



for birds
for people
for ever



Project Title: Instituting effective monitoring of Protected Areas (Important Bird Areas) as a contribution to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in Africa

Region or Country: Africa: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Donor: European Commission (EuropeAid/ENV/2007/132-278)
Focal Area: Biodiversity Conservation **Duration:** 4 years (2007 – 2011)
Amount of Financing: Euro 1,886,172 **Last Updated:** October 2010
Collaborators: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat, BirdLife Botswana, Fondation des Amis de la Nature (Naturama), Association Burundaise pour la protection des Oiseaux (ABO), Nature Kenya, Association 'Les Amis des Oiseaux' (AAO), Nature Uganda, Zambia Ornithological Society and BirdLife Zimbabwe

Project Status: Ongoing

Project Description:

Overall Goal: To empower biodiversity-rich and resource-poor African countries to meet the Convention of Biological Diversity obligations, especially the CBD programme of work on Protected Areas, which obliges nations to make sure that “by 2010, national, and regional systems are established to enable effective monitoring of protected-area coverage, status and trends at national, regional and global scales, and to assist in evaluating progress in meeting global biodiversity targets”.

Specific objective: The Project will institute effective national biodiversity monitoring systems in eight African Countries that deliver information on biodiversity trends in Protected Areas (Important Bird Areas) to stimulate local, national and global action.

Rationale: Biodiversity is disproportionately distributed within the tropical areas such as Africa, where the majority of the poor people live. These people are often directly dependent on the exploitation of biodiversity, and as a result often exert pressure leading to its loss. Biodiversity loss limits African countries' abilities to meet their development targets. This project aims to contribute to stemming the rate of biodiversity loss through providing assessments of how well Protected Areas are actually protecting biodiversity.

Main Activities:

- Identify main stakeholders that will participate in national biodiversity monitoring of PAs; review ongoing monitoring, existing data and capacities, identify gaps: develop customized and conclusive biodiversity monitoring frameworks
- Set up or strengthen committees mandated to coordinate monitoring of PAs, institutionalize PA monitoring as a core element of the work of the represented institutions; raise awareness of the value of biodiversity monitoring
- Agree data storage and dissemination channel; provide necessary equipment and training; collect data at selected PAs; collate, vet compile and analyze data to indicate baseline situation and trends in the condition of PAs, produce baseline and monitoring reports and feedback to stakeholders.
- Identify advocacy targets and develop timely reports in appropriate format; provide monitoring results for inclusion national reports to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), NEPAD *et al*, national and global Clearing House Mechanisms, the World Data Base on Protected Areas, scientific papers etc
- Establish project management structures, recruit staff, set up steering committees involving all stakeholders, adopt a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework; and develop and build in mechanisms for sustaining biodiversity monitoring beyond the life of the project



Recent Progress Status:

BirdLife International is coordinating the project to institute effective national biodiversity monitoring system. The following has been achieved:

- To date, three Annual Planning and Review Meetings and Project Steering Committee Meetings have been held
- The Regional Level Training of Trainers Workshops in Biodiversity Monitoring, Data Management, Advocacy and Sustainability have all been successfully conducted, with the involvement of multi- stakeholders.
- Training of site level monitoring teams in each of the countries gathered momentum and is an ongoing process.
- Production of the National Status and Trends Reports in 2008, covering at least 117 sites in seven African countries, namely Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- The 2008 Regional and Status and Trends Report produced
- Monitoring information provided during CBD COP 9 in Bonn, Germany, CBD SBSTTA 14, input into CBD Fourth National Reports, State of Environment Reports and other national processes and MEAs
- Scientific papers, written technical papers, posters, brochures and tailor made reports produced to maximize the visibility of the action at national and international levels
- Results of the 2001 baseline using the 'back casting method' and from monitoring activities presented and discussed at a CBD SBSTTA14 Side Event on 'What is happening to Biodiversity in Africa's Protected Areas'. The Side Event was attended by CBD National Focal Points, NGOs and donor community
- Monitoring data for the year 2009 being analysed (for more than 160 sites) by all the eight countries for the production of the 2009 Status and Trends Report
- A wide ranging intervention measures are being addressed in a collaborative approach by the governments, NGOs and Site Support Groups as they acknowledge that the threats facing the Protected Areas are on the increase and are making a significant impact on biodiversity.
- National strategies for sustaining monitoring being finalized by all the countries.

Further work for countries in Africa

- In analyzing the status and trends, the countries in Africa will in future consider the various categories of PAs (NPs, FR, GR) well as habitat types (forests, wetlands, grasslands, transition ecosystems). These comparative analyses would help to clarify whether certain level of protection is better than the others or the condition of certain habitat types is better than other.
- The countries will conduct detailed analysis of the threats per site because impact on individual species and their habitats is real and therefore there is need for monitoring these impacts and provide alerts. Invasive alien species as a significant threat to Africa's biodiversity should also be considered and there is need to build capacity/awareness on invasive species in Africa.
- There is abundant biodiversity outside Protected Areas. As the monitoring programme grows from strength to strength, there is need to also focus on non- Protected Areas.
- Additional resources required to continue strengthening the capacity to monitor sites in Africa.



Botswana



Burkina Faso



Burundi



Nature Kenya



جمعية أصدقاء الطيور
Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux"



Nature Uganda



CONTACT US:

BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat
ICIPE Campus, Kasarani, P.O. Box 3502, 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel. +254-20-8562246/8562490 fax: +254-20-8562259
Email: birdlife@birdlife.or.ke Website: www.birdlife.org