

Title On 1st of September 2012, (8) African BirdLife International Partners will start their observations of migratory birds returning to spring in Africa. The BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat is pleased to announce the launch of the 2012 Spring Alive Season in Africa. Spring Alive is an international project organised by BirdLife International, designed to promote children's interest in nature and its conservation by highlighting the arrival of spring. The core component of Spring Alive is a mass-participation website that is implemented in all partner countries. Citizens, but specifically children and families, are encouraged to observe and record the arrival of 5 migratory bird species each year: White Stork, Barn Swallow, Common Swift, Common Cuckoo and Eurasian Bee-eater. This year 8 African countries; **Botswana, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe** will participate in the programme. From September to the end of November 2012, many bird connected activities, engaging children, their families and friends will take place in the participating countries. On www.springalive.net participants will enter their first observations of arrivals of the five selected bird species.?



Common Swift © Andreas Segerf

According to Thandiwe Chikomo [Spring Alive Focal Point for Africa] -?This year a record-breaking number of over 40 countries worldwide will participate in Spring Alive season. For the first time there will be 8 participants in Africa. This event is intended to raise awareness and appreciation of migratory birds and underscore that collaborative approaches, at different scales, are required for the conservation of the birds and their habitats. All the 8 participating African countries will hold an official launch of the season in their respective countries. In this year's African edition of Spring Alive, children from eight African countries are welcome to participate in a drawing contest dubbed 'My Spring?'. The young entrants who submit their works until 15th November 2012 will have a chance to win photo cameras. Every bird lover is invited to visit www.springalive.net to register observations, follow Spring Alive species, keep on learning new facts about their favourite bird and enjoy bird related elements and games, e.g. having good time in brand-new 'Swift Academy?.



SPRING ALIVE BIRD SPECIES; White Stock and Barn Swallow

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For further details please contact: Thandiwe Chikomo Spring Alive Focal Point for Africa BirdLife International: Africa Division Thandiwe.chikomo@birdlife.org OR Callistus Agbaam Project Officer-Wildlife Clubs of Africa BirdLife International: Africa Division Callistus.agbaam@birdlife.org **Note:** Spring Alive is mainly sponsored by The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA). The aims of the MCFEA are to encourage the appreciation and conservation of flora and fauna with an emphasis on endangered species. The campaign is also financially supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB; BirdLife in the UK) BirdLife in



the UK.