

January - March 2010

In this e-bulletin:

- 1 Message from the CAP Chair
- 2 Partners news round-up
 - CBCS spearheads Cameroon's adherence to AEWA
 - Migratory bird hunting in Egypt
 - NCF core conservation area in south western Nigeria
 - Nature Kenya tree for environment project
 - ZOS donating computer to Chisamba School
- 3 Regional initiatives
 - Three Kenya lakes for World Heritage Site
- 4 Workshops and meetings
- 5 New Releases (Website)
- 6 Funding Opportunities
- 7 Upcoming Events



Message de Mr. Mourad Amari, Président du Conseil des Partenaires de BirdLife Afrique et de l'Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux (AAO, BirdLife en Tunisie)

Le hasard du calendrier a voulu que le CAP 2010 coïncide avec l'année internationale de la biodiversité, et c'est tant mieux. Cette conférence, qui vient d'avoir lieu au Botswana, est de l'avis de tous l'un des mieux réussis depuis que le partenariat africain existe, grâce à l'enthousiasme et le professionnalisme des membres de BirdLife Botswana et du Secrétariat de Nairobi et au cadre naturel du Parc National de Chobe. Beaucoup de thèmes y ont été abordés, notamment les oiseaux migrateurs, la protection des ZICO, le changement climatique, le développement du réseau africain, les sources de financement, le COP10 du CBD...

Les défis qui attendent les partenaires africains, sont comme on le voit nombreux, mais les partenaires sont déterminés à les relever. Les participants ont tenu à exprimer toute leur gratitude au Dr Hazell Thompson pour son remarquable travail à la tête de la division Afrique durant presque une décennie, et toutes

nos félicitations pour sa nouvelle fonction en tant que directeur adjoint du réseau. Nos félicitations s'adressent également pour le Dr Julius Arinaitwe pour sa nomination au poste de directeur du secrétariat africain. Sa profonde connaissance du réseau de BirdLife et son expérience lui seront utiles pour relever les défis et combler le vide laissé par son prédécesseur.

Message from Mr. Mourad Amari, the Chair of BirdLife Council for the Africa Partnership (CAP 2010-12) and the AAO (BirdLife in Tunisia)

What a coincidence that the CAP 2010 has been organized within the International Year of Biodiversity! Many agreed that the meeting, which took place in Botswana, was one of the most successful meetings, thanks to the enthusiasm and good coordination between staff of BirdLife Botswana and BirdLife Africa Secretariat and very natural setting of the unspoiled Chobe National Park as the venue of the CAP. Many topics were discussed: migratory birds, protection of IBAs, climate change, growth of the BirdLife Africa network, sources of financing, the upcoming CBD COP10...

The challenges facing the BirdLife Africa Partners are many, but Partners are determined to overcome them. Participants expressed their gratitude to Dr Hazell Shokellu Thompson for his outstanding leadership of the Africa Division for almost a decade, and congratulated him on his new post as Assistant Director in charge of the Network and Capacity Development at the Global Office. Our congratulations also go to



Dr. Julius Arinaitwe as the new Regional Director of BirdLife Africa Division. His deep knowledge of the network and outstanding experience within BirdLife will help him meet the challenges and successfully continue from where his predecessor left off.

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 31 May 2010

BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat

PO Box 3502, 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

T: +254-20-2473259 F: +254-20-8068315 E: birdlife@birdlife.or.ke W: www.birdlife.org



Participants at the CAP 2010 © BirdLife

PARTNER NEWS ROUND-UP

CBCS spearheads Cameroon's adherence to AEWA

Following Ministerial decision No. 0930/D/MINFOF/SG/DFAP of 19 October 2007, Cameroon is now determined to engage in the process of becoming a signatory to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (also known as AEWA or African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement) of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Birds. The Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS, BirdLife in Cameroon) is acting as a driving force on the committee set up by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) to prepare necessary documentation to have Cameroon accede to AEWA.

The first committee meeting was held on the 2nd of February 2010 at MINFOF Conference Hall to put together and review the necessary documents required for accession, and discuss the administrative and legal procedures essential for acceding to such international conventions. Focal points in the different Ministries including the Ministry of External Relations were identified. Potential bottlenecks that could slow down the process were also pointed out. The meeting came up with plans to overcome any challenges and move the

process forward. CBCS was charged with providing relevant technical information required to prepare the documents. The next meeting is scheduled for mid March during which these documents will be reviewed prior submission.

