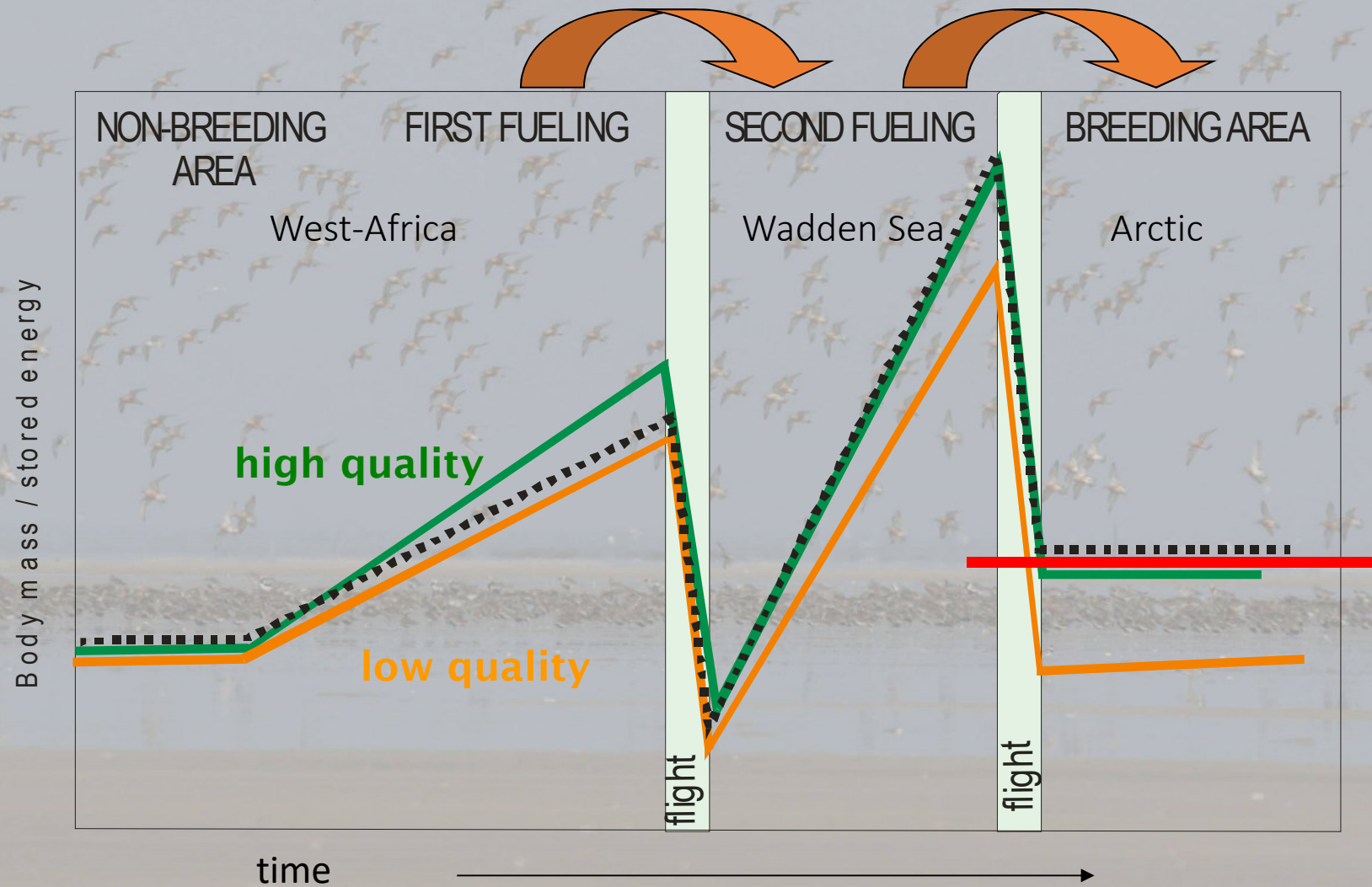
pr.
0,035
*

Processes in the Arctic




Gill et al. 2014, Proc. R. Soc. B 281

Carry over effects



The way forward

- Siberian breeding waders are declining
- Start co-operation with Arctic partners to study processes behind this pattern
- Improvement of protection along the whole flyway together with local partners
- Continuation of capacity building
- Continuation of building networks
- Continuation and improvement of monitoring



There is no alternative to long-term co-operation and partnership on the complete flyway for conservation of long-distance migratory birds.



**THE
WADDEN SEA
FLYWAY INITIATIVE**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



The Wadden Sea
World Heritage Site
since 2009



WADDEN SEA
WORLD HERITAGE