

April - June 2006

In this e-bulletin:

- The 2006 IUCN Red List - 1
- World Migratory Bird Day - 2
- Monitoring the Important Bird Areas Programme in Africa – 3
- A toolkit for IBA conservation – 3
- IBA Documentary – 4
- News from the Darwin project - 4
- Avian Influenza update – 4, 5
- Data zone - 5
- News from the network – 6, 7, 8
- Job and funding opportunities - 9
- Upcoming events - 10

Message from the CAP chair

Dear Colleagues,

All too soon we will be attending another CAP meeting. You will agree with me that the past year has come to pass like it was yesterday. Last year we focused on "people centred conservation". The question I ask myself is: have we made any substantial progress since the last meeting in Cameroon? Are we on course with regard to the implementation of our strategy? It will be good to hear from all how things went. However, I honestly think it is too soon to make a good assessment of our ambitious plans and perhaps we need to think of a biannual meeting instead of the annual meeting. Notwithstanding, I think we shall have a very good meeting in Addis Ababa and I will like to encourage the active participation of all as we prepare to deliberate on issues concerning the strengthening of our capacity for natural resource management. We will also need to be very SMART in our thinking and come out with very innovative and new ways of doing things if we are to sustain our ability to remain in the natural resource conservation business.

I wish you all the best and a safe trip to Addis Ababa.

Dr Erasmus H. Owusu
CAP Chair

The 2006 IUCN Red List: Implications for Africa

Seychelles Fody does better, as new knowledge reveals that Uluguru Bush-Shrike is flying towards extinction



Seychelles Fody, *Foudia sechellarum* (photo Martin Harvey)

Based on a recent evaluation, it is now known that a total of 230 bird species in Africa are threatened with extinction. This, combined with Near Threatened (NT) species, gives a total of 340 species in trouble – almost a fifth of the continent's 2,320 bird species.

That the Uluguru Bush-shrike, *Malaconotus alius*, from the Uluguru Mountains of Tanzania has been added to the Critically Endangered (CR) species list, is a cause for worry. The species is restricted to the small Uluguru North Forest Reserve, which is suffering from ongoing habitat degradation. Loveridge's Sunbird, *Nectarinia loveridgei*, also only found in the Ulugurus, has also been uplisted, to Endangered (EN) status, to reflect its continuing decline.

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 or comments to: george.eshiamwata@birdlife.or.ke.

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However, there is good news too: the Seychelles Fody, *Foudia sechellarum*, has been downlisted to NT status. Habitat management and conservation measures have been key factors in the recent substantial population increase. Nature Seychelles (BirdLife in the Seychelles) has also recently translocated birds to Denis and Aride Islands where self-sustaining populations are now established. New entries to the list of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa, following the 2006 update, include Loveridge's Sunbird, *Nectarinia loveridgei* (EN), Pemba Scops-owl, *Otus pembaensis* (Vulnerable; VU), and Pemba Green-pigeon, *Treron pembaensis* (VU). Revision is based on new information on population decline and habitat loss.

Some previously recognized species have now either been newly grouped or split following reviews by the BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group. Previously recognized as Kulal, Taita and South Pare White-eyes, the three are now Montane White-eye, *Zosterops poliogastrus* (Least Concern; LC). The previous splits are no longer valid. The Beaudouin's Snake-eagle, *Circaetus beaudouini* (Not Evaluated; NE) has now been split from Short-toed Snake-eagle, *Circaetus gallicus* (LC). At the moment, expert contributions are being invited to assess the status of Beaudouin's Snake-eagle.

"Globally we face a huge challenge in improving the status of the 1,210 threatened and 795 Near Threatened species. But the success stories show that concerted conservation action can save these birds from extinction; we just need the political will and resources," says Stuart Butchart, BirdLife's Global Species Coordinator.

For more details, contact Paul Kariuki Ndang'ang'a, BirdLife Africa's Species Working Group Coordinator, on paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke

Please also visit:

www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/global_species_programme/whats_new.html

Regional Initiatives

Wild Migratory Bird Day

A full article on the World Migratory Bird Day events will appear in the next edition of World Bird Watch and the Africa/Afrique Newsletter, but here are already a few pictorial highlights:



Updating the bird checklist in Cameroon...



