

**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP**

**ON**

**SUSTAINABLE LAND USE IN WEST AFRICA: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
POLICY RESPONSES THAT DELIVER FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS AND PEOPLE  
(LUMB)**

*Abuja, Nigeria, 24 – 26 November 2016*

*Hotel de Bently, Abuja, Nigeria*



Participants at the Sustainable Land Use Workshop meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Report Compiler:** Alex Ngari, AEM LAP Working Group Coordinator, BirdLife International, Nairobi, Kenya

# Contents

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Acronyms .....	i
Workshop Summary .....	ii
Introduction .....	1
DAY 1: 24 November 2016.....	2
(i) Session 1 & 2: The Workshop Opening .....	2
(ii) Session 3: Agreement on how land use is changing and will change in West Africa, what is driving those changes and how these changes are affecting people, biodiversity and ecosystem services .....	3
(iii) Session 4: What does sustainable land use look like and what are the challenges to achieving it? 7	
(iv) Session 5 & 6: Identification of solutions to the most important challenges to deliver sustainable land use and tackling the drivers of land use change, as identified in sessions 3 and 4, at a national and sub-regional level.....	9
DAY 2: 25 November 2016.....	10
(v) Session 9 & 10: Priority actions that should be taken to support the solutions to sustainable land use at a national level, in terms of influencing policy frameworks and supporting or developing initiatives.....	13
(vi) Session 11: Discussion and agreement on a draft resolution on sustainable land use to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP12 and a Declaration for adoption through other instruments.....	15
(vii) Session 12: Next steps and Workshop Closure .....	15
Workshop Closure.....	15
Annexes.....	16
Annex 1: Speech by Dr. Bukar Hassan .....	16
Annex 2: Speech by Minister Amina J. Mohammed .....	17
Annex 3: Workshop Agenda .....	20
Annex 4: Draft Resolution.....	24
Annex 5: The Abuja Declaration .....	28
Annex 6: Participants list .....	31

# Acronyms

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AEMLAP	African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
CASU	Conservation Agriculture Scaling Up
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS COP	Conference of Parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CREMAs	Community Resource Management Areas
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FERI	The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative
FLR	Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism
FLRM	Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism
GGWISS	Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahel and Sahara
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFA	Sustainable Food and Agriculture approach
TNP	Taï National Park
TSP	Target-Setting Program
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USGS	United States Geological Survey

## Workshop Summary

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1. The workshop was convened to discuss the land-use changes in West Africa in the context of migratory birds conservation and people. Funding for the workshop was provided by the Government of Switzerland.
2. The Minister of the Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria, reiterated the commitment of her country to addressing unsustainable land-use change and the conservation of migratory birds.
3. Participants agreed that: human population increase, agricultural expansion & intensification, quest for livelihood fulfilment, demand for energy, climate change, natural resource exploitation, governance, infrastructural development, and transboundary insecurity were the main factors that directly and indirectly contributed to land-use change in West Africa.
4. Land degradation and desertification leads to loss of productivity and shrinking of arable land, hence contributing to poverty.
5. Sustainable land management includes using systems that prevent degradation, integrates rehabilitation of degraded land and putting in place measures to support improvement while enabling conservation.
6. Sustainable land use need to be considered in a holistic manner taking into account biodiversity but also including other factors or sectors, since they are connected.
7. To achieve sustainable land use, synergies are required across sectors including working together to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the country level.
8. Practices to achieve sustainable land management include land sharing and approaches that support producing more with less.
9. A draft Resolution on AEMLAP to be presented at CMS COP12 in 2017 was developed.
10. The “Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Land Use for People and Biodiversity including Migratory Birds in West Africa” was approved.

# Introduction

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The African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) identifies land-use changes as one of the most relevant threats for the conservation of migratory birds in Africa. These changes are occurring rapidly and are related to the development of intensive agriculture, traditional agriculture including pastoralism and small-scale cropping systems, exploitation of timber and non-timber forest products, water management, energy, reforestation and reducing desertification and carbon emissions from deforestation and degradation.

All these factors mentioned above are having an impact on the habitats of migratory birds and require an integrated approach to land use management. This integrated approach should encourage local implementation of land-use management policies through appropriate incentive programmes. An ecosystem approach is needed as a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in a fair and equitable way.

Together, these issues are central to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Targets and the CMS Strategic Plan.

Given the relevance of land use change for the conservation of migratory birds, Resolution 11.17 on the conservation of landbirds in the African-Eurasian region urges CMS Parties to address the issue of habitat loss and degradation through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats within the wider environment, including working with local communities, and in partnership with the poverty alleviation community and the agriculture and forestry sectors in Africa.

In order to discuss these issues, the CMS Secretariat organized a Workshop on "Sustainable Land Use in West Africa: National and International Policy Responses that Deliver for Migratory Birds and People". The meeting took place in Abuja (Nigeria) the 24-26 November 2016 and brought together government representatives from West African countries and experts from international organizations dealing with land use change. The workshop had three key objectives focussing particularly on five pilot countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal. These objectives are the following:

- Agree on the main recent and likely future land use change related to agricultural and forested landscapes and associated wetlands, and the main challenges to achieving sustainable land use;
- Identify initiatives that can address priority challenges to sustainable land use for each pilot country; and
- Develop a West African land use Resolution to be submitted to the CMS COP in 2017, and a parallel declaration for adoption by other instruments.

The workshop was organized in close cooperation with the Nigerian Government and BirdLife International, and was generously funded by the Swiss government.

## DAY 1: 24 November 2016

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### **(i) Session 1 & 2: The Workshop Opening**

The workshop was officially opened by the Minister Amina J. Mohammed (represented by Mrs. Braide Lauren, Director Human Resources, Federal Ministry of Environment).

The first opening speech was from Dr. Bukar Hassan, the Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Environment, read on his behalf by Tanko Amos Ibrahim, Director Planning Research and Statistics.

The two senior ministry officials were introduced by the Director of Press, Yusuf I. A.

#### ***Speech by Dr. Bukar Hassan***

After welcoming all to the workshop, the Permanent Secretary (Federal Ministry of Environment) stressed the importance of land use in Nigeria in addressing the ecological balance, soil erosion, flooding and deforestation. He acknowledged that Nigeria would benefit from sustainably managed land as this would deliver on strong resilience to climate change, sustainable livelihoods to the rural people including sustained ecosystem services benefits. He assured participants of the active engagement of the Ministry through the officers attending the workshop. He commended the participation of other Ministries and acknowledged the role played by birds as sentinels of sustainable land use, and thus the importance of bird monitoring.

The full text of his opening speech appears as Annex 1 of this report.

#### ***Speech by Borja Heredia***

In his speech, Borja Heredia (CMS, Head of Avian Team) welcomed all and thanked Nigerian Government through the Federal Ministry of Environment for hosting and providing the venue for the workshop. He also thanked the Government of Switzerland for their voluntary contribution to support the African Eurasian Migratory Birds Action Plan (AEMLAP) activities including this workshop and also the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and BirdLife International for the support provided in organising the workshop. He noted that AEMLAP was drafted at the first AEMLAP Working Group meeting hosted by Ghana in 2012 after which it was adopted at CMS COP11 in Quito, in November 2014. In its second meeting in Abidjan, the Working Group developed a Programme of Work which identified the organisation of this workshop on sustainable land use in relation to birds and biodiversity as a priority activity.

He indicated that he hoped that this workshop would help to:

- 1) Summarise the key drivers of land use for the West African region
- 2) Develop a declaration on sustainable land use for the benefit of both people and biodiversity
- 3) Develop a draft Resolution for submission to CMS COP12, in Manila in October 2017.

He hoped that the Government of Nigeria would drive the draft Resolution towards its adoption at that the COP. He also called upon all participants to promote the Declaration once it was adopted.

### **Speech by Minister Amina J. Mohammed**

In her opening speech, read on her behalf by Mrs. Braide Lauren, the Minister welcomed everyone to the workshop. She indicated that the workshop was timely, given the many environmental challenges the region faces. She acknowledged the diverse group of experts that had come together to discuss sustainable land use and bring out recommendations to benefit people and biodiversity, including Nigeria's wonderful migratory birds.

She decried rapid deforestation, agricultural expansion and intensification especially of monoculture plantations and infrastructural development that led to land degradation and habitat destruction. She noted that population growth was an underlying driver of land use change, and that rural communities' dependence on fuelwood was also driving the negative changes. Similar challenges were being witnessed in other West African countries and are straining food, water, electricity and employment availability. Poor resource planning contributes to land degradation and development becomes a strain on people and ecosystems which in turn is not able to provide ecosystem services to the optimum.

She indicated that her Ministry was ready to: work with others and civil society to develop solutions that would deliver benefits to people and biodiversity; adopt the Declaration; support monitoring of birds as a means of understanding the effects of land use change; support a revised Resolution on sustainable land use at CMS COP 12; and drive implementation of policies around integrated land use planning, and strong and participative environmental governance.

See Annex 2 for the full text of her opening speech.

