

PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. Project Title: Strengthen Education for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds on Lake Nokoué in Benin

2. Project Manager:

The Project Manager is Mr. Fataï AINA, he holds a Masters in Ecology. He is an ornithologist and specialist in the conservation of animal and plant biodiversity. He is the coordinator of African Bird Club (ABC) in Benin and has been working for more than ten (10) years on conservation of biodiversity and bird in Benin.

3. Implementing organization:

- Organization Name: Amis de l’Afrique Francophone- Benin (AMAF-BENIN)
- Address: 02 BP: 1962, Cotonou
- E-mail: amafbenin@yahoo.fr
- Site Web: www.amafbj.wixsite.com/amafbj
- Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/AMAF-Benin-1786597534766973/>

AMAF-Benin is a development organization that works in the field of biodiversity conservation, the fight against climate change and the improvement of the living conditions of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

4. Purpose/Desired outcome of the Project

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to strengthen the ecological awareness of teachers and schoolchildren to protect migratory waterbirds on Lake Nokoué, an integral part of Ramsar site 1018 in southern Benin.

The expected outcomes are as follows:

- The knowledge and capacities of fourteen (14) teachers and school directors are strengthened on ecology and they ensure sustainable environmental education of children in their schools;
- Three hundred (300) schoolchildren have become ecological ambassadors and sensitize their parents and their communities to the protection of birds and their habitats;
- The communities of Lake Nokoué, including fishermen, have a better understanding of the ecological and economic values of birds and protect them;
- Bird hunting and the destruction of their habitats are considerably reduced on Lake Nokoué.

5. Description and methods

a- Description

Lake Nokoué, an integral part of Ramsar site 1018, is a habitat and migration area for bird species in Benin. In addition to resident birds, the lake hosts each year a diversity of migratory waterbird species that come to stay in the wetlands of Benin often in the period from October to February to protect themselves from the cold of the tropics.

Several of these bird species are endangered and are rare today; this is mainly due to various anthropogenic pressures such as:

- **Hunting:** a long-standing traditional activity in Benin, birds are not hunted only for their meat but also for cultural and ritual purposes. This hunting activity is growing and is a real threat that is widespread in this wetlands of Benin. Faced with the growing impoverishment of local populations, birds are under increasing hunting pressure following the virtual eradication of large fauna. Almost all species are hunted as game birds. Thus, certain species that are already vulnerable or of heritage interest are the subject of national and international commercial hunting, as evidenced by the markets for the sale of live or dead animals in the large cities of Benin.

- Forest or marshy surfaces which are destroyed each year by the intense search for timber, firewood and charcoal, and for agricultural, hunting, pastoral purposes, or even the installation of “acadja” fish traps »On bodies of water. This degradation of bird habitats continues even inside community protected areas.

- The use of pesticides (insecticides and herbicides), especially organochlorines, which accumulate in the food chain, is widespread across the country, especially in this wetland. Especially insecticides used in agricultural production are dangerous for humans, livestock and the environment in general. Thus each year, Benin deplores many cases of human mortality due to these chemical poisons. These pesticides also represent a threat to birds, especially raptors, insectivores and seed eaters. In addition, the destruction of insects, both beneficial and predatory, destroys considerable food resources for birds.

These threats have already reached such a level that some species risk disappearing from Benin's wetlands if nothing is done to protect them. To compensate for this erosion of avian biodiversity, it would be necessary to act quickly on the conscience of the populations. However, to achieve this, children and young people must first be educated on the knowledge of their environment and on the economic and ecological values of birds, and on the urgency of their protection.

