



# AfriBiRds

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## PAC AfriBiRds meeting 2018 Bird monitoring and conservation for African Biosphere Reserves

Samuel Fournet & AfriBiRds team, 12.03.2018



Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

# Project Introduction

## Objectives

- Develop and implement a pilot scheme for long-term monitoring of bird populations including Palaearctic migrants in African biosphere reserves as a template for application in other biosphere reserves and the wider landscape
- Supports
  1. the integration of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEM LAP) from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS),
  2. the UN implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
  3. the “Life on Land” Sustainable Development Goal (SDG15)
  4. the monitoring of the African Biosphere Reserves from UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).



# Project Introduction

## Factsheets

- **Duration:** from Dec. 2016 to Aug. 2019
- **Budget:** 80 % BfN-BMUB // 20 % NABU
- **Staff (part-time) :** 6 (1 NABU, 3 BirdLife, Sos Fôrets, NCF)
- **Funder:** Bundesamt für Naturschutz - **BfN** -  
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz,  
Bau und Reaktorsicherheit - **BMUB** -



# Project Introduction

AfriBiRdsTeam



**Bettina  
Hedden-  
Dunkhorst**



Svane Bender  
**Leader**



Ademola Ajabge  
**Leader**



**Florian  
Carius  
replaced  
Supervisor**



Samuel Fournet  
**Coordinator**



Alex Ngari  
**Manager**



Lars Lachmann  
**Ornithologist**



Kariuki Ndangang  
**Team Lead.  
Species**



Wadja  
Egnankou  
**National  
Implement.**



Birgit Zipf  
**Assistant**



Joseph  
Onoja  
**National  
Implement.**

'African Biosphere Reserves as pilot sites  
for monitoring and conservation of migratory birds'

# Project Introduction

## Project Advisory Committee



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety



# Project Progress (1)

## Literature review

- Around 200 references collected, archived and thematically listed
- Top references highlighted
- References shared with the Project Advisory Committee



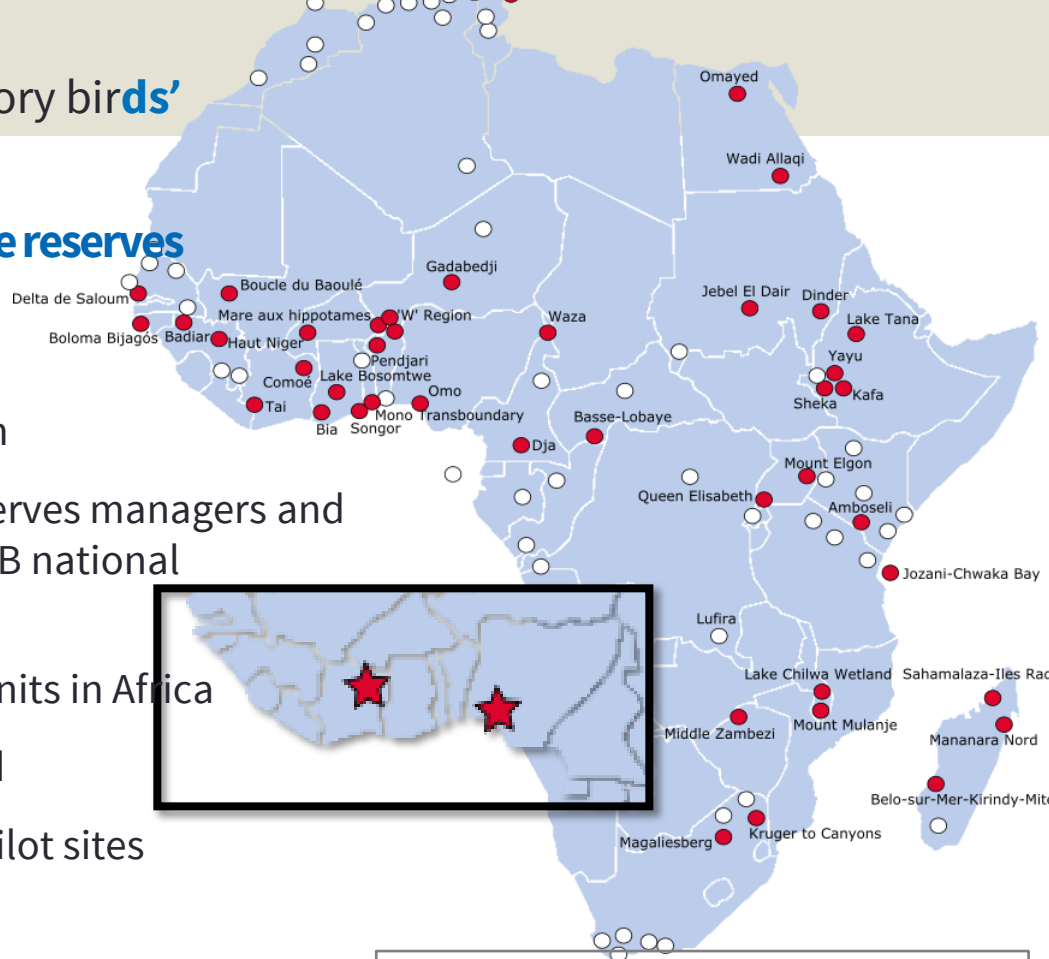
**Outcome to be released online in WP1 AfriBiRds report**



## Project Progress (2)

### Bird monitoring surveys African biosphere reserves

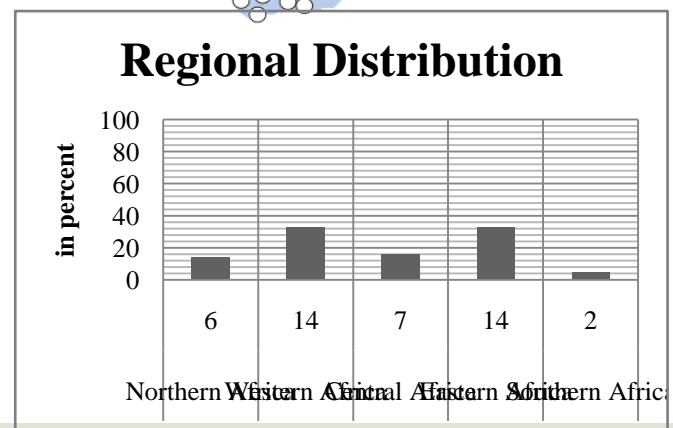
- Design of a survey in French and English
- Networking with African Biosphere Reserves managers and with representatives of the UNESCO MAB national committee
- Reply of 43 out of 97 BR management units in Africa
- Outcomes post-processed and reported
- Multi weighted criteria to identify two pilot sites



