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Message from the Regional Director for Africa



Dear Partners,

In a temporary shift from the usual routine of messages from the BirdLife CAP Chair, we have compiled a brief report highlighting some of the main achievements of the BirdLife Africa

Partnership Secretariat during 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB).

In fundraising, network development and governance, we achieved modest success with over 14 projects secured by the Secretariat in addition to significantly more projects secured by Partners for conservation work. The BirdLife Global Council admitted Djibouti Nature as an Affiliate, bringing to 23 the number of formally recognized BirdLife network members in Africa. Council also approved the upgrade of the Zambian Ornithological Society from Affiliate to Partner Designate and approved Dr Chipangura Chirara as a new Global Council representative for Africa. We commenced the implementation of a programme to transform the Country programme in Morocco to a BirdLife Partner.

Under the species, sites, habitats and people

operation programmes of BirdLife, we secured support to continue preventing extinctions of nine Critically Endangered species and worked on six Species Action Plans; assessed existing Partners' ornithological capacity and their needs; assessed bird poisoning, with startling results from Bunyala Swamp in Kenya; supported Partners to monitor 180 IBAs in 11 countries and start to develop an Ecosystem Profile for the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot in 8 countries; invested heavily in advocating the integration of biodiversity considerations in decisions on economic development plans; made advances towards the assessment, monitoring and conservation of coastal wetlands in West Africa; gained momentum for a landmark transboundary peace park project in Sierra Leone and Liberia; launched an Improving Livelihoods project that is implemented by Partners in South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia;

The 2010 IYB was celebrated across the BirdLife Africa Partnership. Highlights include the World Bird Festival in October, when Partners in ten countries raised the profile of birds and their conservation needs through competitions, outings, artworks, and lectures. BirdLife also extended its advocacy activities to the SBSTTA 14 meeting in Nairobi, the AMCEN 13 meeting in Bamako, and the COP 10 of the CBD in Nagoya.

The main challenge remains the low appreciation by decision-makers of the value of biodiversity and how to manage it for sustainable development. Governments continue to make decisions on development projects that at best do not favour biodiversity conservation, and at worst destroy sites and ecosystems. Funding available for conservation work is still limited, as the main donor countries recover from the global economic crisis. We hope these challenges will be overcome in 2011 International Year of Forests.

Dr. Julius Arinaitwe.

Regional Director
BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat
Nairobi, Kenya

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.org by 5 March 2011

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COVER STORY: BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat sets key priorities for 2011

The BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat has identified eight key priorities for action in 2011. The review and endorsement of these priorities took place at the 'end-of-year retreat' held in Nairobi, Kenya on 2nd and 3rd December 2010.



BirdLife staff after a busy 'end of 2010 retreat' in Nairobi © BirdLife

The agreed priorities for 2011 are:

- i) take conservation action for at least 16 Critically Endangered bird species, with support from Species Guardians;
- ii) monitor at least 200 IBAs across the Partnership and encourage production of 13 national and one regional 'IBA status and trends' reports;
- iii) advocate and build capacity to safeguard at least 7 threatened IBAs in 6 countries;
- iv) initiate at least 4 new regional conservation projects to cover gaps in the BirdLife Africa Programme and successfully implement and manage the current projects portfolio (>30 projects);
- v) raise at least GBP 2.5 million in 2011;
- vi) effectively engage and profile the BirdLife Africa Partnership regionally and internationally, including at the UNFCCC meeting in South Africa, the International Year of Forests, the 40th Ramsar anniversary, UNEP, AMCEN and the Nairobi Convention;
- vii) expand the BirdLife Africa Partnership network into 3 new countries and advance the status for 3 Affiliates and 1 Partner Designate, and maintain high standards in all publications and advocacy and education materials.
- viii)

The Africa Secretariat staff also reviewed the priorities that were set for 2011, and were generally happy with their overall performance, with the exception of fundraising, where performance was considered to be average, partly as a result of the global economic crises.

At the end of the meeting, the Regional Director (Dr. Julius Arinaitwe) thanked staff for their hard work and support, especially during the transition period of management that took place between January and March 2010.

