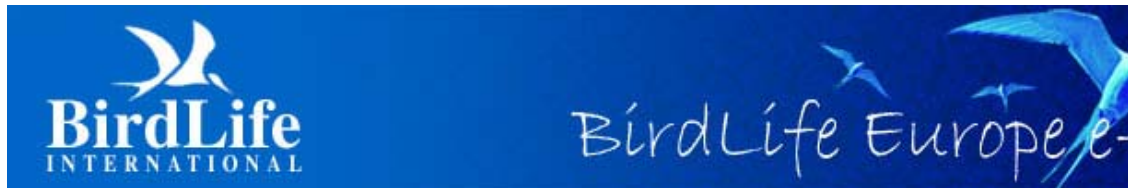


From: BirdLife International [birdlife-international@birdlife-eneews.org]

Sent: 15 November 2010 09:53

To: Alessia Pautasso

Subject: BirdLife Europe e-news November 2010



<http://europe.birdlife.org>

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Editorial: BirdLife's unique voice

Dear Reader,

in this issue of the e-newsletter we share with you some of our latest activities, with a natural focus on the outcomes of Nagoya. 2010 has been one of those years that you anticipate and look forward to with great hopes. As people who actively support and contribute to nature conservation, you will probably agree that 2010 was indeed a special year for biodiversity. How successful we were in our aims remains to be seen, but one thing is certain: we will hardly have soon a better chance to be heard and seen by the world than in 2010. BirdLife was an important and recognisable voice in Europe and globally. As you regularly follow our activities, you probably recognise BirdLife's unique voice. Our strength is not in the majestic displays or in cunning PR actions (though we try our best!). Indeed, our voice matters most where decisions are taken, based on solid data and strategic analysis. With (grass)roots deep in society and with daily feedback from the field, our analysts and managers have the advantage of having powerful ears, eyes and mouths. Therefore, BirdLife has been consistently in the front lines of the hottest environmental issues and policy debates. A trend, confirmed again in 2010.



Boris Barov
European Conservation Manager
BirdLife Europe

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BirdLife welcomes Nagoya outcome as sign of hope for our Planet



At 1:30 AM on 30 October 2010, after two weeks of tough negotiations, the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP-10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a package of decisions important for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. BirdLife International's Chief Executive Marco Lambertini said the COP-10 outcome was "an historic turning point in our struggle to save the diversity of life – and secure our future."

This success stands out especially against the sad backdrop of the failed Copenhagen summit on climate change, not even one year ago. The fact that 193 governments could now agree on an overall ambitious 2020 Strategic Plan for the CBD, and most notably on a binding "ABS" protocol on the access and fair sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources (now called "Nagoya Protocol"), can be seen as a real sign of hope that was desperately needed for the environment and for the United Nations. The EU, led by the Belgian Presidency and the European Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik, made a big effort to save the negotiations, after it had been European governments themselves that had almost smashed all hopes in advance of COP-10 by refusing to commit additional financial resources and by giving in to industry lobbies on ABS.

At this landmark UN conference in Nagoya BirdLife was represented with a strong delegation of more than 80 experts from

35 countries. Coordinated by "CBD-Veteran" Muhtari Aminu-Kano from the global BirdLife Secretariat in Cambridge, we were able to put a good balance of pressure and support on the negotiating governments. At the same time BirdLife Partners presented their work, new publications and initiatives in a number of well attended side-events.

A detailed analysis of COP-10 results can be obtained from [Konstantin Kreiser](#), International Biodiversity Policy Officer at NABU

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Leaked CAP communication reveals first light green ambitions

A leaked copy of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform communication proposes a few steps in the direction of a greener and more effective CAP but fails to provide a solid foundation that would allow the CAP to survive the ever growing budgetary pressures.

