Filling In the Missing Links: AfriBirds Programme to Monitor Migratory Birds

Bona, 07 April 2017 - With spring in full swing, millions of birds have made the migratory journey from their wintering grounds in Africa to their summer breeding areas in Northern Europe and Arctic regions. Some have returned to the province, but have you ever wondered what happens to the birds that do not return from their breeding areas?

An essay by Olaf Stolze of the AfriBirds Research Project explains how species have evolved to adapt to the last two decades without much research or exploration as to why. Therefore, AfriBirds International Art (AIA) Office, in collaboration with NABU, the AfriBirds partners in Germany, have launched the project AfriBirds: African-Birds Research and Action to monitor and conserve migrating birds. This project taking place from December 2016 through August 2018, will design and implement a policy and institutional framework that will support the existing bird monitoring schemes and activities in UNECCO/Birdlife Cameroon in Africa. With more effective monitoring in place, AfriBirds will help preserve and conserve vast gaps in better understanding of the threats faced by migratory bird species in Africa such as habitat loss and degradation at key sites. Illegal taking and trade of disease and collection.

Germany is a major supporter of AfriBirds both through financial contributions and with oversight from the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Federal Ministry of Environment (BMU). The project is closely linked with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) African-Caribbean Migratory Birds Action Plan (MAB-AP), a lead tool at improving conservation and management of CMS. The mosaic approach which is currently in place and the step, AfriBirds was adopted by the 17th Conference of the Parties of CMS in Nov-Dec 2014, and includes widespread species such as the Barn Swallow, Common Cranes, Northern Gannets, and Black Storks. Supporters will all play directly contribute to the implementation of AFAIBAP but will also be able to monitor efforts such as the KSUZU Development Initiative (CISAS).

The project is already underway with a literature review to help choose the best BirdLife Observer pilot sites. It will only be as effective if frameworks currently used in many countries around the world, the Common Bird Monitoring Scheme and the important Bird and Biodiversity Action Plan (CBDAP). That purpose is to collect information about the trends in bird populations, local status, threats and the effectiveness of conservation action. At Bandia Reserve in Senegal, an international study has used a Quickbird, a high-resolution satellite from which birds can be detected on an area where several indices fit the criteria that can make observations and record sightings.

After AfriBirds has developed an on-site monitoring framework, the project will implement the monitoring for one year by collecting and analyzing data. The project will be a significant effort to understand the importance of riparian, wetlands, and coastal habitats that are necessary locations for stopover and species abundance during the breeding seasons. In the future, these reserved reserves and partner institutions will be provided guidelines that will enable the monitoring and protection of the ecological conditions and the conservation of riparian habitats. AfriBirds is a significant step in creating awareness about the importance of riparian habitats in local communities and in the conservation of riparian species. It is expected that the project will contribute to developing a regional understanding of the importance of birds in riparian habitats and in the conservation of riparian habitats. AfriBirds aligns with the Convention on Migratory Species and can help identify areas on the map which are currently threatened or destroyed. AfriBirds was adopted by the 107th Conference of the Parties of CMS in Nov-Dec 2014, and includes widespread species such as the Barn Swallow, Common Cranes, Northern Gannets, and Black Storks. Supporters will all play directly contribute to the implementation of AFAPIB but will also be able to monitor efforts such as the KSUZU Development Initiative (CISAS).

Ask for more information.

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