

# Census-News



Informations for the VI. International White Stork Census 2004/2005 · No. 1

## The VI. International White Stork Census is ready to start

Dear colleagues,

In July 2004 we sent out the appeal for the VI. International White Stork Census in 2004/2005. We attached a questionnaire which meanwhile has been returned by most partners. We now would like to present an overview of the response to our enquiry, and we would like to inform you about the state our project preparations.

### About *Census News*

Like during the last International White Stork Census 1994/95, we will publish a newsletter called *Census News* in order to communicate updated information on the state of art of the project, on news, and on first results. *Census News* will also serve as a first feed-back to the participants, and it aims at recruiting new participants and strengthening the motivation of already existing participants.

*Census News* will be issued in English and in German (Zensus-Nachrichten).

*Census News* will be distributed among national coordinators and BirdLife partners in participating countries. In order to increase the support for the project, the newsletter will also be made available to all individuals and institutions particularly devoted to White Storks.

### Census Co-ordination

The VI International White Stork Census is a joint project of NABU (BirdLife Germany) and BirdLife International. The RSPB (BirdLife UK) is offering organisational and financial support. By this cooperation the project can profit from the international network of BirdLife partner organisations, and it will hopefully be possible to organi-

se at least a minimum financial support for the census in some countries.

The project is coordinated by the Michael-Otto-Institute of NABU (formerly NABU Institute of Bird Protection). The Institute works for NABU in different fields of bird protection, among them designation of IBAs, research on farmland birds, bird monitoring and protection of White Storks. Your contact for the White Stork Census is Kai-Michael Thomsen.

#### Our adress:

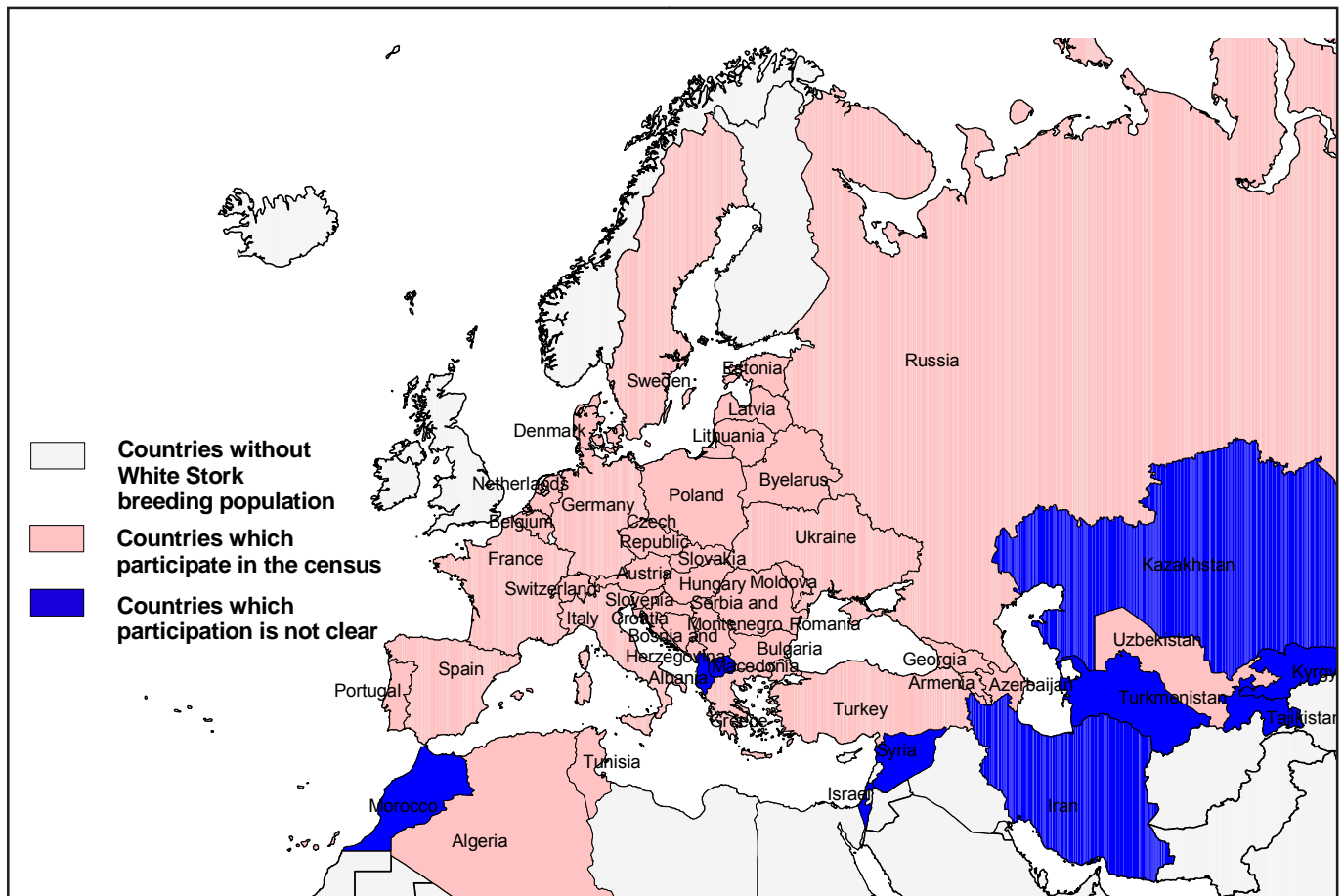
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### Great participation

