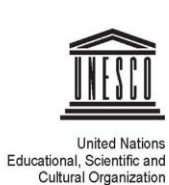


5TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES (AFRIMAB)

Theme: “Improving Governance of MAB Programme and of Biosphere Reserves
in Sub-Saharan African Countries”

International House, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, Nigeria
September 11-15, 2017



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme



OPENING CEREMONY

Tuesday September 12, 2017

8:30 – 9:59	- Arrival and Registration
10:00	- National Anthem/Opening Prayer
Introduction of dignitaries	
Welcome Address by the Host	- Executive Director, FRIN
Remarks from the Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment	
Remarks from the Chairman, House Committee on Environment	
Remarks from Representative of UNESCO Headquarters	
Remarks from South Korean Ambassador to Nigeria	
Remarks from Oyo State Government	
Remarks from Ogun State Government	
Goodwill messages	
Welcome Address and Statement from AfriMAB Chair	
Keynote address by Hon. Minister of Environment	
Cultural Interlude	-Oyo State Cultural troop
Closing Remarks by the Host	- Executive Director, FRIN
Group photograph/Refreshment	
Moderator:	

***Technical SessionsI To be chaired byAssistant Director-General for the
Natural Sciences***

12:00 – 12:15	Report from AfriMAB Chair	-
12:16 – 12:45	Election of the new Bureau	
12:46 – 1:00	MAB Programme: Agenda 2030 and the SDGs	

1:01 – 1:30	Report from UNESCO MAB Secretariat
1:31 – 1:45	Presentation on AfriBiRd
1:46 – 2:00	Presentation (To be decided)
2:01 – 3:00	Lunch Break
3:01 – 3:30	Presentation (To be decided)
3:31 – 4:00	Tea Break
4:01 – 4:30	Presentation of National and Sub-Regional Reports
4:31	Closing
7:00 – 8:30	Dinner

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Visit to Omo Biosphere Reserve

Thursday, September 14, 2015

Technical session II
To be Chaired by Noeline RaondryRakotoarisoa
Chief of Section, MAB, UNESCO

09:00 – 10:00	Establishment of a Working Group for the next biennium
10:00 – 10:30	Plenary discussion/report of working groups
10:30 – 10:45	Tea Break
10:45 – 11:30	African Biosphere Reserve Fund (AfriBioFund)
11:30 – 11:45	Presentation on Nigeria/Cameroon Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.
11:45 – 12:00	Presentation on MAB Exit Strategy
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
15:01 – 15:15	Closing Remarks

7:00 – 8:30

Dinner

Friday, September, 15 2017

Departure

African Biosphere Reserves as Pilot Sites for Monitoring and Conservation of Migratory Birds (AfriBiRds)

