

July-Sept. 2009

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**Message from the Chair,
BirdLife Council for the
Africa Partnership (CAP)**

Dear African Team,

I write this message from a rainy Bangkok hotel room after a frustrating day for me

and (I believe) for the Solidarity for Climate Justice members who are demonstrating in the rain outside the United Nations ESCAP building. We are pressing for a fair and safe agreement on Climate Change in Copenhagen but our discussions inside the building are still far from delivering a fair Climate deal. Outside, the rain is pounding demonstrators, who are not even acknowledged.

At the stocktaking Plenary session on the Kyoto Protocol, there was hardly (and sadly so) any stocks to take. While parties spoke glibly about progress on adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building, the central matter – emission reduction targets – by developed countries comes across rather soft and woolly lacking the desired concrete substance. We are still blowing climate-changing hot air with little progress towards saving the earth. In other word I do not have good news for you from these UNFCCC negotiations of a climate change agreement.

The gap between emission cuts required (from scientific estimates) to make the earth liveable by 2020 and the pledges (or non-pledges?) made by developed countries is still too wide. The IPCC estimates that developed countries have to cut their emissions by 25 – 40% by 2020

(compared to 1990 levels). Developing countries – especially a very vocal Gabon – suggest an aggregate cut of not less than 40%. Developing countries are contemplating 16 – 23% with yet to be defined conditions.

Meanwhile, sea level rise in Eastern – Obolo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, is making fishing difficult for local residents and erratic rainfall is reducing productivity of rangelands and fields across Africa. Severe weather and storm surges are making life among the coastal communities a living hell. Rural dwellers and their city based migrant relatives in Africa; dependant on natural resources for their livelihood are all suffering.

Forest conservation has a reinforcing impact of climate change mitigation, ensuring rural livelihoods and supporting economic development and should be given priority. Sadly, the policy-makers are likely to be bogged down by language. For example, it has just occurred to me that *sustainable management of forest* and *sustainable forest management (SFM)* mean radically different things in climate negotiations. Taken unawares with the “fineness” of these definitions, we have had very little time for substantive issues at the meeting!

It is important for us as BirdLife to estimate the carbon stocks in our IBAs, project sites, national boundaries and regions in readiness for REDD. A pan – African estimation of above ground carbon stocks is an urgent challenge that the Partnership can help overcome.

Let’s give a collective thought to how we can contribute to delivering a fair and safe climate deal in the days to come, before 18th December.

Prof. Emmanuel Obot
Executive Director, Nigeria Conservation
Foundation and Chair, BirdLife Council for the
Africa Partnership 2008-2010

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 08 December, 2009**

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INTERNATIONAL VULTURE AWARENESS DAY

Vultures call for help; an image make-over needed?

An increasing number of recent reports indicate that vultures in Africa are not in good shape: deaths in East Africa associated with misuse of chemicals, huge population declines in West Africa due to habitat loss, and the continued use of vulture parts in traditional medicine and sorcery in South Africa. These reports could be foreshadowing a potential catastrophic decline of vulture numbers in Africa as happened across South Asia where populations of three vulture species declined by 97% in just a decade as a result of consuming the carcasses of cows that had been treated with the anti-inflammatory drug - Diclofenac. Other threats to vultures in Africa include, power line electrocutions, disturbance at breeding sites, drowning in farm reservoirs, direct persecution and declining food availability.

In response to this concern, 5th September was declared the International Vulture Day. While commemorating this day for the first time, a call was made for an image make-over and increased awareness regarding vultures in Africa. The aim was to get more people out there watching vultures, and counting them, so as to determine trends in their population and detect any declines as early as possible. Indeed the Asian Vulture Crisis has shown that without proper monitoring, a population crash can take place virtually undetected.



Vultures feeding on poisoned carcass have been known die en masse

There are 11 vulture species in Africa of which eight are endemic or near-endemic and hence their conservation rests in the hands of Africa.

For further information, contact paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke or visit: http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2009/09/vulture_awareness.html

BirdLife International Group on Urban Birds (BIG UB)

Birds are known to be good environmental indicators because they occupy almost every type of environment, are frequently at the top of the food-chain, are easy to see and observe and are already relatively well-known and documented, providing a good baseline against which change can easily be monitored. With the current trends in urban development and expansion, there is need for approaches to ensure better management and conservation of urban biodiversity. The population explosion in urban cities is a threat to birds as well as an opportunity. It is an education and awareness opportunity. Already, various BirdLife Partners are engaged in education, awareness and conservation of urban birds and biodiversity in general. There exists a wealth of experience and lessons learnt that can be shared across the Partnership.