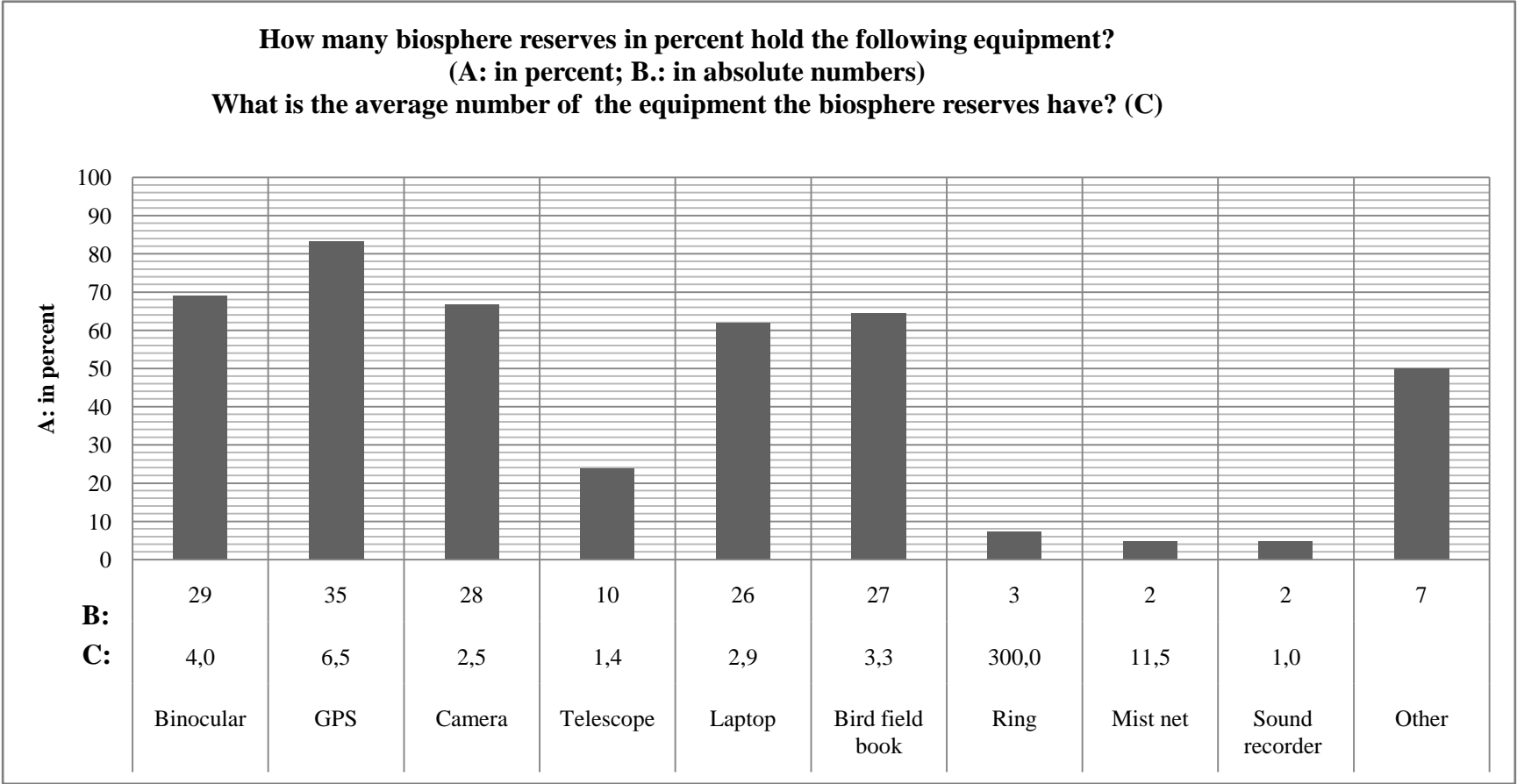
**Comoé (Côte d'Ivoire), Omo (Nigeria)**