Dec. 2016 to Aug. 2019

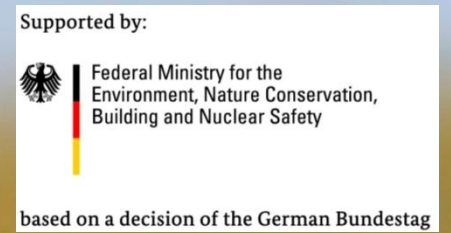
Alex Ngari

14th September 2017

IITA, Ibadan - Nigeria



Partnership for nature and people



Introduction: BirdLife international

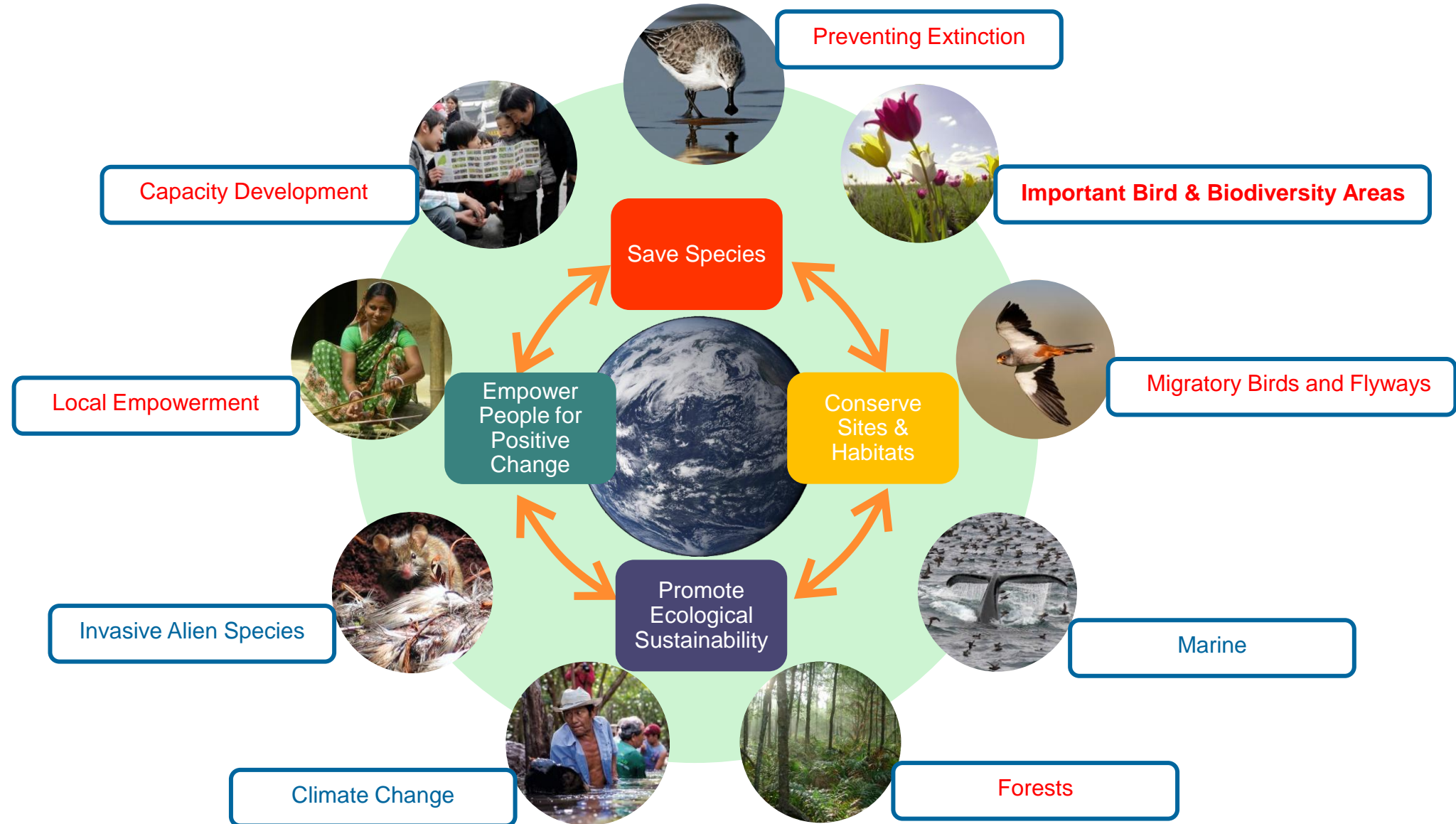
Together we are BirdLife International



The global Partnership for **nature** and **people**

120 Partners worldwide // 24 partners in Africa

BL Strategy & Programmes





CONSERVING MIGRATORY SPECIES

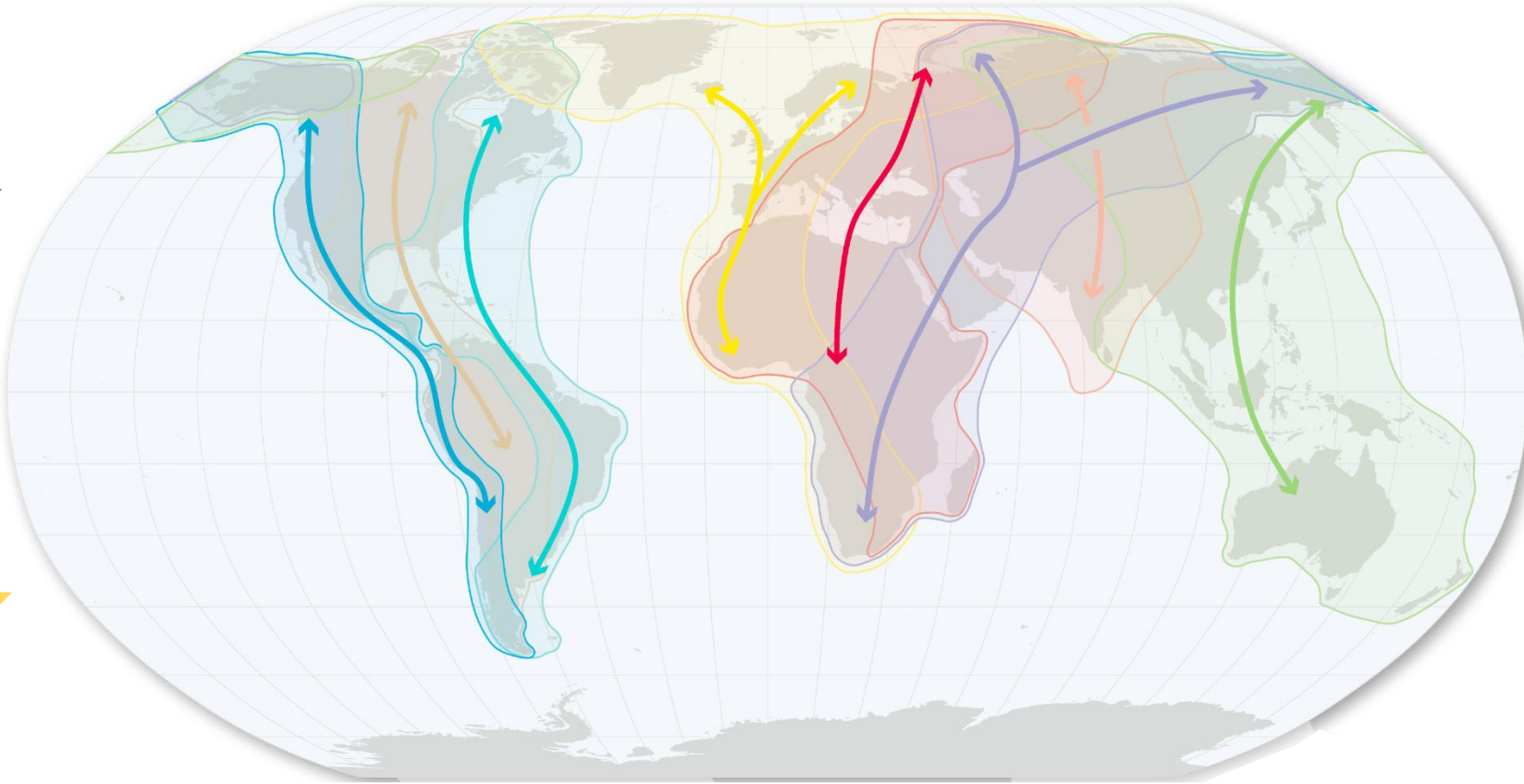
BirdLife Partners are taking action to benefit migratory birds on all the major migratory bird flyways

PACIFIC AMERICAS

ATLANTIC AMERICAS

CENTRAL AMERICAS

EAST ATLANTIC

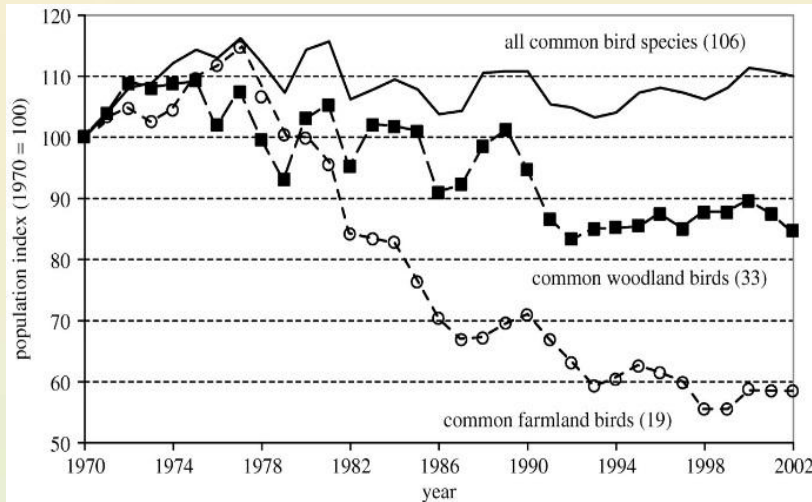


EAST ASIA-AUSTRALASIA

CENTRAL ASIA

EAST ASIA-EAST AFRICA

BLACK SEA-MEDITERRANEAN



Introduction ...*cont'd*

- Twice every year, Afro-Palearctic migratory birds travel thousands of kilometres between Africa and Eurasia
- As much as 40 per cent of these Afro-Palaeartic bird species have seen decrease in populations over the last few decades >> landbirds greatly affected
- Very little is known about the ecology of the birds including where they go while in Africa >> **limited research and monitoring in the region**
- The worrying trends and knowledge gaps attracted international attention which led CMS Parties to develop and adopt the **African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEM LAP)**



