

November 2008-January 2009

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Message from the Chair, BirdLife Council for the Africa Partnership (CAP)



Dear African Team

There is an old story of a man who was travelling in a hot air balloon. Flying over a landscape, devoid of landmarks, he was afraid he may have got lost. Seeing a man walking below him he called out. "Dear Sir, can you tell me my present position and where I am heading?" The man on the ground replied "you are exactly 12.06 degrees north and 4.22 degrees east and you are heading north - north - east." At this, the balloonist said "Thanks Sir, but you must be a scientist." "Why so?" asked the man on the ground. "Because you have given me a precise answer that is absolutely useless", the balloonist explained. "In that case you must be a politician", retorted the other man. "Why?" asked the balloonist. "Because you don't know where you are or where you are going yet you criticize me!"

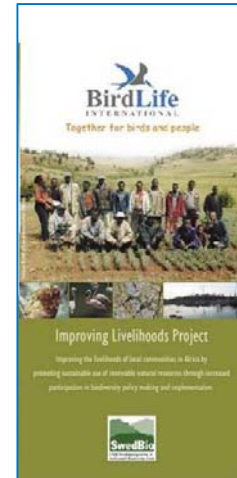
Read more about this story on the next pages, but as we begin a new year, I urge you to think seriously about the link between biodiversity and the wellbeing of our continent. What place does biodiversity occupy in the sustainable development debate?

*Professor Emmanuel Obot
Executive Director, Nigeria Conservation Foundation and Chair, BirdLife Council for the Africa Partnership 2008-2010*

PROJECT NEWS

Project emphasizes conservation and livelihood link

A pilot project implemented by BirdLife Africa Partners in Burkina Faso, Botswana and Kenya, (dubbed the 'Improving Livelihoods' project) is demonstrating how communities benefit from the sustainable use of natural resources.



"The livelihood security of millions of rural people all over Africa is inextricably linked with biodiversity and the use of biological resources, either through the direct use of the goods which they supply to people, or indirectly through the wider environmental and cultural services", said Dr Hazell Shokellu Thompson, Head of BirdLife Secretariat in Africa. "This is what BirdLife in Africa has been showcasing through this project and it's satisfying to see results".

Women who have been implementing this project through the Fondation des Amis de la Nature (NATURAMA, BirdLife in Burkina Faso) have greatly benefited from the sale of parkia grains - increasing their incomes by 50%. As a result they are now taking great care of the indigenous trees that produce these grains, and enhancing biodiversity by planting more.

In Kenya, the, Kijabe Environment Volunteers Site Support Group (SSGs) together with NatureKenya (BirdLife in Kenya) have been providing local communities with the information and resources they need to advance environmentally friendly businesses, implementing a management plan

CONTRIBUTION OF ARTICLES

We welcome contributions to the e-bulletin from the BirdLife Africa network about bird species, sites, habitats and people. We would also be happy to know about conservation-related events at global, regional, national levels being organized within the network. Please send your contributionsto antoINETTE.otieno@birdlife.or.ke. **before 12 March 2009**

BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat

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for the local forest and are providing practical livelihood and conservation training.

At Botswana's Lake Ngami IBA, canoeing bird guides are benefiting from their guiding activities and earning about 35 pula (just over 22 Euros or 28 US Dollars) from each tourist. In tandem, these guides help to control hunting, the biggest threat to birds at this site. This is one the projects supported by BirdLife Botswana (BirdLife in Botswana).



Some of the canoes used by tourists at Lake Ngami © Gaithuma

The lessons learnt from this project were recently distilled and shared at a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

Please contact Jane Gaithuma jane.gaithuma@birdlife.or.ke for more information.

Securing and sustaining capacity in biodiversity conservation action in the Upper Guinea Forest Area

A new initiative implemented by BirdLife Partners in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone is underway, funded by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, an initiative of Conservation International, the French Development Agency, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank.

The project will develop capacity of conservationists and other key stakeholders in the Upper Guinea Forest Area of West Africa so that they are effectively engaged in biodiversity action. Specifically, the project will focus on management of Protected Areas (PAs) in the Upper Guinea Forest area and target PA managers, young graduates and Site



Investing in capacity building is key to conserving the Upper Guinea Forest

Support Groups (local community groups) in and around the hotspots.

The three-year project will also involve the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB, BirdLife in UK), the main universities in the region, the Environment Foundation for Africa and Site Support Groups.