Dr. Paulinus Ngeh, West Africa sub-regional Coordinator (paulinus.ngeh@birdlife.org)

Did you know? "Blind spots" during flights make power lines 'invisible' to birds

Vision experts found that cranes, bustards and storks are unable to see obstacles straight ahead when they tilt their heads downwards in flight. "Birds often look down during flight to find fellow birds as well as nesting and feeding areas," say the researchers. The new evidence suggests that the problem cannot be prevented by altering the appearance of power lines. Millions of birds are thought to be killed by hitting power lines globally each year.

Clear statistics are difficult to obtain because birds' remains are often scavenged before the cause of death can be recorded. Despite efforts to make power lines more visible through the use of reflective markers and high-visibility tags, certain species still have high mortality rates from power line crashes. Scientists from the Centre for Ornithology at the University of Birmingham, UK, studied three particularly affected species: Kori bustards (*Aerdeotis kori*), Blue cranes (*Anthropoides paradisea*), and White storks (*Ciconia ciconia*).



The Blue crane, one of the power line-affected bird species © BirdLife South Africa

It was found that these species share significant blind areas to the front of their heads. Although the heavy bustard differs greatly in general body shape from the delicate crane and stork, the birds share a foraging technique - visually guiding their bill to take food items. This technique requires excellent vision at the end of the bill, resulting in a narrow field of vision and wide "blind spots." Of the African birds studied, the Blue Crane is the most vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List. Conservationists point to power line incidents as a key factor in the Blue cranes' population decline.

Story from BBC NEWS By Ella Davies, Earth News reporter: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_9140000/9140040.stm

NEWS FROM THE CBD NAGOYA

Effort to protect Lake Natron recognised

Lake Natron recently scooped the World Wetlands Network (WWN) "Blue Globe" Award in a colourful inaugural ceremony held during the CBD COP 10 in Nagoya. The prestigious award was given in recognition of recent efforts to improve the management of the lake. These efforts include the posting of a Ramsar Site Manager by the Wetlands Unit, posting of a Site Conservation Manager by the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST-BirdLife in Tanzania), the development of an Integrated Management Plan, the establishment of two Wildlife Management Areas and the completion of a Single Species Action Plan for Lesser Flamingos.



Eng B.T Baya and Baboucarr watch as Ken gives BirdLife International's congratulatory message © BirdLife

The Award was received by Eng Bonventure Baya on behalf of the Government of Tanzania. In his thank you speech, he said: "It is both a challenge as well as an encouragement to work harder at protecting the Lake."

"More than ever, there is need for stakeholders to ensure that the integrity of Lake Natron and the honour from the new award are maintained," said Ken Mwathe, BirdLife's project manager, while congratulating the Government of Tanzania for the award to Lake Natron on behalf of BirdLife International.

For more information, contact Ken Mwathe at ken.mwathe@birdlife.org

BirdLife and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) sign memorable agreement for biodiversity

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Tokyo, Japan on 20 December 2010 is an expression of the desire of BirdLife and the CBD Secretariat to enhance their cooperation, especially in the light of the recent adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Convention 2011-2020 and the 'Aichi Targets' during the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD which took place in Nagoya, Japan on 18 – 29 October 2010.

Dr Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary, signs the agreement in the presence of BirdLife's Honorary President, HH Princess Takamado
© CBD



In summary, the MoU will seek to:

- Support the development, test and apply a framework of indicators for measuring progress in achieving biodiversity targets of the CBD.
- Make data on avian biological diversity available to Parties.
- Continue to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas.
- Support the growth of the LifeWeb Initiative.

- Strengthen collaboration on the practical application of the CBD criteria for the identification of Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Areas outside National Jurisdiction.
- Facilitate linkages between national BirdLife Partners and CBD Parties' national focal points.
- Strengthen the science and policy efforts to link biodiversity with climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Raise awareness on the value of biodiversity and the important steps to protect it.

“BirdLife and the CBD recognise that birds are excellent indicators for the status and trends of biodiversity, and that BirdLife’s data on threatened species and Important Bird Areas are of major significance for implementing the convention,” said Muhtari Aminu-Kano, one of BirdLife’s key representatives at the meeting in Nagoya.

Find more details at:

www.birdlife.org/community/2010/12/birdlife-and-the-convention-on-biological-diversity-sign-partnership-agreement/

LET'S HEAR YOUR VIEWS

Are African Waterbird Counts a useful contribution to IBA monitoring? – A Wetlands International response to Pete Hancock’s article in the 25th Africa e-bulletin.