Vogelbescherming Nederland (VBN, BirdLife in The Netherlands) started the initiative of linking BirdLife Partners keen on sharing and learning from these experiences. A BirdLife International Group on Urban Birds (BIG-UB) is the product of this initiative. VBN is organising the First Meeting of the BirdLife International Group on Urban Birds that will be held in the Netherlands from 6-7 November 2009.



A House sparrow is a familiar bird as it is very common in most urban settings

The main aim of the meeting is to exchange ideas on activities and experiences; plan activities for the near future and develop a "toolkit" for BirdLife work in the urban environment.

If you have any question on joining the BIG UB, please contact: robert.kwak@vogelbescherming.nl

PARTNER NEWS ROUND UP

Botswana:

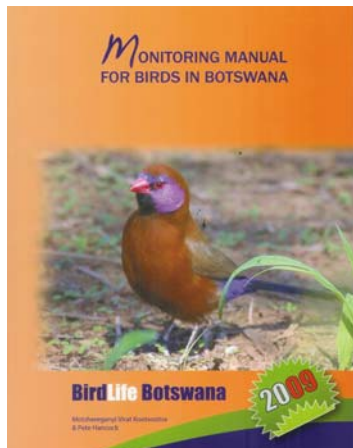
Capacity building in Bird Monitoring

BirdLifeBotswana – like the rest of the BirdLife Partnership – is committed to building local capacity and creating opportunities for citizens to participate in bird research,



Protected area personnel during a training session in Botswana

monitoring and conservation. To achieve this, three very successful training workshops for Protected Area (PA) personnel were organized in May and June 2009 to provide them



Manuals are very useful in guiding in monitoring and building capacity

with skills to contribute to Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring, Common Birds Monitoring, and the African Waterbird Census. The bird monitoring training was linked to the Management Oriented Monitoring System (MOMS) already being undertaken by the Wildlife Department. The training was also done in the context of biodiversity monitoring as part of Botswana’s commitment to reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

BirdLife Botswana are grateful to the participants for availing themselves, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB – BirdLife in the UK) and the European Commission for funding the common bird monitoring and the IBA monitoring components respectively. The latter is under the aegis of the BirdLife International project on “Instituting effective monitoring of Protected Areas (Important Bird Areas)”.

For more information, please contact Pete Hancock (birdlifemaun@botsnet.bw). Article extracted from *Birds and People* # 22 - June, 2009

Burundi:

Migration of Raptors in Burundi

Though small in size, Burundi is a big country when it comes to migration of birds, particularly raptors. Vast numbers of migrating birds can be seen all over Burundi, but the Congo-Nile Divide and Ruvubu National Park stand out as particularly interesting for falcons.

Previous observations made in the 1970s and 1980s of this wonderful phenomenon were made only by foreign-based researchers for example Yves Gaugris. ABO is keen to ensure that more citizens know about and enjoy the same.

In this regard, ABO in partnership with INECN (the Protected Areas authority in Burundi) and with the support of Region des Pays de la Loire (France) through LPO Vendée organized a Raptor Watch event at six sites in October 2008. Though the weather was not brilliant, nine of the 20 Palearctic raptors reported in Burundi were observed during the mission, these include Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*), Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*), Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), and Eleonora falcon (*Falco eleonora*). A host of other Palearctic species was also seen. This year, from 15th October to 15th November, the same sites will be visited again in order to monitor the migration of the palaeartic raptors for further conservation in Burundi and contribute to the international initiative of flyways conservation.

For more information, please contact Geoffroy Citegetse at aboburundi@yahoo.fr.

Kenya:

A fun-filled and very successful NatureFair held in Kenya

More than a thousand visitors learned more about nature, Nature Kenya and its partner organizations during a fun-filled weekend Nature Fair at the Nairobi Museum grounds on 5 -6 September 2009.

