



Bird Population Monitoring in Africa: Building off the European experience and learning from African pilot projects

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International



Roadmap

1. Definitions: common birds & Bird Population Monitoring
2. Context: why BPM & how it relates to monitoring IBAs & Globally Threatened Birds
3. On-going African initiatives
4. African BPM guidelines



Some definitions...



Common birds:

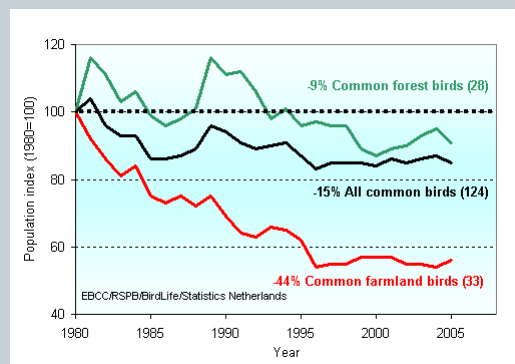
- Generally, commoner, more detectable & most probably in Least Concern category of IUCN Red List
- However, may include threatened species, esp. populations undergoing rapid declines e.g. vultures



Some definitions...

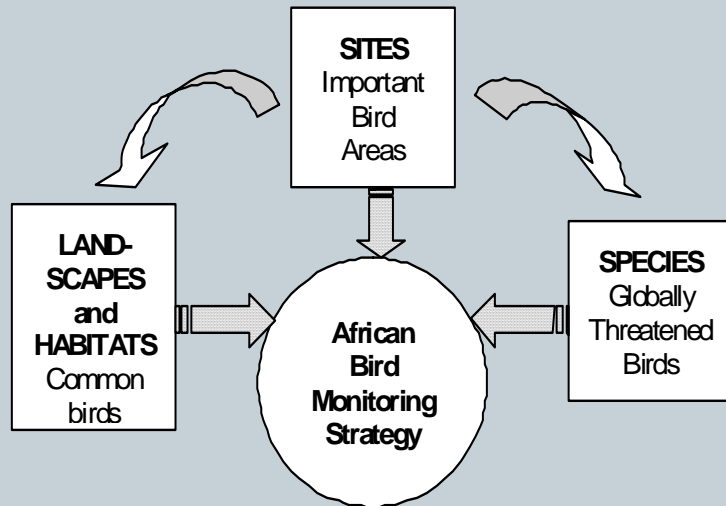


aggregated trends indicate habitat condition



So, Common Bird Monitoring (CBM) scheme refers to generic monitoring approach covering a wide suite of common and widespread species (i.e. it is a multi-species approach).

BirdLife monitoring framework: how does Bird Population Monitoring relate to monitoring Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and Globally Threatened Birds?



Context...



BirdLife's *Global Objective 1.3*: "Keep common birds common – reduce the decline in common birds"

Global Objective 1.3.1 seeks to "Obtain baseline information and monitor the status of selected bird species at national level (including birds traded in the region; congregatory species; migratory species and water birds)"



Targets in Africa (2004-'08) were...



- 50% of network to develop and maintain **database** on common birds (including list of birds **traded** in the region)
- 80% of network have **programme to monitor** common birds by 2008
- Online Bird Monitoring** Programme established in the Africa region by 2007



Context...



Council of African Partnership observed in 2006:

- Need to initially tackle species for which there is already some indication of some possible threats



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- Need to prioritise some species for which information can be easily obtained



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Noting limited partner capacity & opportunities for awareness raising & involving public in bird conservation

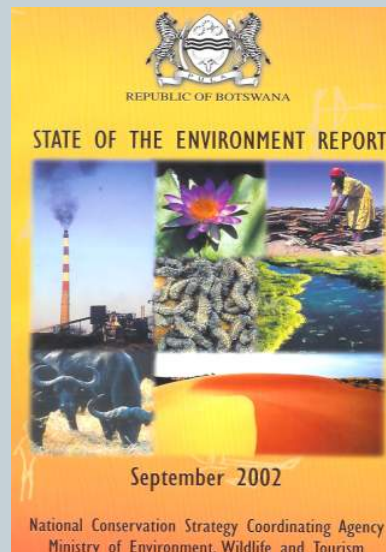


“Strengthening scientific capacity of conservation NGOs working with CBD”



Overall objective

- assist partners to contribute to implementation & impact of CBD by **strengthening their scientific capacity**





“Strengthening scientific capacity of conservation NGOs working with CBD”



Project Components

- 1) **Training** via science internships;
- 2) **Demonstration projects** linking scientific results to policy mechanisms to improve the implementation of the CBD;
- 3) **Sharing experience** in developing national, regional and global conservation datasets and information; and
- 4) **Communicating** through a variety of different outputs to reach key target audiences.