Pete Hancock’s article in the last issue of the BirdLife African Partnership Bulletin raises important questions related to the standardization of waterbird counts in seasonally fluctuating wetlands and to the sample sizes and coverage of counts. The simple answer is yes, the African Waterbird Counts (AfWC) are a very useful contribution to IBA monitoring, but their usefulness does vary, depending on the sites and species that are being counted. The count data have different uses at different scales, and without them, international conservation instruments such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) would have a weaker scientific basis and priority setting in wetland and waterbird conservation would be considerably more difficult.

AfWC has three principal international objectives:

1. Contribute to estimates of waterbird populations

Estimating the number of individuals in bird populations is challenging and the process almost

invariably involves a degree of extrapolation at some level. National waterbird count coordinators should prioritise count coverage so that as many of the most important sites as possible are counted every year, along with a selection of other sites representative of the country’s wetlands. The aim is not to count the maximum number of birds possible, but to obtain good estimates of the numbers of birds actually present at different sites. When counts are carried out at the same period across the continent and across flyways, then count totals are summed to form the basis of estimates and trends at the biogeographic population level. Wetlands International publishes these and makes them widely available.

2. Provide trends in waterbird numbers

At nearly all coastal sites and a great many rivers, lakes and other inland wetlands, water levels and wetland extent do not vary much, or at least vary predictably. If the sites don’t vary too much, standardised counts on a regular basis can provide a good basis for monitoring waterbird trends. However, the extreme variability in water levels and wetland extent found in the ephemeral wetlands of southern Africa, and, north of the equator, throughout the Sahel zone make waterbird population trend analyses difficult or impossible at these sites. Pete’s letter articulates the frustrations of observers working at such sites, but counts at these sites are still very important, even if they are known to be inconsistent and incomplete.



Waterbird counts ©CH Gommersall/RSPB

3. Provide a basis for assessing the importance of sites

It is true that in the great pan systems and floodplains where water levels vary enormously and unpredictably, the AfWC counts alone cannot reliably be used to monitor closely waterbird numbers and trends. However, countries can build on the AfWC and develop complementary monitoring that best suits their sites. This may involve a programme of additional counts at different times of year, for example to link to the beginning of the rains or high floods. These can contribute more information, for instance about the

importance of sites for migratory birds, and the cumulative importance of sites, e.g. throughout the year.



Counting waterbirds © Gary Allport/BirdLife

Zwarts *et al* (*Living on the Edge, Wetlands and birds in a changing Sahel*, KNNV Publishing, The Netherlands, 2009) have demonstrated the value of such data for the Inner Niger Delta, showing how bird numbers and distribution are closely linked to flooding, and how pressures such as hunting and trapping directly impact population trends. In the Sahel zone, repeated, extensive aerial surveys led by the French Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) covering Lake Chad, the Inner Niger Delta and the Senegal Delta have provided a good impression of the numbers of waterbirds using these sites and how they shift and vary from year to year.

AfWC has had success in addressing all of these objectives over the past 20 years, and we hope that improvements and enhancements to the programme will ensure that this success continues into the future. Pete Hancock has identified a strong need for better approaches to monitoring extensive sites with variable water levels and wetland extent. As threats from human economic development increase, ranging from climate change to agricultural intensification and infrastructure development, it is essential to maintain and enhance long-term monitoring programmes which can be used to track the impacts of such threats on biodiversity. Consistent and regular waterbird counts are valuable tools in monitoring such impacts. The AfWC, despite its imperfections, provides one of the longest-running and most geographically extensive monitoring programmes in Africa and its continuation, at IBAs and beyond, is essential.

We are grateful to Lincoln Fishpool at the BirdLife Secretariat for comments on an earlier draft.

By Simon Delany and Tim Dodman.
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NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

Multi- pronged approach to safeguarding Madagascar's Protected Areas

Asity Madagascar (BirdLife in Madagascar) is working hard to ensure that the Tsitongambarika forest in the Anosy region, an important area for bird conservation, is included in the new Protected Area network in Madagascar.



Since the end of 2006, Asity Madagascar has been implementing the following three programmes in this region.