**Results to be released online in WP1 AfriBiRds report**

**Plan for a scientific publication by the end of the project**

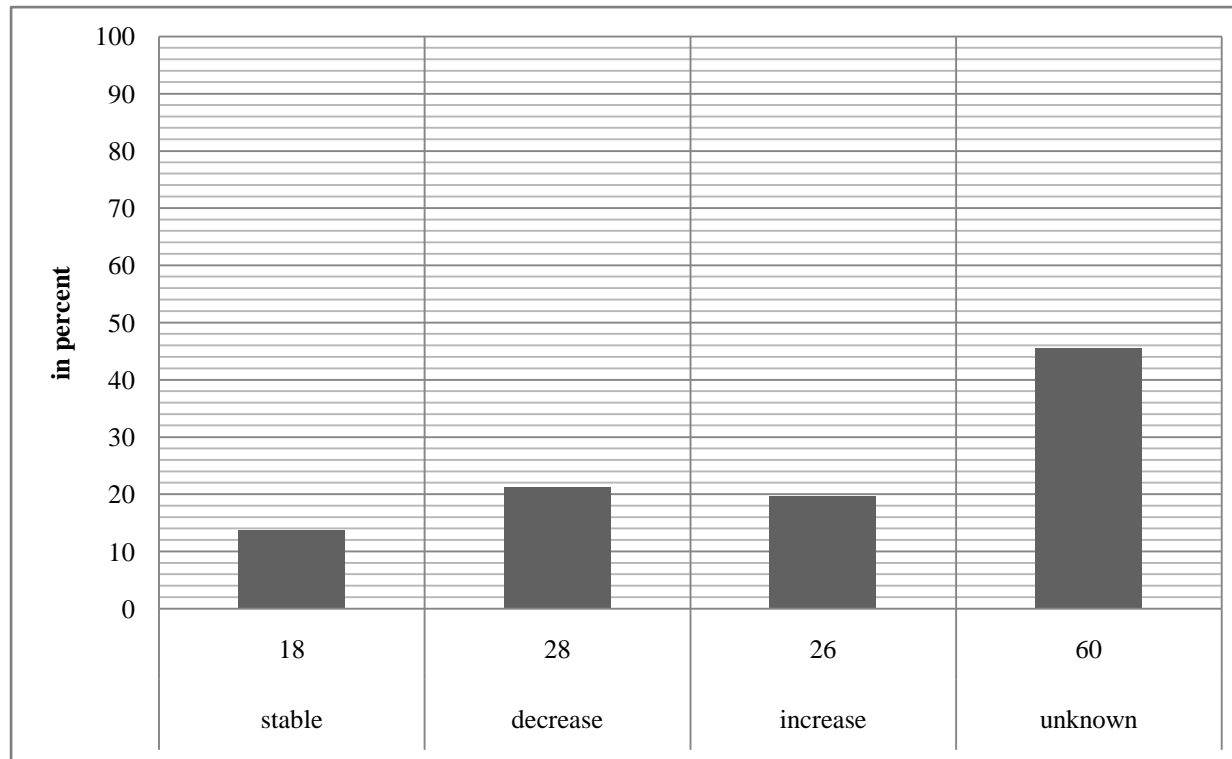


# Survey results: biodiversity monitoring equipment

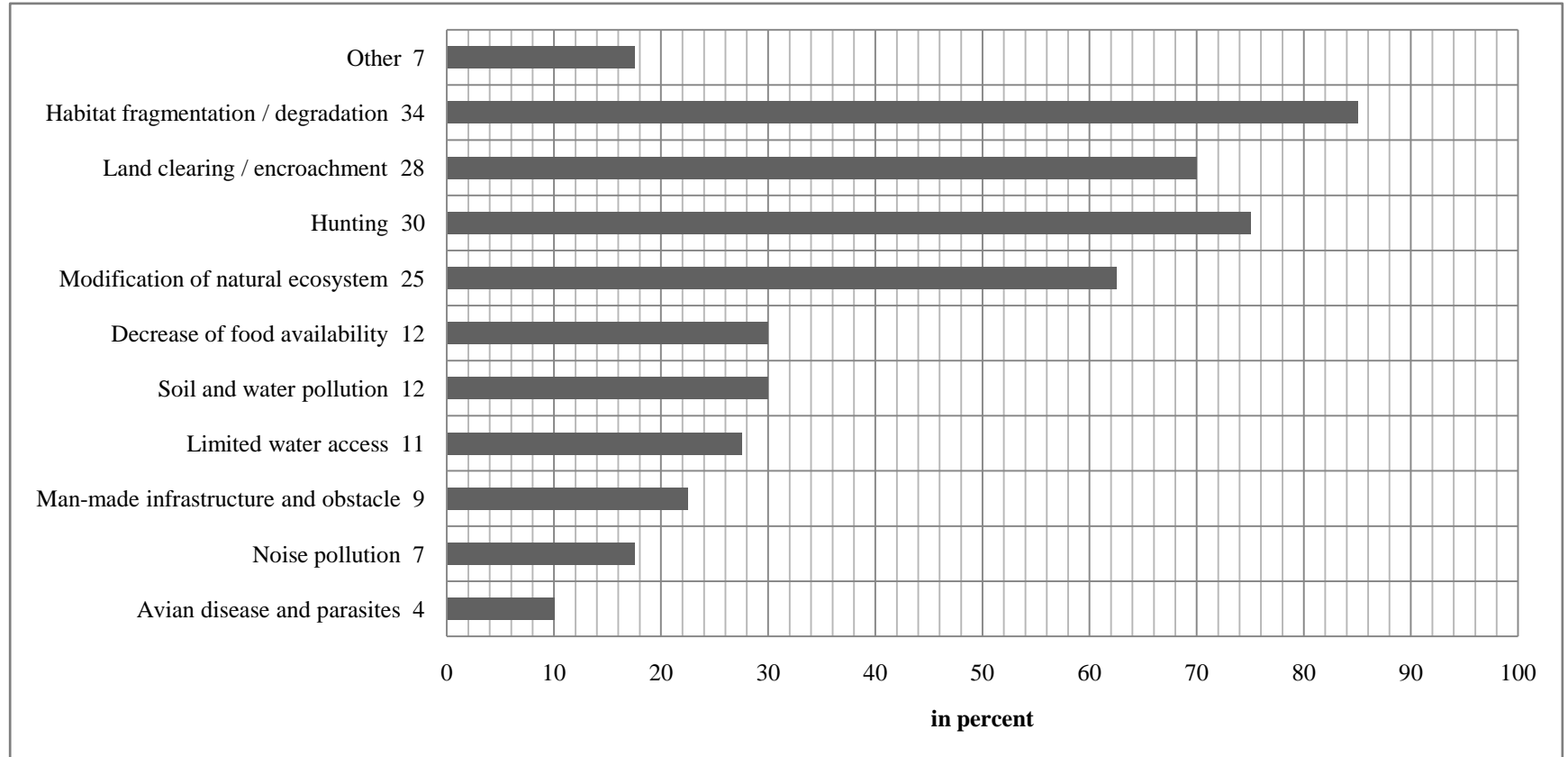




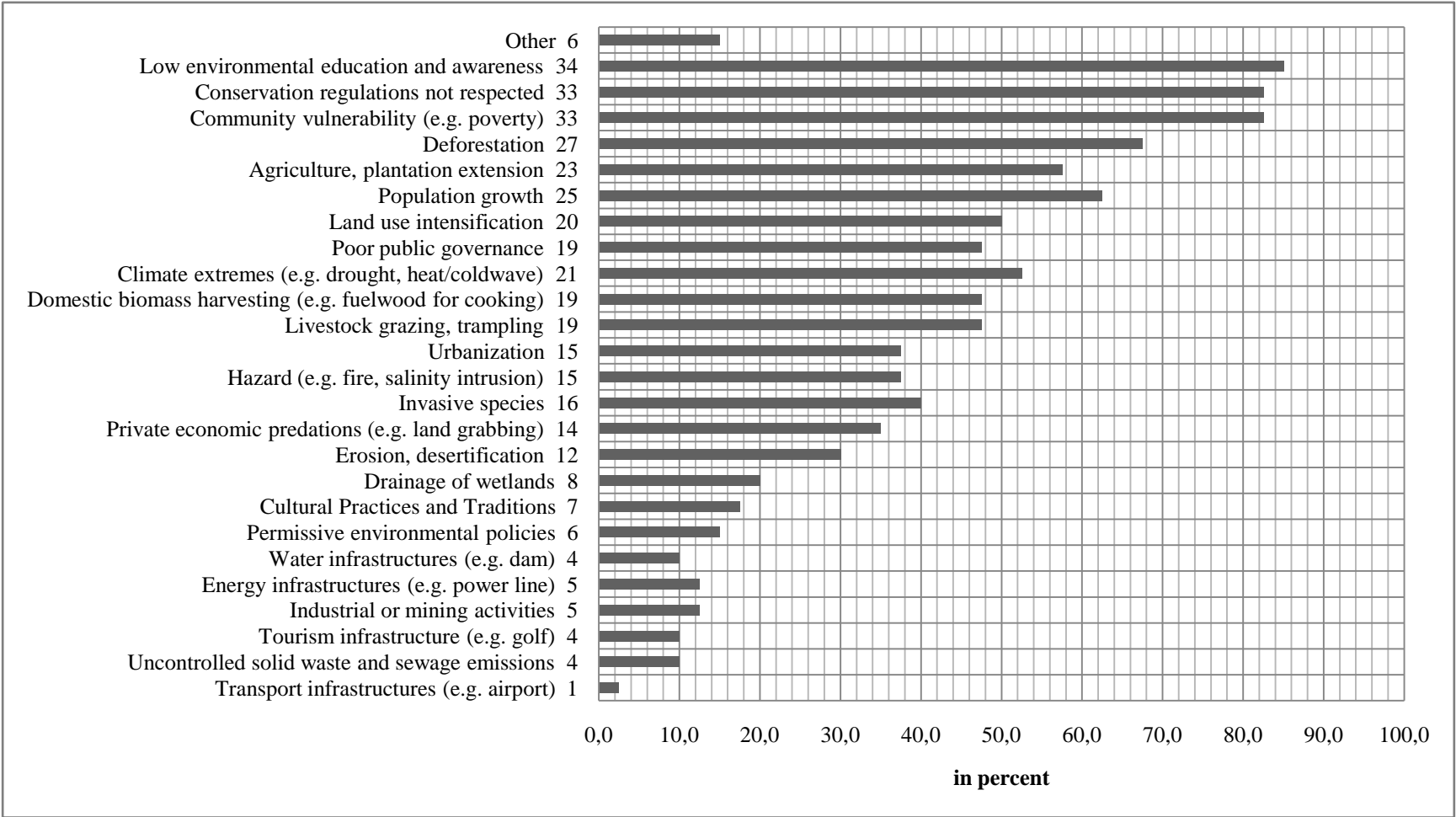
## Survey results: population trends for key species



## Survey results: top threats for bird conservation



# Survey results: top challenges for bird conservation



## Project Progress (3)

### Review globally used bird monitoring schemes

- The idea was to avoid ‘re-inventing the wheel’ by using the existing knowledge, by learning from experiences and practice to see what is adaptable at the biosphere reserves (BR)
- Some relevant schemes were identified:
  - **Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) - European Bird Census Council (EBCC)**
  - **Water fowl counts/monitoring - Wetlands international**
  - **IBA monitoring framework – BL International**
  - **Land Common Bird Populations Monitoring in Africa – BL International/RSPB**
  - **Bird Atlas initiated by Southern Bird Atlas Project**

As a result, the monitoring protocol from AfriBiRds is mainly inspired from the Land Common Bird Populations Monitoring in Africa and aims to complement the IBA framework and the Bird Atlas initiatives.

**Outcome to be released online in WP1 AfriBiRds report**



## Project Progress (4)

### Data monitoring platform and tool

- Similarly, some relevant monitoring platform to structure and share the data were identified:
- **Global Bird Track,**
- **E-bird**
- **Bird atlassing schemes**
- **Observation International**

As a result, the data-base selected for AfriBiRds is observation international, a module to export the data generated to Bird Atlassing schemes is under development



**Outcome to be released online in WP1 AfriBiRds report**



## Project Progress (5)

### Training workshop at pilot case studies

#### Workshop 1: Comoé National Park, Côte d'Ivoire (21 – 28 Jan 2018)

- 38 participants
- 6 African nationalities (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Niger, Rwanda)
- 8 Biosphere Reserves

#### Workshop 2: Omo Biosphere Reserve / Ijebu Ode, Nigeria (29 Jan – 3 Feb 2018)

- 29 participants
- 5 African nationalities (Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda)
- 8 Biosphere Reserves





## Project Progress (5)

### Training workshop at pilot case studies

#### Workshop contents

- Introduction on bird monitoring initiatives: AfriBiRds / Common Bird Monitoring Scheme / Waterbird counts / IBA / Bird Atlas
- How to plan the setting of “AfriBiRds” Common Bird Monitoring Scheme ?
- How to use observation.org as supportive monitoring tool ?
- How to use monitoring equipments in the field to identify birds and insert correctly observations into a bird monitoring protocol ?
- How to develop bird monitoring and conservation program in African Biosphere Reserves ?