Current Bird Monitoring activities in Africa



- >80 on-going activities
- Most project-based, isolated, small-scale & in some cases inconsistent.
- 46% **single species** e.g. particular species of storks, cranes, raptors etc
- 30% **multiple species** e.g. repeated bird walks, online monitoring, IBA monitoring and birds found in habitats of importance for birds.
- 24% **particular bird groups** e.g. waterbirds, vultures, flamingos, migratory storks and cranes





Current Bird Monitoring activities in Africa



However....

Apart from waterbird counts, most activities not coordinated thus cannot be easily be pooled together to give an indicator of what is happening on a country nor regional level.



New schemes: what do Partners need?



Specifically, the ability to:

- Design an appropriate CBM scheme
- Produce survey instructions & forms
- Recruit and retain volunteer surveyors
- Run training workshops
- Collect & collate data from surveyors
- Perform simple analyses on monitoring data
- Report results incl. annual newsletter for surveyors
- Work to ensure long-term sustainability of the scheme



Guidelines for the development of Bird Population Monitoring in Africa



Introduction

- Why monitor common birds?
- How does CBM relates to monitoring IBAs & GTBs?
- Current Bird Monitoring activities in Africa



Guidelines for the development of Bird Population Monitoring in Africa



Section 1: Sampling design

- 1.1 Sampling Units
- 1.2 Representative sampling approaches
 - 1.2.1 *Ideal sampling approaches*
 - 1.2.2 *Pragmatic sampling approaches: dealing with constraints*
- 1.3 Dealing with imperfect sampling
- 1.4 Number of samples
- 1.5 Analysis



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Section 2: Survey techniques

- 2.1 The most appropriate techniques for the African context
 - 2.1.1 *Line transects*
 - 2.1.2 *Point transects*
 - 2.1.3 *Timed Species Counts*
- 2.2 Considerations for all three approaches and general points

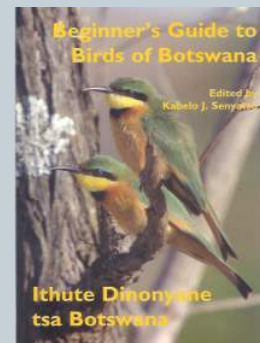


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Section 3: Running a CBM scheme – the practicalities

- 3.1 Recruiting
- 3.2 Training
- 3.3 Supporting materials
- 3.4 Incentives
- 3.5 Contact
- 3.6 Reporting
- 3.7 Maintaining involvement
- 3.8 Helping a scheme to grow





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Section 4: Using monitoring results for advocacy & communication.

- 4.1 Communication challenges & possible means around them (*Case study on BirdLife Botswana*)
- 4.2 National, regional and global forums where Common Bird Monitoring data is useful (*Case study on use of CBM data in UK and Europe*)



Guidelines for the development of Bird Population Monitoring in Africa



Section 5: Developing, enhancing and expanding Common Bird Monitoring in Africa

- 5.1 Aspirations for global Common Bird Monitoring
- 5.2 Rolling out Common Bird Monitoring in Africa
 - 5.2.1 Enhancing existing bird monitoring
 - 5.2.2 New Common Bird Monitoring schemes
 - 5.2.3 Collecting list-based data using *WorldBirds*

www.worldbirds.org



CBM guidelines



Section 6: Suggested reading & further sources of information

Advantages, disadvantages & applicability of survey techniques that can be used for CBM



for birds
for people
for ever

Acknowledgements



1. Darwin Initiative
2. BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat
3. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
4. BirdLife membership, corporate supporters, tour guides and individuals who contribute own resources towards monitoring birds

[Extranet...Groups>Africa Wild Bird Indicators](#)