Contact cbcs_cam@yahoo.fr or Rfotsowcs@aol.com for more information

Bird hunting in the western desert oases: a further difficulty that migratory birds have to face

According to Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE, BirdLife in Egypt), bird hunting is not well documented in the Western Desert of Egypt, but appears to have a long history and seems to be expanding dramatically. This hunting takes place specifically during autumn (September to October), when bird migration towards the south is at its peak. The favourite target is the Golden Oriole, but nothing with two wings is spared. So many Golden Orioles are killed to the extent that some parts of the desert turn yellow from the feathers of these birds.

Hunting is usually done with air guns, but some shotguns are used. There is no systematic evaluation of the impact of this hunting, but it is likely that several tens of thousands of birds are killed. Every child and man in the oases seems to be involved, teachers leave their schools and workers take leave to go out to hunt birds.

The best locations for bird hunting are under the few isolated trees in the middle of the desert, where the poor migrants land in their numbers to rest, only to be shot by the hunters awaiting for them below. The large Acacia trees between Bahariya Oasis and Wadi el-Rayan had tens of hunters in September 2009.



Acacia tree in the middle of the desert © Sherif Baha El Din

Bird hunting overall seems to be intensifying throughout Egypt, including Falcon catching. Enforcement of any regulations seems to be waning. This is an important issue to consider and to urgently address. Hunting is a growing threat that erodes the effectiveness of conservation efforts both in the breeding and wintering grounds.

For details, contact Sherif Baha El Din at sherif_baha@hotmail.com

NCF OMO- OLUWA-SHASHA CONSERVATION PROJECT

Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF, BirdLife in Nigeria), Omo-Oluwa-Shasha forest reserves' stakeholders and the three state governments of Ogun, Ondo and Osun in the Southwest of Nigeria entered into an agreement to establish a core conservation area. This is based on recommendation of a survey report by NCF on the forest reserves in 2008.

NCF conducted the first comprehensive survey of the forests and recommended that: a) all logging and hunting, farming and human settlements in the natural forest should stop, and b) new management plans and two protected areas should be set up in the reserves. As a

follow-up, a project was developed to deliver these recommendations. It was agreed that NCF will implement the project, engage and consult all stakeholders, and monitor to ensure the execution of the project in accordance with agreed work plan.

The three states agreed to provide policy support, core staff, materials, logistics and sometimes financial contributions to ensure smooth implementation of the work. They also pledged to inform the public about the project. These forests are species-rich with at least 46 species of mammals belonging to 21 families and 242 species of birds. The area is one of Nigeria's 27 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) with a significant number of Guineo-Congolian forest endemics and at least two globally Near-Threatened species, Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* and Yellow-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*. Species of fish, amphibians and reptiles are equally diverse.



Illegal human activities at Omo Forest Reserve © NCF

For more information please contact: Olawoyin Kunle at olakunleola2277@yahoo.co.uk or at kunle.olawoyin@ncfnigeria.org

Trees for environment and respect

Inspired by NatureKenya (BirdLife in Kenya), the Morong'iot Chebaibai Women Group was established in Morong'iot Village in South Nandi, Rift Valley. The name Chabaibai means happiness. The group comprises 12 active members, 9 of whom are women.

"The men decided to join the group after discovering that we had a vision to uplift our living standards" - one of the women members claimed.

In early 2008, they heard about tree nursery development and were linked to NatureKenya, who trained them on good tree nursery management and provided the group with 10,000 polythene tubes. By March 2009 they had 16,000 healthy seedlings which were ready for planting in the main rainy season. In addition to making money, they receive visitors, including very important people who come to see their tree nursery. They are planting trees on our farms for more accrued benefits and other groups in the village respect and can now consult the members because of this initiative. They are currently very influential in village meetings where they are asked to share their experiences by the local leaders.