BirdLife applauds the proposal to link basic income support to farmers to meaningful environmental commitments such as crop rotation and environmental set-aside but is deeply disappointed by the overall lack of ambition shown by the proposal. Despite claims of a greener and fairer CAP, the proposal completely fails to mention three critical areas: the first is High Nature Value farming, ignoring its environmental and social importance and increasing economic vulnerability. The second is the role of CAP payments to support the Natura 2000 network of important sites for nature across the EU, many of which depend on sensitive farming. The final startling omission is the role of agri-environment schemes which reward farmers for environmentally friendly practices and have a proven record of delivering effective results. Moreover, it proposes a few retrograde schemes which raise questions in terms of negative impacts on developing countries and eroding the 'common' aspect of the policy, deemed so important by the European Commission for tackling cross border issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and ensuring a level playing field for farmers across Europe.

The leaked draft is pointing to the right direction, but will need to be greatly improved in the near future if it is to provide a solid way forward for this important policy which is facing an uphill struggle to maintain its budget.

More information: [Trees Robijns](#), EU Agriculture Policy Officer at BirdLife Europe

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Europe's biofuels plans driving social and environmental destruction



Plans to increase the use of biofuels in Europe over the next ten years will require up to 69.000 square kilometres of new land worldwide and make climate change worse, reveals a new study. The report finds that an area over twice the size of Belgium will need to be converted into fields and plantations – putting forests, natural ecosystems and poor communities in danger, if European countries do not change their plans for getting petrol and diesel from food crops by 2020.

The piece of research commissioned by a group of NGOs in Brussels analysed for the first time biofuels use planned by the EU's member states in their renewable energy plans. The report concluded that:

- Europe is set to increase significantly biofuels use by 2020 when biofuels will provide 9.5% of transport fuel – more than 90% of which will come from food crops.
- When indirect land use change is taken into account, biofuels will emit an extra 27 to 56 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year – the equivalent to an extra 12 to 26 million cars on Europe's roads by 2020.

- Unless EU policy changes, the extra biofuels that Europe will use over the next decade will be on average 81 to 167% worse for the climate than fossil fuels.

The report comes at a key time for EU biofuels policy, with the European Commission due to report on how to address and minimise these emissions by the end of the year. This report shows again that the Commission has to review urgently the real impacts of biofuels on climate change and food security, and to prioritise energy efficiency in transport.

More information: [Trees Robijns](#), EU Agriculture Policy Officer at BirdLife Europe

The study has been compiled by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP). November 2010. 'Anticipated Indirect Land Use Change Associated with Expanded Use of Biofuels in the EU: An Analysis of Member State Performance'. Author: Catherine Bowyer, Senior Policy Analyst. <http://www.ieep.eu>

The organisations are: ActionAid, BirdLife International, ClientEarth, European Environmental Bureau, FERN, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, Transport & Environment, Wetlands International.

The study analyses the 23 plans that had been submitted by October 2010 (Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK).

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/action_plan_en.htm. This forms part of the EU Renewable Energy Directive.

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A Unique Photo Exhibition "Bulgaria-Taiwan: Travelling with the Birds"



The unique exhibition "Bulgaria-Taiwan: Travelling with the Birds," opened its doors at the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia at the end of September and will run until the end of December. It presents 20 photos of birds from Taiwan and 22 from Bulgaria, including a multimedia system and live plants that recreate an exotic atmosphere.

As part of the events organised during the International Year of Biodiversity, the exhibition aims to draw attention to the unique diversity of birds in Bulgaria and Taiwan, emphasizing the importance of protecting birds and their habitats for the benefit of us all.

The exhibition opening was presented by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Taiwan, Ms. Elizabeth Chu - herself an avid bird-watcher, artist and environmentalist. The Bulgarian photos were presented by the President of BSPB (BirdLife in Bulgaria) Dr. Peter Yankov. Dr. Yankov expressed his hope that in the future we will continue to be able to enjoy birds in

the wild and urged the attendees to join international efforts in order to keep threatened species from becoming a memory only to be seen in photographs. The Director of the National Museum of Natural History, Dr. Alex Popov, expressed his joy to have the opportunity to host this unique exhibition.