Find out more from Paulinus Ngeh paulinus@africaonline.com.gh

Saving Africa's threatened vultures

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB, BirdLife in UK) working with the BirdLife Africa Partnership has secured funding from the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation towards developing and implementing a recovery programme for threatened vultures in Africa. The project aims to investigate the situation for each threatened species, set baselines against which



Lappet-faced vulture is among the species that will benefit from this initiative

future monitoring work can be measured, alert key audiences and raise awareness of the problems faced by vultures and the solutions required, and gain wider support. An initial recovery plan will be drawn up which will guide the subsequent stages of the programme.

Project activities that will be implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, include:

- Completing baseline surveys of vulture/raptor populations in four East African countries and collating existing data on declines.
- Developing and implementing a programme to raise awareness of the status of vulture populations, and the causes of and potential solutions to the problem. This will target the agricultural and veterinary sectors, research groups, government conservation agencies and institutes, and the public.
- Drafting a recovery plan with the aid of key stakeholders.

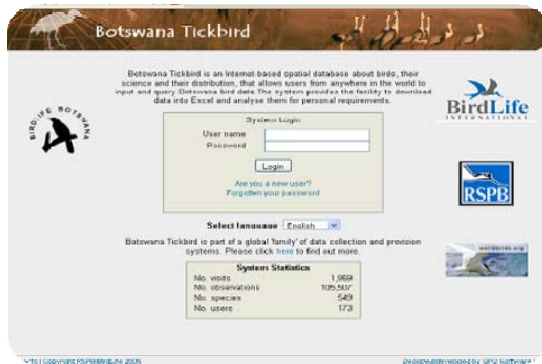
Please contact paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke or chris.magin@rspb.org.uk to participate or for more information

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Botswana

Botswana Tickbird is now available on-line. This system aims to collect data from both local observers and visiting tourists, but with an emphasis on empowering local scientists and community groups to capture bird observations recorded in Botswana. This new initiative enables users to store and manage their own observations, extract reports and view, print or download maps. Please log on to <http://www.worldbirds.org/v3/botswana.php> and register your personal details and explore different locations; find out what birds have been seen and when/where they were recorded. As well as contributing your own observations, you will be able to view other people's records, which may influence your next birding trip. Use the checklists to keep track of your sightings. A more detailed explanation of how to enter the details, etc. can be [found here](#).

Botswana Tickbird is part of the Worldbirds global programme - a joint initiative brought to you by BirdLife, the RSPB (BirdLife in UK) and Audubon (BirdLife in USA), linking together existing and new Internet systems to collect and report on bird populations and movements in different countries around the world.

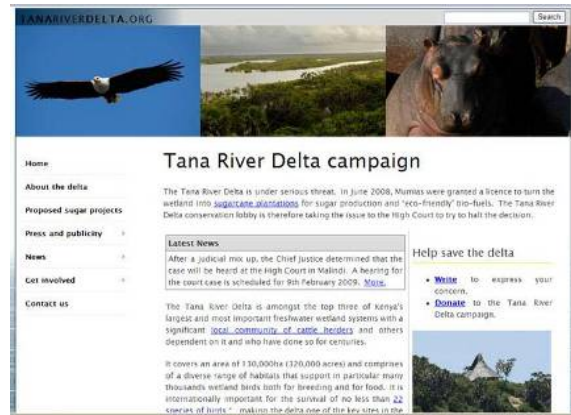


Kenya

New Tana website

The Tana River Delta is amongst the top three of Kenya's largest and most important freshwater wetland systems, with a significant local community of cattle herders and others dependent on it. The Tana Delta is under threat from a sugarcane project that is largely opposed

by civil society. A new website - hosted by A Rocha - outlines the threats to the Tana River Delta by a proposed sugar and biofuel project. To view the website and get more information on the Tana River Delta please visit: <http://tanariverdelta.org/tana/welcome.html>



Nigeria:

Biodiversity, the unsung driver of sustainable development in Africa

There is an old story of a man who was travelling in a hot air balloon. Flying over a landscape, devoid of landmarks, he was afraid he may have got lost. Seeing a man walking below him he called out. "Dear Sir, can you tell me my present position and where I am heading?" The man on the ground replied "you are exactly 12.06 degrees north and 4.22 degrees east and you are heading north - north - east." At this, the balloonist said "Thanks Sir, but you must be a scientist." "Why so?" asked the man on the ground. "Because you have given me a precise answer that is absolutely useless", the balloonist explained. "In that case you must be a politician", retorted the other man. "Why?" asked the balloonist. "Because you don't know where you are or where you are going yet you criticize me!!"