### **Electing the Workshop Chair, adoption of the agenda and introductions**

The workshop was chaired by Michael T. Osakuade, Deputy Director of Forestry, Federal Department of Forestry and Olivier Biber (Chair of the AEM LAP Working Group) as the co-Chair. Abdoulaye Ndiaye was introduced as the facilitator for the workshop. The agenda (See Annex 3) was adopted without changes. This was followed by introductions.

### **(ii) Session 3: Agreement on how land use is changing and will change in West Africa, what is driving those changes and how these changes are affecting people, biodiversity and ecosystem services**

The first presentation was on: *Agriculture and land use changes in West Africa: drivers, impacts and strategies for sustainable agricultural intensification* by Eugene Rurangwa (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, Regional Office for Africa)

Highlights of the presentation:

- Agriculture is the main driver of land use changes globally;
- Demand for agricultural expansion and intensification will continue to increase in the coming decades: by 2030, the demand for food, energy, and water is expected to increase by at least 50%, 45% and 30% respectively;
- Drought and desertification accounts for an annual loss of 12 million ha, where 20 million tons of grain could have been grown;
- USGS land use change maps for Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Niger, Senegal and Nigeria for the period 1975 to 2013 shows that land under cultivation has been expanding significantly and been replacing Savannas. Forest cover has also been on a downward trend;
- There are many Conventions, regional and national policies intending to reconcile agriculture development with biodiversity conservation. FAO promotes more agricultural production but which demands for less input;

- 5 Strategic Objectives and the 3 Regional initiatives of the FAO have implications on land use; the four guiding principles emphasize a cross-sectoral approach in implementing environmental sustainability and social equity;
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2, 6, 15 are all directly related to FAO;
- Key messages:
  - sustainably managed and highly productive landscapes are needed to cope with increasing demand for food
  - Sustainable forest management is crucial for sustainable agriculture and food security
  - there is an urgent need to promote more positive interactions between agriculture and forestry
  - improved coordination is required between policies on forests, agriculture, food, land use, and rural development
  - large-scale commercial agriculture, requires effective regulation appropriate social and environmental safeguards
  - for local subsistence agriculture driver of land use change, wider poverty alleviation and rural development measures should be implemented alongside actions to improve local agricultural, agroforestry and other land-use practices
  - food security can be achieved through agricultural intensification and other measures such as social protection, rather than through expansion of agricultural areas at the expense of forests
- These and more on messages related to land use could be accessed from the world report on the status of forests <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofo/2016/en/>

The second presentation was on: *Land use changes and impacts on people, biodiversity and ecosystem services: Case study of the Nawa region in Cote d'Ivoire* by Christophe Kouame (World Agroforestry Centre, ICRAF).

Highlights of the presentation:

- In Cote d'Ivoire, forests and woodlands reduced from 10m to 3m ha from 1969 to 2004;
- The Nawa Region harbours the main forested landscapes including: Taï National Park (TNP); four protected forests: Rapide Grah, Mont Kourabahi, Niegre and Niouniourou but land use change in the last three decades is threatening the environmental sustainability of the landscape;
- TNP is at 97.6% forest cover; primary forest in the buffer zone has reduced from 10.5 to 0.6% between 2003 and 2011, and degraded forest from 15.5 to 6.1% over the same period;
- Key drivers of forest loss in the region are:
  - Population increase – population in the region doubles nearly in every 16 years
  - Economic activities – agriculture (mainly plantation crops cocoa, rubber, oil palm), logging, mining
- Potential consequences of forest losses:
  - Outbreak of diseases in cocoa and humans
  - Rainfall is likely to be affected by forest loss

The third presentation in this session delivered was on, *Wetland status: Key challenges and Impacts* by Abdoulaye Ndiaye

Highlights of the presentation:

- Wetlands are connected with others but also with other ecosystems and they perform many hydrological functions;
- Migratory landbirds are dependent on the wetlands during their migration and wintering especially in the Sahel;
- Wetlands are important in fixing CO<sub>2</sub>, microclimate amelioration/stabilisation among others;

- As a result of land use changes, siltation is a big threat to wetland functioning and existence. Other threats include: conversion and modification {e.g. through damming of rivers, over-exploitation (e.g. overfishing), hunting, climate change, extreme climate events (floods, droughts, sea-level rise)};
- Wetland degradation leads to biodiversity loss, increased poverty and vulnerability of the communities' poor – environmental and development actors should recognise this;
- Key challenges with growing demand for food, energy and water:
  - Demand for water is growing two times as fast as world population
  - 2/3 of countries will be water stressed by 2030
  - Reduced access to water increases societal conflict
  - Floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and severe
  - Proliferation of invasive species
  - Resource depletion
  - Pollution
- Environmental impacts on ecosystems:
  - Degradation, alteration and relocation of existing ecosystems which may lead to total collapse
  - Loss of values for people and species who depend on these ecosystems
  - Carbon emissions (e.g. tundra, peatlands, forests etc.)
- Impacts on people:
  - Food and water security is compromised
  - Decreased productivity of natural ecosystems
  - Overall loss of economic opportunities
- Possible solutions:
  - Integrated approaches (including transboundary initiatives and promotion of protected area networks development) supported by enabling policy framework
  - Approaches that supports socio-economic activities and conserving the biodiversity
- To achieve these solutions the following should constitute possible actions moving forward:
  - Mobilising the best available scientific expertise and knowledge
  - Raising awareness on the critical issues
  - Enabling the society to take action
  - Influencing policies and practices

The fourth presentation was on: *Regional Progress on Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 and 15* by Blaise Bodin (CBD Secretariat) and delivered by Kate Hand.

Highlights of the presentation:

- The Korean Government and the CBD Secretariat have jointly developed the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) which aims to support ecosystem restoration activities under the convention and contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15. Target 5 and 15 have implications for land use;
- Of the available indicators for progress under Target 5, the Global Forest Change dataset shows that more efforts are needed to reduce the rate of forest habitat loss in Africa;
- The outlook is more positive for Target 15, especially in light of ambitious restoration commitments announced by African countries under the Bonn Challenge and AFR100
- In 2016, FERI's efforts have focused on assessing the level of progress already achieved to meet Aichi Targets 5 and 15, in order to identify priority areas for support and best practice examples to be disseminated. However, data that would be needed to assess progress is not always available consistently at the regional or global level (e.g. data on forest cover loss is now available, but not for other types of ecosystems such as wetlands or grasslands);

- In West Africa, the average annual rate of change in natural forest area per country between 2010 and 2015 has generally been on a downward trend, but Ghana has shown positive gains in forest cover;
- The nationally-specific analysis contained in the report can help countries identify gaps in relevant baseline information for Targets 5 and 15, in the definition and/or advancement of their national targets and associated institutional, financial and policy measures to implement agreed actions. At a national level, countries may use this review to prioritize next steps and the support required to define and/or advance their national targets and associated institutional, financial and policy measures to implement agreed actions
- The Short-term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration: Guidance for integrating biodiversity considerations into ecosystem restoration proposes:
  - Addressing the drivers of loss
  - Prioritizing conservation
  - Avoiding afforestation of grassland/low tree cover areas
  - Taking into account ecosystem function/services
  - Restoring habitats to recover/support species
  - Promoting natural regeneration
  - Using native site-adapted species
  - Adopting landscape perspective
  - Preventing/eradicating invasive alien species

### Plenary discussions

The discussions sought consensus on the most important land use changes, the main direct and indirect drivers of these changes and agreement on the key cross-cutting impacts. Participants agreed that:

- Land use in West Africa is changing and will continue to so do so;
- Key drivers of change are:
  - Human population increase
  - Agricultural expansion – small holder and agribusiness
  - Agricultural intensification
  - Livelihood fulfilment – this is more overarching
  - Demand for energy
  - Climate change
  - Resource exploitation e.g. mining;
  - Governance: limited law enforcement including absence/presence of effective laws; lack of participatory land use plans – that clearly indicate what should be done where; little or no cross-sectorial exchange of ideas or partnerships between government agencies
  - Infrastructural development
  - Economic growth which e.g. leads to agricultural expansion
  - Indiscriminate bush burning (in Senegal, a programme that involved rewarding those who were fighting bush fires proved counterproductive as fire could be started intentionally so that those fighting it could be rewarded); and
  - Transboundary insecurity.

Further discussions noted that: land degradation and desertification leads to loss of productivity and shrinking of arable land, hence contributing to poverty; West Africa is mainly semi-arid and a water scarce region and people can change land use e.g. from agriculture into pastoralism; most of the items mentioned are related and intertwined and generally it is not easy to put demarcations to each, however, the main focus should be those factors which we can control.

Cross cutting issues:

- Land tenure: access to land resource constrained by limited access land rights; in some cases there is limitation to use of trees;
- Land grabbing: foreign investors come and take up large chunks of land putting small farmers into a difficult situation; political leaders do not necessarily consult traditional leaders on land investments matters by foreigners; traditional leaders have asked for a permanent seat in African Union to exert their influence on land matters;
- Land use planning;
- Developmental issues: shifting political systems – from traditional to Western-based forms of governance; shifting of farming regimes;
- Political will: law enforcement is not effective despite the good supportive laws; implementation of existing policies and strategies is also limited; and
- Awareness creation.

