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**BE OUR
CHAMPION!**

**White-winged
Flufftail**
*Saving the
last 250*

Understanding the Challenge

The White-winged Flufftail is a minute bird but extraordinarily shy and enigmatic. The species regularly occurs in wet grasslands only in Ethiopia and South Africa. Regrettably, its fame is not only built on its beauty and secretiveness. A major reason is its critically endangered status. It is feared that today only around 250 individuals have survived. Destruction and degradation of its habitats mostly due to cutting of grasses and overgrazing by livestock, conversion of grasslands to crop fields, wetland drainage, water abstraction as well as afforestation with eucalyptus are the main concerns.

Moving from Decision to Action

Priority conservation actions have been identified and agreed in the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-winged Flufftail. The plan was developed in 2008 and subsequently adopted by the AEWAs and CMS Parties. Two projects supporting both specific conservation and survey activities for the White-winged Flufftail were carried out in one of the core known breeding sites in Ethiopia. Implementation of the international action plan is supplemented by national conservation plans for this species, as well as site management plans and other ongoing activities undertaken in both Ethiopia and South Africa. The Flufftail was also declared as South African Bird of the Year for 2013, which contributed to raising awareness and action on the ground for the species in South Africa.

Championing the Solution!

Long-term support is urgently needed to strengthen coordinated international efforts to implement the Action Plan. Key activities include the introduction of further site management plans and the enforcement of legislation to prevent cultivation at breeding wetlands. The designation of key sites for the White-winged Flufftail under international frameworks, such as the Ramsar Convention, and under national protected area legislations is of crucial importance in order to preserve them. Only through a highly collaborative approach engaging local communities, solutions to the loss of the White-winged Flufftail habitats can be found. Resources are also necessary to ensure coordination of these actions and organising face-to-face meetings where range states and experts can assess the current status of the species, take stock of progress and prioritise further activities in need of immediate implementation.

More information can be found at: www.unep-aewa.org/action_plans



MIGRATORY SPECIES CHAMPION PROGRAMME

WE FLY, WE RUN, WE SWIM. HELP US KEEP MOVING

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and its associated agreements, altogether known as CMS Family, are concerned with the protection of migratory wildlife on a global or regional scale. Such work is largely subject to the voluntary financial income that the Secretariats can generate, which is by its nature neither regular nor predictable.

The *Migratory Species Champion Programme* aims to promote initiatives developed under the CMS Family and encourage their sustainable support. The Programme has been designed to raise commitments to provide medium- and long-term resources for conservation actions so as to guarantee their timely planning and implementation.

Who can be a Champion?

Champions can be Governments, companies, organizations and individuals willing to make a financial commitment of at least three years for one or more specific CMS Family initiatives. Contributions could be made annually or as one-off payments. In-kind donations also qualify provided that they comply with requirements of this programme.

Becoming a *Champion* is more than being a donor. It is rather being an advocate for migratory species delivering support for their conservation beyond funding. *Champions* become part of the solution to big problems that concern them.

What can a Champion support?

The programme offers a portfolio of initiatives. Each initiative comprises a set of activities contributing to the implementation of a large programme targeting a species, a group of species or a cross-cutting issue.

Why becoming a Champion?

The Programme and its results are promoted on the dedicated page: www.migratoryspecies.org/champion

Furthermore, *Champions* are acknowledged with certificates that testify their support to one or more initiatives.

Different categories of *Champions* are defined to recognize different levels of contributions. The scheme of categories is as follows:

Champion for annual contributions from €20,000 up to €50,000 over at least a three-year period;

Champion Plus for annual contributions of more than €50,000 over at least a three-year period;

Champion Extraordinaire for continuous support.

Engaging and awarding *Champions* are rolling processes undertaken by each Secretariat.

Ad hoc donors' events are organized in the margins of the CMS Family decision-making bodies to acknowledge existing *Champions*. The certificate and the associated publicity provide *Champions* with the opportunity to promote both nationally and internationally their commitment and support for the conservation of migratory species.