



**SECOND MEETING OF THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS  
WORKING GROUP**

*Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 25-27 November 2015*

UNEP/CMS/AEMLWG-2/Doc.10

Date: 19 November 2015

Report

Second Meeting of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group

Franz Bairlein, Institute of Avian Research, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) is likely to launch a project to support monitoring of Landbirds in Africa. For details see att. document. It is currently in its final stage of approval.

As a consequence they postponed the proposed project on studying carry-over effects in selected species with particular conservation concern in Germany.

## Monitoring and Conservation of Migratory Birds in Africa

### *Brief project description*

**Objective:** The project analyses, optimises and harmonises bird monitoring programmes in African countries. It aims to establish a basis for and to contribute to the conservation of migratory birds, environmental education and generation of livelihoods. African biosphere reserves serve as pilot regions. The awareness for bird species diversity and flyways and thus the local acceptance of bird protection measures are to be raised. The project should participatively develop and establish a long-term monitoring concept that is technically and structurally mature and practicable in African countries.

**Project components:** 1) Inventory/requirements assessment of bird monitoring programs in African biosphere reserves (data availability, range of species, spatial coverage, expertise/training, methodology, technical features); 2) Elaboration of recommendation for bird monitoring (coordination, methodology, capacity building, involvement of locals and tourists, use of monitoring for environmental education and generation of livelihoods e.g. through sustainable tourism); 3) Capacity building for bird monitoring through training workshops for local coordinators from selected biosphere reserves; 4) Awareness raising for bird species diversity and protection through ornithological events for the local population and tourists; 5) Evaluation of the implementation and publication of consolidated recommendations for bird monitoring (concept/toolkit with information material, data management, integration in the protected area management plan).

**Technical justification:** The species focus is on “migratory landbirds”, which currently attract political attention. However, the monitoring also considers waders, water birds and birds of prey, so

that it can build upon related projects (i.e. *Wings Over Wetlands* with training kit) and political initiatives. Pilot regions will be selected from the existing (>80) African biosphere reserves on the basis of technical and pragmatic criteria. Basically, Biosphere reserves have a monitoring mandate, which they only fulfil partially and in different ways. Synergies from overlaps with important bird areas are expected. The harmonisation and allocation of bird monitoring data is required as a basis for further scientific analyses and conservation measures along the entire flyway to Europe. This provides a valuable source of information for research and conservation also of birds migrating to Germany.

Duration: 2016-2018