How do we actualize the FAO principle of producing more with less (less need land surface and chemicals)? Adopting land sparing regimes that guarantee biodiversity conservation and increased production provides some of the answers to achieving this principle.

### **(iii) Session 4: What does sustainable land use look like and what are the challenges to achieving it?**

In this session two presentations were delivered offering perspectives from human development and conservation perspectives.

The first presentation was on *West Africa agriculture: socio-economy and biodiversity conservation in traditional farming systems* by Hope Usieta (AP Leventis Foundation, Nigeria).

Highlights of the presentation:

- There is an increased use of agricultural inputs in sub-Saharan Africa: it was estimated that 90% of cultivated areas in sub Saharan Africa did not receive artificial fertilizer, while improved seeds accounted for only 10% of all cereals planted and only 4% of arable land are ploughed. However, mechanization and fertilizer use have resulted in more than 3% annual growth in agriculture;
- Smallholders farmers manage over 80% of the world's estimated 500m small farms and provide over 80% of the food consumed in a large part of the developing world; they contribute significantly to poverty reduction and food security; however, they face constraints including low education, access to capitation, limited use of improved technology;
- In the 1970's farming mainly comprised smallholder farmers who used simple production techniques such as cutlasses and hoes. There is an increasing shift from hoeing to using tractors and from hand weeding to herbicides. Monocultures are becoming more common;
- Traditional farming provided greater conservation value as it was associated with larger populations of birds;
- The A.P. Leventis Foundation aims at attracting youths into agriculture, training and supporting them to adopt improved, eco-friendly farming practices and technology aimed at reducing drudgery while increasing the national food/fibre basket and ensuring sustainable livelihood for the farming families;
- The region holds endemic bird species and habitats for migrants; the birds populations are declining; there is need to balance conservation and agricultural land practices – through options provided by for example land sparing and land sharing approaches;
- There is a huge potential to increase yield in traditional systems while still retaining natural features within the farmed area that support farmland-restricted species.

The second talk for the session was on *What sustainable land use looks like: biodiversity perspective* delivered by Eric Lartley (Ghana Wildlife Society).

Highlights of the presentation:

Sustainable land use may comprise the following:

- Sufficient natural and semi-natural habitats with sufficient species population in woodlands, wetlands and forest landscapes;
- Habitats that are maintained - reducing the loss of natural habitats;
- Sustainable management of productive areas;
- Designation/protection and management of areas of high ecological fragility; protected areas must be linked to the livelihood of the people;
- Both landscape and social connectivity within and among traditional reserve areas increased;
- Species and ecosystem protection more spatially and temporally integrated with local social systems;
- Fostering of ecological resilience and ecosystem stability;
- Agro-ecological farming practices that support biodiversity and sustainable wetland management;
- Integration of sustainable agriculture, recognition of landholder rights, and provision of new options to conserve endangered species and ecosystems outside of formal reserves; indigenous trees/plants should be promoted in natural forests; land sharing (crops are integrated in forested areas) should be promoted in cultivated landscapes;
- Sustainable land management practices of key importance for migratory landbirds and many other species – retention and restoration of native trees in the landscapes;
- Balance between local livelihoods and biodiversity conservation;
- Where policies are supported by and work for people and places, people must be sure of access to resources e.g. trees

Some challenges to sustainable land use:

- What to measure is not always straightforward
- Weak governance (corruption, weak policy frameworks with poor inter-sectoral coordination)
- Human population growth
- Economic growth
- Increased consumption

In a case study in Ghana, it was observed that Shea Parklands provided good habitats for migratory birds but the trees are overexploited and there was high use of chemicals; declines were experienced in places where the tree cutting was intense.

### **Plenary discussions**

- Latifou: Land use, including institutions, livelihood requirements, environment and policy is what guides the behaviour of people, and it is a continuous process. The systems approach used in Eric's presentation is therefore an agreeable one.
- Boubakar: The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) perspective is wider than what was captured in Eric's presentation on sustainable land management. It includes: systems that integrates rehabilitation of degraded land; putting in place measures to prevent degradation and to enable conservation; and improvement that leads to sustainable land use management. If these aspects are put into a system, it constitutes sustainable land management – whether it is cropland, or forest land and so on;

The definition of the sustainable land use as depicted in the workshop background paper was recalled to guide the discussions. It was agreed that it was sufficient definition and no additions were needed.

- Elizabeth: Sustainable land use need to be considered in a holistic manner taking into account biodiversity but also including other factors or sectors, since they are connected;
- How does corruption become a challenge? For example, in Nigeria it is common for dealers to pay bribes to access resources for exploitation; illegal felling of Rosewood happens due to corruption;

- Elizabeth: One of the measures to curb corruption is to move Rosewood from Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) appendix III to II, so that monitoring of its trade is possible. Ploughing back of accrued resources (from trade permits) could be directed to e.g. replanting of the species;
- Transparency is often weak within state departments. Since we are working for the same planet/goal, this spirit should also apply in the cross-border cooperation;
- Kofi Adu-Nsiah: In Ghana, resource exploration companies in many instances start to operate even before they acquire licences/permits because the authorities collect money.

**(iv) Session 5 & 6: Identification of solutions to the most important challenges to deliver sustainable land use and tackling the drivers of land use change, as identified in sessions 3 and 4, at a national and sub-regional level by a) minimising land use policies and practices with a negative impact; and, b) maximizing those with a positive impact?**

During this session a presentation on *Sustainable Land Use Strategies to Support Socio-Economic Growth: Outlining approaches to improved land use strategies to support agricultural development In Nigeria* by Andrew Smith was delivered by Borja Heredia.

Highlights of the presentation:

- Governments face a number of challenges: ensuring food security for their people; maintaining community rights to land to reduce conflict; and delivering growth in an environmentally friendly way among others;
- Investors seeking to develop large scale agriculture often go through the following:
  - Approach State to seek available opportunities
  - Anticipate up-to-date details and/or data from the state to support investment plans
  - Find little or no data is available to meet their needs and need to generate their own and also to identify the project site. In so doing, they engage consultants to identify areas that meet their needs
  - Approach the relevant State institution to initiate acquisition
- Investors envision a simple or straightforward process but the reality is, in most cases, complicated. Investors have to deal with many stakeholders and lengthy timescales, including suspicion from past failures. Investors may realise that land available for their investment is already under other uses e.g. pastoralism, who must therefore be accommodated in the investment schemes;
- Many times the outcomes are poor: the land is rarely actually acquired by the investor; the investment generally fails to come to fruition; agricultural production doesn't improve; and consequently the business fails to generate economic or social growth;
- In Nigeria, there may be insufficient water to support 'industrial farming' at commercial levels in the next 50 years;
- A better approach with the following elements is therefore needed, which:
  - Eliminates displacement of local populations and ensures that all stakeholders understand their responsibilities and their inter-dependence if success is to be achieved
  - Simplifies bureaucratic systems
  - Reduces the compliance burden and business overheads for investors
  - Ensures secure tenure for all and flow of social benefits through e.g. Corporate Social Responsibility mechanisms
  - Creates local growth and a better chance to achieve the SDGs; and,
  - Involves outgrower schemes that guarantees investment benefits also flow to the local populations
- Such an approach would bring positive outcomes, e.g.:
  - Conflict mitigation

- Better local planning policies to support developing communities
- Reduced environmental disturbance
- Decreased burden on infrastructure provision
- Lower overheads for investor; and,
- Improved livelihoods
- However, further studies need to be undertaken to assess longer term environmental impacts. Nevertheless, change would be more gradual, and impacts hopefully less destructive, than 'slash and burn' conversion of habitat under previous proposals for large scale agriculture.

For this session participants were organized into two groups to further discuss the solutions to the unsustainable land use issue in West Africa. The results of the discussions were used to update to the draft Declaration and the Resolution available to the participants during the course of the day. A team of five people was nominated to consolidate the groups contributions and update the two draft documents accordingly. The updated draft Resolution (for presentation at CMS COP 12) (Annex 4) and the agreed Declaration (Annex 5) are attached to this report.

## DAY 2: 25 November 2016

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### **Session 7 & 8: How can we use existing frameworks and opportunities to achieve agreed priority solutions for sustainable land use in West Africa?**

The second day's focus was: What the existing policy frameworks and programmes can best influence the drivers and address the challenges in relation to sustainable land use identified on Day 1, and how they could best be influenced.

The session discussions sought to find out how the existing frameworks and opportunities could be used to achieve agreed priority solutions for sustainable land use in West Africa. To support the discussions, two presentations were delivered by representatives from UNCCD and FAO after which a facilitated plenary was also conducted.

The first presentation was on *Using policy frameworks to advance sustainable land management practices UNCCD implementation: The Ten-Year Strategy and the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)* by Boubacar Cissé (UNCCD).

