

BOTSWANA'S Protected Important Bird Areas

Collaborating Organisations:

European Commission, United Nations Development Programme, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Department of Environmental Affairs, BirdLife International and RSPB



Identification of Project

- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract: **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person: **Kabelo Senyatso. Director, BirdLife Botswana**
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action: **BirdLife Botswana**
- 1.4. Title of the Action: **Instituting effective monitoring of Protected Areas (IBAs) as a contribution to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in Africa**
- 1.5. Contract number: **EuropeAid/2007/132-278**

1.6. Start date and end date of the project: **1st November 2007 – 31st October 2011**

1.7. Target country/location; **Botswana**

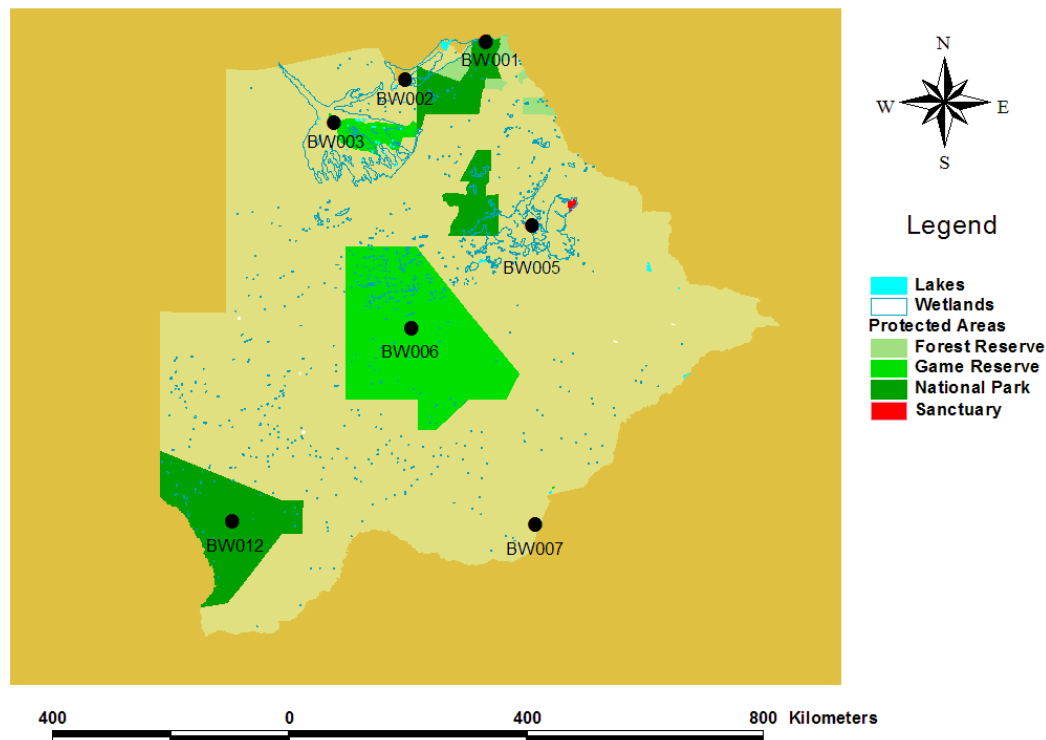
1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groupsⁱ (if different) (List all the IBAs / PA's in the Project at National Level

ID of the IBA/PA's	List of IBA/PA's
B001	Chobe National Park
B002	Linyanti Swamps
B003	Okavango Delta
B005	Makgadikgadi Pans
B006	Central Kalahari and Khutse Game Reserves
B011	Mannyelanong Game Reserve
B012	Kgalagadi Trans-Frontier Park

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Executive Summary

In 1998, BirdLife Botswana (the BirdLife partner in Botswana) identified and documented 12 sites as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of Botswana. However, monitoring efforts at these sites have lacked adequate co-ordination and the success of management and conservation efforts have, therefore, been difficult to gauge. In 2007, BirdLife Botswana, together with seven other African countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) benefited from European Commission funding to pilot a reporting mechanism for biodiversity through the monitoring of birds at IBAs using the Pressure-State-Response model adapted from the global IBA monitoring framework. In Botswana, the target sites for the project are IBAs overlapping protected areas, of which there are seven: Chobe, Linyanti Swamps, Okavango Delta, Makgadikgadi Pans, Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Mannyelanong and Kalahari Transfrontier Park IBAs.



Map of Botswana's seven IBAs, identified by their IBA numbers, that partially or entirely overlap with various designated protected areas: Chobe National Park (BW001), Linyanti Swamps (BW002), Okavango Delta (BW003), Makgadikgadi Pans (BW005), Central Kalahari Game Reserve (BW006), Mannyelanong Game Reserve (BW007) and the Kalahari Trans Frontier Park (BW012).

Overall Project Goal

Since monitoring is not coordinated in most countries, the project seeks to leverage the support from the national agencies mandated to manage biodiversity at protected areas to ensure that the process of monitoring is sustainable and embedded as a core activity that is undertaken on a daily basis. At the institutional and operational level, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks is mandated to manage, including monitor, biodiversity inside PAs and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) reports to CBD on biodiversity (e.g. Anonymous, 2009). The project aims to achieve its goals through ensuring that appropriate capacity is built in the relevant institutions for monitoring and sustaining all stages of biodiversity monitoring at protected areas. The monitoring process should also generate information that is widely available and can be used by the relevant institutions to influence policy and management actions at various levels.

As indicator species, birds have many advantages as a group to use for biodiversity monitoring. They are known more than other groups of organisms and have been shown to be effective indicators of biodiversity richness as opposed to other animals and plant groups. Birds have also been recognised as an excellent barometer for environmental health, especially in detailed studies where summary biodiversity assessment data from a range of species may be obtained.