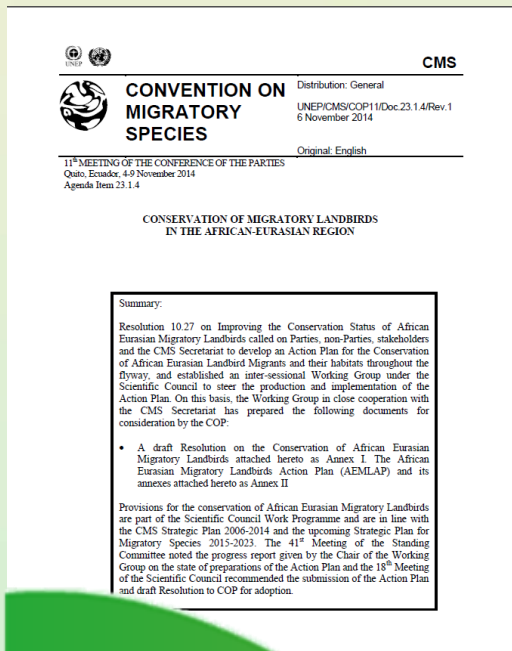
Introduction ...*cont'd*

1. CMS/AEMLAP: 5 key areas of attention to reverse the negative trends within migratory landbirds

- i. Taking and Trade
- ii. Habitat loss
- iii. Diseases and Collision with man-made infrastructure
- iv. Research and Monitoring**
- v. Education and awareness creation

2. SDG 15 - “Life on Land”

3. The monitoring of the African Biosphere Reserves from UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).



Partnership for nature and people



AfriBiRds: Overall goal

The project aims to **develop and implement a pilot scheme for long-term monitoring of bird populations including Afro-Palaeartic migrants in African biosphere reserves** as a template for application in other biosphere reserves and the wider landscape

Improved Knowledge • Better interventions • Improved habitat & species condition • Improved biodiversity • Sustainable Development