... bird ringing in Zimbabwe...



... and celebrating birds on the beach in Sierra Leone...

For more details on WMBD events, contact maaike.manten@birdlife.or.ke or visit www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

Monitoring the Important Bird Areas Programme in Africa

The BirdLife Africa Partnership has provided information to the Secretariat on the status of the implementation of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme in each country. The outcome of the compilation of this information clearly indicates that almost all members of the network are engaged in the IBA programme. However, some areas seem to need significant effort if the targets set in the Regional IBA Conservation Strategy 2005-2015 and the Africa Programme 2004-2008 are to be met.

Good progress was reported on the following issues:

1. All BirdLife Partners are implementing at least one project contributing to the IBA programme, though some are only small projects. In total, 90 projects have been implemented in the past three years.
2. Seventeen Partners have established a network of 112 Site Support Groups (SSGs) working at 75 IBAs.
3. Through the efforts of the Partners, 44 IBAs have gained national legal protection (designated as Protected Areas) while a further 11 sites have attained legal recognition under international conventions.
4. Fifteen of the 19 members of the BirdLife Africa Partnership have at least one staff member responsible for coordinating the IBA programme.
5. Fourteen Partners have reported to undertake IBA monitoring covering a total of 220 sites at the basic level and 155 sites at the detailed level. However, the data are not available for most sites.
6. Twelve of the 19 Partners have developed strategic plans that explicitly incorporate objectives and activities for the identification, conservation and monitoring of IBAs.

Still, based on this same evaluation exercise, it became clear that there is a need for more effort, especially in terms of planning and mainstreaming IBA programme activities at a national level; both within the BirdLife Partnership NGOs activities and in the activities of other stakeholders at the national level.

A full report giving the details of progress and some recommendations will be tabled at the forthcoming Council for the Africa Partnership (CAP) meeting in Ethiopia. Watch this space for action points agreed at CAP, which will help to propel the IBA programme to greater heights!

Contact julius.arinatwe@birdlife.or.ke, the Regional IBA Programme Manager for Africa, for more information.

A toolkit for IBA conservation in Africa

The one-year Jensen Foundation-funded project has as one of its outputs: assessing and compiling a toolkit of the various approaches applied across Africa in the conservation of IBAs. As the project draws to the end of its first quarter, a detailed outline of what this nine-chapter toolkit will contain has been developed. Each chapter will address a singular aspect of IBA conservation and will be written as a "stand alone" section giving an overview of "what has been done" and suggestions on "what can be done and how" in relation to that aspect of IBA conservation. The collection of chapters follows the sections in the Regional IBA Conservation Strategy and updates the "Tools and Guidelines for Conservation of Important Bird Areas in Africa" document, which is the first compilation of IBA conservation tools and frameworks developed and in use among the BirdLife African Partnership.

As an accessory to the information gathered from the various reports, publications and reviews produced by the BirdLife International Partnership, a questionnaire has been developed to corroborate prior information, as well as fill in any gaps in the documentation of the toolkit. The bi-lingual questionnaire (French and English) has recently been circulated to the African Partners and feedback will be collected at the forthcoming CAP meeting in Ethiopia. A graphic representation of the toolkit will be presented and discussed at CAP.

Contact samuel.osinubi@birdlife.or.ke for more details.

Documentary to demonstrate IBA conservation in Africa produced

With generous support from the GEF/UNDP, BirdLife has produced a documentary on IBA conservation. The documentary showcases the lessons, experiences and best practices from the GEF-funded African NGO-Government Partnerships for Sustainable Action project (1998-2002). This five year project was implemented in ten African countries. To reach a wider audience, the documentary is available in English and French languages, both VHS and DVD versions. The purpose of the documentary is to create awareness of some of the approaches to conservation applied by the BirdLife Africa Partnership.