It is this dichotomy that establishes policies and viewpoints of our relationship to nature and the use of its resources.

Biodiversity is at once a life support system that sustains our well being when it is used and harnessed wisely and a potential hazard that develops its nuisance value when misused and abused. Misuse and poor governance of natural resources from both above ground and sub soil

sources can and have generated conflicts and violence.

The allusion here is that nature and the resources it provides have value but assigning value to nature has been a difficult process, not least because they are generally thought of as free goods that anyone has a right to, but also because of the dichotomy in viewpoints between politicians who make policies and scientists that promote wise use of nature. It is for these reasons that the value of nature does not feature in our calculations of Gross Domestic Production (GDP). Consider this scenario: a woman, in a border village such as Okwangwo on the Nigeria – Cameroon border, spends one day in the forest and collects, on the average, ten bundles of *Okazi* (*Gnetum africanum* and *Gnetum buchholzianum*). She sells these at the Cameroon boarder village of Obonyi at 100 Francs CFA (= \$0.12) per bundle. When this is aggregated to the average number of days spent (annually) in the collection of this wild vegetable and the number of women actively involved and averaged over the fifty-nine villages within 5km of the border, the export revenue from this resource alone (from this area) is substantial. Add this to revenue from *Afrostryax lepidophyllus* (bush onion), *Afzelia bipindesis* (aja), *Irvingia gabonensis* (bush mango), some 15 seeds, three oil seeds, 44 fruits, five other vegetables, 13 spices, 25 mushrooms and 69 medicinal plants; all collected from wild sources, and the value of fish, shell fish and crayfish from the mangroves, we believe that the true value of nature is overlooked while we pursue profit from the extractive industries that thrive on the destruction of nature.

Until technology provides alternatives to everything from wild food to natural medicines, most rural dwellers will continue to depend on the resources and services provided by nature for their livelihood and immediate survival.

Trade in renewable natural resources can and do contribute to local, national and global economy. In most cases, however, only a small percentage of the final value (profits) from trade in renewable natural resources ever reaches the source communities. We must find mechanisms, through community education, capacity building, and access to credit to enable local source communities have some control over the pricing of resources from forests, sand beaches and water bodies around them and on which

they depend. We must improve public management systems and make resource governance and transparency a central policy thrust.

I call on all Partners to reinvigorate and refocus our Site Support Groups (SSGs) in policy advocacy for conservation and sustainable development.

Professor Emmanuel Obot, Executive Director, Nigeria Conservation Foundation

Nigerian community empowered by wetland project

A collaborative project by BirdLife and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF; BirdLife



in Nigeria) has empowered a community to improve a local wetland in northern Nigeria. This is part of the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project, a large collaborative initiative by several organisations including BirdLife International, Wetlands International, AEWA and UNEP aimed at

Hadeja-Nguru wetlands are crucial for people and biodiversity

conserving migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the

African-Eurasian region. WOW has been operational in Nigeria since the middle of 2007, and is working with local partners to foster local solutions to the environmental challenges they face with regard to the wetlands and their livelihoods.

The Hadejia Nguru wetlands are an Important Bird Area and Ramsar site in the Sahel zone of north-eastern Nigeria, and the location for the WOW demonstration project. The wetlands are an important wintering and stop-over site for waterbirds migrating between Europe and Africa. They offer respite and water for 68 species

such as Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*.

The wetland is also very valuable to the 1.5 million farmers, herders and fishermen who depend on it for their income and subsistence. The area is a floodplain comprising of permanent lakes and seasonal pools, all connected by channels. These pools are very important, as they allow fishermen to fish, and farmers to irrigate their land outside of the wet season.

However, the role of the plain, as both a habitat for birds and a livelihood resource, is under threat. Hydrological changes, caused by upstream dams and other land-use activities, have slowed the water flow through the channels, and have allowed the native *Typha* species - a type of reed - to thrive. This has blocked the waterways; stemming their flow, reducing the flooding needed to irrigate farms, and preventing pools from forming.

