

October - December 2006

**In this e-bulletin:**

- 1 The return of the duck - Madagascar
- 2,3 Regional initiatives: Launch of WoW; Lessons learnt from regional projects
- 4,5 Lessons learnt from the data zone
- 5,6 Lessons learnt from the network
- 7,8 Barn Swallow stories
- 9 Jobs, fellowships and other funding opportunities
- 10 Upcoming events

**Lessons learnt special**

**Message from the CAP chair**

*Dear Colleagues,*

*The days are already counting down now to receive yet another new year - too soon. During the meeting we conducted in June 2006 in Ethiopia, we confirmed how much effort we (the BirdLife Partners) have put into achieving the objectives of the BirdLife Africa Partnership this year. These endeavors need to be sustained in the years to come; even better than before. To this effect, I strongly urge all of you to live up to your commitments and keep your promises in meeting the targets that we laid out for the coming new year.*

*In the same meeting, we committed ourselves to record more successes in the four thematic areas of BirdLife's work – species, sites, habitats and people - and to exchange experiences and lessons learnt. This e-bulletin brings together some of those lessons. I hope they will be of interest to you.*

*Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best of luck and success in the New Year.*

**Mengistu Wondafrash, Chair of CAP**

**Madagascar's REDISCOVERY!**

The Madagascar Pochard, *Aythya innotata*, a diving duck last sighted in 1991 and feared 'Possibly Extinct', has been rediscovered during a survey in northern Madagascar. Conservationists from The Peregrine Fund Madagascar Project discovered nine adults and four recently-hatched young on a remote lake.

**Lesson learnt**

"After so much searching, and so long without a sighting, hope seemed to be fading for this species," said Vony Raminoarisoa, Director of BirdLife International Madagascar Programme. However, this rediscovery even raises hopes for Madagascar's other 'Possibly Extinct' waterbird, the Alaotra Grebe, which may also still be around, though somewhere else than expected.



*Madagascar Pochard - adult male (photo Lily-Arison Rene de Roland, The Peregrine Fund)*

**See also**

[www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/11/madagascar\\_pochard\\_redisc.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/11/madagascar_pochard_redisc.html)

**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: [antoinette.otieno@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:antoinette.otieno@birdlife.or.ke).

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## REGIONAL INITIATIVES

### Africa-Eurasia: WoW

The recently announced project entitled “Wings over Wetlands” (WoW) aims to enhance international conservation efforts for migratory water birds and their habitats, and is the largest international wetland and water bird conservation initiative ever to take place in the African-Eurasian region.



*Lota Melamari of the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST, BirdLife in Tanzania) at the WoW demonstration site in Tanzania*

The project will establish eleven demonstration projects (*see map*), and will highlight the need to protect wetland areas along entire flyways—stretching across Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

“Wings over Wetlands” is a USD 12 million joint project between UNEP-GEF, the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS), Wetlands International and BirdLife International, and will operate in close co-



ordination with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat (African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement), the Ramsar Convention and a range of local partners along the African-Eurasian flyways.

For more information, please contact [samuel.osinubi@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:samuel.osinubi@birdlife.or.ke) at the BirdLife Secretariat in Nairobi.

See also

[www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/11/wow\\_launch.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/11/wow_launch.html)

## Lessons learnt special

### Mediterranean: Sustainable Hunting

The Association “Les Amis des Oiseaux” (AAO, BirdLife in Tunisia) organized a workshop on behalf of AEWA and BirdLife International in September 2006 in Tunisia, to review regional guidelines and develop a code of “best practice” for sustainable hunting of migratory birds. The workshop was attended by 34 delegates from government authorities, hunters and NGOs from the eight countries involved in the BirdLife project “Capacity building for sustainable hunting of migratory birds in Mediterranean third countries” (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria) - a project funded by EU-LIFE, AEWA, UNDP-GEF, VBN (BirdLife in the Netherlands), SPNL (BirdLife in Lebanon), AAO and BirdLife International.



*Participants of the workshop in Tunisia*

The project aims to reduce excessive and illegal hunting of migratory birds, to support sustainable hunting practices and to ensure compliance with national laws and provisions of international and regional agreements for the conservation of migratory birds.

