

# Flamingo Specialist Group



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The FSG is coordinated from the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Slimbridge, UK, as part of the IUCN-SSC/Wetlands International Waterbird Network and works globally across the range of all flamingo species.

The group has 305 members from 57 countries.

## Objectives

- Developing and maintaining an active network of *in situ* and *ex situ* flamingo specialists.
- Stimulating and supporting information exchange.
- Encouraging development and implementation of conservation action plans.
- Promoting innovative conservation approaches for people and flamingos in the context of climate change.
- Providing information and advice in support of the programmes of Wetlands International, IUCN-SSC, and others.

## 2011 Update

- Publication of *Flamingo 18*, the FSG annual bulletin.
- Production of a dedicated FSG website: [www.flamingo-sg.org](http://www.flamingo-sg.org)
- Establishment of a Small Grants Fund.
- Recruitment of two new *ex situ* coordinators.

## Success Stories

- Organising a global meeting in 1998 in Miami.
- Establishing a communication mechanism for all members and regular production of a bulletin.
- Developing a large membership base covering all species and range countries.
- Production of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser Flamingo.
- Raising funds to establish a Small Grants Fund.

## Challenges

- For the group: maintaining communication and raising funds to sustain the Small Grants Fund.
- For flamingos: the main challenge is habitat loss/ degradation. Other challenges include egg removal at colonies and human disturbance at breeding and feeding sites.

## Future Goals

- Finalisation of a CMS Action Plan for the High Andes Flamingos.
- Implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser Flamingo, including the development of National Action Plans for South Africa and Botswana.
- Development of an online reporting system for breeding and ringing events
- The FSG will continue to work towards the achievement of SSC and Wetlands International objectives within the context of the conservation of flamingos worldwide