1. An environmental education programme

With support from Rio Tinto / Qit Madagascar Minerals (QMM), Asity Madagascar is organising an annual Birdwatching Event, to sensitize the local people about the importance of biodiversity, particularly birds and their habitats, and to develop capacity to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in Tsitongambarika.

2. Management of the new Protected Area (NPA) of Tsitongambarika

Since 2006, Asity Madagascar has advocated to designate the site as a protected area (PA). A temporary PA status was granted in 2008, but full protection status is still pending. However, Asity Madagascar continues to take appropriate conservation actions for the new PA to reduce degradation and pressures. Protection, ecological restoration, reforestation, and development of revenue-generating activities are some of the interventions to safeguard the integrity of the ecosystems and to contribute to sustainable development.



Birdwatching at Ambatotsirongorongo © Asity

3. A direct payment programme

In the Anosy region, a pilot "Direct Payment" programme was implemented in six grassroots organizations (Enato, Anka, Mahialambo, Farafara, Amborabao and Vatambe). The main aim of this programme was to train local people in forest management, (e.g. patrolling and environmental monitoring), and to provide incentives for conservation activities through stimulating economic opportunities.

The outputs of the project include:

- communities' behaviour change manifested through reduced deforestation rates;
- transforming destructive activities into income generating activities;
- enforcement of a Code of Conduct;
- improved ecological skills (birds, lemurs, plants) by the community-based conservation organisations (CBCOs) and
- the approval of a temporary protected status.

Throughout the project, Asity Madagascar worked closely together with the local people and managed to capitalize on their enthusiasm..

For more information please contact:



Mamonjisoa Razafindrakoto at mamonjyrazaf@birdlife-mada.org or visit www.asitymadagascar.org

Showcasing children's talent through the media: EE programme in Cameroon

Members of the Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS)'s Environmental Education (EE opened a new page during the start of the 2010/11 academic year as they went showcasing some of their activities over a weekly programme dubbed MondayShow on the Cameroonian Television.

The public in general and particularly parents whose children belong to EE clubs had the pleasure to watch the children demonstrate their skills and talents on air, which ranged from singing, citing poems, and playing instruments such as the guitar. Prior to this, a lot of time and effort had been invested by the environmental coordinators and journalists in selecting the most outstanding and impressive activities to be aired on national television. The children on their part showed a lot of enthusiasm and excitement during the rehearsals and they did not disappoint as they put in a good show, which has been aired on a weekly basis. For

example, children from the Holy Infant High School sang "Looking up to the environment." The message was simple and straight to the point: "Look up to the sky and think of the future of so many endangered species."



EE club members, lead teachers, and coordinators in a family picture after the MondayShow © CBCS

The Kad-ndap Bilingual School Complex and the Holy Infant High school cited a poem focusing on the environment. "The ever green forest" poem highlighted the diversity of species found in the forest and underscored the importance of conserving them. Another poem "A nightmare within the natural habitat" strongly called for the creation of reserves to save endangered species and migratory birds, and to minimise the unprecedented destructive activities by man. The show raised the level of consciousness amongst wider audiences about the peril of biodiversity in Cameroon and the need to take immediate action to prevent further damage.

At the end of the show, the CBCS's EE Coordinator highlighted the clubs' achievements as part of the regional BirdLife project titled "Linking African children to the global conservation community for the benefit of nature and people", including online chats between EE school clubs, EE competitions, bird watching trips, establishment of flower gardens, clean up drives in campuses and field trips.

For more information contact Ferdinand Nteh at cbcs_cam@yahoo.fr

High densities of Prince Ruspoli's turaco found at Sede and Lela Lemu, Southern Ethiopia

Prince Ruspoli's turaco *Tauraco ruspolii*, one of the most charismatic birds of Africa, is restricted to a small range in Southern Ethiopia. In 1995, its population was estimated at 10,000 mature individuals, but rampant

rates of habitat destruction in the region have a negative impact on birds along forest edges and in woodlands with scattered *Podocarpus* and fig trees.

Recent field work organized by Addis Ababa University and funded by a group of conservation organizations led by Conservation des Espèces et des Populations Animales, France (CEPA) suggests that large areas have been converted to agriculture and plantations of exotic trees in the northern part of the species' range. It is in that region that hybridization with White-cheeked turaco (*Tauraco I. Leucotis*) was discovered a few years ago.