The WOW demonstration project is enabling one community - Dabar Magini - to restore an area of the wetlands. A village committee has been set up and provided with basic hand-tools to manually clear the *Typha*, and since the beginning of the year in excess of 10km of waterways have been reclaimed.

Already local people are reporting benefits, saying pools are forming further from the lakes than before and that bigger and more fish are being caught. They're so impressed with the results that they've independently set-up a maintenance programme. An annual waterbird count will soon reveal how birds have also benefited.

Find out more from Adeleke Alade Adeniran, alade.Adeleke@ncfnigeria.org

South Africa

Rio Tinto and Kruger to Canyons Birding Affair



The annual Rio Tinto Bird Watch, hosted by the Palabora Mining Company, took

place on Saturday 01 November 2008. Linda Desmet of the Palabora Mining Company organised this year's event, which proved a great success, with 124 species seen by the winning team, and an average of about 100

species per team. The event was held along the Kruger to Canyons Birding Route, a BirdLife South Africa initiative developed in partnership with the Palabora Mining Company. The Kruger to Canyons Birding Route is located in the lowveld region of South Africa, with its information office situated in Phalaborwa in the Limpopo Province. The route was launched at the end of 2007, with the aim of having a positive impact on local communities through its various community development, education and conservation initiatives, focused on avitourism and conservation. By raising awareness and giving birds an economic value, it is hoped that avitourism will encourage local communities to protect birds and their habitats.

The route provides information to visiting birders, local and international, on what birds there are to see in the area and the best places to see them. It can also put you in touch with local bird guides and let you know which of the local accommodation establishments are "Birder Friendly" - supporting sustainable tourism, and catering specifically to the needs of birders.

The event was a big success with a whopping 124 species seen by the winning team! This is the highest count to date (the event has been running for 9 years now).

The Kruger to Canyons Birding Route is a BirdLife South Africa initiative supported by the Palabora Mining Company/ Palabora Foundation, Rio Tinto and the European Union.

Also visit: <http://www.birdingroutes.co.za/>



Real Time: Live from Kamfers Dam

The whole world now has an opportunity to watch the breeding antics of 20,000 Lesser Flamingos! A state-of-the-art webcam was recently installed on Kamfers Dam's famous flamingo breeding island, and the images are now broadcast to the world via Africam. To view the webcam, visit:

<http://www.africam.com/wildlife/index.php#>

Seychelles

Nature Seychelles Bags Africa's Coveted Trophy

Rarely does an environmental NGO come out best in ICT related ventures. But Nature Seychelles' CEO, Nirmal Shah is an exception to the rule. Just as year 2008 reached its sunset, he managed to put the idyllic Seychelles archipelago and entire Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the world map by scooping Africa's coveted digital award - The SABC-Highway Africa Digital Media Award. The award was bestowed on Shah on Tuesday 9th September 2008 at an auspicious gala dinner ceremony in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape province, South Africa.



Nirmal Shah, Nature Seychelles CEO cuddles the trophy after the presentation ceremony

The citation by judges noted Shah's relentless pursuit and commitment to the environment through his work with Nature Seychelles (BirdLife in Seychelles). Speaking after the award ceremony Shah noted: "This is a moment of great pride for the entire Seychelles Archipelago and the whole community of Small Island Developing States. The win is not just a Nature Seychelles achievement; it is a great accomplishment for the Seychellois people. It is an honour and a morale booster for our nation that we are indeed endowed with both talent and resilience that has enabled us to come out the best in the entire African continent." Visit: <http://www.natureseychelles.org>

Top Reunion Scientist Joins 'The Winning Team'

Top-ranked Reunion GIS specialist, Gilles-David Derand is the new Science Coordinator of the leading Seychelles environmental NGO, Nature Seychelles.

Gilles-David Derand has joined Nature Seychelles as the Science Coordinator. Accompanied with his wife Evelyne and their two children, Lisa and Paul, Derand took up his post in October 2008. Being a native of Reunion, Derand is



Gilles -David has hit the road running

at home with the dynamics of Small Island Developing States and particularly marine ecology. Widely travelled Derand is no stranger to Seychelles. He has been to the country before and visited Cousin, Aride and Aldabra. He is a qualified Scuba diver and has written extensively on marine matters. Please join the Nature Seychelles team in welcoming Gilles-David



Sierra Leone

White-necked Picathartes Conservation marches on in Sierra Leone

A follow-up initiative to enhance the conservation of the enigmatic White-necked Picathartes has started in Sierra Leone. The Society for the Conservation of Sierra Leone (CSSL, BirdLife in Sierra Leone), the University of Sierra Leone and staff of the Wildlife Division will work together on a project funded by the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund and coordinated by the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat.