During the workshop, the current hunting situation in the region was reviewed and an overview of hunting in the EU with respect to the EU Birds Directive was presented. Draft regional guidelines were proposed by BirdLife International and its Partners and discussions centred on procedures needed for compliance and adoption by authorities and hunters in the region.

## Lesson learnt

The geographical limitation of the proposed guidelines, which only concern the countries of North Africa and the Middle East, was discussed. Participants informed BirdLife that collaboration with countries elsewhere in migration flyways is essential—as it is necessary to ensure that migratory birds spared by hunters in North Africa and the Middle East do not become victims of excessive hunting in certain South European countries which are known to exert strong hunting pressure on migratory birds. Therefore a 'flyway approach' is recommended.

For more information, please contact Claudia Feltrup-Azafzaf at AAO: [aao@topnet.tn](mailto:aao@topnet.tn)

## NEWS!

Issue 2 of BirdLife International Global Seabird Programme's newsletter "Sea Change" is now available online at [www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/seabirds/sea\\_change\\_2.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/seabirds/sea_change_2.pdf)

## Africa: Enhancing Local Capacities for Sustainable Biodiversity Action

A three-day workshop was held in July 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya, to develop the regional logical framework for the UNDP-GEF funded BirdLife project "Enhancing Local Capacities for Sustainable Biodiversity Action in Africa" (PDF-B phase). This project seeks to strengthen capacities within civil society groups and Protected Area authorities to engage in constructive partnerships to improve management effectiveness in Protected Area systems, with emphasis on Important Bird Areas. The project is implemented by BirdLife Partners in six countries: Botswana, Burundi, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria and Rwanda.

The workshop also offered an opportunity to share some lessons and experiences from the previous GEF-funded BirdLife project "NGO-Government Partnerships for Sustainable Biodiversity Action in Africa" that was successfully implemented in ten African countries from 1998-2002.

## Lessons learnt

A number of 'lessons learnt' materials, developed based on the implementation of this previous project, were distributed to participants during the workshop. These included:

- a documentary on DVD/VHS on lessons learnt during the "NGO-Government Partnerships for Sustainable Biodiversity Action" project;
- the "Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Important Bird Areas in Africa: 2005-2015";
- a global review report on "Local groups and Important Bird Areas";
- a regional review report on "Experience of the Site Support Group approaches at national level - Taking stock of early experience in Africa".

For more information on the "NGO-Government Partnerships for Sustainable Biodiversity Action in Africa" project and/or for copies of these materials, please contact [julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke)

For more information about the "Enhancing Local Capacities for Sustainable Biodiversity Action in Africa" project, please contact [paulinus@africaonline.com.gh](mailto:paulinus@africaonline.com.gh)

New review reports and materials are planned to be produced shortly, and will include lessons learnt about the functioning, impacts and sustainability of Site Support Groups and National Liaison Committees.

*Watch this space for more information.*



*Site Support Group member at work in a beehiving project*

## More NEWS!

Aquatic Warbler given LIFE-line  
[www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/12/aquaticwarbler\\_life.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/12/aquaticwarbler_life.html)

*See also the article on Aquatic Warblers in the previous edition of this e-bulletin*

## DATA ZONE

### Lessons learnt special

#### WBDB and IBA Monitoring Workshop

A week-long workshop was held in October in Nairobi to train IBA managers from Partner NGOs in Africa in the management of data for IBA monitoring.

The workshop was facilitated by staff from the BirdLife Global and Africa Secretariats and attended by participants from fifteen African countries.

Partners present learnt how the global IBA monitoring framework operated, especially the State, Pressure and Response approach to scoring IBA status and trends. Training was also provided in the entry and management of data in the web-enabled version of the World Bird Database (WBDB). The use of GIS tools (e.g. GPS) and software (e.g. QGIS) was also demonstrated to the participants. This workshop hopes to be the start of improved data management and data utilisation in the conservation of IBAs across Africa.