Highlights of the presentation:

- 1.9b ha and 1.5b people are affected by desertification and land degradation globally; 12m ha are lost every year due to desertification; 50% of agricultural land is either moderately or severely degraded; 2b ha of land can be restored; 500m ha of degraded land are abandoned agriculture land;
- Through UNCCD (one of the Rio Conventions) state parties are mandated to prepare national action plans to combat desertification and reserve land degradation. A programme to support signatories to the Convention exists in West Africa and is coordinated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Regional & sub-regional programmes are supposed to be implemented through national level programmes;
- UNCCD's 10 year (2008-2018) strategy includes a Strategic Focus on improving the condition of ecosystems;
- The Global Wild Bird Index has been identified as a potential proxy to measure trends in abundance and distribution of selected species as an indicator of global benefits of implementation UNCCD. However, there are no global datasets yet available to realize this;
- As part of implementing the UNCCD strategic plan, member states and other partners have been asked to revise and align their national action plans to the five operational objectives in the strategy; by 2015 most African countries had completed the revisions;

- The UNCCD mandate relates closely to SDG 15 and its Target 15.3, which in part aims to “...achieve a land degradation-neutral world.”
- UNCCD identifies Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) as a strong vehicle for achieving SDG Target 15.3 and driving the implementation of the Convention. All State parties have, therefore, been invited to “formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN” and to incorporate them in UNCCD national action plans. Land use and land cover change is one of the parameters to measure progress on achieving LDN;
- State parties are encouraged to establish national voluntary LDN targets and the process is encapsulated in a framework which allows LDN to be included in selected national policies and commitments;
- The LDN Target-Setting Program (TSP) requires creation of effective synergies between LDN and other initiatives at country level. The process is phased as follows:
  - Launch phase (Nov 2015 - Jul 2016)
  - Implementation phase (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017)
  - Consolidation phase (Jul - Dec 2017)
- In Africa, five pilot countries (Algeria, Chad, Ethiopia, Namibia and Senegal) already are in phase two of TSP implementation; 39 countries joined the LDN-TSP overall. The UNCCD Secretariat has established supporting mechanisms to implement LDN; at country level-governmental support is needed;
- Delivering improved ecosystem services and achieving LDN requires synergies with other relevant processes to be realized. Whereas the Convention mandated on land issues is UNCCD, it will need data and information from others to monitor progress and this potentially creates opportunities for the CMS and UNCCD national focal points to work together; such synergies could also prove useful in drafting national reports;
- There are opportunities to tap into processes provided by LDN-TSP, and LDN-TSP includes development of transformative projects where more stakeholders could be involved. The Global Mechanism of UNCCD mobilizes resources for increased support to the LDN process;
- Synergies are required in all levels including CMS implementation.

The second presentation for the session was on *Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism and Integrated land-use in Africa* by Soalandy Rakotondramanga (FAO).

Highlights of the presentation:

- Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are the most important threats to ecosystems and biodiversity, but, still, we need to increase production to meet the growing demand for food, feed and bioenergy while conserving biodiversity and reducing the pressure on natural resources and ecosystems;
- FAO is harmonising food productivity and biodiversity conservation through an integrated approach to sustainability across agriculture, forestry and fisheries (the Sustainable Food and Agriculture Approach, SFA);
- SFA has five principles:
  1. Conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources
  2. Enhance the efficiency of resource use
  3. Improve & protect livelihoods and human well-being
  4. Enhance the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems, and
  5. Promote improved and effective governance
- The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) is a programme hosted by FAO that aims to support country efforts to improve the resilience, productivity and socio-economic value of forests and landscapes, benefitting human wellbeing, local livelihoods and the environment;
- FLRM employs an integrated approach, addressing simultaneously:
  - Governance, institutional support and enabling environment (capacity development, monitoring)

- Sustainable financing of FLRM
- Pilot actions focused on the implementation of innovative and scalable models, implemented in partnerships with other members of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration
- Peru, Guatemala, Rwanda, Uganda, Lebanon, Philippines and Cambodia are involved in implementation of FLRM; ten other countries are involved in developing related projects. Regionally FLRM is involved in several processes including the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), and globally the mechanism contributes to several initiatives including capacity development workshops co-organized with Convention on Biological Diversity, and publications on sustainable financing among others.
- In Africa, FLRM has been engaged in:
  - Capacity-building on the development of national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration
  - Integration of the targets and plans into updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and mainstreaming them into broader national policies, plans and programmes
  - Use of appropriate assessments, policy and planning tools to implement ecosystem restoration strategies at appropriate levels;
- In Ghana, FLRM has facilitated training of practitioners. In Rwanda, it has promoted dialogue across sectors and stakeholders on investment, priority value chains, incentives for ecosystem services, farmer field approaches and conservation agriculture. In Guinea (Fouta Djallon), it has supported capacity building on participatory approaches and links with Integrated Natural Resources Management Project. In Cote d'Ivoire, linkages with other projects on integrated approaches for sustainable agriculture intensification have been created. In Zambia, links have been established with the Conservation Agriculture Scaling Up (CASU) project.
- Key messages and opportunities:
  - More work is needed to merge the food, agriculture and environment agendas in support of sustainable production landscapes for growth and stability
  - Support for a country and regionally driven process should be complemented with the empowerment of local actors in land planning and integrated land management to meet local priorities and livelihood and development goals
  - The Global Soil Partnership has huge momentum and opportunities for linkages including Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahel and Sahara (GGWISS) and TerrAfrica
  - The FAO Knowledge management/technical agency provides opportunities to support countries' knowledge management for planning and capacity development and monitoring impacts (e.g. SDG targets).

## Plenary discussions

The facilitator emphasised the importance of creating linkages amongst the focal points for various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), that national strategies need to be built synergistically, the need to link landscape and forest restoration (e.g. in Fouta Djallon) as soil erosion is often linked to poverty, and that the Declaration should take into the account the FAO and UNCCD input.

Other reactions from the participants:

- Boubacar: Land degradation includes loss of nutrients; prevention of land degradation is important, as is LDN in this regard; afforestation is an important means of reversing land degradation;
- It is only UNCCD amongst the MEAs that is mandated to work on land and sustainable land management as its primary objective. However, other Conventions require sustainable land use to achieve their mandates, e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has land use change and forestry aspects;

- Abdoulaye: MEA focal points in the party states should work together and this workshop should motivate them to work synergistically;
- Eugene: practices to achieve sustainable land management include: land sharing; producing more with less, for example in rice farming where it is combined with fisheries, reducing the need for artificial fertilizers and using less space; using trees like Moringa, which provides multiple benefits – trials have been started in Cote d’Ivoire and expanded to Burkina Faso and Benin with potential for upscaling in other countries. FAO activities in this area also include engagement with agri-businesses, for example training farmers in other uses of products they cannot sell to avoid wastage;
- Olivier: ICRAF’s presentation showed that degraded forests are not necessarily bad for biodiversity – one must identify the best practices to maintain the productivity of the landscape; Collaboration on knowledge management and best practices to support sustainable land management is ongoing between University of Bern and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT);
- Abdoulaye: The private sector, commodity production and supply chains also influence land use; public private partnerships are always linked to resources maybe we should seek opportunities for engagement;

During the plenary, the updated draft Declaration and Resolution were presented for further input and agreement by the participants (see annex for the agreed text of both documents).

**(v) Session 9 & 10: Priority actions that should be taken to support the solutions to sustainable land use at a national level, in terms of influencing policy frameworks and supporting or developing initiatives**

The representatives of various governments participating in the workshop provided updates of what initiatives were taking place in their countries and which provided opportunities to contribute to sustainable land management and potential for influencing.

**Ghana** (by Kofi Adu-Nsiah)

- Ghana has 17% of the land cover designated as Protected Areas. Its Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) brings on board unprotected areas; about 20 CREMAs have been established;
- There is a clearing house mechanism to encourage joint working between focal points; they meet to work on NBSAPs;
- Ongoing landscape restoration work constitutes tree planting in Protected Areas, including native and exotic tree species. The fast growing (exotic) tree are harvested for sale of timber products;
- Ghana organizes Environment and Natural Resource Summit on regular basis which brings about higher level engagement in policy;
- On the ground actions incentivise people to participate in conservation and sustainable land management;
- Connectivity corridors have been identified in Fazao-Malfakassa National Park which would give opportunities to connect with neighbouring countries.

**Nigeria** (by Ayuba Turman)

- The Federal Ministry of Environment houses most of the MEAs, including the national agency that manages the eight national parks;
- People have been cutting down trees especially Kosso wood (*Pterocarpous erinaceous*) for free, but they are now paying for permits to cut the species as a control measure after the species was listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); adding value has also been recommended so that people could make more profit and create more employment hence, in the overall, contributing to greater national economic development;

- A Nigerian National Committee on Migratory Landbirds and CMS/AEMLAP has been set up under the Forestry Department. The main aim is to coordinate national implementation of AEMLAP, but this committee could also be used to coordinate sustainable land use processes in Nigeria in liaison with other relevant government agencies. The Committee has a set of objectives and member have clear roles and responsibilities. One of the constraints of fulfilling committee objectives has been funding challenges. NCF hosts the Secretariat.