This project aims to use IBA trigger species to facilitate a coordinated and sustainable monitoring programme of indicators of biodiversity and ecosystem health at the projects target sites; those IBAs in Botswana that overlap with protected areas, as listed above. In doing so, this monitoring

programme aims to support and strengthen the coordination and capacity of the DWNP in monitoring biodiversity, while providing a useful tool to facilitate its use in national reports and decision making processes. In Botswana the programme has successfully gained full support, especially from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, without which there would be very little success.

What are IBAs?

IBAs are generally sites of global conservation importance for birds and other biodiversity identified using standard internationally agreed criteria, which are objective, quantitative and scientifically defensible. The sites must, wherever possible, be large enough to support self-sustaining populations of those species for which they are important. These sites are distinct areas amenable for practical conservation and part of a wider, integrated approach to conservation and sustainable use that embraces sites, species, habitats, and people. IBAs are identified on the basis of the presence of globally threatened species, range restricted species, and biome restricted species or congregations. Species, which are considered in identifying the site as important, are referred to as 'trigger' species. The 'trigger' species in Botswana have been listed in 'Important Bird Areas of Botswana by Tyler and Bishop (1998); see Appendix II for a list of 'trigger' species identified for each protected IBA.

The IBA Programme

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Programme of BirdLife International is a world-wide project launched in the mid 1980s aimed at identifying, monitoring and protecting a network of critical sites for the world's birds. The early stages of the Programme focused on developing national constituencies and identifying the sites, and the subsequent ones focus on activities to conserve and safeguard these sites in the long term, with effective monitoring and advocacy taking place. The aims of the programme are:

- Identify and document globally important places for bird conservation in Africa based on inclusion of endemic avifauna, threatened species, concentrations of numbers of individuals or species and representation of regionally characterised bird assemblages.
- Promote, develop and involve national organisations and contributors in the implementation of the programme.
- Increase national contributions to the programme through the promotion of institution-building, network development and training as appropriate.
- Publish and distribute widely a continental directory of sites, *Important Bird Areas in Africa and associated islands*.
- Promote the publication of national IBA directories in appropriate languages.
- Establish a database containing the critical IBA information in a way that can be maintained, updated and made available in individual countries and to the wider conservation community.
- Inform relevant national authorities, where appropriate, of the programme and seek their acceptance of its concept, aims and progress at the national level.
- Inform decision-makers at all levels of the existence and significance of Important Bird Areas.
- Encourage and initiate conservation actions at Important Bird Areas throughout the continent.

List of Trigger Species found in the seven protected IBAs in Botswana.

IBA 'Trigger' Species	Chobe National Park	Okavango Delta	Central Kalahari Game Reserve	Kgalagadi Trans-frontier Park	Mannyelanong Game Reserve	Makgadikgadi Pans	Linyanti Swamps / Chobe River
Lesser Kestrel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pallid Harrier	X	X	X	X		X	
Racket-tailed Roller	X	X					X
Kalahari Scrub-Robin	X	X	X	X		X	X
Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah	X						X
Bradfield's Hornbill	X	X				X	X
Barred Wren-Warbler	X	X	X	X		X	
Coppery-tailed Coucal	X	X					X
Kurrichane Thrush	X	X				X	X
White-bellied Sunbird	X	X	X			X	X
Woolly-necked Stork	X						
Lappet-faced Vulture.	X	X	X	X		X	
Dickinson's Kestrel	X	X					
Chirping Cisticola	X	X					X
Burchell's Starling	X		X	X			
Burchell's Sandgrouse	X		X	X		X	X
Arnot's Chat	X	X				X	X
Meves's Starling	X	X				X	X
Hartlaub's Babbler	X	X				X	X
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	X					X	X
Marabou Stork	X	X					X
Lesser Moorhen	X						
Cape Vulture		X	X		X	X	X
Slaty Egret		X					X
Corn Crake		X					
Black-winged Pratincole		X	X			X	X
Sharp-tailed Glossy Starling		X					
Great Egret		X					X
Squacco Heron		X					
Saddle-billed Stork		X					
White-backed Duck		X					
Lesser Jacana		X					
Black-crowned Night-Heron		X					
African Darter		X					X
Little Egret		X					
African Skimmer		X					
Yellow-billed Egret		X					
Woolly-necked Stork		X					
Red-billed Teal		X					

Cattle Egret		X					
African Sacred Ibis		X					
Wattled Crane		X				X	X
Brown Firefinch		X					
Great White Pelican		X				X	
Rufous-bellied Heron		X					X
African Pygmy-Goose		X					
Collared Pratincole		X					
Goliath Heron		X					
Black Heron		X					
African Openbill		X					
African Spoonbill		X				X	
Spur-winged Goose		X					
Little Bittern		X					
Fulvous Duck		X					
Long-toed Lapwing		X					
White-backed Night-Heron		X					
Allen's Gallinule		X					
Denham's Bustard				X			
Sociable Weaver				X			
Lesser Flamingo						X	
Chestnut-banded Plover						X	
Greater Flamingo						X	
Kittlitz's Plover						X	
White-throated Robin						X	
White-headed Vulture							X
White-backed Vulture					X		X
Hottentot Teal							X
Miombo Rock Thrush							X

11.0 Appendix : Some trigger species and IBAs



BATELEUR : B001



SLATY EGRET : B002



WATTLED CRANE : B003



BLACKWINGED PRATINCOLE : B004



LESSER FLAMINGO : B005



BURCHELL'S SANDGROUSE: B005



CAPE VULTURE: B007 & B008



KORI BUSTARD: B012