

October 2009 - January 2010

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

Dear African team,

A little over a year ago, I expressed optimism

captured in these words *“That the global economy could, almost overnight, find the funds to save the global banking community from going down, presents hope. That same economy should be able to find a fraction of that to save natural ecosystems from further degradation”*.

I am reorganizing my luggage to leave Copenhagen and I confess I have lost some of the optimism. All I see here is fear. Fear that in committing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, we shall lose the comfortable life style that we are so used to. Fear that our decisions may be unpopular with the electorates, fear that the emerging economies may overtake ours and fear that we may lose our investments. These are not tangible. The tangible fear is the plight of the small island states. When this group expressed the need to hold global temperature rise below 1.5°C, they were not playing the climate negotiation game; they were expressing the right to survival.

The Copenhagen climate summit is probably the most important conference since the Second World War. It has taken place virtually in the dawn of the 2010 international year of

biodiversity. It has, (despite its many failures) provided an opportunity to reflect on the essential role of biodiversity in our strategy to mitigate and or adapt to climate change. While climate change on the one hand, presents unprecedented threat to ecosystems and species that offer ecological services to mankind, a healthy ecosystem on the other hand can provide natural safeguards to the impact of climate change.

I am leaving Copenhagen not knowing what the Presidents and the Prime Ministers shall discuss and or agree tomorrow (December 18) but I leave with the full knowledge of what happened on 12 December when tens of thousands of people took to the streets to call for strong ambitious action on climate change. I am leaving knowing that there is still a huge gap in the proposed aggregate developed country emission reduction targets and commitments by the developed nations to these targets. I am leaving realizing the need for closing the financial gap through providing adequate immediate financial support for developing countries mitigation and adaptation efforts.

I return to fight real climate change rather than this fight against inadequate/insincere climate change policies. In the coming year, I intend to work with people to help them realize the co benefits of ecosystem management. I urge you to do the same. We have a unique advantage. We know the science and we have the ability to work at different levels (across the spectrum) with local people, individuals, private sector, civil society and governments. Put this advantage into practical action. Always remember “doing nothing can do a lotof damage”.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Prof. Emmanuel Obot. Executive Director, Nigerian Conservation Foundation & Chair BirdLife CAP 2008-10

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 contributions to antoINETTE.otieno@birdlife.or.ke **before 15 March 2010**

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PARTNER NEWS ROUND-UP

Carbofuran Kills Vultures in Botswana

Carbofuran and Aldicarb are agricultural pesticides that are increasingly being used in illegally poisoning vultures and other scavengers throughout Africa. In Botswana, a stronghold of Lappet-faced, White-headed and White-backed vultures, as well as the Bateleur and other scavenging raptors, there are very disturbing reports of vulture poisoning, including inside Protected Areas.

According to the ornithologist Marc Herremans, vultures have been deliberately killed in the Okavango Delta Important Bird Area. Vultures are killed by poachers who think the birds give away their illegal activities by converging on carcasses of poached animals. Recently, poachers sprinkled Carbofuran over the remains of a giraffe carcass and killed more than 50



vultures of two species.

Some of the poisoned White-backed Vultures
© G Reed, Letaka Safaris

The Anti-poaching Unit of the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks arrested one of the poachers – hence the revelation of poachers' motives. The poison used in this case was positively identified as Carbofuran from samples taken at the scene.

The penalty for killing protected animals such as a vulture or a giraffe is US\$1,250.00 and ten years imprisonment, according to wildlife legislation in Botswana. The conservation community in Botswana is watching closely to see this case through to its logical conclusion.

Poisoning is a serious Pan-African problem that needs to be addressed in a concerted, co-

ordinated way across the continent. The onus is on the BirdLife Africa partnership – which transcends political boundaries and extends from the Cape to Cairo.

From the 23rd issue of Birds and People Newsletter at www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw

Environmental Education Club Activities in Cameroon

Environmental Education (EE) activities were re-launched by the Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS, BirdLife in Cameroon) with emphasis on networking amongst EE school clubs in the country. This was undertaken within the framework of the BirdLife Wildlife Clubs Africa (WCA) Project titled "Linking African children to the global conservation community – for the benefit of nature and people". The project was launched in November 2009 engaging five schools and three local communities.

