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The Seventh Conference of Parties (COP7) for the [Nairobi Convention](#) is being held this week from 10th to 14th December 2012, at Hotel Avenida in Maputo, Mozambique. The Conference of Parties meeting will be organized under the theme "Partnering for a Healthy Western Indian Ocean". The COP7 is expected to consider and adopt recommendations of a regional report on Birds as indicators of ecosystem health developed by BirdLife Partnership in collaboration with the national governments and the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention. "For the first time in its history, the Convention will discuss use of information on birds in highlighting the state of key ecosystems, drawing attention to the main threats and where they occur, and recommending priority actions at site and policy levels to enhance sustainable management of the natural resources of the region", said Julius Arinaitwe, Regional Director for Africa. "This is the culmination of strong collaboration between the BirdLife Partnership, the Nairobi Convention Focal Points, Nairobi Convention Secretariat, and other international organisations working in the region and over the past few years" he added. For more on the COP7, [visit the Nairobi Convention website](#) The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Nairobi Convention Secretariat are organising the meeting in close collaboration with the host and Chair of the Bureau for the Nairobi Convention, the Government of Mozambique, BirdLife International, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and CORDIO East Africa.