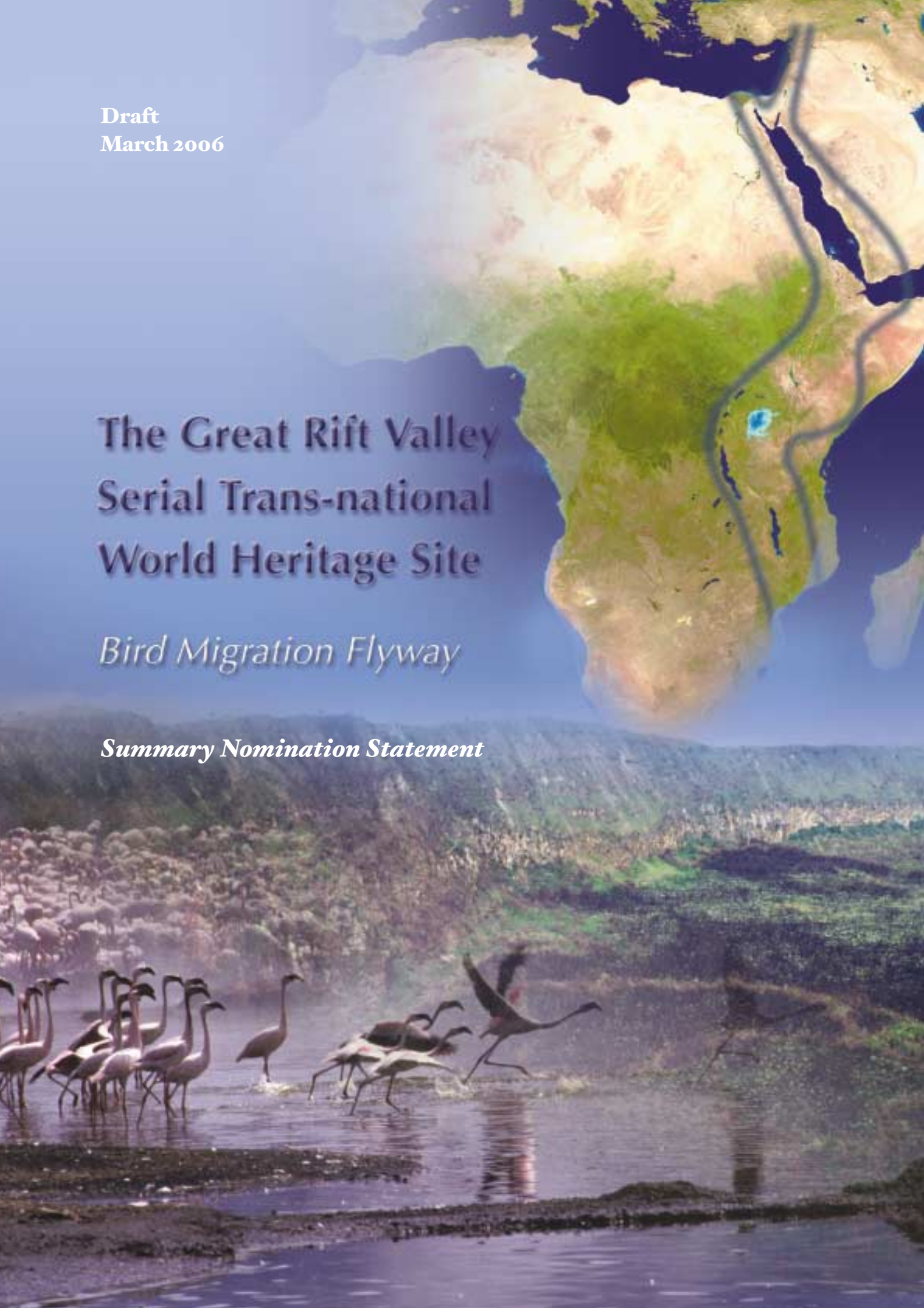
Draft
March 2006

The Great Rift Valley Serial Trans-national World Heritage Site

Bird Migration Flyway

Summary Nomination Statement



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Cover: Composite graphic with map showing the entire Great Rift Valley from Southern Turkey to Mozambique, Africa and Lesser Flamingos on Lake Bogoria, Kenya (photos: Eyal Bartov).

