



Together for birds and people

MACARTHUR

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

**Project title: Conservation in the face of Climate Change: developing an Adaptive Management Framework (AMF) for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity across Africa**

**Region or Country:** Africa, regional, with a focus on the Albertine Rift

**Donor:** THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

**Focal Area:** Conservation and Sustainable Development

**Duration:** Two years; 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2009

**Amount of Financing:** USD 248,168

**Collaborators:** (BirdLife/RSPB/Durham University)

### Project Description:

#### Overall goal:

Develop a model for improving the resilience of high biodiversity areas or networks in Africa against the projected impacts of climate change and thus ensure they retain their efficacy for protecting biodiversity and providing ecosystem services into the future.

#### Objectives:

1. Develop an adaptive pan-African management framework for a network of high-biodiversity sites across Africa using the Important Bird Area network as a model. This framework will consist of a suite of options, tools and information for adapting such reserve networks to minimize the impacts of climate change.
2. Refine and progress implementation of the AMF in one case-study region, the Albertine Rift.
3. Develop an Africa-wide knowledge-exchange facility - a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) for climate change and biodiversity information and research.

#### Project Activities

##### *The development of a pan-African AMF will be undertaken through:*

- Overlay of IBA outlines onto species climate envelope predictions for Africa to determine what kinds of adaptations to the IBA network are likely to be most effective in different regions (This will include the digitization of remaining IBA boundaries)
- Collection of land cover information from a sample of IBAs and a selected suite of areas outside IBAs.

##### *Refining of the AMF and progress towards implementation for one area, the Albertine Rift will be undertaken by:*

- At a limited number of sites, collection of bird distribution and abundance data using timed point counts.
- Using data and models from a previous project (BirdLife/RSPB/Durham University) refine climate envelope simulations and predicted changes in the distribution of selected Albertine Rift bird species using the point location data, and fine scale climatology to predict persistence and movement at a finer scale than the pan-African models previously developed
- Proposing and reviewing potential IBAs and corridors within selected areas outside the current IBA network.

##### *Development of a CHM for climate change and biodiversity information and research*

*This CHM will comprise a network of institutions and individuals who are knowledgeable in climate change issues for Africa in relation to biodiversity conservation.*

- A dedicated website with links to the project's CHM and other relevant sites and having networks of electronic discussion groups while allowing grassroots organisations and other civil society to access and share information will also be established.
- A communications plan will be developed to help in the dissemination of information on the CHM and its role and services to interested parties.

#### Progress:

- Linking up with focal points and partners
- Draft brochure produced
- ToRs for Climate Change CHM consultancy developed

#### Challenge

- Climate Change is a cross cutting issue that needs mainstreaming in all programmes

#### Contact Us

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