#### Lesson learnt

Discussions during the workshop about the feasibility of protecting an area in South Africa - known to hold a large population of Barn Swallows, *Hirundo rustica*, whose future was threatened by the proposed construction of an airport - has contributed to the evaluation and global recognition of this site as Africa's newest IBA site: La Mercy – see also the article on page 7 in this e-bulletin. So the lesson learnt is: using the BirdLife tools and systems that are available to you can lead to unexpected results!

For more information about IBA monitoring and/or technical assistance in WBDB data handling, please contact either [samuel.osinubi@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:samuel.osinubi@birdlife.or.ke) or [julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke)

BirdLife Botswana revamped their website and also linked up to 'worldbirds': see [www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw](http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw)

#### Waterfowl Monitoring in Africa

Thanks very much to everybody who submitted their 2006 Waterfowl Census data to the BirdLife Africa Secretariat. Data from seven country reports show that counting was conducted at at least 131 wetland sites during the January counts, when more than 2 million birds were counted, compared to about 690,000 waterbirds recorded at 68 wetland sites during the July counts.

Waterfowl monitoring in Africa has a long history that dates back to 1991 when the African Waterfowl Census was launched in Africa under the aegis of Wetlands International. The primary goal of this initiative is to monitor waterbird species and provide up-to-date status and trends of species at respective wetland sites. There are 182 terrestrial IBAs in Africa that are either exclusively wetland or a significant portion of them being wetlands. However, the counts usually also cover other sites, which though not IBAs, host a significant population of waterbirds during certain times of the year.

The BirdLife Africa Partnership, through its network of national Partners, clubs, volunteers and collaborators, continues to play a significant role in this exercise.



#### Lessons learnt

The waterfowl counts depend to a huge extent on volunteerism. Despite the fact that there is a great enthusiasm to monitor waterbirds, financial constraints have been an impediment in many countries. To meet the costs of subsistence and other logistics has proved to be a challenge.

To overcome this problem, the following suggestions have been made, based on the Partners' experiences: (1) Partners are encouraged to continue mobilizing resources – as part of the organisation's annual budget, or through additional fundraising. (2) Partners can also involve - as much as possible - other collaborating institutions (wildlife services etc.) to strengthen links, share costs and promote sustainability of the monitoring programme. (3) People will be more enthused to contribute resources and time if the data gathered and reports generated are disseminated widely, and when any conservation issues noted during the monitoring exercise, are raised with the relevant authorities and stakeholders. (4) Last but not least: share your timetables and reports with the BirdLife Africa Secretariat, so we can include your counts as part of the overall Important Bird Areas monitoring programme.

Please send your dates and data to [julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:julius.arinaitwe@birdlife.or.ke) and/or [george.eshiamwata@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:george.eshiamwata@birdlife.or.ke)

#### HOT NEWS!

Clampdown for African parrot trade: see [www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/12/CITES\\_grey\\_parrot.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/12/CITES_grey_parrot.html)

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

### Lessons learnt special

#### Nigeria

##### Endowment Fund Launch

In a bid to ensure the sustainability of its conservation efforts in Nigeria, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF, BirdLife in Nigeria) recently organized a lunch of an endowment fund.

Patron of NCF and President and Commander in Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo hosted a launch event for this new Fund. In his opening address, he commended NCF for its dedication and commitment towards ensuring the survival of biodiversity in the country.

*From left to right: Chairman of the NCF Fundraising Committee, Mr. Majekodunmi; Mrs. Enwerem; the ED of NCF, Prof. Obot; Ms Osoka; and the MD of Richardson & Briggs, Mr. Akerele*



A documentary on NCF and conservation efforts in the country was shown to gear the minds of guests in attendance towards raising support for NCF.

#### Lessons learnt

In organising the endowment fund initiative, NCF took the step of engaging Richardson & Briggs, an events management and public relations consultancy, to undertake the fundraising drive. Sometimes it is easier to hire external experts to do the job, rather than doing everything yourself. The event was a big success and started the endowment fund drive on a high note (the drive is designed to last for a year). Still, it was learnt that:

- the launch would have had a better mileage if it was organised as a 'patron's fund drive';
- the total target amount could never have been raised that very night;
- it is important to set a date that does not clash with other events.