#### **Burkina Faso** (by Germaine Ouedraogo)

- As a landlocked and dry country, Burkina Faso is finding solutions to cope with lack of rain, including techniques to recycle and claim the little water available;
- There are also projects/programmes for managing soil recovery. Zai techniques and natural composting to increase harvests are being promoted, and stone dikes are also being used to retain soil and even to improve the soil quality;
- Reforestation is being promoted, including training tree nursery keepers and on planting techniques while involving communities;
- An inter-ministerial meeting on conservation takes place every trimester involving CITES, CMS, CBD focal points; through this platform collaboration is sought among the ministries on implementation of the conventions;

#### **Cote d'Ivoire** (by Diomande Gondo)

- Land governance needs to be integrated in all national activities and policies;
- The planning ministry has launched a policy/procedure for land planning and management which should lead to better management of the environment, including water sources;
- Deforestation and forest degradation is a major problem and this has been a major focus;
- Each Ministry has its own strategy and there is limited communication between them; a plan exists but lacks the resources to be implemented. This means that Ministries need to be strategic and increase communication within the government and with other countries;
- There is not yet enough synergy between the focal points of the Conventions; meetings are held when there is a national report to be written but not in between;
- An IUCN-EU project which aims at restoring five million of hectares of land is running well, and a transboundary project is also ongoing to create ecological corridors;
- All in all, there are many programmes that are running but it is hard to follow them as resources to do so are lacking.

#### **Senegal** (by Abdou Salam Kane)

- The national land use plan is the primary tool for managing land use, which is complemented by two decentralised plans (for communes and departments);
- A NBSAP has been completed and conservation plans for several species have been developed;
- Sectoral plans for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and infrastructure are in place, though there may be gaps in participation of stakeholders and financing. Some pilot projects, e.g. with FAO have been initiated including national ones on land use as pilots at demonstration sites;
- They recommended that it would have been better if countries were involved in preparing the Abuja Declaration much earlier.

**(vi) Session 11: Discussion and agreement on a draft resolution on sustainable land use to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP12 and a Declaration for adoption through other instruments**

The session Chair explained that following this workshop, the draft Resolution will be finalized and be presented to CMS COP12 in October 2017 for adoption in its revised form.

The draft Resolution and the Declaration were read out and participants provided comments and amendments, after which they were approved. The Declaration was approved as the “Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Land Use for People and Biodiversity including Migratory Birds in West Africa”.

**(vii) Session 12: Next steps and Workshop Closure**

The following next steps were agreed:

- Circulation of draft workshop report as soon as possible;
- Launching actions on sustainable land use with regards to migrant landbirds including creating awareness amongst local communities on sustainable land use issues;
- Explore opportunities for overcoming challenges including finance, e.g. opportunities to expand UNCCD activities in other countries such as joining the LDN processes at country level;
- Promote information sharing between participating countries including through online networking platforms including circulating presentations to the participants;
- Encourage transboundary cooperation;
- Capture landbird issues in education programmes; and,
- Circulate the Declaration and the workshop report widely to relevant institutions including ECOWAS.

## Workshop Closure

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In his closing remarks, Borja Heredia thanked the facilitator, both chairs of the workshop (Olivier Biber and Elizabeth Ehi-Ebewele (CMS and CITES Focal Point, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria) and the workshop organising committee.

In her remarks, Elizabeth expressed her satisfaction that the workshop had delivered the Abuja Declaration. She emphasized that the Nigerian National Committee on Migratory Landbirds would not work alone and that the Minister is committed to addressing the critical land use issue. Sustainable land use planning is good for all, and birds provide good indicators of land health. She drew examples of the once abundant vultures which have virtually disappeared, meaning that all was not well. Such a situation meant that other birds were not doing well and could follow suit. She indicated that the workshop acted as a wakeup call for all to act appropriately to save birds. She thanked the donors who found resources to organise the workshop. The Chair then declared the meeting officially closed.

***Report ends***

# Annexes

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## Annex 1: Speech by Dr. Bukar Hassan

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
DR. BUKAR HASSAN ON THE WORKSHOP ON "SUSTAINABLE LAND USE IN WEST AFRICA:  
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY RESPONSES THAT DELIVER FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS AND  
PEOPLE" AT DE BENTLEY HOTEL PLOT 892, NGOZI OKONJO IWEAL STREET, UTA KO DISTRICT,  
ABUJA, NIGERIA ON 24<sup>TH</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

### PROTOCOL

I have the greatest honour of welcoming you all to this very important and timely workshop, which brought together the diverse group of stakeholders on the need to implement truly sustainable land use that benefits people and biodiversity, including our wonderful migratory birds.

2. Sustainable land use is of the first importance in Nigeria, in addressing some of our ecological problems such as erosion, flooding and deforestation. Sustainable land use in Nigeria will deliver long-term sustainable livelihoods for rural people, flourishing biodiversity, strong ecosystem services and resilience to climate change.

3. This workshop I understand will focus on issues such as:

- Adoption of agro-ecological practices, including native tree restoration and retention;
- Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change
- Sustainable management of wood-fuel and charcoal and
- Protection of wetlands

4. My officers will engage actively in the discussions, but this is a cross-government challenge. I am therefore most pleased to see colleagues from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development here today, and I commend all Ministries with an interest in sustainable land use to these discussions.

5. We know that birds can act as vital sentinels of sustainable land use, and we will therefore seek to support programmes for bird monitoring as a means of understanding the effect of land use change as well as the health of those bird populations.

6. Honourable Minister Ma, ladies and gentlemen, Nigeria stands to take a lead in driving forward sustainable land use and to work with all stakeholders in West Africa to achieve this. We believe that this workshop will be a very significant milestone on the road to achieving this great challenge.

7. Thank you for listening.

**OPENING ADDRESS**

**BY**

**AMINA J. MOHAMMED**

**HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT**

**AT THE**

**WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE LAND USE IN WEST AFRICA:  
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY RESPONSES THAT  
DELIVER FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS AND PEOPLE**

**DE BENTLEY HOTEL, PLOT 892, NGOZI OKONJO  
IWEAL STREET, UTAKO DISTRICT, ABUJA, NIGERIA**

**24<sup>TH</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

## PROTOCOL

I am delighted to welcome you all to this workshop on Sustainable land Use in West Africa: National and International Policy Responses that deliver for Migratory Birds and People.

2. This workshop is timely and has brought together the diverse group of stakeholders that need to implement truly sustainable land use that benefits people and biodiversity, including our wonderful migratory birds. Which will deliver long-term sustainable livelihoods for rural people, flourishing biodiversity, strong ecosystem services and resilience to climate change.
3. Currently, rapid deforestation – resulting from unsustainable use of forest resources for human survival (e.g. fuel-wood and energy, housing etc.) – and agricultural expansion and intensification - particularly of monoculture plantations – are major contributing factors to land degradation and in Addition, unsustainable infrastructure development. As a result, we are seeing severe land degradation, including deterioration of habitat needed by migratory birds and other wildlife.
4. The drivers of land use change are growth of the Nigerian population, which creates demand for land, for commodities, for energy and food, particularly in urban areas. The fact that a lot of rural communities depend on fuel-wood for their primary energy needs has also contributed to this issue. Climate change is also playing its part in driving change.
5. This is also the same across West Africa. These changes have brought some significant impact on the rapidly growing West Africa population, including local food supply, public water supply, electricity and jobs. However, when development is unsustainably managed it can place a strain on the environment and biodiversity, which weakens the resilience of the natural environment and the people who depend on it. The loss of habitat has led to a serious decline of biodiversity in West Africa. Equally, other ecosystem services' are destroyed or degraded as a result of poorly planned development. For example, water supply, carbon fixation and soil formation

6. My Ministry is ready to;

- Work across the stakeholders to develop solutions that will create sustainable land use benefits to people and birds, including working with civil society
- Adopt the declaration on sustainable land use, which includes:
  - Adoption of climate-smart agro-ecological practices, including native tree restoration and retention;
  - Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change;
  - Sustainable management of wood-fuel and charcoal;
  - Protection of wetlands
- Support programmes for bird monitoring as a means of understanding the effect of land use change as well as the health of those bird populations.
- Support the resolution on sustainable land use to CMS COP12
- Drive implementation of policies around integrated land use planning, strong and participative environmental governance.

7. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as we are at this workshop today, I wish to stress the fact that our role as government is mainly catalytic, our programmes in the ministry constitute the framework for a dynamic, evolving process for the co-operation among stakeholders. These programmes are catalysts for involvement of entire societies and point of reference for all agents involved in the process of environmentally sustainable development in the country. I therefore urge you all to join hands with the government towards achieving sustainable land use that benefits people and biodiversity, including our wonderful migratory birds.

