

Overview of AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF) Project Proposals for the 2010 Cycle

Category A1: Project Proposals Approved for Immediate Funding for the 2010 AEWA SGF Cycle					
No.	Country/ SGF Code	Project Title	Proponent	Project Duration (Months)	Project Summary
1	Kenya SGF/10/KE/06	Conserving the Madagascar Pond-heron in its non-breeding range: investigating its key habitat sites and habitat requirements in Kenya and raising its profile nationally	National Museums of Kenya	12	Kenya is in the non-breeding AEWA range of the Endangered Madagascar Pond-heron (MPH), <i>Ardeola idea</i> . This project seeks to address some of the priority actions identified by the AEWA/CMS International Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) developed for the MPH in 2008. The main issues to be addressed by this project include identifying key wetlands sites for the MPH in Kenya and identifying their status, increasing knowledge on habitat requirements and ecology of the MPH in its non-breeding range and improving identification skills for the MPH and raising the species' profile in Kenya, as recommended in this SSAP. Ten key/potential sites with previous records of the species are targeted for systemic search/sampling of the species, mapping and study of their characteristics. To improve the identification skills, key birders would be involved in the surveys, identification toolkits, posters and brochures would be developed and distributed in different forums and networks and briefings/training sessions would be held prior the census in July (when the species is in Kenya). The resulting information would benefit the National Environment Management Authority's yearly reporting, IBA status reports and other sectors.
2	Madagascar SGF/10/MG/01	Conservation of migratory waterbird species in Madagascar: Improving the knowledge base and status of the Madagascar Pond Heron	Asity Madagascar	24	The Endangered Madagascar Pond Heron (MPH), <i>Ardeola idae</i> , is an endemic species with its main breeding grounds in Madagascar. This project would contribute to the implementation of a Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) through emergency actions at the national level, aimed at improving the present conservation status and knowledge base of the species. Three main aspects to be covered include: 1.) data collection on the ecology and range of the MPH and the very similar Squacco Heron, <i>Ardeola ralloide</i> (often confused with the MPH), with activities like developing a data base, development and reproduction of an identification guide for the herons, capacity building for targeted project partners and coordinated monitoring at concentration/breeding sites; 2.) Capacity building on the identification of the species and development of a monitoring program for potential sites with activities like training sessions on the species' identification, field trips for identification of potential new breeding sites and coordinated monitoring at targeted potential sites; and 3.) Strengthening communication and awareness for the MPH which involves designing and distribution/diffusion of awareness materials like brochures, posters, radio & TV programmes at the national and local levels. The main project partners are the Ministry of Forestry and Environment (focal point for AEWA and the project), Durrel Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Tzimbazaza Botanical and Zoological Park.
3	Egypt SGF/10/EG/01	Assessment of breeding waterbird population in ten Red Sea Islands	Nature Conservation Sector, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency [note: implemented by the Egyptian Society for Protection of Environment and Wildlife, NGO]	10	The Red Sea is Egypt's richest habitat in terms of biodiversity and is an internationally important migratory route for many migratory waterbird species, especially soaring species. However, there have been no comprehensive surveys in this area and the sites face threats from tourist activities, pollution and collection of bird eggs and chicks. This project proposes surveying of ten Red Sea islands which are IBAs and cover a diversity of important habitats for breeding, roosting and feeding of the birds (Islands, mangroves, rocky and sandy beaches, Isles, Cliffs, open water, coral reefs, sea grass beds and tidal flats). The projects aims to estimate the size of the breeding populations, assess the protection and management status of these populations and to promote awareness on the species and their conservation needs. A waterbird survey methodology would be designed for the area, a waterbird count database would be initiated for the Nature Conservation Sector, training workshops on waterbirds monitoring techniques would be conducted and awareness materials would be produced.

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4	Ethiopia SGF/10/ET/01	White-winged Flufftail Status Survey, Research and Conservation	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society	18	Part of the Berga wetland has been identified as the only core breeding home of the Endangered White-winged Flufftail (WwF), <i>Sarothrura ayresi</i> . This project aims to undertake basic research regarding the status of the White-winged Flufftail. Thus, the project would strive to: limit and reverse habitat destruction/degradation at known sites through the enforcement of relevant community by-laws with the support of the local community and local government departments; establish the population size, trends and distribution for the WwF through field observations and surveys; reduce and manage adverse human interference by building easily visible barriers and raising the community's awareness on the species; to maintain favourable hydrological conditions at major sites through participative soil and water conservation work; and to build capacity and raise awareness at the local, national and international level through trainings and dissemination of research findings, thus enabling informed decision making on the species and its habitat.

Overview of AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF) Project Proposals for the 2010 Cycle