For more information, please contact Ibironke Olubamise at [ncf@hyperia.com](mailto:ncf@hyperia.com)

#### Burkina Faso

##### Strategic Planning Workshop

NATURAMA, BirdLife in Burkina Faso, held a strategic planning workshop in November 2006 to identify the priorities and strategies for its work and organisational development. The workshop findings will be used to draft a strategic plan for 2007-2011 and was attended by NATURAMA staff, strategic Burkinabé associates and by representatives of the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO, BirdLife in France) and Vogelbescherming Nederland (VBN, BirdLife in the Netherlands) - both supporting projects in Burkina Faso. The workshop was facilitated by Paulinus Ngeh from the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat.

## Lessons learnt

In charting its course for the years to come, NATURAMA consulted an external expert to review the previous strategic plan and its execution. The consultant, as well as the participants, concluded that NATURAMA projects are generally very successful but that relatively few people in- and outside Burkina are aware of this. For the period 2007-2011, the participants were advised to put more emphasis on communication to raise the profile of NATURAMA.

To put this lesson into immediate effect, NATURAMA and VBN took four Dutch and four Burkinabé journalists on a tour to some of the project sites. This visit served two objectives. It allowed NATURAMA to explain, in the field, 'the BirdLife story' and to stimulate good coverage in Dutch and Burkinabé media. Secondly, it proved to be a very good opportunity to get a better relation with the journalists. Establishing a network of environmental journalists was exactly one of the priority activities identified in the strategic planning workshop.

For more information, please contact [paulinus@africaonline.com.gh](mailto:paulinus@africaonline.com.gh)

## Lessons learnt special

### Ghana

#### Support for Afadjato project continues

The Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS, BirdLife in Ghana) has received support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Ghana to continue project activities at the Afadjato IBA. The Dutch Embassy had funded a previous phase of this integrated conservation and livelihoods project, but due to unforeseen events the second phase started later than was expected. In the mean time, GWS maintained relations with the local stakeholders at the site, and continued supporting some basic activities, through a small grant under the BirdLife-TMF programme.

#### Lesson learnt

Keeping these contacts alive, even during periods of relative 'low engagement', is very important. It will show that even though funding may have stalled, commitment to the project and the people hasn't. It will also be much easier to pick up again once additional funds have been raised.

For more information, contact GWS at [wildsoc@ighmail.com](mailto:wildsoc@ighmail.com)

## Guinea

### Vulture sanctuary - a first in Africa

The Republic of Guinea has just created the first vulture sanctuary in Africa. This new protected area of approximately 450,000 ha in the Fouta Djallon Highlands has been established to conserve one of the few remaining vulture populations in West Africa.

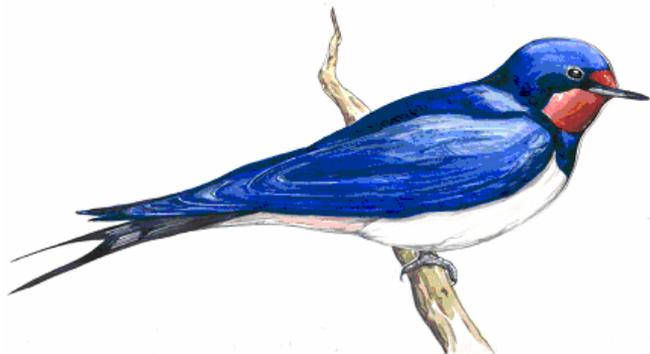
Following extensive enquiries and surveys conducted in eight countries in the sub-region, forming around 85% of the "general" vulture range in West Africa, it was determined that human persecution and indirect poisoning were the primary causes of the decline. Other likely contributory factors are the acute shortage of carcasses largely because of the almost complete disappearance of large game in West Africa combined with more effective animal husbandry practices resulting in healthier livestock. The role of diclofenac, the Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) used in veterinary medicine behind the vulture crash in South Asia, is also under investigation.