8. Thank you for listening, I wish you successful deliberation and I hereby declare the workshop open.

## Annex 3: Workshop Agenda

### Workshop on Sustainable Land Use in West Africa: National and International Policy Responses that Deliver for Migratory Birds and People (LUMB)

Abuja, Nigeria, 24 – 26 November 2016

UNEP/CMS/LUMB/Doc.1.a

**Day 1: How is land use changing in West Africa, what is driving those changes and how are they affecting people, biodiversity and ecosystem services?**

Session	Session description	Lead	Mins	Timing
1.	Opening of Day One			
2.	Official welcome by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Dr. Bukar Hassan	Dr. Bukar Hassan	30	09.00 – 10.30
	Introductory remarks from the CMS Secretariat: background and objectives for the workshop	Borja Heredia (CMS)	15	
	Address by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Hajia Amina J. Mohammed	Honourable Minister of Environment, Hajia Amina J. Mohammed	15	
	Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair Introduction of participants	The CMS Secretariat will make a proposal for a Chair and Vice Chair	10	
	Introduction of participants. Adoption of agenda and meeting schedule	Chair, once appointed, will lead the discussion from here onwards	10	
	Group photo		10	
	Coffee break			10.30 – 10.45
3.	Agreement on how land use is changing and will change in West Africa, what is driving those changes and how these changes are affecting people, biodiversity and ecosystem services			
	Presentation: Agriculture	Eugene Rurangwa (FAO)	10	10.45 – 12.15
	Presentation: Forests and woodlands	Christophe Kouame (ICRAF)	10	
	Presentation: Wetlands	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Associated expert, Wetlands International)	10	
	Presentation: Ecosystem restoration	Blaise Bodin (CBD Secretariat ( <i>delivered by Kate Hand</i> ))	10	

Session	Session description	Lead	Mins	Timing
	Plenary discussion: agreement on most important land use changes; agreement on the main direct and indirect drivers of these changes; and agreement on the key cross-cutting impacts	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	45	
	Lunch			12.15 – 13.15
4.	What does sustainable land use look like and what are the challenges to achieving it?			
	Human development perspective		10	13.15 – 15.00
	Rural producers' perspective	Hope Osieta (Leventis Foundation)	10	
	Biodiversity conservationists' perspective	Eric Lartey (BirdLife)	10	
	Plenary discussion: agreement on a definition of sustainable land use of relevance to this process; and identification of most important shared challenges to tackling the drivers of land use change and delivering sustainable land use	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	45	
	Coffee			15.00 – 15.15
5.	Identification of solutions to the most important challenges to deliver sustainable land use and tackling the drivers of land use change, as identified in sessions 3 and 4, at a national and sub-regional level by a) minimising land use policies and practices with a negative impact and b) maximising those with a positive impact?			
	Solutions on the ground: GEMS3	Andrew Smith (Adam Smith International)	10	15.15 – 17.10
	Carousel small group discussions (organised by issues identified in sessions 3 and 4)	Group facilitators	85	
	Feedback on key issues raised	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	15	
6.	Summary and close of day 1			
	Outline of Day Two	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	10	17.10 – 17.30
	Close of the day	Chair	5	

**Day 2: What policy frameworks and programmes can best influence the drivers and address the challenges in relation to sustainable land use identified on Day 1, and how can they best be influenced?**

Session	Session description	Lead	Mins	Timing
7.	Opening of Day Two			
	Welcome from Chair and summary of Day One	Chair	5	09.00 – 09.30

Session	Session description	Lead	Mins	Timing
	Outline of Day 2	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	10	
8.	How can we use existing frameworks and opportunities to achieve agreed priority solutions for sustainable land use in West Africa?			
	International: Sustainable Development Goals and Land Degradation Neutrality	Boubacar Cissé (UNCCD)	10	09.30 – 11.00
	Regional: Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme and the land policy framework and guidelines	Nigerian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	10	
	Sub-regional: ECOWAS	Moussa Leko	10	
	Sub-regional: Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism and integrated land use publication	Soalandy Rakotondramanga (FAO)	10	
	Plenary discussion: where are the key opportunities within these frameworks up to 2020?	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	40	
	Coffee			11.00 – 11.15
9.	What priority action should we take to support the solutions to sustainable land use at a <i>national</i> level, in terms of influencing policy frameworks and supporting or developing initiatives?			
	Summary of priorities identified by participants to date	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	10	
	Small group discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burkina Faso and Senegal</li> <li>Cote d'Ivoire</li> <li>Ghana and Nigeria</li> </ul>	Group facilitators	60	11.15 – 12.30
	Lunch			12.30 – 13.30
10.	What priority action should we take to support the solutions to sustainable land use at a <i>sub-regional</i> level, in terms of influencing policy frameworks and supporting or developing initiatives?			
	Feedback from Burkina Faso and Senegal	Group facilitator	5	13.30 – 14.30
	Feedback from Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana	Group facilitator	5	
	Feedback from Nigeria	Group facilitator	5	
	Plenary discussion: West Africa	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	10	
	Coffee			14.30 – 14.45

Session	Session description	Lead	Mins	Timing
11.	Discussion and agreement of a draft resolution on sustainable land use to Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP12 and a Declaration for adoption through other instruments	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	145	14.45 – 17.10
12.	Summary of workshop and next steps	Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Facilitator)	10	17.10 – 17.30
	Logistics for those attending the field trip: Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Ximena Cancino (CMS)	5	
	Vote of thanks	Borja Heredia (CMS)	5	
	Close of workshop	Chair		

## Annex 4: Draft Resolution

### **Resolution on the conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds, especially in relation to sustainable land use in West Africa**

*Concerned* that current trends in West African land use are leading to considerable landscape changes which can have significant negative impacts on biodiversity, including migratory birds. This problem needs to be addressed because such biodiversity is valuable both in its own right, and for the ecosystem services it provides. These services constitute the foundation of resilient livelihoods for rural people, who are some of the poorest in the region;

*Noting* that bird populations, when monitored with standardised methods, can provide a first available indicator of sustainable land use;

*Recalling* that Resolution 11.17 of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, urged Parties and *encouraged* non-Parties and stakeholders to implement the African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan ('the Action Plan') as a matter of priority;

Also *Recalling* that Resolution 11.17 especially urges Parties and encourages non-Parties to address the issue of habitat loss and degradation of migratory landbird species through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats within the wider environment, including working with local communities, and in partnership with the poverty alleviation community and the agriculture and forestry sectors in Africa;

*Noting* that the African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group ('the Working Group'), at its third meeting in Abidjan, from 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015, which was generously funded by Switzerland and hosted by UNEP, agreed on a Programme of Work, as endorsed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council on 18-21 April 2016, that gives top priority to tackling land use change in West Africa during 2016 – 2020, including the organisation of a workshop on this issue;

*Welcoming* the report of the workshop on West African land use ('the workshop') that was held in Abuja, from 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016, and *thanking* the government of Switzerland for generously financing the meeting and the Government of Nigeria for effectively hosting it;

*Recalling* the relevance of sustainable land use for CMS and its Strategic Plan 2015 – 2023, and for other CMS Family instruments such as the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement ('AEWA') and its Strategic Plan 2009 – 2017, the Memorandum of Understanding on Raptors ('Raptors MOU') and the Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP);

*Further recalling* the importance of supporting sustainable land use in West Africa to implement a wide range of international agreements including the Sustainable Development Goals ('SDGs'), the Convention on Biological Diversity ('CBD') and its Strategic Plan (including the Aichi targets) 2011 – 2020, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ('UNFCCC') and its Paris Agreement, the Ramsar Convention and its Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 and the Convention on Combating Desertification ('UNCCD') and its Strategic Plan 2008 – 2018;

*Taking into consideration* the AU Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), the Strategic Objective 2 of the FAO Revised Strategic Framework, the Ministerial Declaration on food security and the agricultural sectors in a changing climate made at the 29<sup>th</sup> Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN ('FAO') Regional Conference for Africa, on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016, the recommendations of the participants of the FAO Regional Meeting on Agroecology in Sub-Saharan Africa, on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015, and the UN Environment Programme and its Poverty and Environment Initiative ('PEI'), and the UN Development Programme ('UNDP') and its Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017;

*Further taking into consideration* the West African Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (ECOWAP 25), the ECOWAS Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Forest Ecosystems, Nationally Determined Contributions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the African Union Agenda 2063 to support sustainable management practices and approaches that will support birds and people in West Africa.

