



BirdLife Africa Partnership participates at Africa Environment Ministers meeting

The BirdLife Africa Partnership is participating at the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) meeting currently underway in Arusha, Tanzania. The 14th meeting taking place from 10th-14th September 2012 brings together experts and environment ministers from across the continent to discuss environment and development matters. BirdLife is represented by Mr. Reuben Ottou, the CEO of Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS-BirdLife in Ghana), Ms. Ariane Ntamubano of Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Oiseaux (ABO - BirdLife in Burundi) and Ken Mwathe of the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat. AMCEN is an important gathering; we have an opportunity to have our voices heard on crucial matters like climate change, biodiversity conservation and how Africa intends to move forward following the outcomes of Rio+20 conference, said Mr Reuben Ottou. We are here to ensure that the importance of ecosystems and species are fully recognised in Africa's quest to achieve sustainable development. This AMCEN meeting comes a few months to two important global meetings, the 11th meeting of Convention of Biological Diversity and 18th meeting of Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC). It also comes a few months after the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Brazil recently. African ministers who will have their High Level Segment from 12th-14th in Arusha will adopt key positions on some of these issues. As Africa considers its Post-2015 development agenda, it has a chance to ensure appropriate policies are adopted globally to provide better livelihoods opportunities for its people. However, this must not be at the expense of natural places and species, said Mr Ken Mwathe.