Recent surveys confirming the severity of the regional decline have also located a few rare relict vulture populations in Guinea, Mali and Gambia, whose numbers are also dwindling. Under the *Duga* Programme (from "vulture" in Bambara), the regional West African vulture conservation programme established by Africa Nature International, in co-operation with the NGOs Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT - Birds of Prey Working Group) and in collaboration with Guinée Écologie, the member country NGO of the BirdLife International African Partnership network in Guinea, the priority is to stabilize the populations in these rural refuges, which are not currently protected.

Accordingly, Guinea, which is home to the main relict population in the subregion, created the first sanctuary in Africa specifically for the protection of vultures during September 2006.

For further information: Guy Rondeau, Co-ordinator, *Duga* Programme, Afrique Nature International - [www.afnature.org](http://www.afnature.org) or [g.rondeau@afnature.org](mailto:g.rondeau@afnature.org)

**MORE NEWS FROM THE NETWORK:  
BARN SWALLOW STORIES**



*Barn Swallow painting by Penny Feather, Zimbabwe*

**From Zimbabwe**

A large Barn Swallow roost was discovered in Zimbabwe six years ago by the then Chairman of the Matabeleland Branch of BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ, BirdLife in Zimbabwe). Sipping tea in the garden one evening, he saw strands of swallows heading in a southerly direction. He jumped into his car, went after them and found them at How Mine, a gold mine about 25 kilometer outside Bulawayo. There they were, coming in to roost in a stand of tall eucalyptus trees next to a river.

For the next few years, keen birdwatchers visited the site to watch the millions of swallows arriving, spiralling high into the sky and descending in orderly groups when their turn came to land. Word soon spread and the public came in ever greater numbers to park right under the roost and witness this phenomenon. BLZ became concerned when visitors were seen aiming at the swallows with catapults and lighting open barbecue fires under the trees, which at times are tinder dry.

With funds provided by VBN (BirdLife in the Netherlands – *see also next page*), BLZ is now moving the viewing point away from the roost to a new open location. This, it is hoped, will help protect the swallows and their roost from the dangers of human actions, and at the same time afford the spectators wonderful views of the birds flying in (accompanied by their predators!). The two local schools will be given a presentation on the swallows and migration, and will be asked to select young “Swallow Wardens”.

BLZ is currently producing educational signs and information leaflets and has been able to offer part-time employment to four people resident in the area who are currently jobless.

For more information, please contact Julia Duprée from BirdLife Zimbabwe at [dalia@netconnect.co.zw](mailto:dalia@netconnect.co.zw)

**From Zambia**

The Zambian Ornithological Society (ZOS, BirdLife in Zambia), also supported by VBN, is organizing a Barn Swallow poster competition through their so-called ‘IBA schools’ (schools at IBA sites which are part of the local Site Support Group). In this way, it aims to raise awareness about Barn Swallows at four key sites in Zambia.

For more details, contact ZOS’ species coordinator Daniel Mwizabi at [danielmwizabi@hotmail.com](mailto:danielmwizabi@hotmail.com) or [zos@zamnet.zm](mailto:zos@zamnet.zm)

**From Ghana**

In Ghana, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS, BirdLife in Ghana) is implementing a VBN-funded project to enhance the quality of the three known roosting sites in Ghana. It also aims to identify more roosting sites throughout the country.

For more information, contact Erasmus Owusu at [wildsoc@ighmail.com](mailto:wildsoc@ighmail.com)

**From South Africa**

A proposed airport development in South Africa is threatening the winter roosting sites of three million Barn Swallows that journey there after spending breeding months in countries across Europe and other parts of the world. The development is being proposed by the South African government, apparently to meet the demands of hosting the World Cup (football) 2010. BirdLife International objects to the plans on the basis of the site’s global importance for Barn Swallows. The site holds the equivalent of more than 8% of the European breeding population and has recently been identified as an Important Bird Area (*see also page 4*).

The roost-site of the Barn Swallows, the Mount Moreland Reedbed, sits on what would be the flight-path for aircraft landing and taking off at the proposed airport extension. BirdLife South Africa (BLSA, BirdLife in South Africa) is concerned that safety concerns for visiting aircraft will lead to the clearance of the reedbed, removing the roosting site for the swallows.



