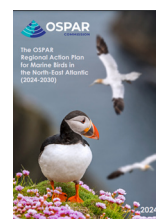


Marine birds in the North-East Atlantic are in trouble. The OSPAR Regional Action Plan for Marine Birds (RAP-Bird) identifies the most important protection and conservation actions to be implemented on a regional scale for the recovery of marine birds within the North-East Atlantic. This briefing note highlights OSPAR's work on enhanced international cooperation to protect marine birds and introduces us to the expert leading this important work.



## What is the issue?

Most of the marine bird species featured in the RAP-bird are migratory; that is, they undertake regular, predictable movements across international borders during the course of their annual cycle. Typically, this involves northward movements to Arctic breeding grounds in the spring, and post-breeding southerly migration in autumn, with many species wintering well beyond the OSPAR region, for example in the Baltic and Mediterranean seas, in Africa or the Middle East. The majority of RAP-bird actions involve international collaboration between countries within the OSPAR region, but this particular action recognises that even wider links must be forged if all parts of these species' lifecycles are to be protected. For example, there are exciting opportunities for synergies to be realised between OSPAR and other environmental agreements, such as UNEP's African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement or the Arctic Council's working group the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna.

## How will the successful completion of this action benefit marine birds?

Coordinated action throughout these flyways will help to address the multiple pressures acting in different parts of birds' ranges through their annual cycle. This will give species the best opportunity for lasting recovery and future resilience. Furthermore, international cooperation -with a range of specialist bodies – ensures we maximise opportunities for positive change that otherwise might be left unexplored. Collaboration also maximises knowledge exchange, bringing innovative solutions.

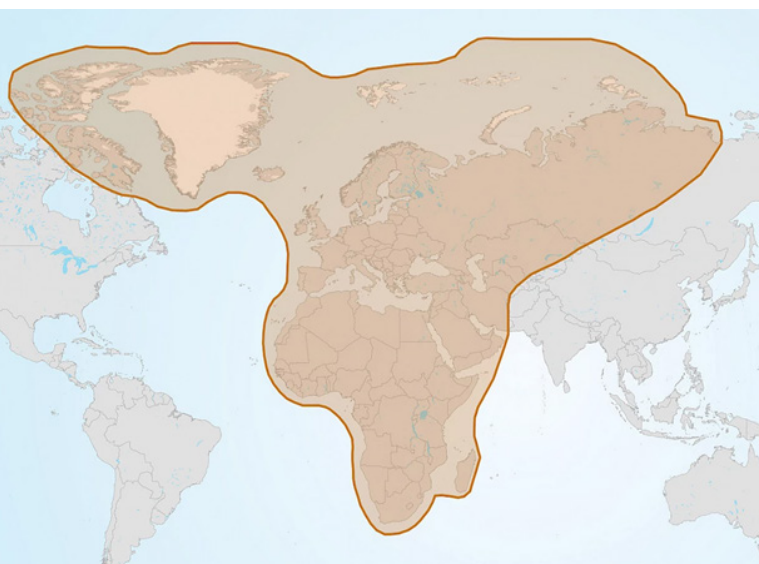
## Meet our expert

Matt Parsons, Senior Advisor on Migratory Birds at the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).



For more information on OSPAR and marine birds, visit our website:

[www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats/marine-birds](http://www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats/marine-birds)



The African-Eurasian Flyway (courtesy of AMBI/CAFF): the range of many species featured in OSPAR's RAP-bird extends well beyond the NE Atlantic.