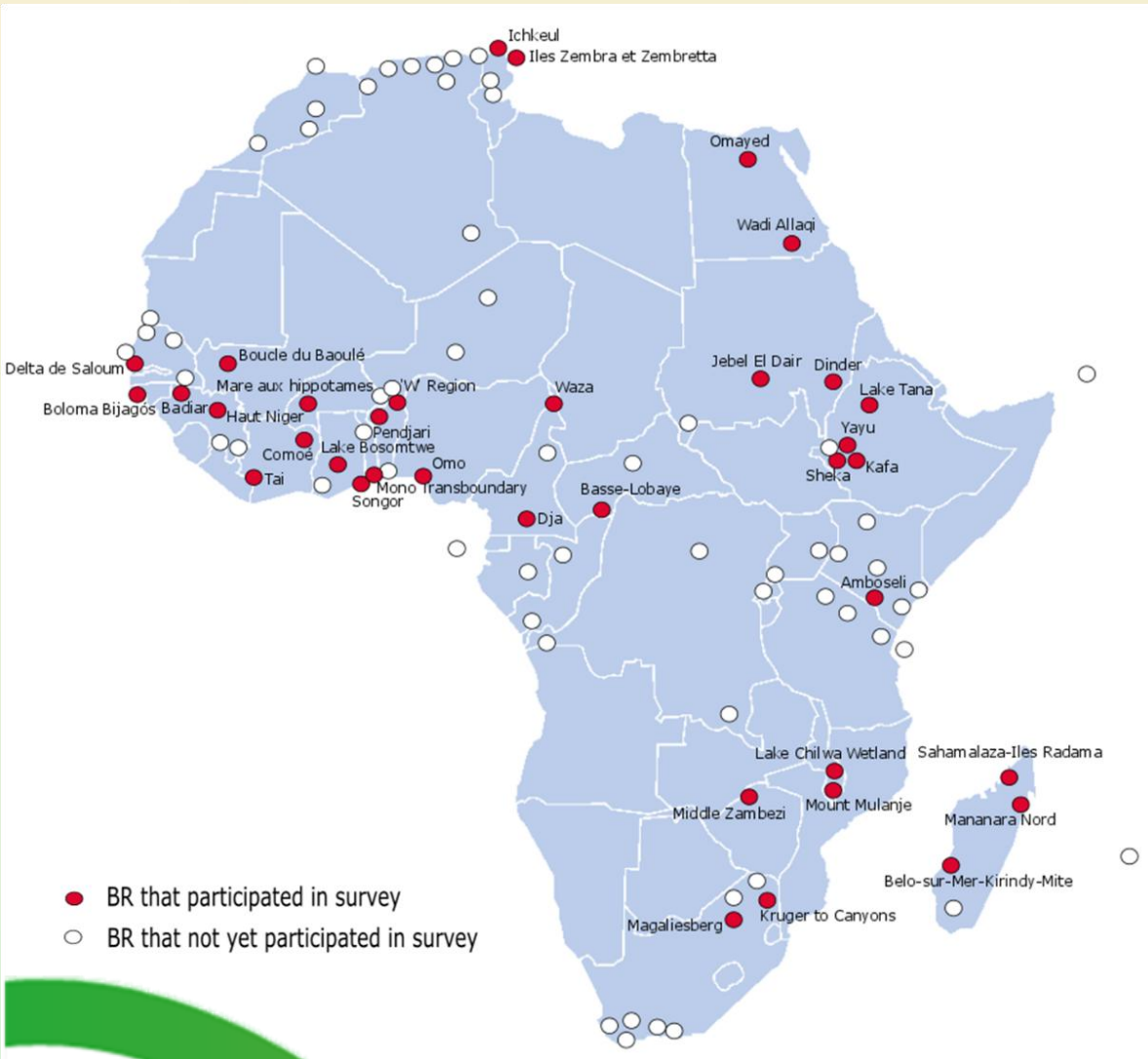


Specific objectives

1. To **review and evaluate existing bird monitoring schemes** and activities in Africa with special focus on African Biosphere Reserves
1. To select and adapt a **long-term scheme for the monitoring of common birds** with a special focus on Palaeartic migrant species that is feasible for African Biosphere Reserves and scalable to the wider landscape
2. To **implement** this scheme in at least **two** African Biosphere Reserves as pilot sites
3. To **create awareness** on the importance of the conservation of common African birds including Palaeartic migrants, promote the monitoring scheme at the pilot sites, amongst African Biosphere reserves and key stakeholders in the countries of the pilot sites and to make project

Progress to date.....

- ✓ Project Advisory Committee constituted and initial partnerships built
- ✓ Relevant background information reviewed... *continuing*
- ✓ Global bird monitoring systems inventoried
- ✓ Biosphere reserves to pilot bird monitoring identified
- ✓ National project coordinators identified
- ✓ Project Newsletter designed





.....and **next key steps**

- Development of monitoring tools
- Constitution of multi-stakeholder monitoring teams
- Training of the monitoring teams
- Applying the monitoring scheme





The Team



Svane Bender
Leader



Samuel Fournet
Coordinator



Lars Lachmann
Ornithologist



Birgit Zipf
Assistant



Julius Arinaitwe
Leader



Alex Ngari
Manager



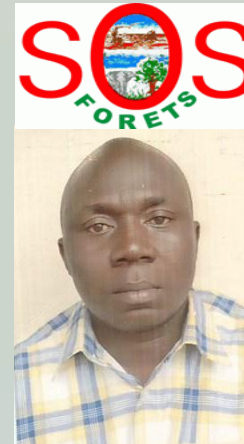
Ademola Ajabge
Conservation



Kariuki Ndanganga
Ornithologist



Florian Carius
Supervisor



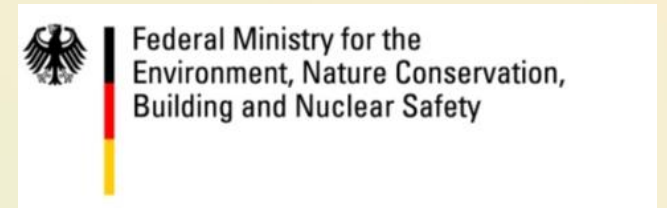
Komoe
Koffi



Joseph
Onoja

National Coordinators

Project Advisory Committee



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



Partnership for nature and people

Thank you

For more information

WEBSITES

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

and/or

<http://www.birdlife.org/africa/projects/monitoring-birds-african-biosphere-reserves>

PROJECT CONTACTS

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Samuel Fournet -NABU Project
Coordinator; Samuel.Fournet@NABU.de

