



Together for birds and people



AAGE V. JENSEN CHARITY FOUNDATION

Project Title: Linking African children to the global conservation community – for the benefit of nature and people
Region or Country: Africa: Botswana, Burkinafaso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Donor: Jensen Fund
Focal Area: Linking African children to the global conservation community – for the benefit of nature and people.
Duration: 2008- 2009 (2 years) **Amount of Financing:** Euro 286,360
Collaborators: BirdLife Botswana (BLB), Naturama, Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Oiseaux (ABO), Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS), Ethiopia Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), Nature Kenya (NK), Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF), Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR), Nature Seychelles, Conservation Society Of Sierra Leone (CSSL), BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), Wildlife Conservation Society Of Tanzania WCST), Association “Les Amis des Oiseaux”(AAO), Nature Uganda (NU), Zambian Ornithological Society (ZOS) and BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ).

Project Status: Starting

Project Description

This is an African project that will combine biodiversity conservation with education and sustainable development initiatives. It will use bird conservation to help bridge the digital divide in Africa and aims to link up almost 400,000 African children, members of African wildlife clubs with each other and the rest of the world, and it will develop a regional electronic network and ‘curriculum’ / manual to promote environmental education across Africa.

Overall Goal:

This project will contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals number 7: to ensure environmental sustainability; as well as number 2: to achieve universal primary education by 2015, by 'integrating conservation and sustainable use into education programmes (formal and non-formal) through the provision of education opportunities that particularly target communities that are poor and overly dependant on natural resources

Specific objectives: Linking African children to the global conservation community – for the benefit of nature and people

Rationale:

This project is based on extensive needs assessment carried out in 2004 among the BirdLife Partner NGOs in Africa (seventeen at the time) who are involved in providing environmental education to children in primary and secondary schools by means of so-called 'wildlife clubs' (school clubs with a focus on protection of the environment). These NGOs expressed an urgent need to boost their wildlife club activities. They called for (1) sharing of information with other organizations involved in wildlife club / education work; (2) strengthening their capacities in environmental education and wildlife club work; and (3) improving their communication facilities to enable children in wildlife clubs throughout Africa to exchange experiences with other children. This project which has been developed to address these needs is a high priority for the BirdLife Africa Partners and is included in the BirdLife Africa Regional Programme as well as in the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat's work plan.

Main Activities:

- 1) Setting up an electronic 'experience exchange network' on biodiversity conservation in school curricula with about 20 wildlife clubs coordinators (from within the BirdLife Africa Partnership)
- 2) Developing a manual/curriculum with tools, techniques and guidelines for working with wildlife clubs in Africa
- 3) Improving communication facilities and outreach activities for the benefit of their wildlife clubs activities, to raise awareness about biodiversity and sustainable development among over 400,000 African children.

Expected Results

- Reach of over 400,000 children across Africa with information on environmental education
- A curriculum for wildlife clubs that will be useable across Africa and beyond
- The network and manual will last beyond the project's completion, contributing to improved environmental education activities across the continent



- Bridging of the Digital gap in Africa will have an enormous effect on the children they will feel as part of the ‘global village’ and greater conservation society
- Empowerment of the children in economic and social terms
- Creation of awareness in children at an early age of the linkages between environmental sustainability and improved quality of life
- Development of a generation who are better equipped to deal with the environmental issues of the 21st century
- The children will access information about nature on the web and more effective computer skills.
- Raising the children’s environmental awareness and enthusiasm

Progress to Date:

- The project implementation committee has been set up which is made up of the Head of the secretariat, the project technical advisor (Regional coordinator, BLAPS), Project coordinator and an intern.
- A project intern has already been recruited
- The project coordinator recruitment is in progress and she/he will start working in August.
- The project start up plan is in place



Botswana



Burkina Faso



Burundi



Cameroon



Ethiopia



Ghana



NatureKenya

Kenya



Rwanda



Seychelles



Sierra Leone



South Africa



Tanzania



Tunisia



NatureUganda

Uganda



Zambia



Zimbabwe

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