**French and English Monitoring toolkits to be released online soon and shared with all active African Biosphere reserves**



## Project Upcoming

### Expected results

- Implement, test and refine the monitoring and conservation framework for birds in pilot case studies
- Promote the use of the project materials for a broader implementation across Africa



# 'African Biosphere Reserves as pilot sites for monitoring and conservation of migratory birds'

## Project Dissemination (1) Publication

### Project materials

- 2 web sites
- Project Leaflet in 4 languages
- Annual Newsletter

### Project publications

- Article submitted to African Conservation Telegraph
- Special Issues on Endangered Birds of Africa
- [www.cms.int/](http://www.cms.int/)
- [www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/](http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/)
- NABU Zugvogel-Post



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



# Project Dissemination (2)

## Agenda

### In 2017

- Workshop UNESCO-Biosphärenreservate in Afrika, May 2017 in Germany
- ArabMAB meeting, May 2017 in Algeria
- AfriMAB meeting, Sep. 2017 in Nigeria
- AEMLAP Side event at CMS COP 12, Oct. 2017 in Philippines

### In 2018 ?

- International Ornithological Conference in Canada ?
- AEWA Conferences in Germany and in South Africa ?
- Global Summit for Flyways in Abu Dhabi 23-26.04

### In 2019 ?

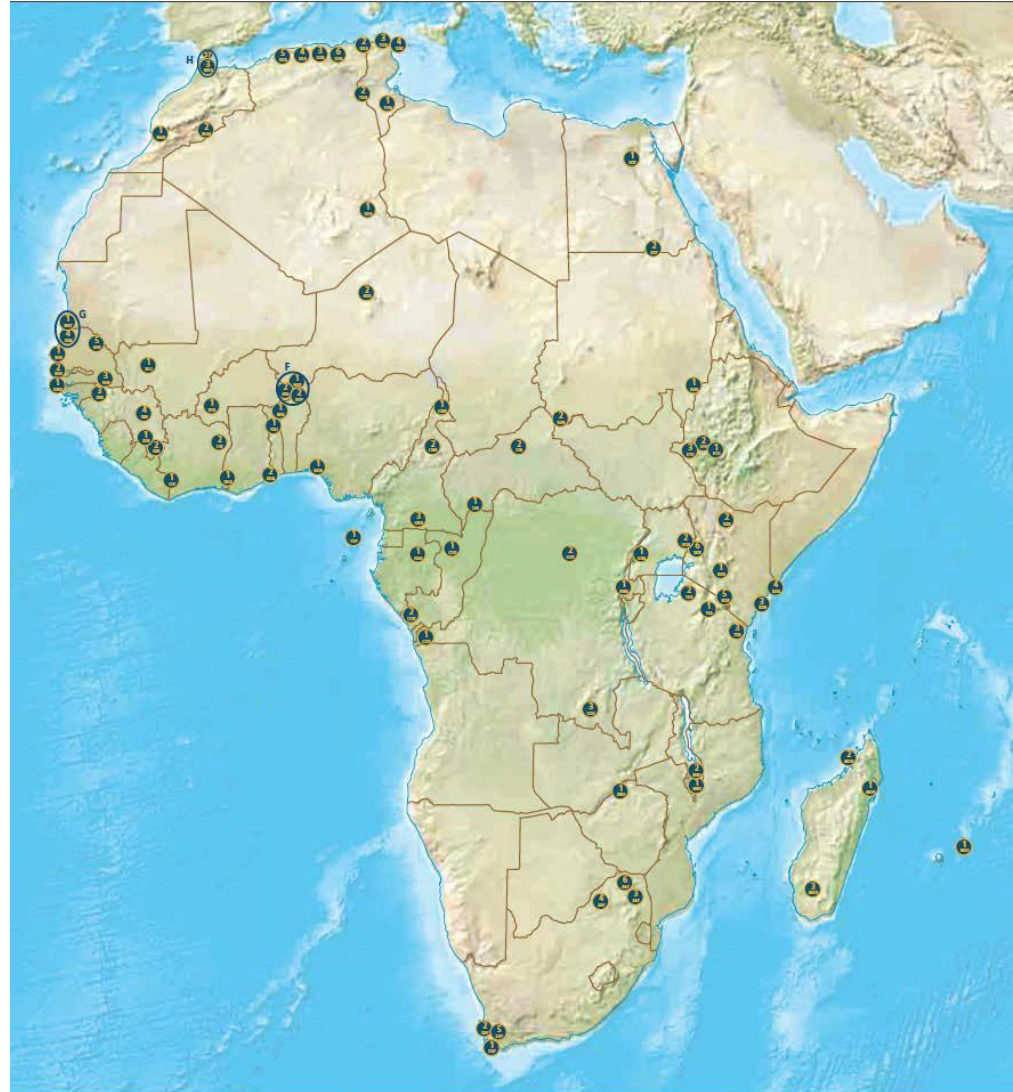
- AfriMAB general assembly in Côte d'Ivoire

