



**SECOND MEETING OF THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS
WORKING GROUP**

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 25-27 November 2015

UNEP/CMS/AEMLWG-2/Doc.5d

Date: 13 November 2015

**Activity information for the Second Meeting of the African-Eurasian Migratory
Landbirds Working Group, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), 25-27 November, 2015**

I. Name and contact of the reporting officer and institution(s) of affiliation:

Joost Brouwer PhD
Brouwer Envir. & Agric. Consultancy, Wildekamp 32, 6721 JD Bennekom, The Netherlands
Ph. +31 318 41 34 6; mob. 06 44 737 086; e-mail BrouwerEAC@online.nl; skype brouwerjoost
Manager West African Bird DataBase, www.wabdab.org (English and French)

II. Country or countries where action is taking place:

At present Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso

III. Title of initiative/project(s) being reported:

West African Bird DataBase

IV. Implementation timeframe (start/end date):

Start on-line October 2010, duration indefinite

V. Threats or information/monitoring/education/research gaps addressed by the initiative(s):

Geographic and seasonal distribution of all bird species, including Palearctic-African and intra-African migrants, their local breeding, and their role in local cultures.

VI. Summary of actions and achievements relevant to AEMLAP. Under this sub-title:

a) indicate the overall/main objective of the initiative:

To promote the knowledge about, and conservation of, birds in West Africa, in particular in the West African countries for which records are included in the database.

b) the achievements made so far or a set of planned deliverables and how they have benefited or are likely to benefit conservation of landbirds:

See the blog text below

c) The main stakeholders involved in the implementation of the initiative:

- the WABDaB management team, including Ulf Liedén (programmer and webmaster), Joost Brouwer (content manager) and Tim Wachter (content manager for Chad)
- the various contributors of data, including the Sahara Conservation Fund
- the Direction de la Faune et des Aires Protégées of Niger has already used information from the WABDaB, as have other organisations (see the blog text below)

d) The main donors involved:

No donors yet, just years of volunteer work, but donors are clearly needed for project consolidation and expansion.

The following blog on the WABDaB will be posted shortly:

On 24 October it was five years since the WABDaB came on-line! Starting out as the NiBDaB, the Niger Bird DataBase, the WABDaB now also covers Chad and Burkina Faso and contains more than 57.000 records of 532 species, with breeding records for 161 of those, as well more than 2.500 photos of 372 species. Among the records are many first observations for Niger and Chad, backed by photos, as well as two first observations for all of West Africa: a Greater Kestrel in eastern Niger and (soon to be included) Chestnut Sparrows in central Chad. Information from the WABDaB has been used to help e.g.

- improve and update maps in the field guide for West Africa by Borrow & Demey
- assess the Africa-wide conservation status of e.g. vultures, Secretarybird and parrots
- formulate species action plans for e.g. Eurasian Spoonbill
- assess the status of terrestrial and freshwater fauna in West and Central Africa by IUCN
- assess the effects of climate change on bird distribution in a project of BirdLife International.

Our sincere thanks to all who have contributed records or photos, without you the WABDaB wouldn't be half the resource it is now. You are too many to name individually, but we feel we should make an exception for the Sahara Conservation Fund, who have provided almost all the records from Chad and from east-central Niger.

As a means of increasing involvement of local populations, the WABDaB also includes, and actively collects, information on bird names in local languages and bird stories from local cultures.

Over the coming five years we hope to double number of records to more than 100.000, with special attention to Burkina Faso and Chad. We will also continue to improve the ease of extraction of information from the WABDaB, and add new features (and countries?) as we find time to do so. Putting the WABDaB on a sounder financial footing is will be a priority. But above all, we hope to continue the pleasure of interacting with you all to achieve our mutual goal: improving the conservation of West Africa's birds by increasing our knowledge about them.

Action requested:

- i. The Working Group is requested to take note of this document and provide comments if needed.