The Vulture Awareness Day was a highlight of the Fair, with talks, art competitions, puppet shows and a walking, talking 'vulture'. Six Nature



Visitors at the BirdLife stand during the Nature Fair

Kenya Site Support Groups participated and displayed awareness raising material. There were various Nature Kenya Committees, sponsors and partners and other exhibitors, featuring fun hands-on nature activities and exhibitions, as well as a food stall, children's fun activities, and bird and insect-watching walks. The event also included a forum with various talks and films, including 'Evolution and Genetics' by Dr. Rosemary Dolan, 'Challenges of Conservation in the 21st Century' by Alex Ngari, 'Climate Change' by Peter Usher, 'Community-led Conservation' by David Kuria, 'People and Plants' by Anne Powys, 'Birds of the Masai Mara' by Dave Richards, and 'Quarry rehabilitation and Ecosystem Restoration' by La Farge Ecosystems, amongst others.

The children were not to be left out. They had lots of interactive fun games and activities including: face painting, bouncing castles, trampolines and drawing and painting at their very own special Children's Corner, with a painting canvas being set up by Kikwetu Trust for the young painters to practice their skills.

There was a special performance by winners of the Street Dance 2008 competition, and cultural performances by the Kijabe Environment Volunteers (a Nature Kenya Site Support Group), and acrobatic puppet shows the whole weekend. Nature Kenya, also known as the East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS), is the oldest conservation organization in Africa, and is celebrating its centenary this year. Contact Ernest Mwangela, (office@naturekenya.org)

Saving the highland grassland endemic through the Kenya Grasslands Appeal

Grasslands in Kenya are becoming increasingly threatened and the World Land Trust (WLT) is now involved in saving them. The Kinangop Grasslands constitute the global stronghold of Sharpe's Longclaw, an endangered bird species found only in Kenya. This habitat is without official protection and has almost entirely been converted to farmland. Nature Kenya, with the support of WLT, aims to purchase 50 acres of grassland habitat and restore it to its original state for the benefit of its wildlife. The WLT is appealing for resources to support this conservation initiative.



For more information on this initiative to protect the Kinangop grasslands and what Nature Kenya and WLT are doing, visit: <http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/kenya.htm>. Your donation will support land purchase and protection of habitat in Kenya.

For information on how you can support the Kenyan Grasslands Appeal, visit: <http://www.justgiving.com/kenyagrasslands/>

Nigeria:

Lekki Bird Club... So Far

Birds, either in the rural areas or city centre are inseparable from our day to day lives. They tell the state of our environment, herald new dawn and provide essential information for planning conservation actions and guiding sustainable



natural resources management.

The Hooded Vulture is among the species sighted during this birdwalk

To safeguard birds from escalating anthropogenic urban threats and also provide ecotourism opportunities, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) instituted a voluntary city-based bird conservation group – Lekki Bird Club.

Between April and August 2009, the Lekki Bird Club (LBC) has held three birding expeditions, twice to the Murtala Mohamed Botanical Garden and once to Majek Agro Conservation Farms. During the first visit to the botanical garden in April, club members with little or no bird identification skills had the opportunity to see and learn about birds and their names.

The June trip to Majek Agro Conservation Farms trip was hosted by Mr. Desmond Majekodunmi, NCF National Executive Council Member. He took club members round the farm interspersed with appreciable forest blocks. Of special interest during the trip was sighting of seven Hooded Vultures. This was special because vultures are rare in south western Nigeria – a function of huge hunting pressures.

Urban bird issues are gaining prominence within the BirdLife Partnership globally, and through the LBC, NCF is positioned to bring them home in Africa.

For more information, contact Ademola Ajagbe (ademola.ajagbe@ncfnigeria.org) and Alade Adeleke (alade.adeleke@ncfnigeria.org)

Seychelles:

Cousin on CNN: Plans to make Cousin Island the first Carbon Neutral Reserve receive world attention

Efforts to make Cousin Island the first carbon neutral reserve in the world received a dose of publicity at the end of June 2009 through a CNN World Report submitted by Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC).