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Contents

Foreword

The proposed transnational serial nomination pertains to the Great Rift Valley (GRV) that stretches over 7,000 km from the Taurus Mountains in Turkey to the Zambezi River in Mozambique. In its final form it might encompass all the criteria of the Operational Guidelines to the World Heritage Convention.

In 2002 an Expert Meeting was held at the Dead Sea to discuss the technical aspects of developing such a project and creating an administrative structure for its implementation. Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) chaired the meeting, which was attended by 46 experts in a variety of fields from government agencies and NGO's and spanning seven different countries. A Final Report and Recommendations booklet was published and distributed among concerned parties throughout the region. The project has since been presented at meetings of UNESCO in Paris, the World Parks Congress of IUCN-WCPA, at Durban, South Africa, and recently at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand. It was also part of the UNEP meeting decisions at Nairobi, Kenya. Representatives of UNESCO, the IUCN, BirdLife International, United Nations Fund and governments of Tanzania, Ethiopia, Turkey and Israel have all declared their support for this nomination.

This document is the first of a 'stand-alone' series of nomination statements for each of the modules that will look at the Bird Migration Flyway of the GRV. Based on one of the most important bird migration routes in the world, this property would constitute the largest trans-national World Heritage Site. The concept is to bring together the States Parties situated along the Great Rift Valley to form a network of important habitats critical to birds migrating along this corridor. Several countries are in the process of nominating sites on the basis of their importance to bird migration along the Great Rift Valley. These include Lake Nakuru, Kenya; Hula Valley, Israel; and in the Tentative Lists of Tanzania, and Egypt. Each site within The Great Rift Valley Migration Flyway will operate independently, however specific administrative and management principles will apply to all parts of the site as summarized herein. It is

proposed that BirdLife International- Africa will oversee management coherence for the entire site. This Nomination Statement provides the framework in which to implement The Great Rift Valley - Migration Flyway.

On behalf of the Governments of ....., we hereby give our full support to this Nomination Statement and the creation of the Great Rift Valley Serial Transnational World Heritage Site - Migration Flyway and would like to thank all those who have helped make this dream a reality. We welcome the inclusion of other States Parties to complete this nomination.

Signatures,

Names and titles

Preface

The Great Rift Valley

The GRV holds the world's record for lowest elevation (Dead Sea- 410 meters), longest geologic formation (7,200 km), second largest (Victoria) and deepest (Tanganyika) lakes, oldest inhabited city (Jericho), the oldest human remains (Ethiopia), the backdrop for the biblical drama, and one of the largest bird migration routes in the world. The agricultural revolution, evolving from hunting and gathering to early farming, moves from the Jordan Valley to the Fertile Crescent. The Egyptian Dynasties and the empires of Meroe and Axum are evidenced in this region. The seeds of three great religions developed there: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Magnificent view of the Great Rift Valley from Longonot Mountain (2,776m). The steep escarpments of much of the GRV provides excellent updrafts and abiatic uplifting for migrating birds (photo: Eyal Bartov).

Observing up to 100,000 soaring migrant birds, such as this Honey Buzzard, in one day within the northern Great Rift Valley is one of the most amazing natural phenomena in the world.

This human history is equally matched by the region's rich and unique natural heritage. The Great Rift Valley has been referred to as a "geomorphological mega-unit of universal interest". The topic of plate tectonics and continental drift is on the frontiers of scientific research and well known to the public. However, there are few places on Earth where these phenomena can be seen and "touched" by scientists and visitors.

The GRV supports an amazing diversity of flora and fauna. This great biological diversity is due in part to its location between three continents (Asia, Europe and Africa) where five of the world's biogeographic regions meet, being situated along a major bird migration corridor, and supporting a wide variety of habitat types such as riparian, marsh, grassland, scrub, arid desert, savannah and tropical forests.

The most concentrated and species diverse migratory route for Palearctic birds flying between Eurasia and Africa is found on the Great Rift Valley. Most long-distance migratory birds tend to avoid crossing large bodies of water and depend on land bridges, which provide adequate areas for rest sites along the flyway. These geographic constraints have created the phenomenon of migration bottlenecks at a variety of locations around the world where birds pass through a relatively small area in concentrated numbers. The Great Rift Valley forms the main land bridge between Europe, Asia and Africa, and is bounded by two large bodies of water: the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Scientists estimate that over a billion birds of ca. 350 species use this ancient route twice a year when moving between breeding and wintering locations.