*Acknowledging* with thanks the contribution of the members of the Working Group, and also *acknowledging* with thanks the contribution of participants at the workshop;

*Further acknowledging* the vital role of financial donors in this area, particularly the government of Switzerland and BirdLife International and its national Partners;

*The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Endorses* the Abuja declaration on sustainable land use adopted by the 'Workshop on Sustainable Land Use in West Africa: National and International Policy Responses that Deliver for Migratory Birds and People';
2. *Urges* Parties and *encourages* non-Parties to work together with agencies, organisations and local communities to address harmful land use changes in West

Africa by promoting sustainable land use through practices and approaches set out in the declaration of the workshop;

3. *Calls* for Parties and non-Parties to recognise and support joint action by relevant Conventions and international processes on sustainable land use of benefit to migratory birds that can deliver the objectives under international agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals;
4. *Instructs* the Secretariat to raise the importance of sustainable land use, and the specific practices and approaches in the declaration, for migratory birds with relevant UN agencies and other international institutions and to seek opportunities for collaborative action to promote sustainable land use;
5. *Notes* that land use change is a driver of ongoing loss of biodiversity across Africa, and that the drivers of land use change and the solutions that can achieve sustainable land use identified at the workshop are applicable to conservation in many landscapes across Africa.
6. *Further instructs* the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Working Group and under the framework of AEMLAP, to consider initiating similar processes to that in West Africa in other parts of the African-Eurasian flyway where land use change constitutes a particular problem for the conservation of migratory birds;
7. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties to develop national common bird monitoring schemes with a view to establishment of national wild bird indices as indicators of sustainable land use and ecosystem health, which can eventually form the basis of a global wild bird indicator that can be utilised by the different MEAs and international processes that deal with sustainable land management;
8. *Urges* Parties and *encourages* bilateral and multilateral donors, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNCCD, ECOWAS to support action to tackle the barriers to sustainable land use in West Africa, especially priorities recommended by the workshop;

*Requests* the CMS Scientific Council and the Working Group, in liaison with the Migratory Landbird Study Group to address the most important knowledge gaps relating to the conservation of the migratory landbirds species that depend on West African landscapes.

9. [*Adopts* the European turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), European roller (*Coracias garrulus*) and Yellow-breasted bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) action plans;]

10. *Urges* Parties and other stakeholders to contribute in action and with financial contributions to the implementation of the Programme of Work 2016-2020 adopted by the Working Group in 2015 and to develop indicators to show how well it is being implemented.
11. *Requests* the continuation of the Working Group for the next inter-sessional period until COP13 in 2020; and
12. *Calls* on Parties to report on progress in implementing the AEMLAP, [the three single species action plans,] and in particular, in delivering sustainable land use in West Africa, and integrating it into delivery against other relevant international agreements, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to COP13 in 2020, via their national reports.

## Annex 5: The Abuja Declaration



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Land Use for People and Biodiversity including Migratory Birds in West Africa

On 24 – 25 November 2016, participants from governments<sup>1</sup>, UN agencies<sup>2</sup>, civil society<sup>3</sup> and academia<sup>4</sup> met to discuss the cross-cutting impacts of land use change on people and biodiversity in West Africa at a workshop on ‘Sustainable land use in West Africa: supporting national and international policy responses that deliver for people and migratory birds’ (‘the workshop’).

This workshop identified the key drivers of West African land use change of detriment to people and biodiversity, and identified priority practices and approaches for achieving sustainable land use of benefit to people and biodiversity, including migratory birds, using relevant policy frameworks.

Land use is changing rapidly across West Africa, and will continue to do so. Development in West Africa is a high priority for its people, but must not be done in a way that undermines their future livelihoods by compromising sustainability. A range of land use and cover changes are driving species declines, negatively affecting the provision of ecosystem services and reducing the ability of vulnerable people in the region to develop resilient livelihoods in the face of climate change. These include expansion and intensification of agricultural land use, loss and degradation of tree and forest cover, and declines in the extent, productivity and biodiversity of wetlands.

In September 2015, world governments agreed a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which create a universally applicable and indivisible framework of action for every country. All countries, UN organizations, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and development agencies are moving to align their work with the SDGs. Sustainable land use features most prominently under SDG 15, but will be a prerequisite for the delivery of most of the other goals, particularly in relation to West Africa.

In Africa, the African Union Agenda 2063 also sets out a broad vision for the region, including the goals of ‘environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.’

Participants at the workshop used the following **definition of sustainable land use**:

‘Sustainable land management practices that, taken together over a defined area, support resilient livelihoods for communities, ecosystem services and sufficient natural and semi-

<sup>1</sup> Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal

<sup>2</sup> UNCCD, UNEP-CMS and FAO

<sup>3</sup> BirdLife International

<sup>4</sup> Institute of Avian Research, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI), University of Barcelona and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

natural habitat to ensure healthy populations of resident and migratory species. Such practices must also be adapted to climate change and take into account an integrated landscape approach to fulfil the needs of people and biodiversity.’

**Participants acknowledged that:**

- **The key underlying drivers of land use change** are: population growth (particularly of urban populations), economic growth (driven by both local and international market demand for commodities) and poor land governance.
  
- **The key harmful land use changes** that particularly threaten biodiversity, including migratory birds, the livelihoods of people and the ecosystem services that support life in West Africa are:
  1. Increases in large scale monoculture plantations
  2. Intensive farming techniques that degrade the natural environment
  3. Loss of trees, woodlands and forests in the landscape
  4. Loss and degradation of permanent and seasonal wetlands
  5. Damaging and poorly planned infrastructure developments, such as road and hydrodam construction
  6. Mining (including oil spills)
  
- **Examples of good sustainable land management practices** that can support people’s livelihoods, ecosystem services and biodiversity are:
  1. Participatory/integrated land use planning, governance and law enforcement
  2. Agroecological farming practices such as agroforestry, conservation agriculture, climate smart agriculture, integrated pest management and invasive species management
  3. Sustainable fuelwood and charcoal supply management; and
  4. Sustainable wetland management
  5. Deforestation-free sustainable supply chains
  6. Forest and landscape restoration
  7. Restoration of ecological connectivity.
  
- **Approaches that can support sustainable land use include:**
  1. engaging policy makers, local communities, civil society, scientists, experts and the private sector in development of sustainable land use governance, policy, regulation and programme formulation and implementation
  2. coordinating policy amongst different departments and stakeholders to ensure that sustainable land management practices that jointly deliver on multiple priorities are supported and advanced. In particular, developing participative, integrated land use planning
  3. providing positive incentives for sustainable land use and reducing perverse incentives, including through policy alignment

4. supporting evidence and understanding of the benefits of sustainable land use, including at the local level through improved extension and training services for farmers and land managers on sustainable land management practices
5. all of the above approaches must be supported by effective environmental governance

- **Countries should:**

1. ensure national policies, and their implementation, align with global level commitments, such as: the Aichi targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), land degradation neutrality targets under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Nationally Determined Contributions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and the Sustainable Development Goals, to achieve sustainable land management
2. ensure national policies, and their implementation, aligns with regional policies and commitments, such as the West African Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (ECOWAP 25), and the ECOWAS Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Forest Ecosystems, to support sustainable management
3. Integrate sustainable land management practices and approaches (particularly around native tree restoration) that will support birds and people in West Africa into relevant frameworks and programmes, including in the delivery of Strategic Objective 2 of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's Reviewed Strategic Framework, and relevant restoration and afforestation programmes operating in West Africa e.g. the Great Green Wall Initiative, the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism and AFR100.
4. Integrate recognition of and support for sustainable land management into Pillar I of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
5. Integrate recognition of and support for sustainable land management into relevant programmes of the CBD, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), UNCCD and UNFCCC, so that they can provide support, training and incentives for activity at the national level
6. Work with the CMS to develop guidelines for national common bird monitoring schemes, with a view to using wild bird indices as indicators of sustainable land use and ecosystem health.
7. Collaborate with the private sector to implement sustainable land use practices
8. Promote implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP)
9. Promote good land governance through the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G)

**Made in Abuja, Nigeria, on 25 November 2016**

## **Annex 6: Participants list**

### **Workshop on Sustainable Land Use in West Africa: National and International Policy Responses that Deliver for Migratory Birds and People**

**24-26 November 2016, Abuja, Nigeria,**

#### **Burkina Faso**

Ms. Germaine Ouedraogo/bouda  
Point Focal National de la CMS/AEWA Pour le Burkina Faso  
Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Economie verte  
03 BP 7044 OUAGADOUGOU 03  
[ouedraogermaine@yahoo.fr](mailto:ouedraogermaine@yahoo.fr)

#### **Côte d'Ivoire**

Dr. Diomande Gondo  
Directeur De L'aménagement du Territoire Ministère du Plan et du Développement  
01 BP 2486 ABIDJAN 01  
[sitasahi@yahoo.fr](mailto:sitasahi@yahoo.fr)

Mr. Kognan Dégrâce N'DA  
Sous-directeur Direction de l'Ecologie et de la Protection de la Nature  
BP V178 Abidjan  
[ndakognan@yahoo.fr](mailto:ndakognan@yahoo.fr)

#### **Germany**

Prof. Franz Bairlein Director  
Institute of Avian Research  
An der Vogelwarte 21, 26386 Wilhelmshaven  
[franz.bairlein@ifv-vogelwarte.de](mailto:franz.bairlein@ifv-vogelwarte.de)

#### **Ghana**

Dr. Winston Asante  
Lecturer/ Researcher Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology  
Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources, Kwame Nkrumah university of Science and Technology, Kumasi  
[winstonasante@gmail.com](mailto:winstonasante@gmail.com)