The report related the incredible triumph of Cousin Island, which was turned from a loss-making coconut plantation to one of the world's conservation successes. Cousin is a popular ecotourism destination, attracting about 11,000 eco-tourists every year. Like most visitors to the Seychelles, they arrive by long haul flights. However, such travel is increasingly raising unease. Travel experts are concerned that the extensive journeys often required to reach untouched natural wonders such as those found in the Seychelles produces climate-destroying green house gases and causes other environmental damage. A further danger to poor countries is the call by many first world politicians, analysts and academics that the tourism industry should give priority to developing

ecotourism in markets closer to home. Such emphasis on less air travel might result in a voluntary rollback on long distance trips by tourists. This would in turn have far-reaching



Once on the brink of extinction, the Seychelles Magpie Robin is now thriving with 27 of the total 200 birds spread on the five Islands found on Cousin Island © Steve Hazell

consequences for far flung destination such as Seychelles, whose economy is largely dependent on tourism.

To counter such a serious turn of events, visitors need to be reassured that carbon emissions related to their travel are being offset. This is what Nature Seychelles is seeking to do for Cousin Island.

"We want our visitors not to only enjoy the incredible nature that's been restored, but to also come here conscience free, knowing their carbon footprint has been reduced". Nirmal Shah, the CEO says. "Therefore we want to put in place a carbon offset programme that will maintain

Cousin's worldwide reputation as a world class reserve, protect the environment, and reassure visitors that their travel to



Two Seychelles Magpie robin chicks sharing a nest on Cousin Island ©Rachel Cartwright

the reserve would be carbon neutral".

Excerpt from Zwazo No. 19: Nature Seychelles Conservation Magazine

http://issuu.com/natureseychelles/docs/zwazon_o.19

For more information, contact Niram Shah, nirmalshah@natureseychelles.org

South Africa:

African Penguins get a champion

African Penguins have been sliding towards extinction since industrial fishing started around the Cape in South Africa. The last four years have seen a population crash. Conservationists fear

that if nothing is done soon, the iconic African Penguin is in danger of becoming extinct. Oil spills, predation by seals, disease and a few other problems have contributed to the situation, but by far, the major culprit is food scarcity, according to scientists.

In the 1920s, despite more than a century of sustained persecution, principally from egg collecting and guano



scraping, around 1 million pairs of African Penguins *Spheniscus demersus* bred at Dassen Island, off the West Coast of South Africa. Now the global population is a mere 28,000 pairs. As for Dassen, last year fewer than 6000 pairs nested. That's half a per cent of the former numbers. Averaged out over 100 years, this collapse represents a loss of 20 thousand birds per year from just one colony, equivalent to 1600 birds a week, or more than two birds per hour. This phenomenon is not unique to Dassen Island but is an example of the massive reduction in African Penguin numbers around our coast. In the past four years, the stocks of sardine and anchovy on the West Coast have collapsed. Stocks along the south coast are doing somewhat better. While fishery managers debate whether it is due to climate change or overfishing, the penguins and other seabirds that depend on the fish are disappearing.

But BirdLife South African has now found someone to champion their cause. Dr Roelof van der Merwe, a Trustee of the Charl van der Merwe Trust has stepped up to the plate to do something about this. Through BirdLife South Africa, the trustees will provide a significant amount of funding for collaborative projects, focusing initially on fish stocks and food availability for Penguins. If good progress is made after two years, the Trust has



dedicated itself to providing additional resources.

"This couldn't have come at a better time" said Prof Peter Ryan of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute at the University of Cape Town, one of the collaborators.

The BirdLife Partnership in Africa and globally is excited by this development.

For more information, contact: [Dr Ross Wanless \(gsp@birdlife.org.za\)](mailto:Dr.Ross.Wanless@birdlife.org.za)

Tunisia:

African Waterfowl Census

A report of the Mid-winter Waterbird Census in Tunisia carried out in January 2009 is out.

A total of 54 wetlands, were visited by our teams during



this census and they recorded 533,390 birds

The Coot was the most dominant species during the counts

belonging to 79 species and 20 different families. Like in the previous years, the most abundant species belonged to the families of *Scolopacidae*, *Anatidae* and *Rallidae* with over 70% of the counted birds belonging to these families. The *Scolopacidae* and *Anatidae* were also the most richly represented families with 19 and 15 species respectively. The most abundant species, as in previous years was the Coot *Fulica atra* with 103,055 birds counted.