A workshop was then organized, bringing together the lead teachers of different EE clubs, followed by a birdwatching trip during which a single individual of the Eurasian coot, *Fulica atra*, caused great excitement. The individual turned out to be the first record of the species in Cameroon.



Birdwatching with lead teachers of EE clubs © CBCS

Monthly meetings are now being organized, a total of 226 students and 60 community members have so far been involved. Three computers have been purchased and an internet facility installed in the conference hall of CBCS to create ready access for information exchange.

The internet chat with school clubs in other countries is exciting and is definitely going to stir up more interest and increase club membership.

Please contact Mrs Alice Lima at cbcs@iccnet.cm for more information

MADD About the Environment: Get Involved Says Local Volunteers

Removing invasive alien plants on boardwalks and along fence lines is not the work you would normally associate with your regular bank staff. But on Saturday 7 November 2009, Barclays Bank of Seychelles employees got down and dirty, alongside Nature Seychelles staff and students from nearby Plaisance school, to help in maintenance work at the Sanctuary at Roche Caiman. They happily weeded, scraped and cleared in and around the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary - currently managed by Nature Seychelles (BirdLife in Seychelles)- is a freshwater wetland that resulted from reclamation works on the East Coast of Mahe in 1986 near Victoria, the capital of Seychelles.



Grey heron at the sanctuary © Nature Seychelles

The Bank's staff – drawn from different departments and accompanied by their families -- were taking part in the "Make a Difference Day" or MADD. This is a global Barclays event held annually to promote volunteering and encourage giving back to the community around them.

"The experience was very rewarding. It is an impressive place especially the size and the quality of the established work the board walk and bird hide. It is an excellent initiative for environmental education not just for schools but for the general public and the local community" Said the Barclays Bank Staff

For more information please email: Liz Mwambui at liz@natureseychelles.org

Processing Oyster Shells into White-Wash: a Key Threat to Mangroves in Sierra Leone

The collection of Cockles and oysters for food is a common practice in Sierra Leone and dates back in history. These molluscs are traditionally harvested from mangrove stems and roots using sticks. This method is destructive to the mangroves, but has not been a problem due to the small scale.

What started as a trial to develop local white-wash from processing the shells of these molluscs has developed into an industry along the Sierra Leone River Estuary (SLRE), the country's only Ramsar site, with worrisome consequences.



Cockles and oysters being processed © Edward Aruna

The demand for white-wash has increased over the years as a result of settlement expansion around the city of Sierra Leone, leading to huge increases in the scale of mollusc exploitation. More and more people are joining this lucrative activity where a full bag of processed white-wash powder costs around USD10.



The fine powdered product from cockle and oyster shells © Edward Aruna

The Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (BirdLife in Sierra Leone) is seeking ways to work with locals and curb this devastating threat.

Please contact Edward Aruna at edwardaruna@yahoo.com or cssl_03@yahoo.com for details

Troubled waters in Kenya: Lake Naivasha

Kenya's Lake Naivasha sits in the Great Rift Valley. It is a serene and beautiful place, ringed by mountains and rich in pelicans, herons, ducks and other waterbirds, as well as fish and mammals such as hippos. However, it has now been degraded almost beyond recognition by pollution, non-native species, overgrazing, water abstraction and loss of vegetation. Tourists flock to the lake, but its fresh water and sunny climate also make it ideal for horticulture. Farms on Naivasha are the largest suppliers of flowers to Europe, sending produce worth \$264 million annually. Issues are complex and many of these farms, including those selling to UK supermarkets, have become involved in trying to solve the lake's problems through a Lake Naivasha Conservation Forum. A management plan was drawn up to balance conservation and development, but a court injunction by groups who wished to make short-term economic gains blocked it – which started a free-for-all.



Lake Naivasha drying up © Josiah Mugambi at [World Press.com](http://WorldPress.com)

Lake Naivasha now faces unregulated water abstraction, enormous and unplanned growth in the number of farm workers, and the overuse of pesticides and fertilisers that wash into the lake. Hundreds of smallholders also put pipes or water pumps into the rivers that feed the lake, reducing the water flowing into it.

NatureKenya (BirdLife in Kenya) is working with RSPB (BirdLife in UK) and other experts to resolve these conflicts while there is still time to save the lake.