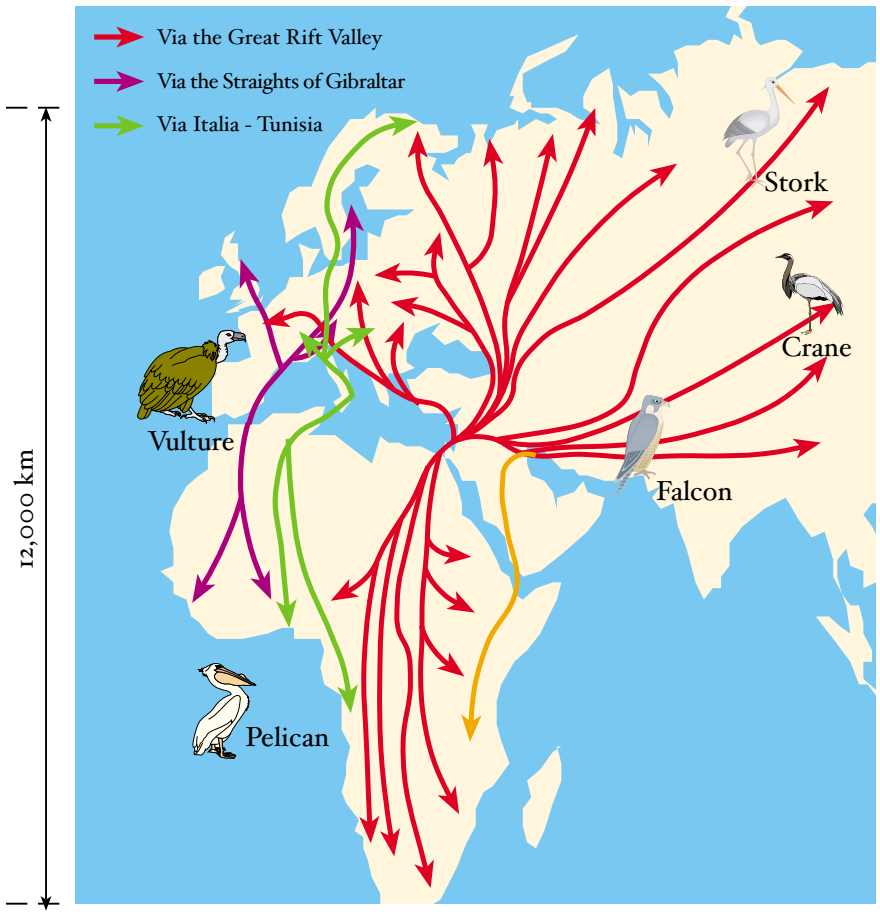
1. World Bird Migration Flyways

Worldwide, the only other migration bottleneck area that is comparable in total number of individuals is located in Central America linking North and South American Nearctic bird populations. A major migration bottleneck occurs near Veracuz, Mexico along the western coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Each fall season an average of four million raptors of 20 species, including two million broad-winged hawks, are recorded from two count sites in central Veracruz, Mexico. Counts in recent years have confirmed that Veracruz is host to the most concentrated raptor migration in the world. However, the GRV, with over double the number of migrant raptor species (43 species) is considered the most important raptor and soaring bird migration corridor in the world.

There are six major migration bottlenecks for Palearctic birds migrating between Eurasia and Africa: Gibraltar Straits where the majority of western European soaring birds pass (320,000 in autumn); Messina straits and Malta, which represents the central flyway collecting birds from peninsular Italy and Northeast Europe (ca. 30,000 soaring birds estimated in spring); East Mediterranean used mainly by birds from Eastern Europe, Ukraine and Russia (raptor numbers in autumn: Bosphorus (Turkey) up to 75,000, Batumi (Georgia) up to 100,000, Northern Valleys (Israel) average over 500,000, Bab-el-Mandeb Straits (Djbouti) used by up to 250,000 raptors of eastern populations). All six sites are Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The latter two sites are part of the Great Rift Valley route.

Major soaring migration flyways throughout the world.