For a full report, contact [Claudia FELTRUP-AZAFZAF \(aao@topnet.tn\)](mailto:Claudia.FELTRUP-AZAFZAF@topnet.tn)

REGIONAL PROJECT NEWS

A regional workshop on Emerging Conservation Initiatives for Protected Area Managers in five countries held in Ghana

A four-day day workshop for Protected Areas (PA) managers on emerging conservation initiatives was held from 28th September to 1st October 2009 in Accra, Ghana, organized by the

BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat – West Africa Sub-region Office and hosted by the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS, BirdLife in Ghana). The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness and share information on a number of emerging conservation opportunities including, carbon finance, reduced emission from deforestation and degradation (REDD) and Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The workshop was attended by 20 participants from five countries mainly PA managers and IBA focal points of BirdLife Partner organizations.

Various thematic issues were discussed including Climate change, differences between climate variability and climate change, effects and impacts of climate change both positive and negative. It was noted that different countries have different levels of awareness and engagement as far as these initiatives are concerned. Country specific case studies showed that while some countries have signed and are already engaged, others are yet to put programmes in place to benefit from these opportunities.

The workshop also involved training participants in the use of the World Biodiversity Database and a 'Clearing House Mechanism' developed to enhance communication and the sharing of information and experience on Climate Change and PAs. The BirdLife International's position on climate change was also shared with participants.

For more information, please contact Paulinus Ngeh (paulinus@africaonline.com.gh)

BirdLife Support for postgraduate work in conservation

BirdLife International through a sub-regional project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) wishes to support post-graduate studies by promising young

scientists/ornithologists in Africa, especially those based in the Upper Guinea Forest region of West Africa. This support comes through a project entitled: 'Sustaining and Securing Capacity for biodiversity conservation in the Upper Guinea Forest Area of West Africa', implemented by BirdLife Network NGOs in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea through the BirdLife Sub-regional Office in Accra, Ghana.

Application Forms and Criteria for the grants can be downloaded from:

- Application Form (English and French): (http://www.birdlife.org/downloads/news/Application_form_sustaining_securing_capacity_WA.doc)
- Criteria Form (English and French): http://www.birdlife.org/downloads/news/Grant_criteria_sustaining_capacity_WA.doc

For more information, please contact: paulinus@africaonline.com.gh or kwesianderson@gmail.com

Indian Ocean Birds - a new WorldBirds.org installation

The worldbirds.org of BirdFinder is an internet system that provides a platform for the collection, storage and retrieval of bird observations worldwide. It is a joint initiative between BirdLife (Secretariat and Partners), RSPB (UK) and Audubon (USA). It involves capturing site-based bird observations and therefore a starting point for developing monitoring schemes for sites and species

The worldbirds installation for the Indian Ocean has been developed and is now functional. Nature Seychelles is taking the lead for the installation that covers eight countries namely Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros, Chagos Archipelago, Maldives, Mayotte, and Réunion. Each of the 8 participating countries has their own login page, via www.worldbirds.org. Please log on and start adding your records.

For help and more information, please contact (loraiza.davies@rspsb.org.uk)

Great Rift Valley serial trans-national world heritage nomination

The Great Rift Valley serial trans-national nomination is an initiative of several State Parties in Africa, whose aim is to nominate the Great Rift



Participants at the regional workshop for protected areas managers

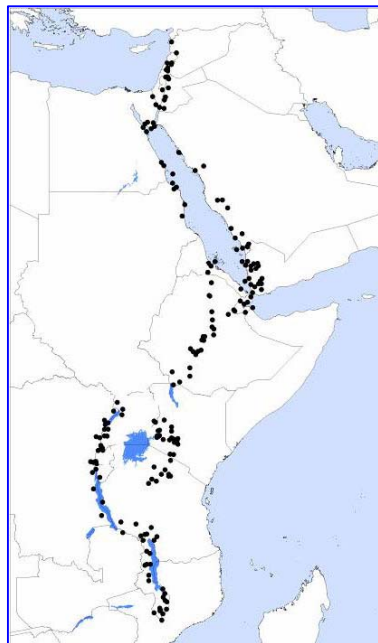
Valley (GRV) System into UNESCO'S World heritage list as a serial property. Serial properties are those with two or more distinct, geographically separated areas that are included in the world heritage list together. The GRV system is one of the most important routes of the Africa-Eurasia flyway system. The area is also important for the conservation of other biodiversity, cultural endowments and archaeological discoveries.

The process of nomination of the Great Rift Valley has been ongoing since 2002. Various institutions are involved in the start of this initiative including the World Heritage Centre/UNESCO, IUCN, UNEP, International Council on Monuments and Sites, World Bank alongside country representatives from Israel, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and environmental NGOs.