We take this opportunity to thank all Partners who provided input in the form of clips and comments on the earlier drafts, and hosting and providing the much needed logistical support to the production crew during visits to some countries. Last but not least, we express our sincere gratitude to the GEF/UNDP and UNOPS for the continued support to the BirdLife Africa Partnership and Programme.

To order for your copy, please contact julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke

Darwin project offers hope to students in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea

The "Strengthening Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa" project, funded by the Darwin Initiative of the UK government, has provided a unique opportunity for students in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to have exposure to field work, gain field experience and pursue studies for higher degrees. A total of 38 students are being supported by the project, five of them registered M.Sc. students. The 3-year project, which started in April 2004, aims to improve capacity in tropical biodiversity survey and identification techniques with focus on birds, mammals and plants. The project has so far trained 166 nationals in the five countries targeted by the project (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia).

For more information, contact Paulinus Ngeh on paulinus@africaonline.com.gh

Avian Influenza Update

Avian outbreaks of H5N1 in Africa in 2006: BirdLife's position

Even though there have been cases of avian outbreaks of H5N1 in some countries in Africa, BirdLife believes that it is unlikely that migratory wild birds carried H5N1 to Africa. There is strong circumstantial evidence that movements of poultry and poultry products are responsible. The timing and location of these outbreaks do not match the movements of migratory birds. Moreover in countries such as Nigeria and Egypt, poultry outbreaks occurred almost simultaneously in multiple large-scale poultry operations, indicating that migratory birds were an unlikely agent of the transmission. If H5N1 was carried by wild birds, outbreaks should have occurred in key wetlands for migratory birds, especially in East Africa where there has been surveillance of wild birds in place.

Contact paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke

A Regional Avian Influenza Training Course

With the emergence of avian influenza, there is need to build adequate technical capacity to undertake research, conduct regular surveillance, monitoring and the associated laboratory work.

A course to train practitioners that ran from 3-11 May 2006, at KEMRI Training Centre Nairobi, Kenya could not have come at a better time than this. Offered and conducted by the Walter Reed Project (WRP) of the US Army Medical Research Unit and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), the course brought together participants from Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Cameroon. Trainees were from diverse professional backgrounds including medical research, human health and bird conservation. Three of the full-time participants were from BirdLife Africa Partners in Burundi (Arsène Manirambona from ABO) and Cameroon (Jean Drogma from CBCS) and Kenya (Serah Munguti from NatureKenya). Achilles Byaruhanga (NatureUganda) and Paul K. Ndang'ang'a (BirdLife Africa Secretariat) gave lectures on bird migration and the role of wild birds, respectively.

The course was conducted in form of lectures, laboratory work, field visits, open discussions and post-tests. Aspects covered included, background of influenza, case definitions, importance of influenza surveillance, disease manifestations of influenza, Nairobi surveillance experience, laboratory safety, equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), culture and isolation of Influenza Viruses, Standard Operation Procedures (SOP), Kenya migratory bird study, specimen collection, transportation and handling of birds and specimen, outbreak management, bird migration and the role of wild birds.



Participants during a demonstration session

WRP and the course alumni hope to develop and maintain a network that will continue to share information and experience on avian flu issues.

Again, for more information, please contact paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke

See also www.birdlife.org for the latest BirdLife position on avian influenza

Data Zone

Endangered Species Research - A Journal for IUCN-SSC Specialist Groups

For those doing research on endangered species and would aspire to publish, the *Endangered Species Research (ESR)* is the much yearned for new multidisciplinary conservation journal. The journal's vision conforms to IUCN-SSC and "publishes contributions reporting research on all species and habitats of conservation concern at local, national or global level."

Submissions are welcomed on a variety of themes pertinent to the conservation of biodiversity, including sustainable use, population monitoring, invasive species, effects of climate change, bushmeat and biodiversity assessment.

The review process is fast (from submission to publication within 6 months). All papers are published online within days of final completion. Submit your articles to the Managing Editor Penny Khun at esr-submissions@int-res.com. To receive additional updates about contents to ESR you can subscribe for e-mail updates by sending a message to: esr-contents-subscribe@int-res.com containing the text "SUBSCRIBE esr-contents".