Group members and the Chairlady (facing camera) busy tending the tree nursery © NatureKenya

Group members are very excited about the upcoming Avocado agro-forestry project since it will provide not only trees, but also fruits which will help in improving nutritional needs for their children. Each tree seedling is sold at KShs 10, while each mature tree (especially poles of eucalyptus tree of 7 years) sold to Kenya Power and Lighting Company) at not less than KShs 1,500. Hence, out of the 16,000 tree seedlings, the group would plant 8,000 in their farms and if they sell the surplus of 8,000 at KShs 80,000 in the same year, after seven years, they would sell these trees at KShs 12,000,000 (Approx USD 160,000).

For more details please contact Kalume Kitsao kalume2000gk@yahoo.com

Donation of a computer and a modem to Chisamba Basic School

Zambian Ornithology Society (ZOS, BirdLife in Zambia) has been implementing the Wildlife Clubs of Africa project – Linking of the African Children to the Global Conservation Community – with Environmental / Wildlife clubs in Zambian schools. The aim of the project is to link school clubs with each other in order for them to share information, experiences and knowledge.

The project also aims at bridging the digital gap affecting clubs by providing internet access to school clubs. With this in mind and with funding from the Jensen Foundation, ZOS procured a desk top computer and an internet modem for Chisamba Basic School in Chisamba IBA. The computer and modem were delivered to the School by the ZOS Education Coordinator and ZOS SSG Coordinator.



A Dell delivered to Chisamba Basic School © ZOS

The pupils were also on hand to see the computer being unpacked. The computer will help the school in developing and enhancing their school club activities in terms of acquiring the latest and modern information on environmental education. The school administration thanked ZOS and the Jensen Foundation for the donation as it will help the school and pupils.

For more information, please contact zos@zamnet.zm or get details from the ZOS newsletter

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

BirdLife pushing for the three Kenyan lakes to join the World Heritage Site list

BirdLife International Africa Secretariat, with other stakeholders including NatureKenya (BirdLife in Kenya), the National Museums of Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Service are submitting a bid for three lakes in the Kenya Great Rift Valley System (Nakuru, Bogoria and Elementaita) to be inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage Site List. This nomination is due to their unique universal outstanding value to humankind from culture and nature points of view.

The three proposed lakes together provide a critical site network for the conservation of Lesser Flamingos in the world, and also form an important stopover site for migratory birds flying in from other sites in Europe, Asia and Southern Africa. Thus, the system is part of a global network of Important Bird Areas, migratory flyway and wetlands of global significance. The nomination is the first phase of a serial national and transnational nomination of sites within the Great Rift Valley covering several countries in the region.



Flamingos feeding at Lake Nakuru © T. Ukizintambara

Under the national law, Lakes Elementaita, Nakuru and Bogoria are protected as National Wildlife Sanctuary, National Park and National Reserve respectively. In addition to being Ramsar sites, the listing of the three sites as a World Heritage Property would significantly enhance Protection of their ecological integrity through improved recognition of their conservation value at a global level.

Excerpts from The East African Newsletter at <http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/-/2558/878434/-/item/0/-/s4va0ez/-/index.html>

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

WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

5-6 February 2010: SEYCHELLES 1ST TUNA CONFERENCE

The first Seychelles Tuna Conference was held in Victoria, Seychelles from 5-6 February 2010 bringing together nearly 200 scientists, fishers, environmentalists and policy makers. Nature Seychelles' (BirdLife in the Seychelles) inputs were incorporated in the final conference recommendations including; taking actions for the conservation of the ecosystem, the sustainable use of tuna resources by supporting the timely adoption of effective conservation and management measures, and basing actions on the best scientific advice.

Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations, tuna processors, fishing vessel owners and all participants in the First Seychelles Tuna Conference expressed their support for the commitments and objectives of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and for the conservation of the tuna resources and their ecosystem; reaffirmed their full trust in, respect for, and expectations of the regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) for tunas, recognizing them as the bodies best suited for managing these resources; and recognized the need to foster closer collaboration between the tuna industry, RMFOs, and NGOs, in order to develop new and innovative approaches to ensure sustainable management of tuna fisheries.



Cousin Island, Seychelles © Nature Seychelles

More agreed joint actions to be undertaken, can be found on Nature Seychelles website at http://www.natureseychelles.org/~naturese/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=379:news-flash-seychelles-1st-tuna-conference-declaration&catid=1&Itemid=139

23 - 26 February 2010: Third Annual Planning and Review Meeting on IBAs monitoring

The BirdLife/RSPB Project on 'Instituting effective monitoring of Protected Areas (Important Bird Areas) as a contribution to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in Africa' held the third Annual Planning and Review Meeting and the Project Steering Committee Meeting in Zambia between the 23rd and 27th of February 2010.