Recently, a regional GRV Initiative Secretariat was formed, based at the National Museums of Kenya. The secretariat works with State Parties, national focal teams, stakeholders and key experts.

BirdLife International has been actively involved in the GRV Initiative and is part of the Technical Advisory Committee. BirdLife's roles include

fundraising for support to the initiative, undertaking thematic analyses (on the flyway aspect) and articulating the universal outstanding values of the GRV, lobbying at various levels to mobilize support for the initiative and raising the profile of this initiative.



Nearly 200 in and bordering the Rift are listed as IBAs because of resident and migratory species

Several meetings and workshops are being organized nationally and regionally to identify and agree on a suite of sites to be included in the nomination dossier.

For more information, please contact: george.eshiamwata@birdlife.or.ke

Proximity to a forest leads to higher honey yield: another reason to conserve

Although tropical forest conservation is a top priority for human and environmental health, deforestation persists, mainly because of food and economic needs. No community will totally give up economic activities for the sake of ecological integrity; unless it has alternative economic activities from which to draw its livelihood.

Beekkeeping in the forest buffer zone instead of traditional destructive honey-harvesting from forest trees is one such alternative at Arabuko Sokoke Forest (ASF) in Kenya. In order to find out whether honey quantity and quality differed with distance from the forest, we studied honey yield per harvest (kg) and obtained samples from hives placed at varying distances from ASF in two successive years. Honey yield increased with proximity to the forest. Indeed the yield almost doubled in hives placed less than 1 km from the forest compared to those placed more than 3 km from the forest. All the honey samples met internationally required quality standards, although sugar levels were at the lower limit. This study demonstrates that the conservation of tropical forest ecosystems can have real local economic benefits. The documentation of the services provided by nearby natural areas should help make conservation of these areas a priority, even for the local communities.

For more information and a full publication which has now been published in Biological Conservation, please contact ssande@icipe.org

RESOURCES FOR CONSERVATION

Publications

Living on the edge: Wetlands and birds in a changing Sahel by Leo

Zwarts, Eddy Wymenga, Rob G. Bijlsma, Jan van der Kam
A new book on the plight of migratory birds that cross the Sahara twice each year was launched on 12th September.



In the book relationships are investigated between environmental variability and environmental changes in the Sahel on the one hand, and variations in population size of birds that migrate from West Africa to Europe to

breed on the other hand. For information, contact: Leo Zwarts (leozwarts@xs4all.nl) or Eddy Wymenga (e.wymenga@altwym.nl) or Rob Bijlsma (rob.bijlsma@planet.nl)

Pocket Guide to Birds of Southern Africa - Ian Sinclair

A photographic identification guide to 500 southern African bird species, this book replaces the "Photographic Guide to Birds of Southern Africa" in a more user-friendly format and covers double the number of birds. Distribution maps and an 'occurrence bar' depicting months in which the birds can be seen are added features.

Emphasis is on quick identification in the field. New in Struik Nature's Pocket Guide series; this book covers an astonishing 500 southern African birds yet is small enough to fit in your pocket. It is loaded with information that makes for quick and easy bird identification: *Colour photographs show each bird, giving both male and female images where there's a difference. * Concise text pinpoints key identification features. * Distribution maps locate each species in the region. *Calendar bars show the months when the birds are more likely to be seen. * Bird size and breeding months are indicated. * For use at home or when travelling to new climes, this handy pocket guide will be an indispensable companion. Also Available in Afrikaans!



A New Scramble for Africa -Henning Melber; Roger Southall

Dramatically escalating prices of raw materials, driven by rapid industrialisation in China and other countries of the global South as well as by looming world shortages, had for the few years preceding the financial meltdown and global recession of 2009 promoted a new scramble for Africa's natural resources. It signalled a brisk turnaround in prospects for what The Economist had dubbed the 'hopeless continent' as recently as 1999. However, while average growth rates across the continent have increased, the implications for Africa's development were and remain at best dubious. In this important volume, the new scramble for Africa is placed in the

historical context of imperialism and the contributors show important continuities with the original nineteenth-century scramble. However, while the previous scramble was between major European powers, today the continent provides a battleground for competition between the US, the European Union, China and other emerging players such as India and South Africa.