The goal of the project is to contribute to a significant improvement in the conservation status of the White-necked Picathartes such that its threat status can be changed from Vulnerable to Near-



threatened in the IUCN and BirdLife International Red Lists.

The project involves Research work to obtain further information on the population of the White-necked Picathartes at a known stronghold site in Sierra Leone, Education activities to enhance The local and national conservation profile of the White-necked Picathartes with improved potential for research, conservation action and ecotourism, thus addressing local income and biodiversity conservation needs of the species and its habitat and Conservation action to improve site-level breeding success of the White-necked Picathartes through sustainable *in situ* conservation initiatives in order to ensure a viable



population of the species continues to exist at a major nesting stronghold in Sierra Leone

Contact hazell.thompson@birdlife.or.ke or aokoni2001@yahoo.com for more details

Uganda:

Nabajjuzi wetland, a newly discovered treasure in Masaka

Nabajjuzi wetland is a tourist treasure that many people have not discovered in Masaka. A tourist spot - Sitatunga corner - has been developed by the communities on the edge of the swamp with support from NatureUganda (BirdLife in Uganda).

Nabajjuzi wetland boasts of some of the rarest and touristic species in Uganda probably next to Gorillas. The good news is that you can actually see these

species and Gorillas during the same trip. What you need is to spare an hour or so and stop at the Sitatunga Corner and enjoy the scenery, watch Shoebills standing still in the swamp and grazing

sitatunga antelopes. Nabajjuzi is a rich wetland for biodiversity conservation with over 200 species of bird recorded including the shoebills, Saddle-billed Stork, Crowned Cranes and occasionally Woolly-necked Stork. In addition, Nabajjuzi is probably the only wetland where Sitatunga, a swamp antelope can be watched with ease. The swamp also provides livelihoods to local communities through crafts which are displayed at the observatory and is the major water source for Masaka municipality and surrounding communities.

Nabajjuzi wetland has gained local, national and international recognition which has led to its proposition for Ramsar designation. The wetland is now one of the 11 Ramsar sites in Uganda.

For more information about the wetland or Sitatunga corner, contact: nature@natureuganda.org



Birdwatchers at the Sitatunga Observatory

Mpanga gorge: Uganda's ecological treasure in danger!

Mpanga gorge is located in western Uganda on the eastern fringes of the world –famous Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP). This area contains the largest cycad forest population anywhere in the world. However an American-based company called 'South Asia Energy Management Systems' is in the process of bulldozing the cycad forest, a priceless national and global treasure, to build a Hydro-Electricity Power plant that will provide a paltry 18 Megawatts of electricity.

Mpanga River originates upstream from Kibale National Park (IBA UG006) and flows through a cleft over the 50m Mpanga falls. The river then

flows gently along the boundary of QENP (IBA UG007) into Lake George Ramsar site. The river gorge hosts the largest cycad *Encephalartos whitelockii* forest in the world. The cycads are an ancient plant believed to have survived over 200-300 million years. This plant is described as critically endangered according to IUCN with a very small area of occupancy less than 5sq km. In his book, Uganda's Great Rift Valley, Andy Roberts describes the cycads as a "living fossil".

Uganda is a signatory to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and as a party to this convention, Uganda has a responsibility and obligation to protect such a national and global ecological treasure.

It is shameful for the country "Gifted by Nature" to destroy the largest cycad forest in the world located within her borders. This is equivalent to decimating the mountain Gorilla population.

Find out more from nature@natureuganda.org

Zambia

Maiden Bird Guide training in Zambia

In August 2008, two Belgian bird guides visited Mutinondo Wilderness for several weeks to train local bird guides. As a start to ZOS's plans to train bird guides in Important Bird Areas, the Zambian Ornithological Society sponsored a beginner bird guide to attend the 3 week course. The Zambian Ornithological Society chose Mr. Ruston

Mukampola, who has worked for several years as a field assistant on a Zambian barbet project.

Ruston was the star student on the course, and is now well on his way to becoming an experienced bird guide for the IBA in which he lives, Nkanga River Conservation Area. He is the 'first ZOS IBA guide, and sightings of Zambian barbet are guaranteed with him'- Dr. Lizanne Roxburgh, Chairperson of the Zambian Ornithological Society.