Although soaring birds are best known for their mass migratory concentrations, the bulk of bird migration takes place during the night. Moreau (1972) estimated that several hundred million songbirds and waterbirds migrate along the eastern Mediterranean (i.e. GRV). Bruderer (1992) conducted radar surveys and concluded that night migration over the southern part of Israel and Jordan may reach a density of 1,000 birds per cubic kilometer. At Ngulia, Kenya over 20,000 passerines are trapped over a one month period during autumn migration.



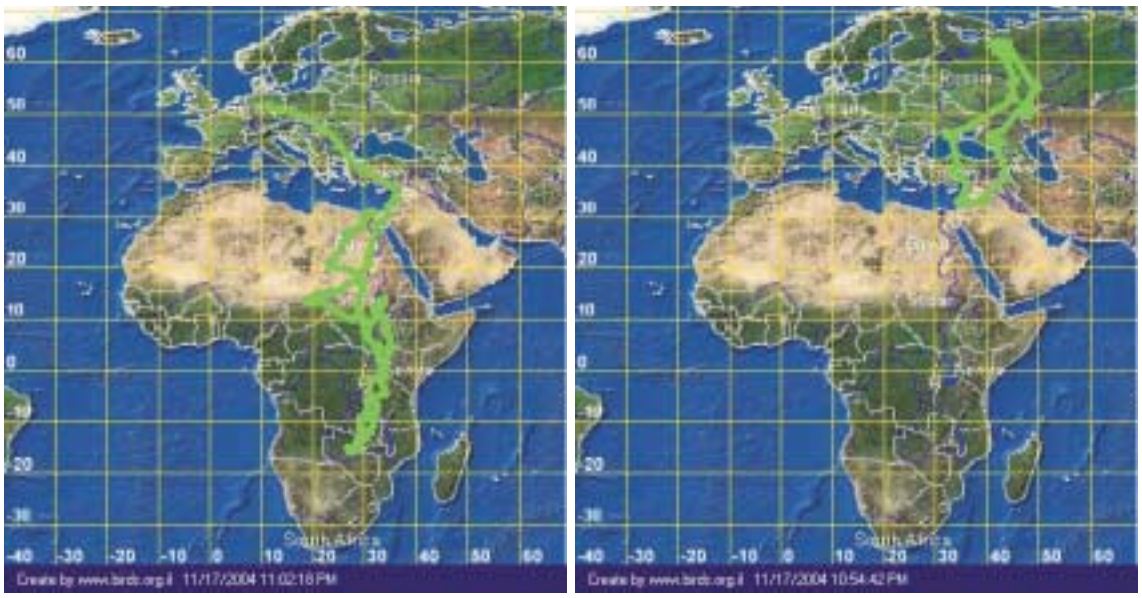
Major migration routes between Europe, Asia and Africa illustrating the importance of the Great Rift Valley.

2. The Great Rift Valley - flyway, wintering and stop-over sites

Description

The Great Rift Valley extends over 7,000 km from the Taurus Mountains in southern Turkey, south to the Zambezi River in Mozambique, Africa. The northern portion of the GRV constitutes the narrowest corridor (average 10 km versus widths of over 300 km in Africa), which includes the Jordan Valley from the Red Sea up to northern Israel, Lebanon and Syria, forming the most concentrated migration bottleneck for long-distance Palearctic birds. In Africa, the GRV runs along the eastern portion of the continent including the Nile River, Lake Victoria, and much of the great Serengeti Plains down to the Zambezi River in Mozambique.

The GRV has been referred to as a "geomorphological mega-unit of universal interest". Its geologic history dates back at least 30 million years ago involving plate tectonics and continental drift eventually forming the unique landmasses used by migrating birds. Bird migration has evolved over this time in conjunction with moving landmasses and varying weather conditions. Glaciations have played a major role in bird migration and speciation. Thus, a large variety of sites exist throughout the GRV both in terms of their geologic and human history.



Satellite Maps *– Map showing satellite tracking movements of a typical European White Stork (Leshem, Y. & Berthold, P.) and Crane (Alon, D.) (Birds Know No Boundaries, www.birds.org.il)*

Migration patterns vary over time and space, but tend to be consistent from year to year. A migration flyway includes a variety of routes that are used by different species at different times throughout the year. As such, particular sites may be important for a specific group of birds for a short time period each year (raptors during the first week in April). Within this complex flyway system are areas where birds are constricted during passage forming a bottleneck.