"The survival of Lake Naivasha's biodiversity is in severe doubt. The private sector has to work with conservation bodies and Government to achieve a resolution which allows their businesses to survive."

Said Mr. Paul Matiku, Executive Director of Nature Kenya

Find more at www.naturekenya.org and www.rspb.org.uk/news

WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

Post-WOW flyway partnership agreement in Bonn

Representatives from the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) partners BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the AEWA Secretariat came together at the UN



Premises in Bonn, Germany between 10-11 November 2009 to work out the details of an inter-agency Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) for continued collaborative flyway-level action in the AEWA region for the period following the conclusion of the WOW-UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project. The aim of the memorandum is to build on the positive experiences created in the context of the WOW project by consolidating and further advancing a partnership approach for flyway-scale conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats between four of the main WOW partners: the AEWA and Ramsar Secretariats, BirdLife International and Wetlands International.

Surf <http://wow.wetlands.org/> for details

Strengthening Migratory Bird Conservation Through Partnerships in West Africa

Six countries in West Africa (The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone) have agreed to collaborate in the conservation of important sites for migratory birds along their coasts. The decision was reached after the 16-19 November 2009 workshop in Dakar, Senegal, organized by BirdLife International in collaboration with Wetlands International and attended by representatives of governments and civil society and relevant conservation programmes and initiatives in the region.

The workshop was aimed at developing a regional project and is part of an initiative funded by the Mava Foundation focussed on the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along the coasts of West Africa.

"The project offers an additional opportunity for continued coordinated monitoring and conservation of IBAs along the coast of West Africa, capacity building crucial for migratory bird conservation as well as enhancement of the livelihoods of local communities"
Said **Dr. Hazell Shokellu Thompson, Regional Director for Africa**, BirdLife International



Workshop participants in Dakar, Senegal © P. Ngeh

Participants identified a preliminary network of sites and species, as well as a menu of conservation actions. These include monitoring and research, site restoration, national and local capacity building, institutional strengthening, local community livelihood enhancement and policy and advocacy, all to be undertaken during the proposed 4-year lifespan of the project.



Workshop participants canoeing at one of the concerned sites © P. Ngeh

"The partnership and participatory approach adopted, right from the onset of the project development process, is one of the outstanding results of the workshop and a laudable approach for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats that will also benefit local communities"
Said **Ibrahima Thiam, Director** of Wetlands International Africa Office.

The workshop was funded by the Mava Foundation <http://www.mava-foundation.org/>

and BirdLife International and Wetlands International



For more information contact: paulinus@africaonline.com.gh

Wetland and Waterbird Monitoring Training Course in Maputo, Mozambique

A national wetland and waterbird training course was hosted by Natural History Museum of Mozambique in Maputo from the 9th to 17th November 2009, organized under the auspices of the Wings over Wetlands project. The aim of the training was to build national capacity in the conservation of waterbirds and wetlands.



Trainees during field work © O. Nasirwa

The training imparted skills required in the conservation and monitoring of wetlands and migratory waterbirds through the African Waterbird Census and the Important Bird Area programmes.

One of the main outcomes was the formation of a national group to carry-out wetland biodiversity monitoring and other biodiversity conservation work in Mozambique.

The Training was organized and facilitated by Mr. Oliver Nasirwa – Wetlands International, Mr. Paul Kariuki Ndang'ang'a – BirdLife International and Dr. Carlos Bento – Museu da Historia Natural.

The WOW project donated binoculars, bird guide books and telescopes for future use by the trainees.

Please contact Mr. Oliver Nasirwa at oliver.nasirwa@birdlife.or.ke for more information

The 4th meeting of the Horn of Africa Network

The Horn of Africa regional environmental centre and network (HoA – REC/N) is a consortium of NGOs, International Agencies and government institutions and partners from Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Eritrea. The network aims at contributing to the sustainable development, environmental conservation and prevention of conflict escalation around access to natural resources in the horn of Africa.

