Conservation of migratory birds and their sites and livelihoods improvement of communities living adjacent or on these sites

By

THANDIWE CHIKOMO & IDRISSA ZEBA
Importance of Flyways

Every year, an estimated 50 billion birds representing 19% of the world’s 10,000 bird species migrate between breeding and non-breeding sites.

Unfortunately each year more of the habitat they need to complete their journey is declining.
Why is it important to conserve migratory birds

Migratory birds are indicators of the state of environment and can help promote awareness and support for action to address broader environmental issues such as habitat loss, agricultural intensification and climate change.
Irrespective of the route used, migratory birds face a number of threats with various consequences on their survival and wellbeing.
- Land use changes (drought, desertification)
- Hunting
- Disturbance
- Disease & parasites
- Climate change
The need for networks to safeguard the flyways

The international dimension of the threats and the need for conservation measures beyond national boundaries are compelling arguments for stronger collaboration between the BirdLife Partners on a flyway scale.

Conservation action at one site or in one country can be seriously undermined if the necessary action is not taken elsewhere on the flyway.
- **Coordination**: BirdLife International + Wetlands International

- **Implementing Partners**
  - Nature Mauritanie,
  - Guinee Ecologie,
  - Conservation Society of Sierra Leone,
  - West Africa Bird Study Association (WABSA)
  - Organização para a Defesa o Desenvolvimento das Zonas Humidas (ODZH),
  - Association Nature-Communautes-Developpement (NCD),
  - Biosfera I.
Objective

Establish sustainable and participatory NGO-government partnerships for research, monitoring and conservation action, especially to mitigate threats to migratory birds and their habitats along the west coast of Africa.
Project duration & finances

- **Duration:** 1 Oct. 2010 - 31 Mar. 2014
- **Budget:** 1,496,122 Euro
- **Donor:** MAVA Foundation (986,759 Euro)
- **Co-finance:** 509,363 Euro (from VBN, BirdLife, WIA, LPO and national partners)
Expected project results
Result 1: Science and Research

- Improved knowledge of the conservation status, critical sites, habitat requirements, threats to and actions required for migratory birds and their habitats in West Africa.
Result 2: Monitoring

- Operational cost-effective and sustainable monitoring systems, especially to track changes in the status and conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
Result 3: Capacity Building

- Strong capacity in the coastal zone of West Africa for migratory bird research, conservation and management; strong network of environmental NGOs in the PRCM region with capacity to contribute actively to migratory bird conservation.
Participatory conservation of key sites and species leading to improved livelihoods and enhanced conditions for migratory birds.
Result 5: Policy and Advocacy

- Lasting NGOs-government-MEA, partnerships contributing to improved conservation status of migratory birds and their habitats in West Africa through regional policy and advocacy actions
Contract signed with MAVA (Oct. 2010)
Inception workshop (7-8 April in Dakar Senegal)
Project management unit in place
Location (CSSL - Freetown - Sierra Leone)
Contracts with 6 partners plus WIA have been signed
First instalments paid
Biosfera I – Cape Verde - to join soon
Partners have already started activities on the ground
Partners are submitting small grant proposals
Evaluation de l’impact de l’homme sur les habitats des oiseaux de la baie de la Mondah, Parc National d’Akanda
Outline!

- Project ID
- Importance of Gabon coastline for migratory birds
- Objectives and expected project results
- Project progress
- **Coordination**: BirdLife International

- **Implementing Partner**: Aventures Sans Frontieres
Project duration & finances

- **Duration:** 1 Jan. 2011 - 31 Dec. 2012
- **Budget:** USD 120,405
- **Donor:** AP. Leventis USD 48,277
- **Co-finance:** ASF (22,134), FFEM (50,098 Euro)
Threats to migratory birds along the coast of Gabon

- Fishing, Agriculture, Logging, Hunting, Harvesting
Objectives

- The conservation of avian habitats at the Mondah Bay
- The development of the green businesses by local communities and tourists
- The monitoring and evaluation of these habitats
Expected project results

- The map of the different habitats and sites to know their extent
- The map of different levels of habitat disturbances to allow informed monitoring and evaluation plans of these habitats
- The map of physical and biological characteristics of marine habitats to identify areas suitable exploitation by for local people and the development of a responsible tourism.
Contract signed between BirdLife and A.P. Leventis

Contract signed between BirdLife and ASF

First instalment paid

First progress report on socio-economic survey submitted
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Menaces majeures</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perte d’habitats à travers la mécanisation et l’expansion agricole</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Déforestation, y compris les mangroves (pour le bois de feu, le chauffage, la construction, etc.)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surexploitation des ressources côtières</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanisation de la zone côtière</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politique sectorielle : inclusion inadéquate des oiseaux migrateurs et de leurs habitats dans les politiques d’utilisation des terres</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution (plastiques, produits chimiques etc.)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chasse et piégeage illégaux</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploitation pétrolière</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Érosion côtière</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraction minière du sable</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantes invasives</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrières physiques</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capture accidentelle des oiseaux dans les filets de pêche, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grippe aviaire: ‘donne mauvaise réputation aux oiseaux’</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourisme inapproprié (en particulier sur les côtes)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indifférence vis-à-vis des oiseaux</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Programme Sponsor

BirdLife International
Living on the Edge
Migratory birds are in serious trouble:

127 species crossing the Sahara:

75 (59%) have declined (1970-2005)

Average decline of 1.3% pa

Declines in iconic species:

Common Cuckoo

European Turtle-dove

Common Redstart

Spotted Flycatcher
South of the Sahara

Decreasing rainfall

Climate change: 10 - 40% less rain; 2-7 °C rise in temperature

Dams and irrigation schemes impacting vast floodplains

Dryland cattle grazing (expansion in no. of wells)

Forest degradation (timber, fuel wood and grazing)

Extensive afforestation (exotics)

Industrial-scale hunting (nylon nets, refrigeration, access to markets)
Africa - Eurasia Flyway (2011)

Drylands & floodplains in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Nigeria

- Demonstrate action at Important Bird Areas
- Research by BirdLife Partners into declines and land-use change
- Promote sustainable land-use in agriculture and ‘greening’ the desert
- Influence development financing
- Push for EU funds for migratory birds in Africa
Demonstrate action at IBAs

- Flood-plain restoration
- Dryland restoration with native vegetation
- Regulation of industrial-scale trapping and trading of migrants
- Measures to combat overgrazing and woodland degradation
Constant effort ringing

Point counts

habitat surveys