Prince Ruspoli's turaco © JM Lernoould

Fortunately, in the central part of Ruspoli's turaco's range, the woodlands bordering Sede and Lela Lemu forests are still largely intact, and support high densities of the species. The forests themselves are inhabited by a rich avifauna that includes the White-cheeked turaco. Clearly, this area is a key site for the conservation of Prince Ruspoli's turaco, as it probably hosts the most important surviving subpopulation of this species. However, the survey also found that rates of illegal logging and agricultural expansions are increasing in the area, and rates of habitat destruction are bound to increase as the road system will soon be upgraded to support the expansion of the mining industry, that is already flourishing in the area. Urgent actions are necessary to improve the conservation of Sede and Lela Lemu forests and of the woodland belt that surrounds them.

The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS, BirdLife in Ethiopia) is grateful for the financial support from the British Birdwatching Fair that will allow them to develop a Conservation Action Plan for Prince Ruspoli's turaco. EWNHS also gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sponsors whose donations are crucial to carry out the research programme on Prince Ruspoli's turaco: CEPA, Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten- und

Populationsschutz (ZGAP, Germany), Chester Zoo (UK), the International Turaco Society and the Avicultural Society (UK), and Zlin Zoo (Czech Republic).

By Alazar Daka,, Jean-Marc Lernoould, Afework Bekele and Luca Borghesio (borghesio@gmail.com)

Video conference for wildlife clubs

One outcome of the Ghanaian component of the regional BirdLife wildlife clubs project (see also previous article), implemented by the Ghana Wildlife Society (BirdLife in Ghana), is the twinning of schools across the ocean. A small number of Ghanaian school clubs are 'twinning' with school clubs in the Netherlands and Ireland.

In November 2010, with support from the British Council, a 90-minute video conference was held in Accra between the Wildlife Clubs of Sakumono Complex Schools and Glanmoran County High School in Ireland. The Sakumono Complex Schools is located at the edge of an IBA, the Sakumono Ramsar Site, where the school club studies the ecology of birds, particularly the Black tern which winters there from Ireland. The coastal school in Ireland also looks after the welfare of birds including the Black tern.

Members of Sakumono club during the video conference © GWS



The video conference discussions included diverse topics ranging from the weather, activities undertaken by the respective clubs and emerging key biodiversity conservation issues. It was an interesting eye-opener for some of the pupils who were participating in such a conference for the first time. The experience from this session was phenomenal.

Post conference discussion agreed that the programme should be replicated to benefit more schools, and that schools could be equipped to make such interactions a daily or more regular activity.

For more information contact Jacob Oti awere, GWS Executive Director at j.wildlifesociety@gmail.com

**Biodiversity Monitoring champions at the local level:
KENVO**

Michael Kibuika is a young and energetic member of The Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO, a Site Support Group (SSG) in Kenya). He joined SSG in 2005 after his high school education with a desire to serve the community through the group. He was inspired by what the members of the group were doing to conserve the Kikuyu Escarpment, a forested Important Bird Area (IBA) in central Kenya. Now armed with a college degree, Michael has no intentions of leaving the SSG as he is fully aware that his academic credentials could be of use in furthering the groups' cause to conserve biodiversity resources, especially through regular monitoring. There is no doubt that Michael is passionate about biodiversity monitoring and is committed to ensuring that the group's objectives are achieved.



Michael Kibuika of KENVO © KENVO

“Monitoring is very important and KENVO cannot claim to practice conservation without monitoring,” Michael says with a lot of emphasis. Since KENVO initiated monitoring activities at the site, there has been tremendous support from the government of Kenya. For example, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) is credited with providing the requisite technical expertise to conserve the forest. As a result, there is strong

collaboration between KENVO and KFS. The community, as the custodian of the forestry resources, reports any incidences of malpractice i.e. illegal harvesting of trees/poaching to KFS, which then takes appropriate intervention mechanisms. The benefits of monitoring and conserving the forest have not gone unnoticed by the wider community. There is noticeable increase in conservation of resources as well as better livelihood options for the community through income-generating projects such as bee-keeping. The community has come to appreciate why the group has been advocating for the conservation of the forest for years.

