



AfriBiRds Newsletter 1/2017

Project achievements

From December 2016 to August 2019, the AfriBiRds project aims to develop and implement a pilot scheme for long-term monitoring of birds as a template for replication in other biosphere reserves and the wider landscape. The project aims to give a particular focus to Afro-Palearctic migratory landbirds. The following 2016/17 activities will be summarized in a report entitled "Evaluation of bird monitoring systems for African Biosphere Reserves" available online by the end of this year (<https://en.nabu.de/projects/afribirds/project-materials.html>).

✓ Literature review

A thorough review of existing literature and reports was carried out to strengthen the project with evidence and to support the production of training materials, guidelines and project outcomes. From the 172 relevant thematic references found, archived and shared online with all members associated to the project, AfriBiRds highlighted and presented the top references.

✓ Global inventory of bird monitoring systems

Existing global bird monitoring schemes and related applications in African Biosphere Reserves were listed and comparatively assessed to evaluate the most suitable bird monitoring systems to be implemented in the two pilot sites. Discussions were established with the developers of selected databases to identify the potential needs for improvement for the specific use of the AfriBiRds project.

✓ Survey results

To get up-to-date information on the status of bird monitoring and conservation in African Biosphere Reserves, 97 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (BR) were invited to take part in a survey. As of 5 October 2017, 40 BRs from 24 different countries replied to the survey and we expect more contributions after the held presentation of AfriBiRds activities during the AfriMAB general assembly in September.

✓ Final selection of the pilot sites

Out of the 36 BRs that had replied before the 4th of August, the survey results were further accounted for as complementary criterion among others in order to objectively select suitable Francophone and Anglophone pilot sites respectively in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria (cf. right section). Late replies of the survey will still be considered to select representatives from other BRs to participate to a joint training workshop on bird monitoring and conservation organized in the pilot sites.



Selected pilot sites

Omo, Nigeria (since 1977)



The Omo Forest Reserve is designated as Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. It is managed by the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN)

Area: 130,600 ha

Population: 1,000 inhabitants

Habitat: wet tropical forest with patches of wet savannas, shrub and arable lands

Comoé, Côte d'Ivoire (since 1983)



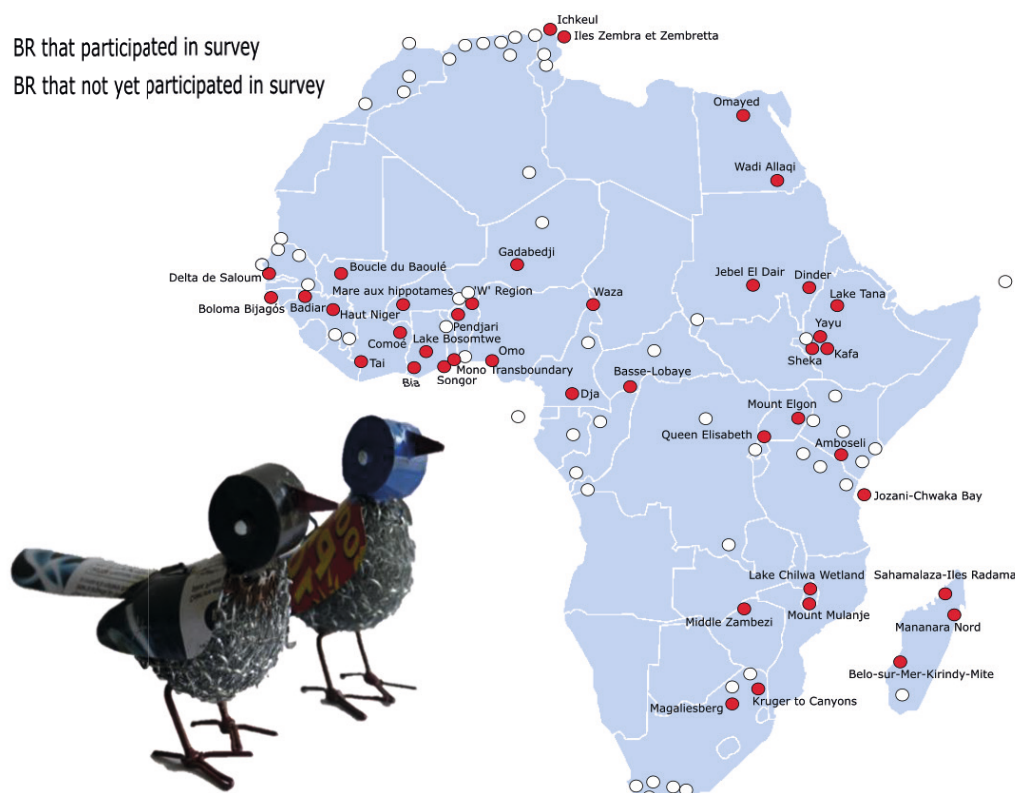
The Comoé National Park is designated as UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. It is managed by Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR).

