

EU/RSPB project on Instituting Effective Monitoring of Protected Areas (Important Bird Areas)

The 19million Pula project with RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) as the main Applicant is undertaken by 8 African Countries (Botswana, Burundi, Bukina Faso, Tunisia, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and would focus on instituting biodiversity monitoring in protected areas as a contribution to biodiversity loss. The initial four years of the project, i.e. from the 21st April to the 31st October 2011 and beyond would primarily be administered by the BirdLife Botswana, Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the Department of Environmental Affairs. The action would focus on the Protected areas, that are also IBAs (Important Bird Areas), and in Botswana all protected areas are IBAs. The IBA monitoring framework would be the Main tool used in this action. It is developed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and BirdLife International Africa Partnership for the application to the African context where technical capacity, funding and institutional condition is generally low.

The framework is based on the state-pressure-response model adopted by the CBD and has been tested in Kenya with very good results. (See under http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/indicators/pdfs/royal_soc_indicators.pdf). The systems will provide measures of trends in biodiversity conditions as early warning systems and to inform decision makers to conserve these ecosystems for the benefit of people, especially living in and around these areas, and nature. The CBD program of work on protected areas obliges nations to make sure that by 2010, national and regional systems are established to enable effective monitoring of protected area coverage, status and trends at a national regional and global scale and to assist in evaluating progress in meeting the global biodiversity targets.

Objectives of the project

The overall objective of the action is to empower biodiversity-rich and resource-poor African countries to meet their CBD obligations and the target to reduce biodiversity loss by 2010. The specific objective of the action is to institute effective national biodiversity monitoring in Botswana that delivers information on biodiversity trends in Protected areas (Important Bird Areas).

Expected results are.

- Appropriate capacity built for conducting and sustaining all stages of biodiversity monitoring at PAs.
- Biodiversity monitoring institutionalized as a core activity of management authorities, NGOs and local communities.
- Data on the condition of selected PAs collected, analyzed and disseminated with the involvement of stakeholders
- Information from monitoring effectively availed to influence management of PAs by local, national and global actors.
- Project management, monitoring and evaluation procedures in place and mechanisms for sustaining monitoring beyond the action operational.

The project has been launched regionally in July 2007 and would be launched in Botswana on the 11th October 2007.

Any enquiries on the project could be made to ibamanager@birdlifebotswana.org.bw