All Taiwan photos are taken by Mr. K.K.Kuo - businessman and nature lover, who dedicated a lot of his time to his great passion.

The 22 Bulgarian photos displayed in the exhibition were selected through a photo contest and the winners were announced during the official opening ceremony. The jury had the difficult task of choosing the winning photos from a pool of over 350 photographs by more than 30 photographers and naturalists.

The first prize was awarded to Ivaylo Zafirov for his photo "Wings." Ivaylo won a trip to Taiwan and the opportunity to take part in a Bird Fair. The second place went to Christo Peshev for his work "Harmony in Blue and White," for which he was awarded a photo tour in the Eastern Rhodopes. With his "Black and White" picture, Borislav Borissov won the third prize, a 2011 calendar which includes his photographs.

The exhibition "Bulgaria-Taiwan: Travelling with birds" was organised by BSPB, with help from representatives of Taiwan in Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria and partners in the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia. Additionally, the magazine GEO was the media partner for the event.

Teodora Ivanova, Public Relations and Membership Officer at BSPB

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Algarve's Birdwatching festival!



Did you know that the Sagres Peninsula (Algarve) in south-west Portugal is among the most interesting birdwatching areas and the main migratory corridor for birds in autumn? Precisely there SPEA (BirdLife in Portugal) organised its first Birdwatching Festival at the beginning of October.

Every year thousands of birds fly over Sagres, attracting birdwatchers from all over Europe. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*, European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti* are just some of the species which can be seen here, as the area is also famous for its seabirds and farm birds.

During the festival participants could attend various activities dedicated both to experienced birdwatchers and to simple nature lovers. They could enjoy nature, boat and walking tours and also special offers from the numerous restaurants in the area.

The Festival has been organised by the municipality of Vila do Bispo in partnership with SPEA, the Almargem Association, the Algarve Tourism board and the Institute for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity.

More info [here](#)

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Delegation of major German NGOs in Brussels



At the beginning of October a delegation of German NGOs, as part of the "Deutscher Naturschutzring" (DNR, the umbrella organisation of German NGOs with more than 5 million members) met the European Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik to discuss the main asks for Nagoya and the planned new EU biodiversity strategy. Claus Mayr, Director of European Policy at NABU (BirdLife in Germany) highlighted the need to enforce BirdLife's "4-I-initiative" to improve the implementation of European law in the Member States. In order to make sure the new strategy will have enough financial

resources and will not fail, NGOs asked for the reduction of environmentally harmful subsidies and the shift of CAP-money to public goods. During the meeting they also discussed the planned strategy on resource efficiency, the 7th environmental action programme (7.EAP) and the soil framework directive, which is blocked in the Council by five Member States, including Germany. The Commissioner was very pleased to take part to a DNR conference on this crucial topic in 2011, supporting the change in the German position on soil protection.

While meeting the German European Commissioner for Energy Guenther Oettinger and Jo Leinen MEP, chair of the Environment Committee, they discussed climate change and the implementation of the 20/20/20-targets of the EU, focusing on energy efficiency and renewables. Concerning bioenergy, Commissioner Oettinger seemed to be aware of the problems, including indirect land use changes (ILUC), assuring NGOs to have an open and constructive dialogue on this.

Jo Leinen reported on the EP's ambitious resolutions for Cancun (adopted that morning in plenary) and Nagoya (adopted on 7 October). Mr Leinen will participate to a conference at the beginning of 2011, the European Year of Volunteering. During the conference it will be highlighted how, especially in nature conservation, thousands of volunteers are the backbone of BirdLife work.

More information: [Claus Mayr](#), Director of European Policy at NABU

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Help halting bird trapping in Cyprus

As bird trapping levels are showing an alarming increase in the last three years and a catastrophic rise in autumn 2010, BirdLife Cyprus (BirdLife in Cyprus) is joining other local and European environmental groups (such as Friends of the Earth Cyprus and Terra Cypria) in a cyber campaign to stop illegal bird trapping.