## Project collaboration

### Strategic partnerships

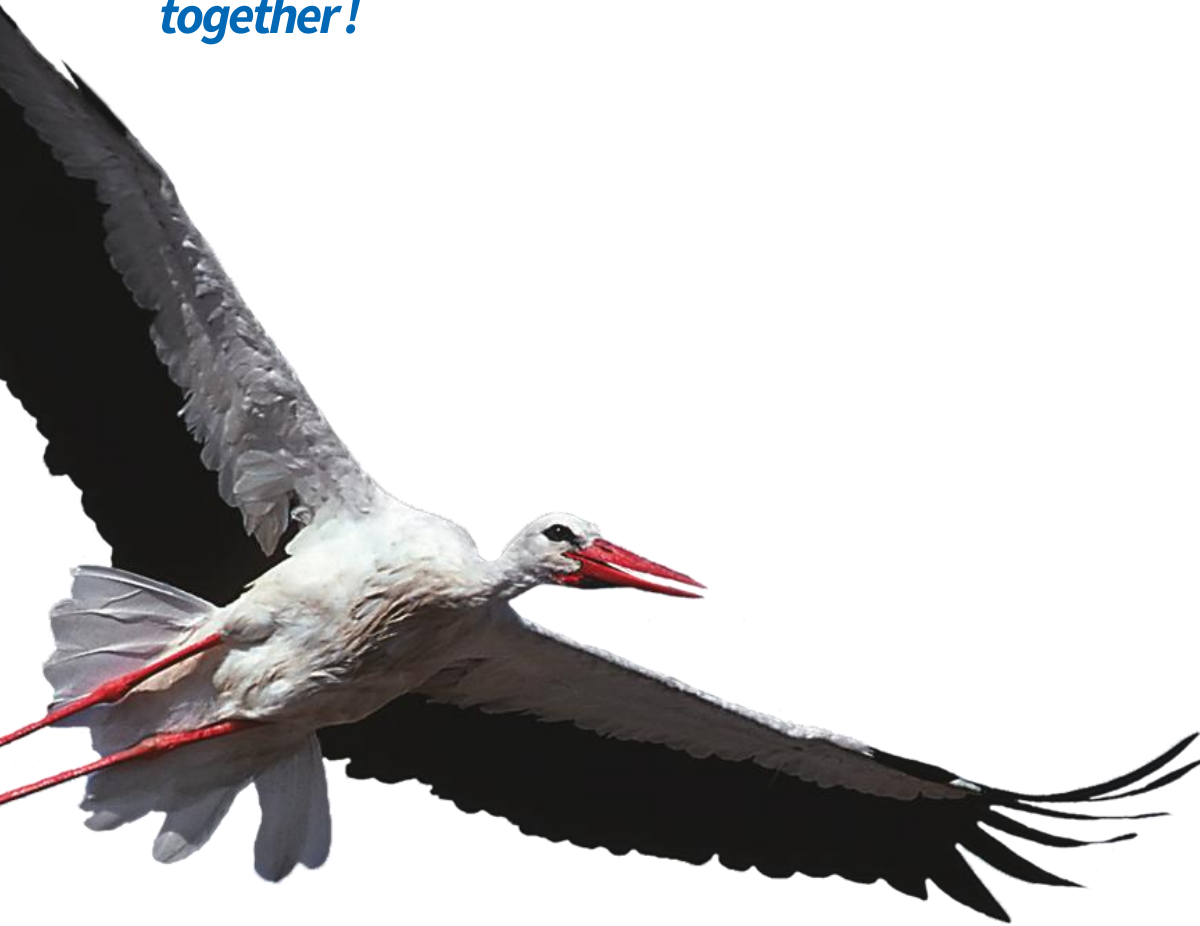
- Support from GiZ Ethiopia, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire
- Looking for possibilities for promising replication of the scheme in other BR and other countries
- Accompany and expand Bird Atlas to other country (Nigeria with APLORI)
- Participate to the emergence of a Pan-African Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)

### Locations African Biosphere reserves (July 2012)



# Thank you for your participation!

*Let's now have a look to the program of the workshop together!*





## Notes of the virtual Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting for the AfriBiRds Project held on 12th March 2018

### In attendance

1. Kariuki Nding'ang'a – BirdLife Africa (Moderator)
2. Alex Ngari - BirdLife Africa
3. Samuel Fournet - Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)
4. Svane Bender-Kaphengst – Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)
5. Birgit Zipf – Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) (meeting minute taker)
6. Lars Lachmann - Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)
7. Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst – Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
8. Joseph Onoja – Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF)
9. Stella Edgbe – Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF)
10. Paul Makenzi - AfriMAB
11. Kathrin Schidelko - Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK)
12. Darius Stiels - Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK)
13. Amara Ouattara – Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR)
14. Germain Bomisso – Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR)
15. Jean Yves Pasquet – Natagora (BirdLife Belgium)
16. Bobadoye Adedotun – Forest Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN)
17. Ifechukwud Emmanuel Ine – Forest Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN)
- 18.

**Apologies:** Oliver Schall – BMUB, Gerold Luerßen - Common Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, Sergey Dereliev and Evelyn Moloko - UNEP/AEWA, Franz Bairlein – IfV, Simone Grego – UNESCO, Samuel Temidayo Osinubi - Percy Fitzgerlad Institute, Jutta Leyrer and Volker Salewski – MOIN, Chris Magin - African Bird Club, Borja Heredia and Tilmann Schneider – CMS, Till Töpfer - Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK), Wadja Egnankou and Ahon Dibié Bernard - SOS Forêts, Eddy Wymenga and Leo Zwarts - A&W, Manu Shiiwua and Samuel T. Ivande - The A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI)

**Summary of the meeting:**

**Introduction of new PAC members:** from the Nigerian organizations FRIN and NCF, from the Ivoirian organizations SOS Forets and OIPR and from BfN as well as Guest participant from Natagora.

**5 main project progresses**

1. A literature review has been carried out covering around 200 references
2. A survey in French and English on the status of bird monitoring has been carried out
3. A review of globally used bird monitoring schemes and identification of relevant and suitable schemes has been carried out.
4. A data monitoring platform and tools have been identified
5. A training workshop on bird monitoring has been conducted at the two pilot case studies

**The meeting enable to seek opportunities for...:**

...Replicating and upscaling the AfriBiRds schemes

- Ivory Coast
- Benin
- Ethiopia...

...Disseminating AfriBiRds results in 2018 and 2019

- 2018 Global Summit for Flyways in Abu Dhabi
- 2018 International Ornithological Conference in Canada
- 2018 AEWA Conferences in Germany and in South Africa
- 2019 AfriMAB general assembly in Côte d'Ivoire
- 2019 EBCC conference in Portugal
- World Migratory Bird Day Events in Ivory Coast and Nigeria
- Publication based on AfriBiRds surveys

**Project implementation**

- Many questions were raised regarding how and when AfriBiRds intend to finalize the definition of the common bird monitoring scheme implemented at the case studies. Lars endorsed the responsibility to answer to national coordinator in order to solve the issues.
- Many questions were raised regarding how AfriBiRds intend to integrate concretely the organizations responsible to manage the biosphere reserves. BirdLife Africa agreed on organizing one meeting between NCF and FRIN and one meeting between SOS Forets and OIPR to discuss the different issues.

## **Discussion items** (See Annex 1 for a detailed agenda)

- i. Introductions
- ii. Review of previous minutes
- iii. Updates on project progress and key milestones reached
- iv. Collaborative framework: Opportunities for up-scaling and replicating of the bird monitoring scheme
- v. Communication plan
- vi. Closing remarks

### **1) Introductions**

Kariuki: welcomes all the old and new participants and PAC members to the second PAC meeting. He informs that some of the PAC members send their apologies as they were not able to attend the meeting. There are now PAC members from about 20 different institutions. Some of them are new PAC members and thus, he invites everyone to shortly introduce themselves.