“The swallows roost here in such numbers because of the lack of other suitable roosting areas around KwaZulu-Natal. It's vital. If the reedbeds are cleared, it's unlikely that these Barn Swallows will find suitable roosting places elsewhere” says Neil Smith of the Conservation Division of BLSA.

BirdLife South Africa is fully objecting to the development and proposes that the site be turned into a protected area, to ensure the Barn Swallows remain in the long-term.

If you would like to support BirdLife South Africa's call for the swallows to be protected, you can write to the South African Environment Minister, Marius van Schalkwyk. Please send your letter to Neil Smith at BirdLife South Africa who will pass on your letter; Neil's e-mail address is [conservation@birdlife.org.za](mailto:conservation@birdlife.org.za)

See also

[www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/11/La\\_Mercy\\_BarnSwallows.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/11/La_Mercy_BarnSwallows.html)

and

<http://travel.guardian.co.uk/news/story/0,,1949435,00.html>

and

[www.innovations-report.de/html/berichte/umwelt\\_naturschutz/bericht-74200.html](http://www.innovations-report.de/html/berichte/umwelt_naturschutz/bericht-74200.html)

and

[www.inthenews.co.uk/news/news/environment/swallows-at-risk-from-football-airport-\\$458298.htm](http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/news/environment/swallows-at-risk-from-football-airport-$458298.htm)

### Barn Swallow conservation in the Netherlands - and beyond

The Barn Swallow is a common and well-known breeding bird of the Dutch countryside. To many people, the Barn Swallow's return to the Netherlands signals the onset of spring. It provides a famous example of the incredible annual achievement of bird migration: in autumn it flies across the Sahara to western and southern Africa, and in spring right back to that very same farm shed it came from.

Shockingly, the Barn Swallow appeared on the most recent Red List of endangered bird in the Netherlands. Whereas 1-200,000 pairs still breed, their number is less than half of what it was 30 years ago.

In the Netherlands, Barn Swallows face increasing problems finding a place to breed and enough food to raise young. Small-scale farms disappear to make



way for larger, cleaner and less accessible stables. Agricultural intensification, increasingly strict hygiene demands from food industry and government, but also urbanisation, all take their toll. The consequences: fewer nest sites and insects.

Vogelbescherming Nederland (VBN, BirdLife in the Netherlands) lobbies for better agricultural policies and farming practices. Together with biological dairy farm cooperations, a national action was launched where people can sponsor conservation actions through buying milk. A conservation plan is being developed to further identify threats and conservation activities. Yet, conservation only really works if we take into account the whole migratory flyway, including the African wintering grounds, with its huge roosts of hundreds of thousands up to several million Barn Swallows. BirdLife Partners in Zimbabwe, Ghana and Zambia are therefore also implementing conservation projects, with financial support of Vogelbescherming Nederland.

For more information, please contact [maaike.manten@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:maaike.manten@birdlife.or.ke)

*(with many thanks to Bernd de Bruijn)*

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES



**Nairobi, Kenya**

**Please check the BirdLife website in January for more details and deadlines:**  
[www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)

The BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat will be seeking a Regional Project Manager, based at the office in Nairobi, to provide management and co-ordination of the technical and administrative aspects of an EC-funded project to monitor Protected Areas in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe (*see also the next edition of the BirdLife Africa/Afrique newsletter*).

The BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat will also be looking for a Regional Flyways Officer, based at the office in Nairobi, to provide direction and co-ordination of the technical aspects of the GEF-UNDP funded "Mainstreaming conservation of migratory soaring birds into key productive sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea flyway" project in Africa.

For more information, please check the [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org) website in January 2007!

## FELLOW/SCHOLARSHIPS

**USA: Applications open for 2007 Cohort of Kinship Conservation Fellows**  
**Application deadline: 10 January**

Kinship is looking for conservation leaders with at least five years work experience, a deep commitment to conservation values and an interest in learning about market approaches to environmental issues. Eighteen applicants will be selected to participate in the programme, to be held at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington from June 21st through July 21st, 2007.

