



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain**



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News & Letters — Nouvelles & Lettres

Request for bird observations from Ivory Coast

A project to compile an annotated species list for the birds of Ivory Coast has started recently. We should appreciate receiving any species lists and additional information such as numbers, seasonal appearance, habitat, breeding and moult of birds in the country.

Demande d'informations sur les oiseaux de Côte d'Ivoire

Une initiative pour l'édition d'un livre sur les oiseaux de Côte d'Ivoire est en cours. Nous serions heureux de recevoir toutes informations additionnelles sur les oiseaux du pays, telles que des données numériques, les observations saisonnières, habitats, nidifications et mues.

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Africa Section of the Society for Conservation Biology

Research and training institutions in Africa have existed for decades, but today conservation science in parts of Africa is faltering. There is a need to develop and build on existing capacity in order to promote better science in the management and preservation of Africa's spectacular wildlife heritage. An important step in this direction is the creation of an Africa Section of the Society for Conservation Biology. The section aims to be a pan-African conservation network to bring scientists and practitioners together in a virtual and real way through various activities identified by the group. The section will also strengthen an African voice within the SCB.

An Interim Committee of the Africa Section has been formed, prior to elections for office bearers in Mar–Apr 2002. Procedures for elections will be developed to

ensure that there is good regional representation. The Interim Committee includes Paula Kahumbu (Acting Chair), Trinto Mugangu (representing Central Africa), William Oduro and Egnankou Wadja (West Africa), Chris Chimimba and Joan Jaganyi (Southern Africa), and Nyawira Muthiga (marine ecosystems). Alan Rodgers and Paula will represent East Africa. Sanjayan Muttulingam and Alastair McNeilage represent non-African members.

We will launch the section officially at the SCB meeting at the University of Kent, England, in July 2002. We are also hoping to publicise conservation issues in Africa at that meeting and encourage Africans to present their research findings. A special symposium on African conservation issues entitled "Living with Wildlife in Africa" has been proposed which will focus on emerging conservation issues in Africa. We should particularly like to hear from any African ecologists interested in presenting their research at that meeting.

To join the Africa section you must be a member of the SCB (apply through www.conservationbiology.org) and then you can simply send a message to africa@conservationbiology.org stating your interest. You can join only one regional section as a voting member but you can be a non-voting member in other sections.

We soon plan to create an email-based African bulletin that will distribute information on the contents of the SCB journals *Conservation Biology* and *Conservation Biology in Practice*, as well as additional information relevant to Africa such as research and funding opportunities, meeting notices, etc. This will be available free to members and non-members in English and French, and anyone is encouraged to send information for posting.

We would appreciate hearing from anyone interested in assisting the section in a voluntary capacity (fund raising, web design, information exchange *etc.*). We would also like to hear from people interested in sponsoring African memberships.

We look forward to this exciting venture and to hearing from you.

Paula Kahumbu, Alan Bornbusch, Mac Hunter