Svane: is Head of the NABU Africa Programme and also welcomes all PAC and project members. In particular, she welcomes Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst from BfN and thanks her for funding the project. She mentions that there has been a lot of progress and success so far in the AfriBiRds project since the last PAC meeting.

Samuel: introduces himself as the AfriBiRds project coordinator. He also gives some technical information about set-up of the meeting.

Alex: introduces himself as part of BirdLife Africa and is the AfriBiRds project manager.

Lars: is an ornithologist and works for the Bird conservation and Ornithological Unit of NABU. He was also one of the trainers at the AfriBiRds workshops in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria in January and February 2018.

Bettina: works for BfN and took over the role within the AfriBiRds project from Florian Carius. She apologized already in advance that she would have to leave the meeting at 3pm.

Amara and Germain: are both new PAC members and work for the Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR). They became involved with AfriBiRds due to the selection of Comoé National Park as AfriBiRds pilot site.

Darius and Kathrin: are two PhD students of Till Töpfer from Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK) in Germany. Darius apologized that Till Töpfer could not attend and he sends Till's greetings.

Paul Mackenzi: is from Kenya and works for AfriMAB. He thanks Samuel for the organization of this PAC meeting.

Ine: works for the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) and became involved with AfriBiRds due to the selection of Omo Biosphere Reserve as AfriBiRds pilot site. He thanks the project team for the organization of the bird monitoring workshops.

Jean-Yves: works for Natagora, the BirdLife Partner in Belgium. He was also a trainer in the AfriBiRds workshops. He is also part of Observation International and offers to be the link and contact person to [observation.org](http://observation.org) for the AfriBiRds team.

Joseph: is from the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, the BirdLife Partner in Nigeria and became involved with AfriBiRds due to the selection of Omo Biosphere Reserve as AfriBiRds pilot site.

Stella: works for The A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) in Nigeria and is particularly involved with the OSO Project in Omo Biosphere Reserve.

Bobadoye Adedotun: is from the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) and became involved with AfriBiRds due to the selection of Omo Biosphere Reserve as AfriBiRds pilot site.

## **2) Review of previous minutes**

Alex: reviews the minutes of the first and previous PAC meeting. He focuses on only some points because of time constraints. He mentions the event participation of the AfriBiRds project team for awareness creation at:

- the AfriMAB meeting in Nigeria in September 2017,
- the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP12) in the Philippines where a side event was organized,
- The two training workshops on bird monitoring in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

Alex: continues with making suggestions on future events that AfriBiRds could use to create awareness and promote the project's aims:

- Ornithological conference in Canada
- AEWA

Kariuki: invites all committee members to comment, to ask questions or ask for clarifications. As no one raises his/her voice, he hands over to Samuel for the next point of the agenda.

## **3) Updates on project progress and key milestones reached**

Samuel: starts with saying that the presentation will be shared with all PAC members after the meeting by email. He briefly introduces the projects' aims, gives key facts about the project such as duration, donor organization and budget, and introduces the AfriBiRds project members. He focuses on 5 highlights of the project progress and outcomes:

- A literature review has been carried out covering around 200 references that are all related to bird conservation and monitoring. The document will be published on the AfriBiRds project webpage.
- A survey in French and English on the status of bird monitoring has been carried out. Half of the 97 African UNESCO Biosphere Reserves replied and gave detailed information. A selection process of the biosphere reserves participating in the survey followed and resulted in the selection of National Park Comoé in Côte d'Ivoire and Omo Biosphere Reserve in Nigeria. He further showed some graphs illustrating the outcomes and results of the survey (e.g. bird population trends, challenges, threats, availability of monitoring equipment). It is planned to publish the results of the survey in a scientific article at the end of this year

(focusing on the current status of bird monitoring). He invites all PAC members to contact him if they want to contribute to the scientific paper or if they have any suggestions.

- A review of globally used bird monitoring schemes and identification of relevant and suitable schemes has been carried out. It will be reported in work package one report (WP1) which is going to be published on the AfriBiRds project webpage.
- A data monitoring platform and tools have been identified; Observation International has been selected and this platform with its tools such as the smartphone app ObsMapp have been introduced in the training.
- A training workshop on bird monitoring has been conducted at the two pilot case studies. In Côte d'Ivoire, 38 participants attended the training. 6 African nationalities (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Niger, Rwanda) and 8 Biosphere Reserves were participating. In Nigeria, 29 participants were trained, among them 5 African nationalities (Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda) and representatives of 8 Biosphere Reserves. He informs that this high number of participation was possible because of additional funding from GIZ, the German Corporation for International Cooperation. The initial steps for the implementation of bird monitoring schemes in the pilot sites began already. The documents from the training workshops have been shared with participants and will be published soon on webpage for the general public.

Samuel: After informing about the major achievements and steps of the last year, he gave a small outlook of the next project steps:

- There will be the implementation of the bird monitoring schemes (including testing and refining) in each pilot each pilot site in collaboration with the national teams.
- The project materials and bird conservation and bird monitoring toolbox will be published and promoted.

Kariuki: thanks Samuel for the presentations and invites the other meeting participants to comment or ask questions.

Amara: wants to know how the process of refining the scheme will look like.

Kariuki: answers first saying that the scheme will be developed together and the protocol shared.

Lars: adds that it is needed to select the monitoring plots. He informs that the African Atlas Project sent him just last week the selected squares. He will have a look at it and send the allocation of the monitoring plots early next week.

Stella: reminds Lars that all 3 BR zones should be presented in the plots.

Lars: will contact Stella to discuss borders of the zones and/or agree who will do the plots.

Stella: says that she is fine with that suggestion.

Bobadoye Adedotun: asks what role FRIN will be playing in the implementation of the project, especially in Omo.

Samuel: says that Joseph and Alex should get in touch with FRIN and discuss on how to set up the involvement.

Kariuki: agrees and adds that an additional meeting should be set up.

Joseph: says that this question should be addressed to Tayo Oyelowo from FRIN and discussed between NCF and FRIN.

