

Project Title: Enhancing the conservation and wise use of Lake Natron Ramsar site in Tanzania as a model for safeguarding threatened key biodiversity areas in Africa while improving community livelihoods

Region or Country: Africa

Focal Area: Lake Natron, Tanzania

Date of Project Approval: 1st January 2010

Duration: 1st Jan 2010-31st January 2012

Project Status: Ongoing

Donor: AAGE V. Jensen Charity Foundation

Amount of Financing: Euros 300,000

Project Description:

Overall Goal: To protect the Lake Natron wetland ecosystem in Tanzania and to use the experience already gained in campaigning against damaging development at Lake Natron to safeguard other threatened high biodiversity sites in Africa

Objectives

- To enhance the protection of Lake Natron
- To strengthen and maintain a constituency for conservation of Lake Natron
- To use the Lake Natron experience to disseminate lessons learnt

Rationale: Lake Natron is the only breeding site for lesser flamingos. If the proposed soda ash plant is built this could jeopardize the breeding of this near threatened species as well as the livelihoods of the local communities.

Main Activities

- Enhancing the protection status of Lake Natron
- Initiating monitoring of the IBA
- Providing information to inform policy making
- Building the capacity of a local Site Support Group
- Establishment of Community livelihood projects.
- Support of various planning processes e.g Integrated Management Plan
- Building capacity by training one student at Msc or PhD level
- Sharing of lessons with other threatened sites in Africa

Recent Project Status:

Progress:

BirdLife and WCST (BirdLife in Tanzania) participated in the development of the lesser flamingo species action plan. Also, a policy and advocacy officer has been brought on board to assist with meeting the project objectives

Challenges

- Delay in disbursement of funds
- Industrialization versus biodiversity protection

Last Updated: July 2010

CONTACT US:

BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat ICIPE Campus, Kasarani,
P.O. Box 3502, 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya Tel. +254-20-2473259/8068314

Fax: +254-20-8068315 Email: birdlife@birdlife.or.ke

Website: www.birdlife.org

