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Project Title: Support for the Development of the Great Rift Valley Serial Trans-national World Heritage Nomination

Region and Countries: Africa: Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique

Donor: Jewish National Fund (JNF)

Focal Area: Biodiversity Conservation

Duration: February 2009 – April 2010

Amount of Financing: USD \$ 17, 400

Collaborators: Great Rift Valley Initiative Secretariat, BirdLife Partners, State Parties Focal Points

Project Status: Ongoing

Project Description:

Overall Goal: Support Development of the Great Rift Valley Serial Trans-national World Heritage Nomination

Activities

- i. Conduct a thematic study on the Great Rift Valley as a migratory flyway and a comparative analysis through review and compilation of existing information from literature, website and experts on the natural/bio diversity values of the potential Great Rift Valley sites and provide input to the GRV information database. Identify sites of potential OUV for inscription on the Tentative Lists of States Parties to the Convention.
- ii. Facilitate participation by BirdLife Partners in Great Rift Valley serial trans-national and trans-boundary nomination process through participation in the local stakeholders workshops, development of site specific management plans for target IBA sites, providing them with the necessary information for lobbying and advocacy and to help in systematic identification and developing a list of priority sites for tentative listing.
- iii. Provide technical support to Great Rift Valley Coordination Secretariat in Nairobi through provision relevant information, facilitate linkages to Partners in the respective countries and other stakeholders
- iv. Provide technical expertise to the process of serial trans-national and trans-boundary nominations through efficient and timely peer review, provide comments and any additional input to documentation produced including the nomination dossier
- v. Support Kenya's Great Rift Valley nomination process including input to tentative listing of the Great Rift Valley Lakes, as well as other national tentative listing processes including reviewing prepared tentative lists, identifying and filling any gaps based on prioritization (if there is a window of opportunity) which may be independent of the Great Rift Valley Serial Trans-national nomination process
- vi. Support in resource mobilization initiatives as a mechanism to sustain the tempo of the tentative listing process, engagement of Partners and other stakeholders and the appropriate subsequent site specific post-listing conservation interventions and further research work at sites

Progress:

BirdLife International has been fully engaged and represented at more than 10 meetings that have taken place in different locations worldwide since 2002, when the process of GRV serial nomination began. Major achievements made towards this initiative include the following:

- Great Rift Valley thematic analysis document compiled and disseminated
- GRV experts and stakeholders contact database developed
- Communication materials to raise the profile of this initiative produced

Contact Us

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- BirdLife International –Africa Secretariat and NatureKenya provided significant technical input in the process of developing the just submitted nomination dossier to the UNESCO World Heritage for the Kenya Lakes in the Great Rift Valley
- Continuous meetings and debriefings held with the GRV Secretariat at the National Museums of Kenya and IUCN
- BirdLife Partners being engaged and updated on the progress made to date to sustain their interest and support.
- A talk about the process, progress made presented and discussions on the way forward at the Council for the Africa Partnership Meeting held at Kasane, Botswana in March 2010. Discussions elicited much interest from the Partners.
- Discussion forums: GRV Partnership Group on the BirdLife extranet instituted and a GRV yahoo group and email discussion forum operation and active.

Lessons Learned:

- Lessons learnt during the Kenyan nomination dossier development will be useful in stimulating and through a much active engagement bring on board the other BirdLife Partners in the respective GRV countries where the process is still slow.
- State Parties have to be engaged all through the process through advocacy, capacity building and technical support. However, opposition to UNESCO listing by some State Parties pose a great challenge to this process