Michael however notes that biodiversity monitoring and conservation of the Kikuyu Escarpment has had its own challenges. The major challenge is the high turnover of group members who have previously been trained under the auspices of initiatives supported by KENVO. Michael suggests that more resources (financial/technical) need to be channelled towards building local capacity. Despite these challenges, Michael and the group members have not lost sight of the goals to conserve the forest and will continue to train as well as lead site monitoring and forest restoration teams. Michael hopes that through their income generating activities within the forest, it will be possible to acquire some of the equipment they need for monitoring. Donations from the well wishers will also be most welcomed by KENVO.

This article was written as the group was mourning the passing of one of the leading lights in biodiversity monitoring at KENVO, Mr. David Ngethe. May his soul, rest in eternal peace.

For more information please contact Alex Ngari, Nature Kenya Conservation Programme Manager at ngarialex@naturekenya.org

For he's a jolly good Africa Climate Change Fellow!

For the last year David Kuria, the Director of the Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO), has undertaken a BirdLife-hosted project to investigate the understanding of Climate Change by local communities, their traditional coping strategies and how policies in Kenya are supporting adaptation.

David was recently awarded a Certificate of successfully completing an Africa Climate Change Fellowship with the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat in Nairobi, at a colourful ceremony held during a conference in Dakar, Senegal, that reviewed the activities of the first

round of the Africa Climate Change Fellowship Programme (ACCFP), which funded the Fellowship.



David Kuria receiving his award in the presence of Dr. Julius Arinaitwe, Regional Director, BirdLife Africa @ START International

The conference provided a platform for ACCFP Fellows, partners and network members to explore the main adaptation priorities, needs and challenges that have been investigated. "Participation in the Fellowship has enabled me to articulate and communicate community issues regarding Climate Change and Environmental Conservation at a national level, in both a scientific and policy dimension," remarked an excited David Kuria upon receiving his certificate.

The fellowship is implemented through a partnership of START International, the Institute of Research Assessment of the University of Dar es Salaam and the African Academy of Sciences, with funding from IDRC (Canada) and DFID (UK). "David's Fellowship project, implemented at the Kikuyu Escarpment Forest IBA, has made an important contribution to the implementation of the BirdLife Programme in Africa, by bringing to the fore the need to incorporate community knowledge, and how to capture this in the design and implementation of Climate Change projects," said Dr Julius Arinaitwe, BirdLife's Regional Director for Africa.

BirdLife is looking forward to even greater engagement in the ACCFP by contributing ideas to the key topics to be addressed by Fellows, hosting some Fellows and networking with conference participants. In 2009, BirdLife launched the Africa Climate Exchange website: www.africa-climate-exchange.org, which provides a link to BirdLife activities on Climate Change and various sources of important and relevant information from Africa and other parts of the world.

For more information, contact Ken Mwathe at ken.mwathe@birdlife.org

TRAINING & WORKSHOPS. A chance for biodiversity in the Albertine Rift facing Climate Change

Biodiversity in Africa's Albertine Rift, especially birds, is set to benefit from a number of measures and actions by BirdLife International that are aimed at preparing them in facing Climate Change (CC). Thanks to a project funded by the MacArthur Foundation, there is now a greater understanding of how birds will respond to CC in the next 80 years. The majority of endemic birds in the Albertine Rift have been shown to be at high risk if nothing is done.

Recently, more than 25 stakeholders met for a workshop in Musanze town in northern Rwanda to discuss measures that may be needed to ensure the rare birds are secured in spite of CC. Issues discussed include a number of options among them ensuring that monitoring of species is done to track their reaction to changing climate conditions in Echuya Forest in Uganda, Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda and Kibira National Park in Burundi.

"Finding solutions for birds in the face of CC will also require innovative policy approaches which require concerted efforts by Government agencies, civil society and local communities," said Ken Mwathe, the BirdLife International Climate Change Project Manager. During the Musanze workshop, participants examined the existing policy documents, especially the National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (NAPAs) to assess the extent to which they cater for biodiversity.



Participants scanning for birds at Buhanga Eco-park © Ken Mwathe

Addressing the challenges posed by CC cannot be successful without building the requisite capacity. The

project is supporting one Master's degree student from Makerere University who is being trained in monitoring the effects CC on birds. At the same time, Policy and Advocacy Officers from Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi were trained in policy analysis during the Musanze workshop.