Between October 12 and 17, 2009, the 4th HoA annual meeting was organized in Khartoum, Sudan and over 100 participants discussed the opportunities and challenges regarding the management of rural and urban ecosystems and resources. Opportunities were presented in terms of improving management and disposal of waste, improving the livelihood of rural and disadvantaged communities and the conservation of urban species and complex and trans-boundary ecosystems of incredible service value. BirdLife and its project on the conservation of migratory species (soaring birds) were also introduced as a conservation opportunity throughout the HoA. The challenges that were looked at include the current situation of internally displaced people, mainly in Sudan (e.g. Darfur) and the impact of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems of the Horn of Africa.

The meeting was also a venue for contacts with BirdLife partners, other NGOs, diplomatic missions, UNDP and professors and students from different universities. Members of HoA were brought together to assess and discuss current issues, celebrate past achievements and plan for the future of the HoA network.

Please contact t.ukizintambara@birdlife.or.ke for more details

BirdLife International Group on Urban Birds (BIG-UB)

Hosted by VBN (BirdLife Netherlands) at Leiden from 6th to 7th November 2009, the BIG-UB inaugural meeting brought together 25 people from the Partnership (Europe, Asia, Pacific, America and Africa). Africa was represented by BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat and Naturama (BirdLife in Burkina Faso). The BIG-UB initiative provides an opportunity for creating and raising environmental awareness, engaging urban citizens in conservation, sharing of

experiences across the network of BirdLife International about the challenges faced by urban birds.

A total of 15 presentations were made including the analysis of weekly birdwalks at ICIPE Complex Kasarani conducted by the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat. Other presentations were made by delegates from Australia, Kazakhstan, Burkina Faso, Panama, Nepal, Spain, Italy, the Philippines, Indonesia, Bulgaria, US, Netherlands and UK. The group had an opportunity to visit ornithological collections at the National Museums of Natural History in Leiden city, the information centre on urban birds in Zoetermeer city and the Diemerpark Green in Amsterdam. The park runs eco-friendly initiatives including creating, modifying and ameliorating habitat and breeding sites for birds. Some of these initiatives can be customised elsewhere especially in developing countries.

For more information contact george.eshiamwata@birdlife.or.ke

BirdLife Africa Partnership at the COP 15 Copenhagen

At the close of 2009, the BirdLife Africa Partnership joined the rest of the world in the UNFCCC COP 15. The Partnership was represented by BirdLife South Africa, BirdLife Zimbabwe, Ethiopia Wildlife and Natural history Society, Nigeria Conservation Foundation, Naturama and Nature Conservation Egypt who were extremely active, attending all the BirdLife meetings and lobbying their party delegates. Prof. Emmanuel Obot Chair of BirdLife Council for Africa Partnership was recognized for the support he has given to the whole process.



Ms. Jane Gaiithuma of BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat attended and keenly and aggressively participated in the negotiations trying to influence the texts on different aspects of climate change adaptation, REDD-Plus and LULUCF (Land Use²

Change and Forestry). Jane also attended the PACJA (Pan African Climate Justice Alliance) meetings which were mainly focused on climate justice.

Whereas the conference fell short of its lofty ambitions, significant progress was made especially in getting global acceptance of the importance and integral role of biodiversity and ecosystems in all aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

NEW RELEASES (BOOKS & WEBSITES)

The Migration of Birds. Hardcover, 208pages, 279x224 mm by Janice Hughes. 2009

Why do birds migrate and how do they do it? The Migration of Birds is a comprehensive book in which the Ornithologist Janice M. Hughes describes the findings of the most recent research and surveys on as-yet-unanswered questions. The text is engaging and straightforward as well as authoritative and comprehensive. Migratory birds in peril are covered with all species profiled and illustrated.

Audubon: Beyond Birds, Plant Portraits and Conservation Heritage of John James Audubon. Hardcover, 266pages, 220x280 mm by Ernest Small et al. 2009

John James Audubon was one of the world's greatest painters of wildlife. He is best known for The Birds of America, one of the largest books ever produced, the most expensive book ever sold at auction and an artistic achievement almost without parallel. The present volume is unique in emphasizing the plants that Audubon frequently illustrated along with his animals. Superb, full-color reproductions are shown of more than 100 of Audubon's best paintings, chosen for their excellent portrayal of plants.