The response to our appeal to the VI International White Stork Census was overwhelming. We contacted BirdLife partners and White Stork enthusiasts in altogether 48 countries in Europe, Northern Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. We received a positive response from 38 countries, declaring that they wish to participate in the census. Therefore, the census definitively can start this year.

We could even exceed the number of participating countries of the last International White Stork Census. This good response shows that White Storks are very popular. Protecting them obviously is regarded as a useful tool for nature conservation work in general.





For each country a national co-ordinator has been designated. For contacts see the table on the last page. If you would like to participate in the project, please contact the co-ordinator in your country.

From seven countries only, we have not received any reply so far. Three countries will not participate because they do not (yet) have any breeding White Storks. From one country a confirmation of participation is still missing.

## Two years of census: 2004 and 2005

The evaluation of questionnaires revealed a further important result. In order to be better able to resolve logistical problems, many partners expressed their wish to extend the counting period into 2005. Like its predecessor, this census will therefore take place in two years, 2004 and 2005.

## Support

An important issue for the VI. International White Stork Census is the funding of the census. Funding is of particular relevance because the still great economic difficulties in many Central and East European countries cause logistical problems which impede the proper carrying out of the census.

We already reported back to several partners the results of our efforts. We compiled a project description in order to raise funds for the project. In this we highlighted the needs for financial support for several countries. The proposal was sent to several organisations. The chances to raise funds for projects like this have, however, become smaller in Germany and many other countries since several years. The success of our efforts, therefore, is hard to predict.

Consequently, it becomes even more important for partners in participating countries to try to find funds on their own. We offer our help e.g. by sending letters to relevant organisations, companies or individuals. Nevertheless, we will continue to ask for support for the whole project.

The great willingness to participate in the census will definitively sustain our activities.

In our questionnaire we offered a logistic support for the census by organising vehicles and drivers for the local teams in countries with logistical difficulties. This has already been successfully done in 1994/95. We proposed to try to recruit German ornithologists and Stork enthusiasts for counting White Storks in foreign countries. They will be asked to offer their spare time and their vehicles for services within the Stork Census. The volunteers would spend their holidays in a country where logistic help is needed. They would join local stork experts for the fieldwork. This is meant as a help for the local stork experts, it is not intended that German or west European ornithologists should take over the count.

Some countries want to make use of this offer. We will clarify details directly with the relevant national co-ordinators. Some contacts between national co-ordinators and volunteers are already well established and will be used for this census again.

### **www.whitestork2004.net**

A homepage for the International White Stork Census is under construction. Here you will find nearly everything around the Census. In addition to news and instructions for field work, the contacts of the national co-ordinators and the results of the former censuses will be found.

If you have interesting news, projects or preliminary results, please just send us a short report. With your help, we would like to keep our homepage up to date. As soon as the homepage is in the net we will let you know. Please just have a look at it.

### **Public relations**

You are encouraged to use the logo of the VI International White Stork Census for your correspondence and your public relations. For all national co-ordinators and BirdLife partners an electronic version of the logo is attached.

Moreover, we will create a digital draft of a poster for the International White Stork Census. This draft will be distributed among national co-ordinators and BirdLife partners. It can be used

as a blueprint for printing own posters. Names, logos etc. of partners can easily be added. You may use this poster in your country for public relations work for the census and for your organisation.

### **The goal**

Immediately after the end of fieldwork and when the national coordinators will have sent in their results we will compile a short summary of the results. The summary will be made available to all participants of the project. Later, we intend to organise an international White Stork conference on which all national coordinators should present their results. For such a conference, however, funds are still searched.

Independently of a conference, the results of the census should be published in detail in a census volume and/or in the internet. All national co-ordinators are invited to contribute to this publication. Country reports will be treated as separate publications authored by the national co-ordinators. We will write a summarising overview of the census with reference to the original country reviews published in the volume.

Of course all national coordinators are encouraged to publish the results on their own right wherever appropriate.

Much work still has to be done before the VI International White Stork Census will be completed. We hope that many volunteers will participate and help to turn the census into a big success. I would like to thank in advance all participants of the project.



## National co-ordinators of the VI. International White Stork Census 2004/2005.

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