Area: 3,220,000 ha

Population: 363,865 inhabitants

Habitat: dry savannas/shrublands with patches of dry tropical forest, wetlands

- BR that participated in survey
- BR that not yet participated in survey



Participation in AfriBiRds survey (as of 8 Nov 2017)



AfriBiRds

Since September, we are happy to welcome in the AfriBiRds team the Nigerian Conservation Foundation and SOS-Forêts represented respectively by Dr Joseph Onoja / Adeniyi Karunwi and Dr. Mathieu Wadja Egnankou / Dr Ahon Dibié Bernard. BirdLife National monitoring coordinators will work closely with the Nigeria Bird Atlas and the Ecological research Center of Comoe.

The first annual project meeting also took place on the 23rd of March 2017. Apart from NABU, BirdLife, BMUB and BfN, the following external representatives and organizations were confirmed as members of the Project Advisory Committee:



F. Baierlein
H. Schmaljohann



S. Dereliev
E. Moloko



E. Wymenga
L. Zwarts



M. Shiwua
S. Tortese Iwande



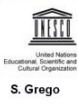
G. Luerßen



UNEP CMS
B. Heredia
T. Schneider



T. Töpfer
K. Schidelko & D. Stiel



S. Grego



P. Makenzi



J. Leyrer
V. Salewski



S. Temidayo
Osinubi



C. Magin

Project dissemination

Agenda:

- **May 2017, Bonn (Germany):** BfN Workshop UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Africa
- **May 2017, Algiers (Algeria):** 9th Arab-MAB Network Meeting (Arab Network of Biosphere Reserves)
- **Sept 2017, Ibadan (Nigeria):** 5th AfriMAB General Assembly (Sub-saharan African Network of Biosphere Reserves)
- **Oct 2017, Manila (Philippines):** AEMLAP Side event in the CMS COP 12 (12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals)
- **August 2018, Vancouver (Canada):** 27th International Ornithological Congress
- **undef.: BirdLife World Congress**
- **undef.: 7th AEWA Session of the Meeting of the Parties**

Publications:

- Article NABU Zugvogel-Post
- Online Article on CMS ([Link](#))
- Online on World Migratory Bird Day ([Link](#))
- Article in African Conservation Telegraph submitted (spec. issue Endangered Birds of Africa)

Information and contacts:

Project Website

<https://en.nabu.de/projects/afribirds/>

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Dr. Jutta Leyrer, Deputy Head of NABU's Michael-Otto-Institute, on the AfriBiRds project:

"The well-being of migratory bird population depends on intact chains of healthy habitat along their migration routes. AfriBiRds helps to build up knowledge about important bird habitats and the protection of endangered sites. By organising international training courses and developing joint monitoring programmes, AfriBiRds connects people along the flyway and by this both facilitates the exchange of information on population trends and strengthens flyway-wide conservation actions."

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Text: Samuel Fournet, Alex Ngari, Svane Bender-Kaphengst, Birgit Zipf; **Layout:** Samuel Fournet, Birgit Zipf; **Images:** p.1: Bruno D'Amicis, p.2: top left: Birgit Zipf, top right: (1) Samuel Fournet, (2) SOS Forêts, (3) Navdeep, bottom left: Jutta Leyrer; **Maps:** Birgit Zipf

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