



Young Graduate Research Project Award Announcement

What is the CMB Young Graduate Research Project award?

The Conservation of Migratory Birds (CMB) Young Graduate Research Project award is a research capacity development initiative under the CMB project coordinated by BirdLife International and funded by MAVA Foundation with co-finance from Vogelbescherming Nederland (VBN, BirdLife in The Netherlands). The CMB project itself is aimed at strengthening networks for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along the west coast of Africa. This involves a key sustainability strategy to support research capacity development to address the conservation of migratory birds at a local, national, regional and flyway level. The development and strengthening of technical capacity for the conservation of migratory birds across flyways in the sub-region is important, as migratory birds play an essential role in the ecology of the coastal zones. Migratory birds also connect people, cultures, economies, conservation and development issues, as well as offer an opportunity for international collaboration.

Aim of award:

The CMB Young Graduate Research Project award is aimed at providing financial support to on-going MSc-level academic research that is focused on key migratory species in Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Scope of award:

This initiative intends to make five individual awards of EUR 2,000 to cover equipment, laboratory, local travel to field sites and/or other field logistics costs. This award is not to cover international travel, nor is it for to cover conference or training costs.

Eligibility:

- The CMB Graduate Research Project award is intended for on-going individual MSc-level research projects focused on migratory waterbird species.

- Applicants must be registered MSc students in Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Gambia.
- Project should be short-term (6-12 months) and involve strong elements of field data collection, analysis and publication of results (as a MSc thesis, research paper or conference presentation). If project is long term, applicant should indicate short-term reporting period(s).
- Priority study species include: Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Cape Verde Shearwater *Calonectris edwardsii*, Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*, Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*, Garganey *Anas querquedula*, Black Crowned Crane *Balaerica pavonina*, Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* and Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*.

How to apply:

Interested applicants for the CMB Graduate Research Project award should send the following documents to Geoffroy Citegetse (geoffroy.citegetse@birdlife.org) with a copy to Samuel Temidayo Osinubi (temidayo.osinubi@birdlife.org):

- a duly filled copy of the application form,
- research concept (max. 3 pages),
- budget (max. 1 page),
- the curriculum vitae of the applicant, and
- scanned proof of registration and/or studentship under an active MSc programme.

Submission deadline:

All necessary application documents need to have been received before 31st December 2013.

General responsibilities:

All successful awardees are expected to conduct the research project as detailed in their application. Major changes in study objectives, site(s) and/or species are expected to be communicated. All awardees are expected to acknowledge CMB (BirdLife International, MAVA Foundation and VBN) support in publications and presentations related to the research facilitated by this award.