Mr. Kofi Adu-Nsiah  
Executive Officer Forestry Commission Wildlife Division  
P.O. Box BB 239 ACCRA, Ghana  
[adunsiah@yahoo.com](mailto:adunsiah@yahoo.com)

#### **Nigeria**

Mr. Ayuba Turman Bakut  
Assistant Director Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry  
[ayubabakut@yahoo.com](mailto:ayubabakut@yahoo.com)

Ms. Zuwaira Usman Wawata  
Forest Officer Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry  
Forestry Department, Federal Ministry of Environment, Plot 393/394 Augustus Ikhomu Way Utako Abuja  
[hwawata@gmail.com](mailto:hwawata@gmail.com)

Ms. Blessing Omovoh  
Scientific Officer I Federal Ministry of Environment  
Department of Forestry, Federal Ministry of Environment, Plot 393/394, Augustus Aikhomu Way, Utako,  
Abuja  
[odafe\\_bls@yahoo.com](mailto:odafe_bls@yahoo.com)

Ms. Zuwaira Usman Wawata  
Forest Officer Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry  
Forestry Department, Federal Ministry of Environment, Plot 393/394 Augustus Ikhomu Way Utako Abuja  
[hwawata@gmail.com](mailto:hwawata@gmail.com)

Mr. Jonah Moses Chumtan  
Staff/Member, Nigeria National Committee on Migratory Landbirds Nigeria National Park Service  
National Park Service, Umar Musa Yar'adua Express Way, P.M.B 0258, Garki-Abuja, Nigeria  
[jonahmoses@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jonahmoses@yahoo.co.uk)

Dr. Elizabeth Ebahi Ehi-Ebewele  
Deputy Director, Wildlife and Cites Management Authority Federal Ministry of Environment, Department  
of Forestry  
[elizaehi@yahoo.com](mailto:elizaehi@yahoo.com)

Mr. Babajide Ayokunle Oluyemi  
Forest Officer (Focal Point for Nigeria on National Ivory Action Plan (CITES) Federal Ministry of  
Environment, Department of Forestry  
[labyn1954@yahoo.com](mailto:labyn1954@yahoo.com)

Ms. Blossom Uwabor  
Scientific Officer Federal Ministry of Environment  
Plot 510, Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Wuse Zone 1, Abuja FCT  
[ebiemeblossom@yahoo.com](mailto:ebiemeblossom@yahoo.com)

Mr. Zakari Ibrahim  
ACFS Federal Ministry of Environment  
Federal Ministry of Environment, Mabushi, Abuja  
[zakari2010247@yahoo.com](mailto:zakari2010247@yahoo.com)

Mr. Festus Obogbua Ikosin Eguaoje  
Assistant Director Federal Ministry of Environment  
FMENV, Abuja - Nigeria.  
[obogbua1968@gmail.com](mailto:obogbua1968@gmail.com)

Mr. Abdulmalik Ozigis  
Principal Wildlife Superintendent. National Focal Point Officer AEWA Nigeria Federal Ministry of  
Environment  
Federal Ministry of Environment, Federal Department of Forestry, PMB 468, Garki, Abuja Nigeria  
[ziabdulmark4@yahoo.com](mailto:ziabdulmark4@yahoo.com)

Mr. Terna Gbande  
Scientific Officer 11 Federal Ministry Of Environment Mabushi, ABUJA  
[gbandeterna@gmail.com](mailto:gbandeterna@gmail.com)

Mr. Ayodeji Oyekanmi Adiji  
Forest Officer II Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja  
House 58, Julius Berger Senior Staff Qtrs, Idu Industrial Area, Abuja  
[adijiayodeji@gmail.com](mailto:adijiayodeji@gmail.com)

Mr. Emmanuel Adekunle Ejioye  
Assistant Director Federal Ministry of Environment, FCT, Abuja  
[emmaejioye@yahoo.com](mailto:emmaejioye@yahoo.com)

Mr. Bala Haruna Gukut  
Deputy Director /UNCCD National Focal Point Federal Ministry of Environment  
No. 2 Dasuki Road, 2/2 Kubwa, Abuja  
[bhgukut@yahoo.com](mailto:bhgukut@yahoo.com)

### **Senegal**

Mr. Abdou Salam Kane  
Point focal Ramsar et Point focal technique AEWA  
Direction des Parcs Nationaux BP 5015 Dakar-Fann, SENEGAL  
ak7salam@gmail.com

Mr. Abdoulaye Ndiaye  
Consultant Wetlands  
Hann-Mariste Villa N° D 113 DAKAR-SENEGAL  
andiaye@wetlands-africa.org

### **Spain**

Dr. Manel Puigcerver  
Senior Lecturer University of Barcelona  
Passeig Vall d'Hebron 1717, 08035 Barcelona, Spain  
[mpuigcerver@ub.edu](mailto:mpuigcerver@ub.edu)

### **AEMLAP**

Dr. Olivier Biber  
Chair UNEP/CMS/AEML WG AEMLAP  
Brunngasse 2; Postfach 658, 3000 Bern 8  
olivier.biber@nosoiseaux.ch

### **APLORI**

Dr. Shiiwua Manu  
Director A P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute Jos Nigeria  
A P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute  
[manushiiwua@gmail.com](mailto:manushiiwua@gmail.com)

### **BirdLife International**

Mr. Alex Ngari  
AEMLAP - Coordinator BirdLife International  
P. O. Box 3502 | 00100 GPO | Nairobi | Kenya  
[alex.ngari@birdlife.org](mailto:alex.ngari@birdlife.org)

**BirdLife Netherlands**

Ms. Danielle van Oijen  
Flyways officer BirdLife Netherlands  
PO Box 925, 3700 AX Zeist  
danielle.vanoijen@vogelbescherming.nl

**BirdLife Poland**

Dr. Jaroslaw Krogulec  
International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Officer OTOP  
OTOP, BirdLife Poland, Traugutta 5, 21-040 Świdnik  
jaroslaw.krogulec@otop.org.pl

**CMS Secretariat**

Mr. Borja Heredia  
Head of Avian Unit UNEP/CMS  
Steubenring 12  
[borja.heredia@cms.int](mailto:borja.heredia@cms.int)

Ms. Ximena Cancino  
Avian Species Assistant UNEP/CMS  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, Bonn, Germany  
Ximena.cancino@cms.int

**FAO-RAF**

Dr. Soalandy Rakotondramanga  
Programme Officer, Forestry Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for Africa  
Gamel Abdel Nasser Road, Po Box 1628, Accra Ghana  
[soalandy.rakotondramanga@fao.org](mailto:soalandy.rakotondramanga@fao.org)

Mr. Eugene Rurangwa  
Land and Water Officer FAO-RAF  
P.O.Box 1628  
eugene.Rurangwa@fao.org

**Ghana Wildlife Society**

Mr. Eric Lartey  
Executive Director Ghana Wildlife Society  
P. O. Box 13252, Accra, Ghana  
e.lartey@ghanawildlifesociety.org

**ICRAF**

Dr. Chistophe Kouame  
Senior scientist World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)  
19-20 Avenue Jean Mermoz. Cocody. Abidjan  
[c.kouame@cgiar.org](mailto:c.kouame@cgiar.org)

**IITA**

Dr. Latifou Idrissou  
Action Area Coordinator for West Africa – Humidtropics International Institute for Tropical Agriculture

(IITA)

IITA - Headquarters, PMB5320, Old Oyo Road, Ibadan  
l.idrissou@cgiar.org

**A.P. Leventis Foundation**

Dr. Hope Ovie Usieta  
Executive Director Leventis Foundation (Nigeria)  
2 Leventis Close, Central Business District, P.O. Box 20351, Garki, Abuja, FCT  
hopeusieta@gmail.com

**NATURAMA**

Mr. Idrissa Zeba  
Directeur Executif Fondation NATURAMA  
01 BP 6133 OUAGADOUGOU 01, BURKINA FASO  
[idrissa.zeba@naturama.bf](mailto:idrissa.zeba@naturama.bf)

**NCD**

Mr. Mouhamadou Lamine Diawara  
Directeur Executif Nature-Communautes-Developpement (NCD)  
NCD BP 64657 DAKAR-FANN, SENEGAL  
lamine.diawara@ncd-senegal.org

Dr. Joseph Daniel Onoja  
Director, Technical Programmes Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF)  
Km 19, Lagos-Epe Expressway, Lekki P.O. Box 74638, Victoria Island Lagos, Nigeria  
joseph.onoja@ncfnigeria.org

**RSPB**

Ms. Sarah Nelson  
Head of International Policy RSPB  
RSPB UK Headquarter The Lodge Sandy Beds  
Sarah.Nelson@rspb.org.uk

Ms. Kate Hand  
Senior Policy Officer – International  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife UK  
RSPB, The Lodge, Potton Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL  
[kate.hand@rspb.org.uk](mailto:kate.hand@rspb.org.uk)

**UNCCD**

Mr. Boubacar Cisse  
Coordinator, UNCCD Regional Coordination Unit for Africa  
UNCCD Levyweg 1: 53179 BONN  
bcisse@unccd.int