



World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day 2013

“Networking for migratory birds”

11 May 2013

Regional World Migratory Bird Day Event, Lake Elmetaita, Kenya

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Guest Expected

- German Ambassador
- Representative UNEP Director General
- AEWA guests
- County commissioner
- Directors Kenya Wildlife Service
- Director Kenya Forest Service,
- Director General National Museums of Kenya
- Directors of various NGOs
- Universities



Ladies and gentlemen

World Migratory Bird Day reaches every continent, connecting people and cultures around the globe in the same respect that migratory birds do on their journeys each year across national boundaries, magnificent landscapes of mountains, forests and seas.

However, the impacts of people around world have led to habitat loss and degradation, greatly affecting many migratory bird species. And since the survival of migratory birds depends on the availability of well-connected networks of habitats along their migration routes for breeding, feeding, resting and wintering. In this respect, we indeed need to protect such habitats across the international boundaries.

The theme of this years World Migratory Day, is **“Networking for migratory birds”**. This has many meaning to us all. But the most important is the fact that the migratory birds migrate thousand of miles crossing national boundaries from country to country and across oceans. In their migration they have a network of habitats sometimes for different uses including feeding. What a maginicicent network.

If birds can do this, why not human being? Not to migrate like we do when we move abroad but to form networks that will be supportive of these migratory birds.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased that such networks are aparent between varions organizations, governments and even individuals who love these birds. Indeed **“Networking for migratory birds”** aims to emphasize both ecological networks, as well as networks between organizations and individuals and their mutual importance for the long-term conservation of migratory birds. Since migration routes often cross many countries and even entire continents, an effective management strategy requires joint action in the form of international cooperation. Collective conservation actions by governments, nature conservation organizations, scientists and the general public are needed to ensure the survival of migratory birds.

As you note, Lake Elementaita is an important site for migratory birds and I thank you for the choice to celebrate this event here. Lake Elementaita, is important for numerous migratory waterbirds including the near threatened Lesser Flamingo. This lake as small as it is due to its importance, it was designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in 1999 and as a Ramsar site in 2005.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I note that it was, however, not until 2010 that Lake Elementaita was gazetted as a National Wildlife Sanctuary. The Wildlife Sanctuary encompasses the whole of Lake Elementaita and its surrounding riparian lands.

In 2011, Lake Elementaita, Lake Nakuru and Lake Bogoria were inscribed by UNESCO as part of the Kenya Lakes System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage Site. We celebrate this great inscription and we are proud as a County to host a World Heritage Site. The other World Heritage natura sites in Kenya are Lake Turkana and Mt. Kenya

Unfortunately, many human activities directly or indirectly damage sites through habitat fragmentation and degradation thereby posing a grave threat to migratory bird species. These important habitats are disappearing and with them the ecological networks that connect them. With limited access to these important sites like Lake Elementaita, birds may not survive their demanding journeys.

Consequently, the management of ecological networks is crucial for the protection of avian migratory species. Lake Elementaita's status as a national Wildlife Sanctuary, International Bird Area and Ramsar site as well as being part of the Great Rift Valley World Heritage Site shows the site's great importance as a wilderness conservation area. These protection statuses will help conserve Lake Elementaita's great environmental resources, including migratory birds, for generations to come.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The World Migratory Bird Day, launched in 2006 on the edge of the Great Rift Valley in Laikipia (Kenya) is an annually celebrated awareness-raising campaign aiming to inspire the worldwide conservation of both migratory birds and their habitats. This is why we are here.

I want to thank for this initiative organized by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), two international wildlife treaties administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

We also thank supporters who have been growing in number, such as BirdLife International, Wetlands International, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) among many others internationally

Nationally, I want to thank Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and all collaborating national stakeholders including the National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Forest Service, National Environment Management Authority among other including Nature Kenya and Soysambu Conservancy, Jacaranda hotel the host of the event, local communities including all stakeholders to this very important lake, including hotels.

I thank Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the focal point of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement Secretariat (UNEP/AEWA) for hosting this event and also the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) for the partial funding of the event.

I also thank for the International Training of Trainers that preceded by a five days this event. The training based on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands is very useful as a capacity building to enable us within the Eastern and African region conserve these migratory birds. I thank the participant from different countries. Use the knowledge gained to manage the migratory bird and remember to train others, forming a network of experts and our high and high

Finally, I thank each of us, the schools represented here, entertainment groups various service providers. I thank all who took their time off to be here with us, to network with us and with the birds

Ladies and Gentlemen, let us work even harder to ensure that we conserve our heritage not only for us but for our future generation and by virtues of their bird's right to exist.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen

