

BirdLife Africa's gift to icipe on World Environment Day

The BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat presented a special World Environment Day gift to the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) by planting 25 trees at the Duduville Campus in Nairobi, Kenya. The Secretariat is hosted by Nature Kenya (BirdLife in Kenya), but due to space limitations, it has operated from icipe since 2003 and is set to move to new premises. The gift ensures that BirdLife leaves a green footprint on the icipe campus after 9 happy years in residence. One tree was planted for each of these years and one for each current member of staff based in Nairobi. BirdLife's Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Julius Arinaitwe, said BirdLife was glad to be part of the global community in celebrating the event, which came with the theme: "Green economy: does it include you?". He said: "BirdLife's programmes and approach are aligned with the principles of a "green economy" - low carbon, inclusive and efficient: our sites and habitats conservation work sequesters carbon, our approach involving national membership-based NGOs and their associated Site Support Groups is inclusive across gender, political and wealth dimensions, and our local to global network efficiently transfers conservation resources to action on the ground at minimum transaction cost." The tree planting was attended by 16 BirdLife members of staff and 10 icipe staff. Eleven species of trees were planted, selected because their fruits and leaves provide food for birds, butterflies and fruit flies. Some of them also have medicinal use. icipe's Director of Finance and Administration Mr. Roger Finan said icipe was delighted to be part of the global celebration by planting the trees at Duduville campus. He lauded the cordial relationship with the BirdLife Secretariat saying: "In addition to hosting you, we have worked on many collaborative programmes, and this should continue even after you will have left." The BirdLife staff will look after the 25 seedlings for the next few weeks, until they move to their new offices. From then on, the icipe staff will take care of these beautiful trees - and the birds they will hopefully attract!



Mr. Roger Finan of icipe plants a *Pinus Africana* seedling
(Photo: Joseph Ouko)