

Title Developing the capacity of local conservation groups in biodiversity monitoring is very critical in ensuring that a larger constituency of communities is contribute to IBA monitoring. A two-day IBA training for Abijata Shalla and Berga Site Support Groups (SSGs) was conducted at Abijata Shalla took place from 11 to 12 April 2012 at Abijata Shalla IBA. A total of 17 members of the two SSGs and one staff of the Abijata Shalla National Park attended the training. The training was organized jointly by the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society and BirdLife International-Africa Secretariat. Mr. George Eshiamwata, of the BirdLife Africa secretariat was the lead training facilitator.



SSGs during one of the field training

The training covered among others, an overview of IBA Programme; IBA Monitoring (An Overview; Challenges and Experiences in IBA Monitoring), SSGs and the IBA Programme, products from monitoring work and bird identification skills. This was later followed by a field practical session during which the participants were taken through both basic and detailed monitoring. The trainees were very enthusiastic during the training, and believed the training will enable them to conduct IBA monitoring with technical guidance and logistical support from EWNHS. This will significantly contribute to the sites and habitat conservation work. The training was made possible through support from the 'improving livelihoods project' funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)