Stella: points out that the methods should be constant. And says that it is important to do it right from the very beginning. She wants to know how the data within the time frame can be collected.

Samuel: suggests to have separate meetings with the two countries / pilot sites to discuss this issue.

Lars: suggests one year of monitoring. To his opinion it does not matter what season will be the first count (African breeding season or European winter count). He thinks though that the scheme will start with the African breeding season count.

Jean-Yves: adds that this is connected to the fact that such bird monitoring scheme is only "meaningful" anyway if several years of data collection is ensured. It is hence important to do the follow up.

#### ***4) Collaborative framework: Opportunities for upscaling and replicating of the bird monitoring scheme***

Jean-Yves: wants to know what happens with the other countries that participated in the workshop. He wants to know whether/what support they can get from the project (team) and whether there will be a follow-up.

Samuel: says that AfriBiRds is very much interested and wants to collaborate and have new partnerships with the other workshop participants that were not part of the pilot sites. He says that he sees many possibilities with the other BRs in e.g. Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso or Ethiopia. The idea of the AfriBiRds team is to define a plan on how to communicate and proceed.

Svane: says that she was impressed about the interest of the participants in the workshops, subject and implementation of bird monitoring scheme. NABU wants to implement a bird monitoring scheme in all 4 Ethiopian projects. NABU wants to contact possible funders/donor organisations and partners so that further countries can get involved. She asks all the PAC members to please contact her or Samuel to work together in future as NABU is very much interested to upscale bird monitoring in Africa (beyond the AfriBiRds project).

Bomisso Germain: wants to know what is going to happen at the end of the project. In particular, he is interested to know about the upscaling of the project and possible project activities beyond 2019.

[Bettina: says goodbye and says that she will get in touch with Samuel to learn more about the project.]

Samuel: informs that the AfriBiRds team will do its best to do follow up activities.

Alex: adds that there might some opportunities from German government. He agrees that it is very important to look beyond 2019 and not just look in the time frame of project. He says that the pilot site teams have to think how to keep the bird monitoring programme with minimum costs and how to mainstream the programme. He stresses that data collection on the same scale is very important.

Kariuki: is summarising the key questions to think about for up-scaling and sustaining the schemes: How to expand? How to get extra funding? Nationally look: What could be done?



Paul: thanks Samuel for the good presentation. He likes that the project is based on science, its aims is to get findings and recommendations. He underlines that the replication of the scheme is important.

Svane: reminds that the project is only piloting in UNESCO BR. She emphasizes the importance of expanding and replicating the scheme. For this, she welcomes everyone in the PAC to give recommendations on how to expand, to suggest donors, to be part of it and get involved. She invites everyone to do something broad and big so that not each country is applying different schemes. She welcomes all to provide ideas to the project team and get in touch.

## **5) Communication plan**

Samuel: informs that a lot of project materials have already been published. He names articles, workshop materials, leaflets and the first newsletter. He repeats that a scientific publication on survey is planned end of the year. He addressed the PAC members asking where the AfriBiRds could spread the word and promote the project?

Alex: starts mentioning the AEWA in South Africa and the International Ornithological Congress in Canada.

Joseph: names the Migratory Birds Day to promote it nationally. He is also happy to attend the Global Summit for Flyways in Abu Dhabi.

Samuel: reminds that the project has not much budget and thus, it would be great if PAC members could spread the word on AfriBiRds if they are at events through other means.

Jean-Yves: says that, in April 2019, it would be great to be present at the EBCC in Portugal. It would be useful to meet the people working in bird monitoring (even Wetlands are there) and get active collaboration. He says that the meeting is about European birds but as everything is connected the event would be a good opportunity. He will be present at the EBCC and offers to present e.g. a poster on AfriBirds.

[In the chat function, he gives further details about the EBCC conference: <http://www.ebcc.info/conferences.html> The Conference Bird Numbers 2019 will take place at the University of Évora, Portugal, on 8-13 April (no website yet available)]

Lars: agrees that EBCC would be very good and AfriBiRds should definitely use this occasion. He thinks that AfriBiRds should have at least a poster there.

Alex: thanks for Jean-Yves for the very good proposal. He mentions the World Environmental Day that also looks very innovative.

Samuel: says that he will get in touch with PAC members not present at this meeting to get their ideas as well.

Bomisso Germain: explains in French the project activities that will take place in National Park Comoé.

Samuel: he will send that information separately at a later stage.

Alex: reminds that even though the PAC meets only once every year, the members can send in suggestions to Samuel or himself via mail at anytime.

Amara: wants to know about the budget available for the Bird Migratory Day in May.

Samuel: postpones this specific answer to a separate meeting that will be held with the national partners.

Kariuki: invites all the meeting attendants to comment or talk about further and other issues. As no participant of the meeting raises something he leads over to the last point of the agenda.

#### **6) *Closing Remarks***

Kariuki: thanks everyone for attending and says that everyone will be kept informed afterwards.

## Annex 1: Detailed agenda

Hour UTC+1	Presentation	Speakers
13.30-14.00	Logistic and sound check meeting session	NABU team
14.00-14.20	<b>Introductions</b> Welcoming of new participants and new members of PAC and short introductions of the individuals and their organizations Key announcements about the project, e.g. changes at BL management, changes in BMUB - exit of Florian Carius and appointment of a new project contact (Dr. Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst)	Kariuki Ndong'ang'a
14.20-14.30	<b>Review of previous minutes</b> Key points	Alex Ngari
14.30-14.40	<b>Updates on the project progress</b> Presentation by Samuel Feedback from PAC members	Samuel Fournet
14.40-15.15	<b>Collaborative framework</b> Opportunities for upscaling and replicating of the bird monitoring scheme new sites, collaborators in new countries, continental initiative	Kariuki Ndong'ang'a Alex Ngari Samuel Fournet
15.15-15.30	<b>Communication plan</b> opportunities for disseminating project outcomes in 2018 – scientific paper based on bird monitoring survey, participation to conference/meeting (IOC, AEWA, BirdLife ...)	Kariuki Ndong'ang'a Alex Ngari Samuel Fournet
15.-30-15.35	<b>Closing remarks</b>	Kariuki Ndong'ang'a