"It is gratifying to note that capacity building at national level is an integral part of this project. Biodiversity in the Albertine Rift has a future with the calibre of staff that this project is training" said Mr Serge Nsengimana, the CEO of the Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR) and the host of the workshop.

Contact **Ken Mwathe** (ken.mwathe@birdlife.org) for details or visit **The Africa Climate Exchange** at <http://birdlife.squarespace.com/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The African Bird Club, Conservation Awards. Deadlines are at the end of February, June and October.

Contact: conservation_fund@africanbirdclub.org or visit: www.africanbirdclub.org/club/ConsFund.html

Chester Zoo Conservation and Research Grants. No specific deadline.

Visit: www.chesterzoo.org

Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

Provides targeted grants to individual species conservation initiatives. Budget should be up to US\$25,000. No specific deadline

Contact: salima.raai@mbzspeciesconservation.org or Visit: www.mbzspeciesconservation.org for details.

The Club 300 Foundation for Bird Protection.

Applications accepted on a yearly basis. Do not send application by e-mail. Application should not exceed 3 double pages all inclusive. USD5,000. Deadline on July 1st each year.

Contact: Dr. Henrik Lind at birdprotection@club300.se. Visit: www.club300.se/Birdprot/Birdprotection.aspx

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Without Borders (USFWS) Africa program

USD30,000. Deadline 1 March 2011.

Contact: internationalconservation@fws.gov

or WWB_Africa@fws.gov. For details visit: www.fws.gov/international/DIC/grants/grants_home.html

Wilson Ornithological Society -- Research Grants. The WOS offers three types of research grants to fund equipment, supplies, travel, and living expenses. Eligibility is open to citizens of all countries. Grants range from US\$500 to US\$2,500. Membership in WOS is encouraged, but not required. The closing date for applications is 01 February 2011.

www.wilsonociety.org/awards/wosawards.html

French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) -

Conservation in Africa. The Small-Scale Initiatives Program makes grants for conservation in West Africa, Central Africa, Madagascar, and Mozambique. Grants are up to 50 thousand Euros per project. The fourth application deadline is 15 February 2011.

www.ffem.fr/jahia/Jahia/site/ffem/accueil/pid/26806

Leverhulme - Royal Society Africa Awards. Projects for research in agriculture, water and sanitation, biodiversity, energy, and basic human health in Tanzania and Ghana. Applicants partner with institutions in the UK. The closing date for applications is 9 February 2011

<http://royalsociety.org/Leverhulme-Royal-Society-Africa-Awards/>

Fondation Ensemble. Proposals to the Program Fund and Small Grants Fund. The next application deadline is 11 February 2010.

www.fondationensemble.org/projeta.php

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Provides grants to institutions or individuals at institutions. Pre-proposals accepted any time of the year, full proposals accepted on 1st April.

Contact: info@nfwf.org or visit: www.nfwf.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

2011: International Year of Forests



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat.

Contact: forests@un.org

Visit: www.un.org/esa/forests

24 Jan – 4 Feb 2011: 9th Session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF 9). UN Headquarters, New York, USA.

Contact: unff@un.org or

Visit: www.un.org/esa/forests/

02 Feb 11: World Wetlands Day

Contact: ramsar@ramsar.org or www.ramsar.org

14-16 Feb 2011: International Conference of Energy Systems and Technologies. Cairo, Egypt

14-18 Feb 2011: 16th meeting of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Rue Mauverney 28 CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland.

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21-25 Feb 2011: 26th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Nairobi, Kenya

27 Feb – 3 March 2011: Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2011: Mobilising African leadership in local climate action. Cape Town, South Africa

7-9 Mar 2011: 2nd International Invasive Bird Conference. Cape Town, South Africa.

For details visit: www.iibc2011.co.za

13-16 Mar 2011: 34th Annual Meeting of the Waterbird Society. Grand Island, Nebraska, USA.

Contact: fchavez@whoopingcrane.org

Visit: www.waterbirds.org

20-22 March 2011: International Congress on Environmental Science and Technologies for a Sustainable Development

Hammamet, Tunisia

22-24 March 2011: 2011 Student Conference on Conservation Science

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