Follow this [link](#) to sign up for this vital action by sending an urgent call to action to the responsible Cyprus Ministers. The campaign is being hosted on the Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) website.

If you need additional information, please contact [Martin Hellicar](#), Campaigns Manager at BirdLife Cyprus.

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Raptor monitoring network takes shape



From 7 to 9 October more than 50 raptor experts from 25 countries met in northwest Sicily for the inaugural workshop of EURAPMON, a research networking programme funded by the European Science Foundation (ESF). This five-year programme aims to strengthen the contribution of raptor research and monitoring in Europe to deliver biodiversity, environmental and human health benefits.

The workshop's objectives were to build understanding and awareness of EURAPMON, and engage participants by bringing to bear their scientific and technical knowledge and experience. This was achieved through intensive discussions about six main work packages: compiling a comprehensive inventory of existing monitoring activities; identifying user needs; setting priorities; setting best practice; building capacity; and establishing a web-

based database for reporting and analysis.

BirdLife was well represented at the workshop, which was attended by raptor experts from our Partners in Hungary (MME), Luxembourg (LNVL) and Ireland (BirdWatch Ireland), and by BirdLife's European Science and Data Manager. The workshop was held at the Zingaro Nature Reserve, an Important Bird Area (IBA), which provided regular sightings of Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*.

The workshop met its objectives and generated a wealth of ideas for the Scientific Committee to consider at its next meeting, which will be held at ESF headquarters in Strasbourg in January 2011.

For more information, click [here](#) or contact [Ian Burfield](#), European Science and Data Manager at BirdLife International

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Positive planning for renewable energy in the EU

The RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) has received a year's funding from the [European Climate Foundation](#) to work with BirdLife to develop its work on 'positive planning for renewable energy in the EU'. It will focus on three areas:

Building knowledge and capacity within the European BirdLife partnership to engage positively in shaping the EU renewable energy agenda. Key activities here will be developing a common perspective on renewable energy deployment, building up a work programme at the EU-level with support from the European Climate Change Coordination Group, and supporting European partners' advocacy work within Member States.

Delivering a BirdLife report on 'Positive planning for renewable energy in the EU'. This will help to demonstrate how we can meet our renewable energy targets in compliance with EU conservation laws. It will do this by demonstrating and advocating the value of sensitivity mapping and strategic planning as means to avoid potential conflicts and accelerate deployment.

Engaging with the Renewables Grid Initiative. The RGI is a coalition of Transmission System Operators and NGOs calling for development of European electricity grid infrastructure, to enable rapid deployment of renewable energy. Grid development raises concerns regarding the direct impacts of transmission infrastructures and indirect impacts via the subsequent location of renewable energy facilities. Working with RGI, our project will help ensure these concerns are accounted for, improving public acceptability of grid expansion by minimising environmental impact.

Please contact Dr [Ivan Scrase](#) for more information.

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A strong sign to the world



On the eve of the CBD COP 10 in Nagoya, European politicians and Directors of the main environmental NGOs met in the Belgian Hoge Kempen national park to give a strong 'sign to the world' to save our biodiversity.

Both Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, and Joke Schauvliege, Flemish Minister of the Environment stressed the importance to save our nature. They reconfirmed European political will to reinforce nature legislation and agree on concrete steps at international level.

Specifically Commissioner Potočnik identified three elements which would allow the Nagoya conference to be successful. Heads of State will have to agree on an ambitious global target

and a credible Strategic Plan, on a balanced and effective international regime that ensures clarity and legal certainty, and on a realistic approach to make sure all the parties mobilize sufficient scientific, human and financial resources to back up their commitments.

As stated by Mr Van Rompuy, "You can count on the EU for a constructive and ambitious position in Japan".

Leading international nature organizations such as BirdLife International, IUCN, WWF and Natuurpunt (BirdLife in Belgium) presented their vision for the future of biodiversity.

