



AfriBiRds

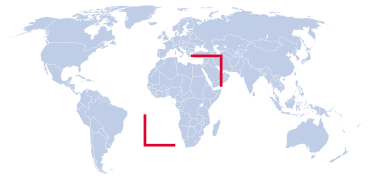
African Biosphere Reserves as pilot sites for monitoring and conservation of migratory birds

Every year Afro-Palearctic migratory birds travel thousands of kilometres between African wintering and European breeding grounds. The birds have to stand bad weather, strong winds and cross large, harsh ecosystems such as the Sahara desert or the Mediterranean Sea. In recent decades, there have been severe declines in migratory landbirds' populations. NABU and BirdLife International have joined to implement the AfriBiRds project that will support African biosphere reserves in establishing an effective long-term monitoring and raise the awareness on birds' conservation.

The degradation of habitats at critical stop-over sites, hunting and trade of birds, risks of collision and disease are threatening the birds along their flyways. The AfriBiRds project will join forces with UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves as well as the BirdLife Partnership Network for birds' conservation in African biosphere reserves.

The following activities are foreseen:

- An initial inventory of bird monitoring schemes in Africa as well as a review of existing monitoring activities in the 90 African biosphere reserves will lay the foundation for developing a monitoring and conservation framework and for selecting two suitable pilot sites.
- With this information, monitoring toolkits, conservation awareness programmes and training workshops will be developed and will enable the set-up of on-site monitoring in the pilot sites.
- Finally, the project will supply biosphere reserves in Africa, national BirdLife Partner organisations and other potential users with guidelines and worked-out demonstration schemes for effective common bird monitoring.



UNESCO biosphere reserves

UNESCO biosphere reserves promote participatory solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They also demonstrate sound sustainable development practices and policies based on education, training, research and monitoring. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves in Africa comprises 90 sites in 33 countries 2016.





Joining forces for birds conservation

The project “African Biosphere Reserves as pilot sites for monitoring and conservation of migratory birds”, abbreviated as AfriBiRds, is a collaboration between NABU and BirdLife. It runs from December 2016 to August 2019 and is supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funds of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). NABU and BirdLife International will closely cooperate with the following partners: AfriMAB, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), African Bird Club, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), A.P Leventis Research Institute (APLORI), Altenburg & Wymenga ecological consultants (A&W), Institute of Avian Research (IFV), Percy Fitzpatrick Institute, Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI), Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK).

AfriBiRds supports the integration of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the UN implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the “Life on Land” Sustainable Development Goal (SDG15) and the monitoring of the African Biosphere Reserves from UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).

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The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Glistening cobalt blue above and tawny below, Barn Swallows dart gracefully over fields, barnyards, and open water. They often cruise low, flying just a few centimeters above the ground or water. True to their name, we can find in Germany their cup-shaped mud nests built almost exclusively on human-made structures. About 200 million Barn Swallows fly from Eurasia to Africa. Large pre-migratory and pre-roost gatherings on wires are common sight and bristling with activity: twittering, song, preening and panic at the approach of a predator.

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