

<b>Project Title:</b>	Using Remote Sensing in monitoring of African Important Bird Areas Project		
<b>Region or Country:</b>	Africa:	<b>Donor:</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
<b>Focal Area:</b>	Conservation	<b>Duration:</b>	3 years (2005 – 2008)
<b>Amount of Financing:</b>	USD £6,000	<b>Last Updated:</b>	March 2007
<b>Project Status:</b>	Ongoing		

### Project Description:

- i) **Overall Goal:**  
Develop and promote a tool for using remote sensing in monitoring of biodiversity at Important Bird Areas in Africa.
- Objectives:**
- Develop and test a protocol for using remote sensing in monitoring African IBAs to complement existing site-based work
  - Demonstrate the feasibility of using these protocols at a sample of IBAs in Africa.
  - Establish technical capacity within the BirdLife Africa Partnership to support sustainable monitoring of
- ii) **Rationale:**  
Conventional biodiversity monitoring methods, though they generate highly accurate measurements, are labour-intensive and hence ideal only for local scale studies. Remote sensing provides an option for gathering comprehensive, routinely updated data where on the ground monitoring is impossible (due to inaccessibility, lack of skilled man power or insecurity) or would be impractical (very large sites)

### Main Activities

- Test whether low spatial resolution, high temporal resolution remotely sensed data could be used to detect and describe intensity of changes in habitat on IBAs
- Investigate the relationship between bird distribution and reflectance measured by remote sensing
- Undertake habitat cover change detection mapping at more than 50 Africa IBAs (forest, grassland, wetlands, transition habitat IBAs) using high spatial & low temporal resolution satellite image data
- Collate repeated ground-truthed data to verify/validate results from habitat cover change maps

### Progress:

A PhD student to develop and promote the use of the remote sensing tool has been recruited and registered at the University of Nairobi. Through a consultative process, over 50 IBA sites from 11 African countries have been selected for the change detection analysis based on the following criteria:

- Potential availability/access to ground-truthed data.
- Habitat type (a mixture of IBAs of different habitats/biomes)
- Where Partners are implementing or have implemented site-based conservation activities and want to evaluate the conservation outcomes from their interventions
- Where Partners intend to work in the near future and want to have baseline information in terms of habitat cover and trends in cover change
- Proximity and accessibility if ground-truthing is to be conducted to validate and verify information
- derived from satellite data.

- Additional funds are being mobilised to ensure all the proposed activities are achieved

### Challenges:

- Funds for ground-truthing at as many IBA sites as possible.

### Collaborators:

BirdLife International, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife in UK), Global Vegetation Monitoring Unit, Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union, Regional Centre for Mapping Resources for Development

### Contact Us

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