To make use of Ruston's sharp eyes and in-depth knowledge of the whereabouts of Zambian barbets, visit the Nkanga River Conservation Area, 25 km north of Choma. Lodge and camping facilities are available.

Contact nansaibm@zamtel.zm for more information.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Website for African Raptor Enthusiasts

At the 12th PAOC in September 2008 at Goudini Spa, Cape Town, raptor biologists and enthusiasts from the African continent resolved to form an African Raptor Network (ARN)



with the principal aim of exchanging information about raptor biology and conservation issues across the continent and the western Indian Ocean islands. Towards this goal, the ARN has launched a website www.africanraptors.org as a medium for interaction.

WorldBirds on-line for Africa

You'll be delighted to learn that the WorldBirds installations for Africa are now on-line and you can register with your system via www.worldbirds.org. WorldBirds provides a suite of web tools to capture birdwatcher's records. It will also collect data for conservation work. After various developments and improvements, and a trial run in Kenya and Botswana (see Botswana tickbird article above), the system has been launched more widely in Africa. The implementation is through five multi-country

"hubs" - installations or systems that cover a number of countries. The hubs are Northern Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands.



Each country will have its own branded entry page into the multi-country hub.

Please log on www.worldbirds.org and if you would like more information, contact ian.fisher@rspb.org.uk or paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke

Regional Workshop for the Great Rift Valley Serial Trans-national World Heritage nomination held in Nairobi

A regional workshop was organized by National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and held at NMK from 8-9 Jan 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the nomination of sites in the Great Rift Valley (GRV) for listing as a World Heritage Site, develop a work plan and a road map to guide the process of preparing a dossier for submission to UNESCO in 2010 and develop simple, clear, realistic and achievable objectives.



Participants at the regional workshop ©NMK

Over 25 participants from 6 countries (Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe) attended including Dr. Mary Khimulu, Kenyan Ambassador to UNESCO Headquarters in France, staff from UNESCO Nairobi office, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and staff from the AWHF based in Johannesburg.

The Great Rift Valley is an important migratory flyway and therefore protecting a network of sites along the flyway will boost conservation of migratory species at their stop-over and wintering sites.

A regional secretariat based at the National Museums of Kenya was established to coordinate regional activities. BirdLife International is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee and will endeavour to provide technical support to the process.

The workshop was funded by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.

For more information, please contact:
hazell.thompson@birdlife.or.ke

Zambian IBA Schools programme – instilling a sense of pride among school children in Africa

The Zambian Ornithological Society (ZOS) recently concluded a wildlife story competition among all the Important Bird Area (IBA) schools in Zambia. The children were asked to write stories about birds, animals or flora and fauna. These could be new stories or re-told traditional stories. Titles of the stories focusing on birds included: “Why Birds and Snakes are Enemies”; “The Bird that Saved the King”; “The Pied Crow”; “Barn Owl Poem”; “Hard Working Eagle” and “Cardinal Woodpecker” amongst others.

The objective of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Schools programme is to improve the conservation status of IBAs by getting children involved in hands-on conservation activities in and around their IBAs. The schools programme was inspired by the Chongololo Club, a highly successful environmental education programme in Zambia. The Zambia IBA Schools Programme, which officially commenced in August 2005, has been made possible due to generous funding from NORAD/Norwegian Ornithological Society.



Children from an IBA School in Zambia (Zambian Ornithological Society)

For more details, please contact Bob Stjernstedt at bob@zamnet.zm

STAFF ON THE MOVE

Ibironke Olubamise

Ibironke Olubamise is moving on to a new assignment with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria. Formerly the Head of Strategic Operations at Nigerian Conservation Foundation (BirdLife in Nigeria), she is going to be National Coordinator for the newly launched Global Environmental Facility – Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) in Nigeria. She takes up her new job in February 2009. About her experience with BirdLife Partnership, Ronke as she is fondly known had this to say: “I have learnt so much from all of you and promise to put the experiences to use for us to make the world a better place. I look forward to having the opportunity for us to work together again in the future as I humbly solicit your support in the new assignment”.

We wish Ronke all the best in her new role at UNDP. Ronke *can be contacted through* ronkejj@yahoo.com.