Florian Carius - BfN Project Supervisor; Florian.Carius@BfN.de

5TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK ON MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (AFRIMAB) HOLDING AT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE (IITA) IBADAN, NIGERIA FROM 11TH TO 15TH SEPTEMBER 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 Background

1.1 Brief Antecedents

The African network of Man and Biosphere (AfriMAB) was created in 1996 in the framework of the UNESCO MAB programme with the aim of building and strengthening the capacity MAB National Committees and Biosphere Reserve Managers to promote biosphere reserves as privileged tools of experimentation in conservation of environment and sustainable development. The Mission of the network is to

- To exchange information and harmonize efforts for better conservation and integrated and sustainable management of the ecological and socio-cultural heritage constituted by African Biosphere Reserves (BRs)
- To support the strengthening of relations between the Man and Biosphere (MAB) National Committees, administrative authorities and technical structures of the countries concerned in order to promote the global integration of the MAB program and its network by the Member States of the African Union in their national development policy;
- Promote relations with other regional networks;
- Promote and support efforts to create, manage and monitor BRs

AfriMAB was institutionalized in 2010 during its first General Assembly when a charter and statutes of the network was adopted. The AfriMAB network has no legal status but has statutes and internal rules. Membership is by simple co-optation after the country has informed the MAB Secretariat of the establishment and composition of a national MAB Committee. The general assembly of the members of the network meets every two years and elects its bureau which is composed of a President and four coordinators (Southern, Eastern, Western and Central Africa). The outgoing presiding country of AfriMAB is Ghana (2015-2017); which was elected at the 4th General Assembly. The presiding country also host the Secretariat of the Bureau.

AfriMAB network was well represented at the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves: A New Vision for the Decade 2016-2025; UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development took place from 14 to 17 March 2016 in Lima, Peru. There were 26 countries were represented; 24 of which has Biosphere Reserves. Participants at the AfriMAB workshop in Lima (70 participants) unanimously recognized the relevance of an Action Plan (Lima Action Plan) which is focused on effective governance, improved network functioning, collaboration and networking, external and partnership

1.2 Theme and Objectives

In the light of the foregoing, the 5th Session of the General Assembly of the African Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB); held at International Institute for

Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, Nigeria from 11th to 15th September 2017 under the theme **“Improving Governance of MAB Programme and Biosphere Reserves in Africa”**. The objectives of the 5th Session of the AFRIMAB GA were the following

- Strengthening cooperation amongst MAB National Committees, BR managers and other partners in Africa
- Sharing information on implementation of MAB programme at national and local level MAB programme and Biosphere reserves
- Strengthening capacity of MAB National Committees and Biosphere Reserve Managers for effective governance; vis-à-vis the Lima Action Plan
- Sharing results on on-going MAB related projects in Africa
- Electing a new AfriMAB Bureau

2.0 Opening Session

2.1 Participation

Dignitaries at the meeting included, the Honourable Minister for Environment Mr. Ibrahim Usman Jibril; ADG/SC UNESCO Ms. Flavia Schlegel, the Permanent Secretary of Federal Ministry of Environment Dr. Shehu Usman Ahmed, the representative of the Chairman Senate Committee on Environment, Senator Ogola, the representative of Chairman, House committee on Environment, Mr. Ayuba Bello, the Deputy PD to UNESCO, Mr. Egbolmoh Sunday, Director UNESCO Regional Office, Ydo Yao, Science Advisor, the Chief of Section UNESCO MAB Secretariat, Science Specialist UNESCO Cameroon Regional Office Mr. Mama Plea, UNESCO Regional Office, Simone Grego, Representative of Nigerian SG Natcom-UNESCO Mrs. Florence Oguah and the Executive Director of FRIN Dr. Adeshola Adepaju. Other participants included the Man and Biosphere (MAB) national focal points in Africa, Biosphere Reserve Managers, coordinators of protected areas, partner agencies, and Secretariat of AfriMAB bureau. Also present were MAB focal Points and Managers of Biosphere reserves from 22 countries of Africa out of the 29 that registered. Two partner agencies, namely the German Office for Nature and Conservation BfN and the Belgium science Policy office (BELPSO), private sector and the press were also present. Overall, the meeting had 153 participants (see the attendance list attached).

2.2 Speeches/Addresses

Participants were warmly welcomed by the Executive Director of FRIN, the Outgoing Chairman of the AFRIMAB Network and the Director of UNESCO Regional Office Mr. Goodwill messages were made by the two Members of Nigerian Legislature, BELPSO, BfN and the representative of the Oyo State Government. The meeting also received statements from the Assistant Secretary General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO, Nigerian Permanent Delegate to UNESCO who congratulated FRIN for winning the 2011 Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation. The Honorable Minister of Environment eventually declared the Meeting open.