The project is supported by the European Commission through the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and coordinated by the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat in Nairobi. Participants included the Project Managers from the eight countries implementing the Project. The opening session attended by 16 participants was graced by the Director of Research and Conservation, Dr. Victor Siamudala from the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), the Project Supervisor Dr. Chris Magin of RSPB, the Chairperson of the Zambian Ornithological Society (ZOS) - Ms Guida Bell-Cross and the Council for the African Partnership representative Dr. Chipangura Chirara.

In his official opening remarks, Dr. Victor Siamudala of ZAWA reiterated the Government of Zambia's commitment to monitoring Protected Areas/IBAs and noted that the current project was fulfilling government's agenda. He expressed a concern that indeed low value is attached to birds by the public compared to the charismatic animals such as the big five and that habitats are shrinking due to industrial expansion and economic activities. He therefore encouraged all those engaged in monitoring sites in Africa to 'translate the monitoring work into a language that politicians and ministers can understand' so that appropriate action is taken.

'When collaborating with government authorities in conservation efforts, NGO partners should ensure that there is multiple gain in terms of the use of the information to be collected' - Dr. Victor Siamudala- ZAWA.

The Annual Planning and Review meeting – reviewed progress achieved in year 2009, with the highlights being the preparation and submission of the 2008 National Status and Trends Reports by seven countries and input into the Fourth CBD National Reports by five countries.



Participants at the 3rd annual planning and review meeting © ZOS

"Our first Status and Trends Report was launched last year and covered 16 IBAs, but this will be increased for the next report on 25 IBAs and we hope to reach our target of monitoring 32 IBAs by 2011. We are training officers from ZAWA and the Forestry Department in monitoring techniques and hope that the monitoring will continue within their departments once this project reaches completion in October 2011" – Ms Guida Bell-Cross.

The meetings achieved their intended outcomes and this sentiment was shared by all participants.

"The meetings benefited from significant government input through a Senior level representative from ZAWA. A platform for interaction amongst the practitioners from the different countries regarding IBA monitoring was provided and important decisions / recommendations were made to chart the way forward" - Thandiwe Chikomo- Regional Project Manager, BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat.

A visit to Chisamba IBA demonstrated the efforts by ZOS to build and strengthen Site Support Groups in order to conserve species and habitats.

For more information please contact thandiwe.chikomo@birdlife.or.ke

15-19 March 2010: BirdLife: Champions for birds and people in Africa

The Council for the BirdLife Africa Partnership (CAP 2010) was held in Kasane, Botswana, jointly organised by BirdLife Botswana (BirdLife in Botswana) and BirdLife Africa Secretariat.

"We are pleased with the partnership approach of BirdLife International and the support of BirdLife Botswana to improve the opportunities and lifestyles of local communities, in Botswana, through birds and biodiversity conservation", said the Honourable Gibson Nshimwe - Member of the Botswana Parliament, Chobe District during his opening keynote speech.



Kasane children entertained CAP participants © BirdLife

Among other issues, BirdLife Partners in Africa have reviewed progress with the efforts to save the 29 Critically Endangered birds found in Africa. Half of these species now have focused organisations and individuals - Species Guardians - undertaking priority actions to save them. These guardians are being linked with a community of donors - Species Champions - who are providing the funding to undertake the urgent conservation action needed to save the species from extinction. The impact of chemicals on birds was a key topic at the meeting. The increasing numbers of vulture deaths is particularly alarming. In Botswana alone, over 200 vultures have been reported to have died due to poisoning, the most recent incidence having been reported the week before the CAP meeting.

An overarching theme discussed in Kasane was climate change and the threat it poses to birds and people. The BirdLife Africa Partnership has just published a brochure on its climate work in Africa entitled: 'Climate change in Africa, What is BirdLife International doing about it?' The publication clearly establishes that the conservation of biodiversity and their habitats is crucial to address climate change.