Funding Opportunities

No specific deadline.

The African Bird Club Conservation Awards. Visit: <http://www.africanbirdclub.org/club/ConsFund.html>

Chester Zoo Conservation and Research Grants. Visit: <http://www.chesterzoo.org/conservation.asp?Page=126>

Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation. Contact: josh@rufford.org or visit: <http://rufford.org/rsg>

International Foundation for Science. Visit: <http://www.ifs.se/>

National Geographic Society. Grant amounts range from U.S. \$15,000 to \$20,000. Visit: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/grants-programs/cre-application.html>

Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund: A downloadable form is available on the Species Fund website. Two types of grants are available; up to \$5,000 or those between \$5,000 and \$25,000. Contact: zayedprz@emirates.net.ae or visit: www.mbzspeciesconservation.org.

Open invitation for proposals - Sea World Busch Gardens, Animal Crisis Grants
Website: <http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/animalCrisisGrants.htm>

Deadline grants

October 31 - Whitley Award, Whitley Fund for Nature
Website: http://www.whitleyaward.org/the_awards.php

October 31 - Prince Bernhard Fund for Nature
Website: <http://www.prinsberhardnatuurfonds.nl/>

November 1 - US Fish and Wildlife Service, Species Grants - for African / Asian Elephants, Great Apes, Rhinos, Tigers
Website:
http://www.fws.gov/international/DIC/species/afe/afe_howtoapply.html

November 1 - Turtle Conservation Fund
Website:
<http://www.turtleconservationfund.org/grant-application-guidelines/>

November 11 - DEFRA / Fauna and Fauna International Flagship Species Fund
Website:
<http://www.fauna-flora.org/docs/DefraFSFcallforproposalsfor2010.pdf>

1st January and 1st July each year: Club 300 Foundation. Grant Size: USD5, 000.
Contact: birdprotection@club300.se or visit:
www.club300.se/Birdprot/Birdprotection.aspx

30th January of each year: US Fish and Wildlife - Wildlife without Borders-Africa Program. Grant Size: Up to USD50, 000. Focus on human and institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation and management focused in and around protected areas
Contact: WWB_Africa@fws.gov
Visit:
www.fws.gov/international/dic/regional%20programs/africa/Africa.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

20th-24th October, 2009: Ecological society of Nigeria (EcSN) Second Biennialconference: Finance and Conservation in a Developing Economy, Cross River State Library Complex, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria: Contact Prof. Emmanuel Obot, National President, EcSN (Emmanuel.Obot@ncfnigeria.org) or ecology.conference@gmail.com
Visit: www.ecsng.org

23rd-28th August, 2009: 2nd World Congress on Agroforestry, Nairobi, Kenya – The Future of Global land Use.
Contact: wca2009@cgjar.org
Visit: www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/

18 - 25 October 2009: 13th World Forestry Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina:
Organized by: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO
Contact: Mr. Douglas Kneeland (E-mail: douglas.kneeland@fao.org/info@wfc2009.org).
Also visit: www.fao.org or www.wfc.org

6-7 November 2009: First Meeting BirdLife International Group on Urban Birds (BIG UB) Leiden, The Netherlands
Contact: claire.cazier@vogelbescherming.nl

7-18th Dec 2009: COP15: United Nations Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark
Date: 30 November - 11 December 2009
Venue: Copenhagen, Denmark
Contact: [Poul Kjar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark-poukja@um.dk](mailto:PoulKjar@um.dk)

15-17 December 2009: 2nd International Conference on Management of Natural Resources, Sustainable Development and Ecological Hazards, Cape Town, South Africa.
Contact: Claire Shiell cshiell@wessex.ac.uk

15-19 Mar 2010: BirdLife Africa Regional Partnership Meeting (CAP2010), Chobe Lodge, Chobe National Park, Kasane, Botswana
Contact: hazell.thompson@birdlife.or.ke

3 - 7 July 2010: 24th annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology - University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, hosted by the North American Section of the SCB
<http://www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/?CFID=1820233&CFTOKEN=19288025>

22-28 Aug 2010: 25th International Ornithological Conference 2010 - Campos do Jordão, Brazil
Visit: <http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc/>

18 - 29 October 2010: Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Contact: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (secretariat@cbd.int)
Visit <http://www.cbd.int>