Otherwise, visit the journal's website on www.int-res.com/journals/esr/esr-home/. Articles and all other ESR materials can be downloaded free of charge at the website www.int-res.com/journals/esr/contents/

Is your website up-to-date?

With the advancement of information technology, and the regular use of search engines, websites have become a very useful tool for organisations to reach out to the public. More and more people, including potential members and donors, search for information about organisations over the internet. Your organisation's website therefore becomes an effective promotional and educational tool, with substantial potential to complement the other tools you use to raise your profile.

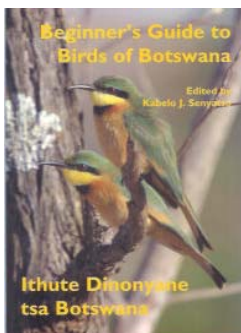
Is your website up to date? Remember, the web is available to members of the public 24 hours a day, thus serving as your helpdesk after office hours.

Also, please check whether the information about your NGO on the BirdLife website (www.birdlife.org/worldwide/national/xxx/index.html) [with xxx for your country] needs updating. If yes, please send your new data to george.eshiamwata@birdlife.or.ke who will then arrange for the update on the web.

For a shortcut to the BirdLife Africa pages on the web, go straight to <http://africa.birdlife.org>

Botswana

A Beginner's Guide to Birds of Botswana is published



A first Beginner's Guide to Birds of Botswana (*Ithute Dinonyane tsa Botswana*) has been published. The purpose of this new publication is to stimulate the interest of local people in bird watching, especially starting with common birds within their vicinity. It contains

English, scientific and local Setswana names. With this book, BirdLife Botswana hopes to raise public awareness about birds and their conservation status and ultimately contribute to conservation of the very birds. This book was published with financial support from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the African Bird Club, Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (BirdLife in France), and BirdLife International. The book is retailing at US\$10 plus \$10 postage per copy.

Contact BirdLife Botswana at +267 3190540 or e-mail blb@birdlifebotswana.org.bw to place your order or for more information.

Slaty Egret breeding colony found!

The Slaty Egret is considered Vulnerable according to the IUCN listing. A new breeding colony of the species was discovered by a guide at Xigera Camp in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. Teko Kethogetswe found a small colony of Slaty Egrets breeding together with Rufous-bellied Herons on a Tsaro Palm island. This illustrates the contribution that members of the public can make towards monitoring and sighting of species of global conservation concern. As part of their species and sites monitoring, there is a lot that the entire Partnership can benefit from tour guiding groups in their countries. It is envisioned that approaches such as 'worldbirds' will compliment these efforts.

Contact Pete Hancock for more information at birdlifemaun@ngami.co.za

Morocco

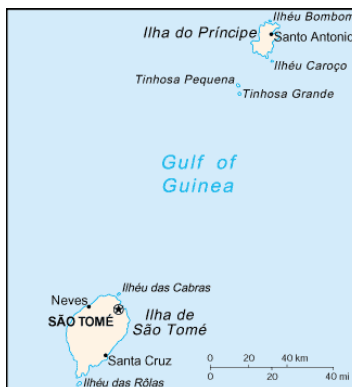
Morocco Country Programme: progress

A BirdLife Morocco Country Programme meeting was convened in Spain at the offices of the BirdLife Partner in Spain, SEO/BirdLife, on 25th February 2006. The meeting was attended by representatives from the BirdLife Africa and Global Secretariats, SEO, RSPB (BirdLife in the UK), VBN (BirdLife in the Netherlands) and the BirdLife Morocco Programme Officer. One of the main recommendations of the meeting was that steps should be taken in the near future to transform the Morocco Country Programme to a national NGO and embed it further into the BirdLife Africa Programme.

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

São Tomé and Príncipe

Avifauna conservation project initiated in São Tomé and Príncipe



São Tomé and Príncipe are volcanic islands straddling the Equator in the Gulf of Guinea off the west coast of Africa. The two islands are in the middle of a chain of other islands.