Mathias Behangana

The BirdLife Africa Partnership will be saying bye-bye to Mathias Behangana, a Senior Project Officer who has been coordinating the ‘wings over wetlands’ and ‘Africa Climate Change’ projects, from the secretariat office in Nairobi. Mathias will be returning to the academic world at Makerere University beginning February 2009. The BirdLife Partnership is grateful for the tireless efforts Mathias put into engaging the Partnership in Climate Change issues.

We wish Mathias all the best in his new role at Makerere University.

Mathias can be contacted on behangana@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Organization: BirdLife International
Job Title: Global Policy & Advocacy Officer,
Cambridge, UK
Closing date for applications: 20 February 2009
Contact: recruitment@birdlife.org

Organization: BirdLife International
Job Title: Project Manager for an EU funded
"Across the River – a trans-boundary peace park
for Sierra Leone and Liberia" Project
Closing date for applications: 16 February 2009
Contact: Alex.Hipkiss@rspb.org.uk or
paulinus@africaonline.com.gh.

For more detailed information, visit
www.birdlife.org .

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

No specific deadline. The African Bird Club
Conservation Awards. Visit:
<http://www.africanbirdclub.org/club/ConsFund.html>

No specific deadline. Chester Zoo Conservation
and Research Grants. Visit:
<http://www.chesterzoo.org/conservation.asp?Page=126>

No specific deadline. Rufford Small Grants for
Nature Conservation. Contact: josh@rufford.org
or visit: <http://rufford.org/rsg>

No specific deadline: International Foundation
for Science. Visit: <http://www.ifs.se/>

Deadline 15th March: Marine Science for
Management (MASMA) Programme. Contact:
secretary@wiomsa.org or visit
www.wiomsa.org/funding_MASMA.htm

January 1st and July 1st each year: Club 300
Foundation. USD5, 000. Contact:
birdprotection@club300.se. For more
information, visit:
<http://www.club300.se/Birdprot/Birdprotection.aspx>

Deadline: 1st July 2009: The African World
Heritage Fund (AWHF). Focus on conservation,
management, community work etc at WHS or
potential WHS sites) is in. Contact: info@awhf.net
or visit <http://www.awhf.net/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

9-11 Feb 2009, Pretoria, South Africa.
International Workshop of Experts on Global
change (including Climate Change and
adaption) in sub-saharan Africa. Contact:
b.mahlalela@icsu-africa.org. Also visit:
<http://sancor.nrf.ac.za/international-workshop-on-global-environmental-change-icsu>

25-26th Feb 2009: Final Assessment Workshop for
the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund's
Investment In The Eastern Arc And Coastal
Forests of Kenya And Tanzania, Courtyard Hotel
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Organized by the
Critical Ecosystem partnership Fund.
Contact ndoggart@tfcg.or.tz

27th February 2009: Student grantees Conference
for Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Student
grant for Research, University of Dar Es Salaam
Contact: george.eshiamwata@birdlife.or.ke

16 to 20 February 2009: The 25th session of the
Governing Council / Global Ministerial
Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the United
Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be
held from at the United Nations Office in Nairobi,
Kenya.

March 10 - 12, 2009: International Scientific
Congress on Climate Change: Global Risks,
Challenges and Decisions, Copenhagen,
Denmark. **Contact:** Torben Mandrup
Timmermann, **Phone:** 4535324106, **Email:**
tmti@adm.ku.dk
Web site: <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>

24 - 26 March 2009 10th Student Conference on
Conservation Science, Cambridge, UK
Contact: s.prior@zoo.cam.ac.uk
Visit: www.sccs-cam.org

9-10 May 2009: World Migratory Bird Day 2009
<http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org>

May 2009 International Symposium on Remote
Sensing of Environment (ISRSE) in Stresa, Italy Visit:
<http://isrse-33.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

13-16 Oct. 2009, Cape Town, South Africa. 2nd
DIVERSITAS Open Science: Biodiversity and
society: understanding connections, adapting to
change. Abstract deadline: 31st March 2009.
Email: info-OSC2@diversitas-international.org



BirdLife International Africa Partnership

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CONTRIBUTION OF ARTICLES

We welcome contributions to the e-bulletin from the BirdLife Africa network about bird species, sites, habitats and people. We would also be happy to know about conservation-related events at global, regional, national levels being organized within the network. Please send your contributionsto antoINETTE.otieno@birdlife.or.ke. **before 12 March 2009**

BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat

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