The project will sensitize the communities of Lake Nokoué, in particular the populations of the Municipality of Sô-Ava, to the protection of resident and migratory waterbirds, in particular those threatened and endangered. The project wants to use the school, in particular the environmental education of 300 schoolchildren from the Public Primary School of “Sô-Ava Center” to reach a large segment of the population (in particular the 13,347 inhabitants) of the district of Sô-Ava, to sustainably solve a problem of environmental degradation and reduce threats to resident and migratory bird species. In addition to improving children's knowledge of ecology, the project will achieve a certain level of community environmental awareness and education.

b- Methods

The method used is environmental education which will be based on the training of teachers and the education of children and the local community in the knowledge of their environment and ecology; the popularization of municipal decree n ° 41 of 25 November 2011, and on environmental communication which will take into account the following specific activities:

- Training of 14 teachers and school directors on ecology as knowledge multipliers. They will then integrate the knowledge acquired into their classroom activities, and will provide environmental education to the 308 schoolchildren in their school, who will be ecological ambassadors to their parents and their communities, for the local awareness of the sustainable conservation of birds;

- Organization of a commemoration activity for World Migratory Bird Day (WOMB) with schoolchildren which will be based on environmental education based on bird conservation. This activity would be an opportunity for schoolchildren to learn some names of water birds but also to know their migration route;

- Information and awareness campaign, which will be based on community radio broadcasts and on the media, and the production of a brochure (leaflet) in which the value of birds is highlighted, in order to bring the communities of Lake Nokoué to become aware of the challenges of bird conservation, biodiversity and the environment;

- Organization of an advocacy workshop to bring local authorities to the application of Communal Decree No. 045 of 25 November 2011 relating to the protection of species of flora and fauna.

These methods are chosen to sensitize and make children, young people and local communities in general aware of the different threats to birds and the need to protect them and their habitats, and to engage communities in new behaviors that will allow them to ensure ecological balance in the region. According to the results of a study by the Office for Sustainable Development, Basic Education, Office for Africa and sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), children are natural activists and programs who profit from their enthusiasm, benefit their communities and the cause of conservation.

6. Timetable

Activities	Period in months (M) January to December 2022											
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
Activity 1 : Training of 14 teachers and school directors on ecology as knowledge multipliers												
Activity 2 : Organization of a commemoration activity for World Migratory Bird Day (WOMB) with schoolchildren in school												
Activity 3 : Information and awareness campaign, which will be based on community radio broadcasts and the media, and the production of a brochure (leaflet) in which the value of birds is highlighted												
Activity 4 : Organization of an advocacy workshop to bring local authorities to the application of Communal Decree No. 045 of 25 November 2011 relating to the protection of species of flora and fauna												
Activity 5 : Organize the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and produce reports.												

7. Budget (detailed breakdown of the use of funds)

Item	Quantity	Unit price	Total cost	CCBC grant	AMAF-Benin
Trainer fees	1	200 \$US	200 \$US	0,00 \$US	200 \$US
Catering (meals) for teachers in training	14	10 \$US	140 \$US	140 \$US	0,00 \$US
Written press publication	1	100 \$US	100 \$US	100 \$US	0,00 \$US
Production and broadcasting of radio programs	2	120 \$US	240 \$US	240 \$US	0,00 \$US
Production of brochures	500	0,6 \$US	300 \$US	300 \$US	0,00 \$US
Conference room rental for the advocacy workshop	1	50 \$US	50 \$US	0,00 \$US	50 \$US
Sound rental for the advocacy workshop	1	50 \$US	50 \$US	50 \$US	0,00 \$US
Cocktail party for participants in the advocacy workshop	50	3 \$US	150 \$US	150 \$US	0,00 \$US
TOTAL			1,230 \$US	980 \$US	250 \$US

8. Matching funds or resources

The grant requested from Cape Cod Bird Club (CCBC) is US \$ 980. Our Organization will provide a contribution of US \$ 200 to cover the costs of teacher training. Sô-Ava Town Hall will provide the conference room that will house the advocacy workshop. The room is valued at US \$ 50.

9. Continuity:

One of the results of our project is the improvement of the knowledge and capacities of teachers who are knowledge multipliers. At the end of the project, teachers will continue to teach the knowledge gained to over several years and to other schoolchildren who will become new ecological ambassadors in their communities. Also, the implementation of Communal Decree n ° 045 of 25 November 2011 relating to the protection of species of fauna and flora, by the local authorities constitutes a means of sustainably maintaining the achievements of the project and therefore ensures its sustainability.