Category A2: Project Proposals Recommended for Funding Should Additional Funds Become Available for the 2010 AEWA SGF Cycle					
No.	Country/ SGF Code	Project Title	Proponent	Project Duration (Months)	Project Summary
1	Gambia SGF/10/GM/01	Strengthening Migration of Breeding Colonies of Waterbirds on Bijol Islands	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	24	The Bijol Islands form a part of the Tanji River Bird Reserve, which was established primarily for its ornithological importance and currently has 304 bird species from 61 families, owing to the wide range of habitat types present (marine, estuary, fresh water swamp, coastal dune scrub and woodland). The Bijol Islands, managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM), provide the only breeding site in Gambia for the Grey-headed Gull, Caspian Tern and Royal Tern. DPWM has monitored waterbirds on these islands since 1999. This has been made possible through a number of monitoring and conservation projects, which resulted in capacity building on monitoring techniques, as well as fees paid by tourists. Data collected by DPWM is used by Wetlands International and other parties. There is now the need for new materials to sustain the scheme. Thus, the present project aims at the sustainable management of the Islands and their related avifauna through increasing knowledge on the species and their populations, improved awareness on migratory waterbird species and improved capacity of range states/international cooperation towards migratory waterbird conservation. Institutional capacity will be enhanced through the provision of basic necessary resources/equipment (boat, telescope, binoculars, GPS, life jackets, etc.). Training courses on monitoring techniques and use of the necessary equipment will be delivered to different target groups, outreach programmes will be conducted towards schools and the community as a whole and information material will be prepared and disseminated.
2	Nigeria SGF/10/NG/01	Monitoring of Migratory Water birds for Effective Conservation Actions in the Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands	Nigerian Conservation Foundation NCF	12	The Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands, one of the Critical Sites identified by the WOW CSN Tool that supports hundred thousands of migratory waterbirds and supports three of the nine Nigerian Ramsar Sites, including the Chad Basin National Park, which is the focus for this project. In order to sustain the improved quality of the site as a waterbird habitat which resulted from the recently ended WOW demonstration project, this project aims to undertake research and monitoring of waterbird populations in the Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary of the Chad Basin National Park, build the capacity of technical field staff involved in bird conservation in the area and increase awareness amongst various stakeholders on values of wetlands and migratory waterbirds. The main activities include conducting a monthly waterbird census and annual winter counts, conducting a training session for Game Protection Officers on waterbirds counting and monitoring, conducting a sensitization workshop, holding consultative meetings and public lectures and developing and disseminating information materials. A participatory approach will be adopted in the project, thus involving representatives from relevant government agencies, NGOs and Community Based Organizations. The resulting information would be used to develop an Action Plan that would help key stakeholders to strengthen conservation actions where necessary.
3	Uganda SGF/10/UG/03	Lutembe Bay Wetland Conservation and Community Empowerment in Advocacy for Sustainable Wetland Use Options	NatureUganda, the East Africa Natural History Society	18	Lutembe Bay, an Important Bird Area, Ramsar Site and one of the Critical Sites of the WOW CSN, is a globally, nationally and locally important site for biodiversity (including waterbirds) and the livelihood of the surrounding human populations, especially as a source of water. This project aims to maintain the ecological integrity of Lutembe Bay for migratory waterbirds through conservation and community empowerment. The site is under pressure from population growth and land encroachment by flower farms, with possible negative impacts on the ecological character of the site as a major stop over for migratory waterbirds. The project will support the national process by strengthening the enforcement of the 200m buffer zone requirement of the wetlands policy, presently disputed by developers. It will provide the site managers (WMD & NEMA) with the basis for enforcement of the policy, meanwhile ensuring the participation of the local communities (through an existing Site Support Group) and other stakeholders, who would jointly ensure future boundary management. The project would also support on-going waterbird counts and faecal sampling for Avian Influenza. The main activities include sensitization meetings for the stakeholders, GIS mapping of the wetlands boundary and planting of live hedges, supporting ongoing waterbird research and monitoring, etc.

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4	Ghana SGF/10/GH/01	Regeneration of Mangrove Vegetation and Education/ Knowledge intensification on Species, Populations, Flyways and Threats to Waterbirds in “Songor Ramsar Site”	Green Earth Organization	12	The Songor Ramsar Site, also identified by the WOW project CSN tool as a Critical Site for migratory waterbirds, is nationally and internationally recognised for its role as a breeding, feeding, roosting and nesting ground for large numbers of migratory and resident waterbirds. The over-dependence of the local communities on its mangroves for domestic and commercial fuel wood and the lack of awareness on migratory waterbirds prompt this project’s goal which is to intensify education/knowledge on waterbirds (using the local language and with the involvement of youths) and to regenerate the degraded mangrove vegetation (by providing nursed mangrove seedlings to the communities and establishing acacia woodlots as a future source of household and commercial wood). Community based durbars, local radio programmes, seminars for target groups and education materials on waterbirds and flyway issues (in the local language) would be used to raise awareness on waterbird issues. The project would cover eight communities and would involve the Wildlife Division of the Forest Commission and other national and local stakeholders. 80 trained trainers for the management of mangroves and acacia plantations as well as a project steering committee consisting of major national and local stakeholders would ensure the sustainability of the activities.
5	Benin SGF/10/BE/02	Conservation of the Lake Nokoué Lake Sanctuary in Benin through Income-Generating Activities: Ecotourism	Benin Environment and Education Society (BEES ONG)	24	Lake Nokoué Sanctuary, a Ramsar Site, is one of the Critical Sites for migratory water birds as identified by the WOW CSN Tool and is important for many Palearctic migrants and also essential for the livelihood of the surrounding populations. The lake is presently threatened by over fishing, amongst others. The project aims to contribute to the sustainable development of the Lake Nokoué region through its preservation and by adding value to its natural resources, particularly the avifauna, through promotion of ecotourism. The project would protect sites of avifaunal interest, build a bird observatory post, design and construct a route network and navigation canals to access the observatory posts (including clearing of the invasive water hyacinth), supply some material for ecotourism (boat, life jackets, binoculars, etc.), train professional eco-guides, promote marketing of the ecotourism products (through brochures, TV commercials, websites, etc.) and determine the structure for steering and management of the benefits from the eco-touristic activities, as well as a mechanism for equitable control/distribution of these benefits. The local communities would thus have an alternative and sustainable source of revenue and other stakeholders (resorts, restaurant owners, craftsmen, etc.) would equally benefit.