

# Africa Partnership Meeting about to start on 26 March, ceremoniously

The Kenyan Minister for Forestry and Wildlife, Dr Noah Wekesa will grace the opening ceremony of the 13th BirdLife International Council for the Africa Partnership (CAP) meeting on 26th March 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr Wekesa will be the Guest of Honour at the CAP meeting that comes with the theme: "A Dynamic African Network for Birds and People". The main focus of the meeting will be to define the future programmatic and strategic focus of the BirdLife Africa Partnership, in order to be able to address the increasingly urgent conservation challenges in Africa in the 21st century. "The event will bring together professional conservation groups from all-over Africa, who will be discussing trans-national challenges such as climate change, the protection of migratory birds, and the promotion of sustainable development which is good for people and good for nature," says Paul Matiku, the Executive Director of NatureKenya (BirdLife in Kenya). "We will then come up with the necessary tools that we need to address these challenges, such as human capacity and financial resources." The 5-day meeting, from 26 to 30 March 2012, will bring together about 80 delegates from 35 countries, including members of BirdLife Partner NGOs in Africa and Europe, and members of the Global and Regional BirdLife Secretariats. A high-level event will be hosted on 28 March by the Spanish Embassy for the BirdLife Africa Partnership, key environmental organizations based in Nairobi including the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Embassies of African and European countries present in Nairobi and various donor agencies and corporate sector representatives. Preparations for CAP 2012 are still in full swing; updates on progress during the meeting itself will be posted on these pages next week - so watch this space...