"The Africa Partnership is working hard to ensure that the maintenance of healthy ecosystems is a fundamental part of climate change actions and strategies for people and our planet", said Dr Paulinus Ngeh, BirdLife's Sub-Regional Coordinator for West Africa.

Among others issues discussed were environmental education, livelihoods of communities living adjacent to IBAs, monitoring of IBAs and policy influence especially in relation to emerging threats to IBAs and birds.



Group discussions at CAP 2010 © BirdLife

For more information please contact: birdlife@birdlife.or.ke

Rwanda to Host the World Environment Day 2010

The Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR, BirdLife in Rwanda) is excited to share the news that Rwanda will be the global host of World Environment Day 2010. Rwanda's combination of environmental richness, including rare and economically-important species such as the mountain gorilla, and its newly evolving and pioneering green policies is among the reasons why the UNEP welcomed these celebrations to take place in Kigali on 5 June. This year's theme is "Many Species - One Planet - One Future", a theme that also supports this year's UN International Year of Biodiversity.

For more information please contact: Nick Nuttall at nick.nuttall@unep.org or check www.unep.org/WED.

NEW RELEASES

WEBSITE

The West African Ornithological Society website

The WAOS webpages with links to 'Sattrack and wingtag websites for birds migrating to West and Central Africa' have just been updated. A number of birds migrating to Central, southern and East Africa are included, too. Species that one can follow as they migrate this season include Purple Heron, Eurasian Spoonbill, Honey-Buzzard, Montagu's Harrier, Red-footed Falcon, Saker Falcon, Osprey, Black-tailed Godwit and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Satellite-tracking results from previous years cover White Stork, Black Stork (also from Siberia and China), Northern Bald Ibis (eastern population), Comb Duck, White-faced Whistling Duck, Garganey, Egyptian Vulture, Short-toed Eagle, Booted Eagle, Pallid Harrier, Osprey and Sociable Lapwing.

Please contact Mr. Joost Brouwer Secretary WAOS at brouwereac@orange.nl or check links at: <http://malimbus.free.fr/trakindx.htm> (English) and <http://malimbus.free.fr/trakindf.htm> (French)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Canon Collins Postgraduate Scholarships for Africans

Funds students from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Angola & Mozambique to pursue Master's in South Africa in any field. The deadline is in August.

Contact the Regional Director at canoncollins@iafrica.com or check <http://www.canoncollins.org.uk/scholarships/sa-scholarships.php>

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010 The International Year of Biodiversity

BirdLife is an official partner of International Year of Biodiversity.

Find more about IYB at www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/

13-17 April 2010, Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The fifth meeting of Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses &



Petrels' (ACAP) Advisory Committee (AC5) will be held at the Uthgra Sasso Hotel, Mar del Plata, Argentina.

More details can be found at:
<http://www.acap.aq/>

22 April 2010 Earth Day



For the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010, the world is in greater peril than ever, but there is also unprecedented opportunity to build a new future. Our coordinated efforts now will be recognized by future generations as a turning point.

For further information and events/action around the globe check <http://www.earthday.net/>

4-5 May 2010 Wild bird care in the garden:
Zoological Society of London, U.K. A scientific look at large scale, do-it-yourself, wildlife management

Contact Stephen Wickens at
wickens@ufaw.org.uk or www.ufaw.org.uk

8-9 May 2010 World Migratory Bird Day



Please find more details at
www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

10-21 May 2010 Nairobi, Kenya. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14)

For more details, contact secretariat@cbd.int

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."

Address all inquiries to conference@ecsea.org

22 May 2010 International Day for Biological Diversity.



The United Nations proclaimed May 22 the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

Find more at: <http://www.biodiversity-day.info/>

24-28 May 2010 The third Meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (WGRI-3)

Details can be found at:
www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WGRI-03

1-3 June 2010 37th BirdLife Global Council Meeting at BirdLife European office, Brussels.

3 - 7 July 2010 SCB Meeting at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The 24th annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) hosted by the North American Section of SCB.

Details can be found at
<http://www.conbio.org/activities/meetings/2010/>

22-28 August 2010 Campos do Jordão, Brazil 25th International Ornithological Conference.

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 detail

Compiled by Tharcisse Ukizintambara (t.ukizintambara@birdlife.or.ke)
Edited by: Julius Arinaitwe (julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke)