



BirdLife Zimbabwe Celebrates International Day for Biodiversity

On 21 May 2010 Zimbabwe commemorated the International Day for Biodiversity. Six schools made it to the national debate competition, which was used to celebrate the day. Two of the schools in the Bird Awareness Programme - Mabvuku High and Prince Edward Boys High participated in the competition. The topic of the debate was: *Biodiversity and the Socio-Economic opportunities and challenges in Zimbabwe*. It was interesting to note that the High Schools had an in-depth study of the current situation on biodiversity in Zimbabwe. To mark this day, Zimbabwe had its own theme different from the world. The theme was "Conserving biodiversity - Our shared responsibility". Many government departments that included the Ministry of Agriculture, Environmental Management Agency, the media, Harare City Council, Forestry Commission and a number of environmental NGOs attended this event. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management was the main driving force behind the event. It is hoped that many other lined up activities for IYB will be carried out successfully, with BirdLife Zimbabwe (BirdLife Partner) taking part in most of these activities. BirdLife Africa Partnership hopes to continue celebrating the IYB through other avenue such as WED, CBD COP 10 participation and also through the annual world Birds Festival later in the year.