The islands are located in 100° N and 700° S with a total area of 1001 square kilometers. A national NGO 'Associação Flora e Fauna de São Tomé & Príncipe' (AFF-STP), has been awarded a grant of US\$ 5,000 to undertake surveys to determine the status and geographic distribution of the São Tomé Ibis, *Bostrychia bocagei*, in São Tomé. This is in partial fulfillment of a project to collect and collate information which will help make recommendations on the directions for long-term BirdLife involvement in the conservation of the avifauna of São Tomé & Príncipe and to support urgent conservation threats on the islands, funded by Vogelbescherming Nederland (BirdLife in the Netherlands).

São Tomé and Príncipe have 28 species of birds which are endemic to the islands, 12 of which are of global conservation concern. All 28 endemics are also species of restricted range, with São Tomé holding 21 restricted range species in Endemic Bird Area (EBA) 82, and Príncipe holding twelve in EBA 83. São Tomé and Príncipe is the fourth highest priority country for recruitment into the BirdLife Africa Partnership. It is one of only two countries in which proactive engagement by BirdLife is recommended in the period 2004–2008 (BirdLife Africa Network Development Plan, 2004 – 2008).



Interface between secondary forest and farmland, São Tomé

Besides the usual threats of encroachment for agriculture, hunting, fuelwood collection, the greatest threat facing the forest is a proposed deep sea port construction.

For more details, contact paulinus@africaonline.com.gh

Seychelles

Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles wins award from Commonwealth

The 2006 Commonwealth Youth Development (CYD) Awards' judging panel selected the Seychelles' project "conserving Nature, Culture and Tradition" as one of the winners for their exemplary performance in conserving nature and culture. This project is being implemented by the Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles to protect and preserve rare medicinal plants and increase knowledge, awareness and value of plants in culture, history and tradition. The Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles have about 600 members and work in close collaboration with Nature



Seychelles, BirdLife in the Seychelles. This recognition underscores the importance of traditional indigenous knowledge in the conservation of biodiversity.

Members of Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles birdwatching (photo by Conor Jameson)

For more information, contact Nirmal Shah, Nature Seychelles on wildlife@email.sc

Sierra Leone

Eco-Tourism initiatives bolstered in Sierra Leone

With stability and tranquility restored, Sierra Leone is on a quick path to recovery. A high diversity of scenic landscapes provides Sierra Leone with a great ecotourism potential that still needs to be tapped. The government of Sierra Leone has embarked on an ambitious and vigorous ecotourism promotion plan. To this end, a website has been launched by the government highlighting the various destination sites. On this website, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (BirdLife in Sierra Leone) is mentioned as the main national organisation to consult on tourism issues and destinations in the country. Sites which are being popularised by the government include a large number of IBAs, many of which are managed by local communities, and hence it is envisioned that ecotourism will ultimately improve living standards of these same communities. Already, the profile of Gola Forest Reserve has been raised as the largest area of lowland rain forest remaining in Sierra Leone and an important site for biodiversity conservation.

For more information about this initiative or destination sites, or if you think this is a good idea to pursue in your own country, visit www.visitsierraleone.org/ecotourism.asp or contact the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone at cssl_03@yahoo.com

Tunisia

Species work in Tunisia

Species work continues to dominate the conservation agenda of the Groupe Tunisien d'Ornithologie (GTO), the scientific branch of Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux", BirdLife in Tunisia.

GTO participates annually in the Wetlands International coordinated waterfowl census around 75 wetlands. Under the aegis of the LIFE Sustainable Hunting Project, the group undertook a migratory bird ringing campaign in South Tunisia. Species Action Plans for the conservation of bird species listed in annex II of the protocol concerning Special Protected Areas (SPAs) and biological diversity in the Mediterranean were developed with input from GTO members. Members of GTO were also actively involved in the creation and compilation of the "Mediterranean Directory of institutions, organizations and experts working on bird research and conservation".

