The Foundation Working Group on International Waderbird and Wetland Research (WIWO) of the Netherlands has published the results of the waterbird survey performed on the complete coast of Cameroon, from Campo (on the border with Equatorial Guinea) through the Sanaga estuary, the Douala estuary, the Mount Cameroon coastline to the Ndian basin on the border with Nigeria. The complete citation for this publication is: "Van der Waarde. J.J. (Ed)., 2007. Waterbird census of coastal Cameroon and Sanaga river, January-March 2007. WIWO-report nr 83. Beek-Ubbergen" (http://www.projects.wiwo.org/).

The project was initiated by WIWO and jointly executed by the Watershed Task Group in Cameroon (WTG), Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS), Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS), WWF Cameroon, the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINEF), and a team of ornithologists including Mr. Jaap van der Waarde. It received financial support from Wetlands International, Koop Cameroon, and Pecten Cameroon. It aimed at, amongst other things, a complete count of waterbirds in the wetlands of the Cameroon coast, collecting and presenting existing ornithological information, determining parts of the coast which meet the waterbird criteria for Wetlands of International Importance, capacity building at local level, and strengthening collaboration between NGOs and governmental institutions working toward wetland conservation.

It was concluded that the total estimated number of waterbirds on the Cameroon coast, based on this study, is between 31,000 to 61,000 individuals from 65 species. It was also concluded that the Ndian Basin, Wouri Estuary and...
Sanaga River fulfil at least one criterion to qualify as Wetlands of International Importance.

The publication was prefaced by the head of the Ramsar Administrative Authority in Cameroon, Minister of Environment and Nature Protection, His Excellency Mr. Hele Pierre.

This project is a good example of the cooperation between local communities, NGOs, government institutions, Ramsar International Organisation Partners and other organisations towards the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank all who were involved in the accomplishment of this project and to encourage such initiatives by other Contracting Parties, especially through joint initiatives between Parties.

-- Evelyn Parh Moloko, Ramsar

Source URL: https://www.ramsar.org/news/waterbird-census-for-cameroons-coastal-areas#comment-0