2.3 Keynote Address.

- Prof Augustine Isichei of the Nigerian MAB National Committee delivered a keynote address focused on the rich biodiversity of Africa and explained the importance of good governance of the Biosphere Reserve in conserving this biodiversity
- Keynote address was also received from the UNESCO Assistant General for Natural Sciences Ms. FlaviaSchlegel. She Highlighted Biosphere Reserve BR as a tool for sustainable development in line with its (BR) three main functions which include Conservation, development, research & monitoring. She also explained the role of BR in Sustainable management of natural resources, Local green and blue economic development, Climate change resilience and Conflict resolution and reconciliation. The action areas of Lima Action Plan (LAP) were highlighted vis-à-vis the MAB Strategy 2015 to 2025

3.0 Election of Bureau

The election of the bureau was done by all participants and the new AriMAB Bureau comprise the following

- Chair of the AfriMAB Bureau Nigeria (Dr. Adeshola Adepoju; Nigeria Mab Focal Pont and Executive Director Forestry Resch Institute of Nigeria
- Central Africa Coordinator: Cameroon
- Southern Africa Coordinator South Africa
- East Africa Coordinator Kenya
- West Africa Coordinator Cote d Ivoire

4.0 Visit/Field trip to Omo Biosphere Reserve

The Executive Director FRIN led the participants at the AfriMAB to visit the Omo Biosphere Reserve at Ogun state. At the Omo biosphere reserve;

- i) The ADGS/SC and all the participants inspected the alternative green livelihoods established by the UNESCO-KOICA Project on Green Economy in Biosphere Reserve (GEBR): A means to Biodiversity Conservation, Poverty Reduction and sustainable development. The four livelihoods visited were Grass cutter domestication; Snail farming, Mushroom production, and Fish farming
- ii) Town hall meeting held with the Beneficiaries of the GEBR project; The beneficiaries thanked UNESCO and KOICA for the GEBR project which has improved their living standards, while conserving the biodiversity. The also requested for a second phase of the GEBR project.
- iii) The ADG/SC in response to the beneficiaries;
 - Appreciated KOICA

- Commended the Beneficiaries for being a classic example of Man relating with biodiversity in a respectful manner
- Commended the young people for being involved in MAB activities and also encouraged the to do even more
- Stressed the importance of Biosphere reserve especially with respect to climate change
- Informed the benefices that upon submission of requisite report, process will be put in place to seek for a second phase of the GEBR project
- Informed the beneficiaries and participants that UNESCO will continue to support the management of BRs and Commended FRIN in ensuring the good management of Omo biosphere Reserve

5.0 Technical sessions

5.1 Lead Paper of the Technical Session

To set the tone for the technical session, a lead presentation was delivered by the Chief of section, Biosphere Networks & Capacity Building, UNESCO HQ and Focal Point for Africa Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, Ms. Noeline Rakotoarisoa. The Presentation which was focus on **“Improving Governance of MAB Programme and Biosphere Reserves in Africa”** gave brief history of the UNESCO MAB programme and essentially enumerated a model of effective Governance of MAB programmes. In doing this, governance was defines and the structure of the Man and Biosphere programme; which components include the MAB ICC, Bureau, MAB Nasional Committees, Secretariat, Research and the Advisory Committee were all explained. The presentation also highlighted the action plans of the Biosphere Reserve Programme from inception to the latest Lima Action plan of 2016 -2025. A scheme was used to explain further, the functions of a biosphere reserve in relation with its different zonation. For the AFRIMAB Network, participants were informed that, there are currently 75 Biosphere reserve’s in 28 countries. The presentation stressed the importance of effective business and management plans for effective governance of the Biosphere Reserves

5.2 New Biosphere Reserve

Six new biosphere reserves were received into the AfriMAB network Namely Mono transboundary BR (Benin/Togo), Lake Botsomtwe (Ghana), Gadabedji (Niger), Garden Route (South Africa), Belo sur Mer Kirindy Mikea (Madagascar) and Jozani-Chwaka bay (Tanzania)

5.3 Country Reports

Country reports and progress of MAB programme were received from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe

5.4 Case studies

In other to share experience, lessons and disseminate information, the following Case studies on MAB programme and governance of Biosphere reserve were presented