Research work on species by GTO continues on the Eurasian Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*. The GTO coordinator participated in the Eurasian Spoonbill Working Group (SWG) meeting in September 2005, in the Hortobagy National Park in Hungary. The workshop was a forum to gather and share experiences with other "Spoonbillers" from Europe, Africa and Asia. The meeting also demonstrated the importance of Tunisia as a wintering area for the Central European Eurasian Spoonbill population. The GTO coordinator was nominated SWG coordinator for Tunisia and the next SWG meeting is planned to be held in Tunisia in 2007.

Other species studied include White-headed Duck, *Oxyura leucocephala*; Marbled Duck, *Marmaronetta angustirostri*; Eleonora's Falcon, *Falco eleonora*; Greater Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus roseus*; Common Crane, *Grus grus*. Information generated from these studies will be used for Species Action Planning process.

For more information, contact Hichem Azafzaf at azafzaf@gnet.tn

Zambia

Swallows can fly!

A ringed European Swallow was caught in Muzoka (Southern Province, near Choma, in Zambia) on 18 March 2006. It was caught

by a young boy who tried to kill it with a catapult. Fortunately the bird ended up at the Livingstone Museum. The Finnish Ringing Scheme informed ZOS (BirdLife in Zambia) that this bird was originally ringed in Paelkaene, Haeme, Finland on 30th June 2005 as a nestling. It was caught 8,650 kilometers from its birthplace.

Two other birds were apparently caught near Muzoka. One was burnt, rings and all, because it was believed that the ring was witchcraft (*ZOS Newsletter Vol. 36 No. 4*). At the same time, in Botswana, an adult Swallow ringed on 31 January 2003 in Notwane, Gaborone was caught and released on 17 September 2005 at Kinroor, Province of Brabant, Belgium. Distance apart 8,667 kilometers (*BLB Familiar Chat March 2006*).

For more information, contact ZOS at zos@zamnet.zm and/or BirdLife Botswana at blb@birdlifebotswana.org.bw

*** NEWS FLASH ***

Financing environment a priority, say African environment Ministers

A forum of African environment Ministers has called for increased financing of environment in the continent. Meeting as part of the 11th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) from 22-26 May in Brazzaville, Congo, the ministers reviewed the African conservation finance situation and deliberated on financing environmental programmes at the country, sub regional and regional levels. They also discussed the proposal for the establishment of an African Environmental Facility to serve as a financial mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). BirdLife is developing an engagement strategy with AMCEN, and will take forward to AMCEN the recommendations from a workshop hosted by BirdLife in 2005 on financing Protected Areas in Africa. AMCEN also identified innovative sources of conservation financing such as environmental funds, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), debt-for-nature swaps, and carbon offset projects to be promoted across Africa.

For more information, please contact philip.osano@birdlife.or.ke

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

ILRI: Senior Scientist – Livestock Systems Evolution, Nairobi, Kenya **Application deadline 16 June 2006**

To lead a multi-disciplinary project on Livestock Systems Evolution within the Targeting Research and Developing Opportunities Theme. Requirements: Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, Geography, Systems Analysis, Systems Ecology or other relevant discipline with a minimum of eight years post-doctoral experience, particularly in a developing country. Terms of appointment: three years contract with the possibility of renewal, contingent upon individual performance and the availability of funding.

Send letter (quote Ref: SC/T1/03/2006), CV, names and addresses (tel., fax, email) of three referees to the Head of Human Resources, ILRI, P.O. Box 30709 00100, Nairobi, Kenya; Telephone: 254-020-4223000; Fax: 254-020-4223001; e-mail: recruit-ilri@cgiar.org.

To find more about ILRI, visit their website at www.cgiar.org/ilri/

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

New TBA Funding database



Most of you are familiar with the Tropical Biology Association (TBA), either as alumni or instructors. If not, colleagues from your organisation might have attended the TBA courses. TBA is therefore a household name in the conservation and capacity building arena.