"Whatever happens in Nagoya, we will need to work even harder in order to protect biodiversity and nature around the world. After the Copenhagen failure, there is the risk of a certain fatigue. People start believing that they cannot do much to prevent climate change if even politicians can not take any serious measure to save our planet", added Angelo Caserta, Regional Director of BirdLife Europe, in his speech. He stressed that it is important to keep raising awareness, but also that stopping and reverting biodiversity loss is possible. "Today we all have to work together on the reform of the EU Budget. It is fundamental that we shape the next EU Budget in a way that delivers on nature protection in a coherent way. It is not an easy piece of work, but we have the possibility to make the EU the champion of nature protection, both in terms of legislation and financial resources allocated to it", concluded Mar Caserta.

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LPO's new head offices: a 17th century cannon factory



LPO (BirdLife in France) moved its head office to an old cannon foundry built in 1668 and now converted into a new energy-efficient building respecting the environment.

Located in the marine town of Rochefort, the building is close to the Charente river as in the past this proximity allowed to easily load cannons to the ships. Today cannons are only a souvenir in the courtyard of the office.

LPO also organised a proper transport plan for its employees, according to the office location. With this plan every person can find its best solution to get home, both with public transport and with personal cars or bikes. The garden will also be transformed into a bird-friendly environment.

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BirdLife on the Move

In every issue you have the chance to meet a staff member from the BirdLife European Partnership and learn more about their key priorities and favourite projects. For this issue, we've teamed up with Tsovinar Hovhannisyan, Conservation Officer at ASPB (BirdLife in Armenia)



Animals and plants have always been a special source of inspiration for me since my childhood. I inherited this love for nature from my grandmother, who would take me to the zoo very often, tell stories about mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. And the only thing I recall very well is that I always preferred watching all these creatures in the wild living in harmony with people, rather than in zoos. Probably this played a key role in my life and triggered my desire to become a biologist.

My name is Tsovinar Hovhannisyan and I am the Conservation Officer at ASPB (BirdLife in Armenia). Before joining ASPB two years ago (it's been already 2 years and I can't believe it) I was a volunteer at the Acopian Centre for the Environment of the American University of Armenia, working on the White Stork Project. Between 2006 and 2008 I have passed the bird identification tests organised within the centre, which helped me identifying Armenian birds and recognise them in the field. In 2008 I was given a unique opportunity to travel to Batumi, Georgia, and join many young volunteers from Belgium, The Netherlands, Georgia and Armenia to count migrating raptors. Seeing hundreds of thousands of birds of prey crossing the high Caucasus mountains while migrating, probably to Africa, made me falling in love with raptors and striving to learn more about bird migration. These were my first steps in communicating and working with young passionate people from Europe.

The global partnership is making BirdLife very unique. It is really amazing to know that there are BirdLife Partners based in more than in 100 countries, doing the same projects in different ways, but to achieve the same result: conserve birds and their habitats. To me the most fascinating wonder about birds is their migration and that is why I coordinate the Spring Alive campaign, organise World Migratory Bird Days and Eurobirdwatch events in Armenia. During these two months spent in the Cambridge BirdLife secretariat, I have attended the Bird Fair, visited RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) and BTO office and many other places where I met new people, discussed different environmental Armenian problems and opportunities and received useful advices on how to build further actions.

It is a great pleasure to work with Ian Burfield from whom I learnt a lot and now I will certainly take all this knowledge back home and use it for making ASPB growing.

You can contact Tsovinar at Europe.Intern@birdlife.org or armbirds@yahoo.com

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Events

International events

- July- December 2010: Belgian Presidency of the European Union

- 16-19 November 2010, Dublin, Ireland: BirdLife Birds and Habitats Directives Task Force (for BirdLife Partners only)

-23-24 November 2010, Brussels, Belgium: International Conference - Bird Conservation in the EU: planning for recovery action and sustainable use - upon invitation only

http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu_events.html

- 30 November, Brussels, Belgium: EEB International Conference - Reforming the CAP: Greener, better, fitter?

More information: eeb@eeb.org

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