- **Case studies by MAB national committees** (Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast) :
- **Case studies from BRs** ((Djoudj- Senegal/Mauritania, Lake Bosomtwe-Ghana, Sahamalaza-Madagascar; Principe-Sao Tome and Principe, Mont Mulanje-Malawi)
- **Case studies by MAB national committees** (Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast)
- **Case studies from BRs** (Djoudj- Senegal/Mauritania, Lake Bosomtwe-Ghana, Sahamalaza-Madagascar; Principe-Sao Tome and Principe, Mont Mulanje-Malawi ; K2C South Africa))

5.5 Discussions and Observations

The case studies were discussed by participants and the following observations were made

- 1) There is need for synergy between MAB Committee and the Biosphere Reserves
- 2) There is need for countries to have coherent integrated development plan (integrating Business and Management Plans) for the effective governance of MAB programme and Biosphere Reserve
- 3) It may not be effective to have business plan different from management plan
- 4) Regulations and legislations can simplify the operationalization of MABprogramme and management of Biosphere reserves
- 5) There is need for link between MAB Committee and the projects implemented in Biosphere reserve; the MAB Committee should play coordinating role in such projects
- 6) There is need for Regular communication between MAB committee and BRs
- 7) There is need for institutionalization of MAB Committee

5.6 Workinggroups

The participants were divided into two groups (Anglophobe and Francophone) to discuss effective governance of the MAB programme and biospherereserves vis-à-vis Issues, Solutions, Work plan and Indicators. The two groups discussed and then presented their reports at the plenary. Common issue raised by the two groups include

- Low and unsustainable Funding
- Inadequate institutional framework for communication
- Poor awareness and visibility
- Weak involvement of stakeholders Resources
- Stakeholder conflict
- Institutional Challenges
- Low Political will
- Inadequate capacity to implement MAB programme

(See attached the group reports)

5.7 Presentation of UNESCO/MAB ongoing

in order to showcase role BRs and Mab programme play in sustainable development, the following ongoing

- Progress and final results of Green Economy in Biosphere Reserve (GEBR): a means to poverty Reduction, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNESCO and FRIN)
- BIOPALT project (UNESCO/LCBC)
- Presentation of EVAMAB project (UNESCO/BELSPO)
- BRAPA project (Birdlife / BfN)
- Linking Biosphere Reserve and MAB programme to the Sustainable Development Goals

5.8 Recommendation

In the light of the forging presentation, discussion, observations and outcomes of the group work, the following recommendations were made

- 1) A small committee comprising Benin, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and the Rapporteurs of the two Work groups Anglophone and Francophone; Ghana and Togo respectively. The Committee has the following terms of Reference
 - Harmonize/synthesize the recommendations of the work group
 - Forward the synthesis of the group works to the AfriMAB Bureau Secretariat
 - Develop a project proposal for funding to key partners
 - Develop a Publication for the Network
- 2) The Bureau should express appreciation to the partners that have been assisting the AfriMAB Network in its activities
- 3) AfriMAB Network activities as a tool for development, should be given much visibility at the level of African Union;
- 4) The Secretariat of AfriMAB bureau should support the production of a Publication for the Network
- 5) A sustainable funding mechanism for AfriMAB network, namely the AFRIBiofund trust fund should be set up which will also inspire the confidence of African partners
- 6) The AfriMAB activities should be aligned with Sustainable Development Goals and climate change
- 7) In line with MAB strategies and LAP (Lima Action Plan), AfriMAB members countries should develop coherent integrated development plan (integrating Business and Management Plans) for the effective governance of MAB programme and Biosphere Reserve
- 8) Countries should ensure that there is regular and effective communication between MAB committee and BRs

6.0 Presentation and Adoption of Report

Adoption of the report was moved by **Senegal** and seconded/supported by **Kenya**

260

261 **7.0 Venue of the 6th AfriMAB General Assembly**

262 Côte d'Ivoire expressed intention to host the 6th AfriMAB GA and the right of hosting was granted
263 the country

264 **8.0 Closing**

265 Goodwill statements of commitment and appreciation were received from the New Chair of the
266 AfriMAB bureau and the UNESCO MAB Secretariat. participating were encouraged to
267 implement all the recommendations and also prepare a feedback which will be incorporated in
268 their country report. The representative of the Chad gave the vote of thanks, after which the
269 AfriMAB Chair declared the meeting closed