To learn more and apply online, visit [www.KinshipFellows.org](http://www.KinshipFellows.org)

**Denmark/Wales/Germany/Sweden/Italy: Erasmus Mundus MSc programme**  
**Application deadline: 1 February**

The Erasmus Mundus MSc programme, developed by a consortium of five European institutions, is offering two two-year integrated Masters Courses in Forestry: (1) SUFONAMA (Sustainable Forest and Nature Management) which aims to qualify graduates to deal with the challenges of modern natural resources management in Europe and other temperate regions, that is, sustainable management of forests and nature areas in an integrated landscape context, and (2) SUTROFOR (Sustainable Tropical Forestry), which aims to qualify graduates to deal with the challenges in contemporary tropical forestry, that is, sustainable tropical forestry management. There are also fifty scholarships available, each of € 42,000.

Full descriptions of the two Erasmus Mundus MSc programmes, inclusive of application procedure and forms, are found on [www.sufonama.net](http://www.sufonama.net) and [www.sutrofor.net](http://www.sutrofor.net)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**North Star / American Bird Conservancy**  
**Application deadline: 2 February**

The annual North Star Science and Technology Transmitter Grant Program awards a total of eight (8) satellite transmitters (Argos Platform Transmitter Terminals (PTTs)), to one or two recipients (8 PTTs to one project or 4 PTTs to each of two projects). See [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org) and [www.northstarst.com](http://www.northstarst.com) for more information and proposal guidelines, or contact George Wallace at [gwallace@abcbirds.org](mailto:gwallace@abcbirds.org).

**2007 Leslie Brown Memorial Grant**  
**Application deadline: 15 February**

The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. (RRF) is now accepting applications for the 2007 Leslie Brown Memorial Grant for research, management, and education regarding African raptors. Applicants must send five copies of a resume, specific study objectives, an account of how funds will be spent, and an indication of how the proposed work would relate to other work by the applicant / other sources of funding, to Dr. Jeff Lincer at [jlincer@tns.net](mailto:jlincer@tns.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2007 list of 'days'

2 February:	World Wetland Day
22 March:	World Water Day
22 April:	Earth Day
22 May:	International Day for Biological Diversity
5 June:	World Environment Day
17 June:	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
16 September:	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
6 November:	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

### Other events in 2007

#### 5-7 February: 24<sup>th</sup> Session of UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF)

UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to the GMEF there will be a Global Civil Society Forum through which civil society can influence the GMEF discussions.

Contact [beverly.miller@unep.org](mailto:beverly.miller@unep.org)

#### 16-27 April 2007: 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

New York, USA.

Contact UNFF Secretariat at [unff@un-org](mailto:unff@un-org)

#### 30 April – 11 May: 15<sup>th</sup> Session of UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

New York, USA. Focus will continue to be on Energy for Sustainable Development, Industrial Development, Air Pollution and Climate Change.

See [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm)

#### 3-15 June 2007: 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

The Hague, Netherlands.

Contact CITES Secretariat at [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch)

#### 1-5 July: 21<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)

**Deadline for registration is 15 Jan 2007!**

Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The theme of the meeting is "One World, One Conservation, One Partnership".

See also [www.nmmu.ac.za/scb](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/scb)



**15-19 OCTOBER 2007:  
COUNCIL FOR THE  
AFRICA PARTNERSHIP  
MEETING**

**The tenth CAP meeting, in conjunction with the BirdLife Global Council Meeting**

Nairobi, Kenya.

Contact [hazell.thompson@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:hazell.thompson@birdlife.or.ke)

#### 1 November 2007: 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP-8)

Spain.

Contact the UNCCD Secretariat at [secretariat@unccd.int](mailto:secretariat@unccd.int)

**The next e-bulletin  
will come out in March 2007**

**Please share your stories with the rest  
of the Africa Partnership (and beyond)  
and send them to:**

[antoinette.otieno@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:antoinette.otieno@birdlife.or.ke)

**\*\* before 15 February 2007 \*\***

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