



## OVERVIEW FOR THE PROJECT PENDING FUNDING FOR THE 2011 CYCLE OF THE AEWA SMALL GRANTS FUND PROGRAMME

Details on the Project Pending Funding for the 2011 Cycle of the AEWA Small Grants Fund Programme				
Country/SGF Code	Project Proponent	Duration (months)	Amount Requested from SGF - €	Project Summary
Benin SGF/11/BE/1	Benin Environment and Education Society (BEES ONG)	24	25,000	<p><i>Title: Conservation of Lake Nokoué waterbird sanctuary in Benin through income-generating activities – Ecotourism</i></p> <p>Lake Nokoué Sanctuary, a Ramsar Site, is one of the Critical Sites for migratory waterbirds 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. This will be achieved through developing alternative sources of revenue for the surrounding populations, while encouraging them to protect their natural environment and improving on the sustainability of current tourism practices in the area.</p> <p>The main activities include protecting sites of avifaunal interest, building a bird observatory post, the design and construction of a tourism route network and navigation canals to access the observatory posts (including clearing of the invasive water hyacinth), provision of material for ecotourism (boat, life jackets, binoculars, etc.), training and equipping professional eco-guides for guiding techniques and ornithology, promoting marketing of the ecotourism products (through brochures, TV commercials, websites, etc.), developing kits and promotional materials for environmental education, determining 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 and raising awareness of tourists and the local population. The project will therefore benefit the surrounding local communities, including eco-guides, resorts, restaurant owners, craftsmen and the resulting funds will help finance micro-projects for the local populations.</p>