TBA has just launched a funding database to assist African conservation biologists find scholarships, fund their research projects or finance training opportunities. The database has been developed as part of the TBA's follow-up support programme so that alumni can access funding sources and further training opportunities that will enhance their careers after their courses. The database is a web-based directory of over 185 sources of M.Sc or PhD scholarships, fellowships,

internships, project funding, training opportunities, travel grants and volunteerships. It was developed as part of the TBA follow-up support programme for its course trainees and is now available to the wider African conservation community.

To sign up to the funding database, please visit the TBA website: www.tropical-biology.org or contact Justine Muhoro, alumni@tropical-biology.org

FunderFinder

Funderfinder has produced 'Apply Yourself', which is a free Windows only software program that helps to write a grant application, and 'Budget Yourself' a guide to help organisations write a budget. It is available on their website at www.funderfinder.org.uk/freeware.php

*** still open ***

International Foundation for Science **Application deadline is 30 June**

The International Foundation for Science (IFS) is inviting young scientists in developing countries to apply for research grants. Scientific topics acceptable must fall under the broad concept of sustainable management of biological or water resources.

Visit www.ifs.se for guidelines and submit your proposal to applications@ifs.se

Birdfair/RSPB Research Fund for Endangered Birds

Application deadline is 30 September
Grants of up to US\$2,000 are awarded, but funds are limited and demand is extremely high, so smaller requests are more likely to succeed than larger ones. Projects that might qualify include searches for species with no or few currently known occupied sites, ecological research on poorly known species and work that clarifies the taxonomic or conservation status of threatened species.

Send your applications to Paul Donald at paul.donald@rspb.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

1 Jan-31 Dec 2006: International Year of Desertification

Global event organised by UNCCD Secretariat.

Contact: secretariat@unccd.int

19-23 June: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Council for the Africa Partnership Meeting (CAP) 2006

Contact: hazell.thompson@birdlife.or.ke

20-24 June 2006: CI Global Symposium

"Defying Africa's End: A Strategy for a Sustainable Future", Madagascar. Organised by Conservation International. Participation is by invitation only.

Contact: j.donovan@conservation.org

27 – 28 June 2006: "Lessons learnt from CEPF-funded biological research and monitoring projects in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania workshop" in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Contact: nike.doggart@tfcg.org

19-21 July 2006: Biodiversity in inhabited areas of Eastern Africa

Uganda. Organised by Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources.

Contact: nbdb@muienr.mak.ac.ug

3-8 July: 16th Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee; 7-13 July: 22nd meeting of the CITES Animals Committee

Organised by CITES Secretariat.

Contact: cites@unep.ch

13 - 19 August: 24th International Ornithological Congress

Hamburg, Germany. Organised by the German Ornithologist's Society. See www.i-o-c.org for event programme and registration procedures.

26 - 30 August 2006: Limnology and Waterbirds 2006 Conference

Eger, Hungary

Contact: joe.kerekes@ec.gc.ca

29 - 30 August 2006: Third GEF Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa

Contact: Igood@TheGEF.org or visit:

www.TheGEF.org



October, everywhere: World Bird Festival – the global BirdLife event to celebrate birds!

Contact:

teresia.njeri@birdlife.or.ke for more information about the festival in 2006.

The next e-bulletin

Share your stories with the rest of the Partnership (and others)! Send them to:

george.eshiamwata@birdlife.or.ke

**** before 26 August 2006 ****

(advert)

New publication

International Forestry Review – Special Issue

Africa – its forests and their future



Africa's forests represent a compelling strategic area for the investment of domestic and international resources in the attack on the poverty of Africa's peoples. They represent a crucial resource for local populations, national governments and the international community. Yet many forests in Africa are being rapidly degraded, with immediate negative consequences for local people, and ultimately with impact on global climate change and biodiversity loss.

This special issue of the IFR looks at the current state of Africa's forests, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Issues examined include trade and illegal logging, deforestation, biodiversity loss, privatization of state forests, plantations, forest education, the consequence on forests of violent conflict, and sustainable forest management.

This publication is available at a cost of £10 plus postage.
To order your copy contact cfa@cfa-international.org