

Great loss-The late Georges Henry Oueda

Title

It is with deep regret that we received the very sad news that Georges Henry Oueda, Director of Conservation of **NATURAMA (BirdLife in Burkina Faso)** passed away. Aged just 48, Georges was the single most knowledgeable expert in ornithology in his country. He was the Naturama IBA Coordinator and was known to many across the international bird conservation community. His contribution to nature conservation in Burkina Faso cannot be overestimated. Throughout his tour of duty at Naturama, he was dedicated and committed to making a difference for both biodiversity and people. Georges was the driving force behind setting up and training local conservation groups at site like Oursi-Darkoye, Lake Higa and Sourou valley, now known as shining examples of community-based conservation.

The recent designation of twelve wetlands in Burkina as **Ramsar sites** have largely been achieved by Georges' coordination and monitoring training. He had so many plans to continue and expand his work. His passing leaves a large gap, mostly of course in his family, and also in NATURAMA and the BirdLife Partnership as a whole. George was an avid birder, a man of the people, an asset to Naturama and the Partnership. He fought a good fight and we will truly miss him. May His Dear Soul Rest in Peace Those who wish to extend their condolences may use the general NATURAMA address: info@naturama.bf