Africa Climate Exchange (ACE) a website of BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat

You can access the latest news on the UNFCCC and other climate change related news including over 250 documents and over 1,600 species distribution maps of African birds in relation to climate change. Login to the library or maps at www.africa-climate-exchange.org, type the name of a bird species you are interested in and discover!



Mapping the current distribution of Common Bulbul © BirdLife

For details contact Ken Mwate at ken.mwate@birdlife.or.ke

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Russell E. Train Fellowships for 2010 for Tanzania and Kenya



Train Fellows receive financial support for education-related costs for a period of up to two years. Study can be at the *master's* or *doctoral level* and can take place anywhere in the world in Effective policy, education, fieldwork, and other conservation initiatives. Qualification depends on sound technical knowledge and skills necessary to manage natural resources in complex contexts.

For details, please send e-mail to efn@wwfus.org

North Star Science and Technology Transmitter Grant Program



North Star will award a total of eight powerful cutting-edge battery-powered or solar satellite transmitters (Argos Platform Transmitter Terminals (PTTs) to different research projects worldwide. Research that contributes to our knowledge of avian biology and the conservation of birds, particularly of threatened species, will receive preference in the selection process. The deadline is February 5, 2010.

For details, contact George Wallace at gwallace@abcbirds.org or visit <http://www.northstarst.com>

IUCN Small Grants Program for strengthening civil society for sustainable forest conservation.

End of January and June are two deadlines for each year. The maximum amount per grant award will be \$30,000. The following domain of intervention: capacity building, nature resources management policy and governance, sharing lessons learned, gender equity, landscape policy and constituency, bush management and regulations, and advocacy will be given priorities. Details can be found at <http://www.iucn.org/fr/propos/union/secretariat/bureaux/paco/programmes/paco%5Fforest/carpe%5Fpaco/smg%5Fcarpe%5Fpaco/>

AEWA Small Grants Fund

The AEWA Secretariat is calling for applications from African countries for the Small Grants Fund cycle 2010. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 30 April 2010. For more information on the Small Grants Fund please visit this web link: http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/small_grants_fund.htm

African Forest Conservation Grants

The Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) invites proposals for transformative and innovative from governments, civil society and private sector of the Congo Basin to slow the rate of deforestation, through developing the capacity of the people and institutions in the countries of the Congo Basin to manage their forest. The Fund will support 1 to 3 year activities/projects which complement particular aspects of the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC) convergence plan. **The deadline is on 28 February.** Please find more information at <http://cbf-fund.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010 The United Nations Year for Biodiversity



Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life

15-19 Mar 2010, Kasane, Botswana. CAP 2010
BirdLife Council for Africa Partnership Meeting.

For more details contact Dikabelo Koboyatshwene at admin@birdlifebotswana.org.bw
Or Edith Hongo at edith.onyango@birdlife.or.ke

23-25 March 2010 Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

The International Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS). SCCS has been running for the past 10 years and attended by over 1,600 students from 106 countries worldwide. SCCS also gives to a limited number of participants a chance to carry out mutually beneficial work or internship with conservation organisations or academic institutions in the UK.

Please contact Caroline Lumosi at caroline@ecsea.org or camosi2001@gmail.com

19 - 20 May 2010 Nairobi, Kenya

The annual scientific conference of the Ecological Society of East Africa (ESEA). Theme "Climate Change and Natural Resource Use in Eastern Africa: Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation." The deadline is on 15th March 2010.

Address all inquiries to conference@ecsea.org

2010 Tropical Biology Association (TBA) Field Courses on the Ecology and conservation of Tropical Ecosystems.

These courses will be organized respectively on **20 June – 19 July, 27 July – 26 August and 1 November – 30 November** in Amani Nature Reserve, Tanzania, Kibale Forest, Uganda and Kirindy Forest. Closing date for applications is 20th February, 2010.

Contact courses-africa@tropical-biology.org for details

3 - 7 July 2010 University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Details on the 24th annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology hosted by the North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology can be found at <http://www.conbio.org/activities/meetings/2010/>

22-28 Aug 2010 Campos do Jordão, Brazil

25th International Ornithological Conference 2010.

Visit <http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc/> for details

18 - 29 October 2010 Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Organized by the Secretariat of the Convention.

Contact Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary at secretariat@cbd.int or visit <http://www.cbd.int> for details