Sites used by migrating birds for stopover, rest and "refueling" will also vary depending on their location within the Rift Valley and during different seasons. Human history may play a significant role, both negatively and positively within these varied sites.

All of the States Parties located along the GRV hold significant habitat for migrating birds including Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, Djibouti, Congo, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana. BirdLife International has designated over 140 sites within these countries as Important Bird Areas. Ramsar Wetland Sites can form another important basis for choosing properties within this region. Appendix 2 lists potential sites for inclusion.

The Great Rift Valley Migration Flyway World Heritage Site will include important migration areas along the entire Great Rift Valley from southern Turkey down to Mozambique, Africa. Individual properties will vary in size and structure forming a network of sites critical to bird migration along this ancient corridor. This network will form the basis for long-term conservation of birds and their habitats affecting birds over a much larger range including breeding grounds extending from Germany in the west across to Siberia in the east.

The Great Rift Valley Bird Migration Flyways World Heritage Site might include in general:

- Wetlands or other habitats important for migrant birds as stopover, wintering or summering sites.
- Locations within a concentrated migration corridor.

Altogether these sites will form a network of all the important staging, stopover, wintering and summering areas for migrating birds along the GRV.

Important Sites

While a majority of the important sites will undoubtedly be in wetland areas, there are other types of sites important to migrating birds including plains, savannahs, forests, certain mountain ridges and coastlines.

Migration sites can be divided into sites important for stopping over for rest and refuelling versus bottleneck sites that funnel large concentrations of migrating birds over specific restricted areas. The concentration and species composition varies greatly between bottleneck sites depending on location and geographic composition. Furthermore, sites may vary seasonally since many species migrate along different routes during autumn and spring.

Properties will vary as to the site's ecological integrity and authenticity, but may still prove vital to birds migrating within this flyway. Thus, authenticity and integrity will be based on use of the property by migrating birds. This also points to the importance of joint management and conservation needs.

BirdLife International has designated over 140 areas within the GRV as important to birds in general. Of these, several standout as being of utmost importance to migrating birds such as bottleneck sites (along the Jordan Valley), coastal sites (Lake Bardawil, Sinai coast) and the Rift lakes of Kenya and Tanzania (e.g. Baringo, Bogoria, Nakuru, Naivasha and Natron).

Large flocks of Lesser Flamingos congregate after the breeding season at Lake Bogoria, Kenya. Part of the unique soda lakes of the Great Rift Valley, Lake Bogoria also includes several active geysers (photo: Eyal Bartov).

Potential sites

Many other significant wetlands are found within the Great Rift Valley and should be considered for inclusion into this potential trans-national serial nomination. In general, wetlands support a relatively high biodiversity within restricted areas and attract large numbers of birds. A minimum list of potential sites would include the following 17 registered Ramsar Sites in the list of Wetlands of International Importance and Important Bird Areas that occur within the region:

Ammiq Wetland (Lebanon)
Sabkhat al-Jabbul Nature Reserve (Syria)
Hula (Israel)
Lake Barullus, Bardawil (Egypt)
Haramous-Loyada (Djibouti)
Lakes Baringo, Bogoria, Nakuru, Naivasha (Kenya; proposal pending)
Lake George, Lake Nabugabo Wetland System (Uganda)
Delta de la Rusizi (Burundi)
Lake Natron Basin, Malagarasi-Muyovozi Wetlands,
Kilombero Valley Floodplain (United Republic of Tanzania, Inscribed WHS)
Bangweulu Swamps: Chikuni (Zambia)
Lake Chilwa (Malawi)

(Detailed location information will be given for each site of the migration flyway as it is nominated for inscription. The site will be referred to as the Great Rift Valley Migration Flyway World Heritage Site. Individual properties will be listed by their local names in conjunction with the serial trans-national site e.g. Great Rift Valley Migration Flyway - Lake Nakuru.)

Egypt has recently submitted 5 sites for their country's tentative list as part of a serial nomination under the heading *Bird Migration Routes*. These sites as a group might be considered of Outstanding Universal Value and could become part of the GRV Migratory Route Serial Transboundary Nomination. The proposed sites are as follows:

1) Lake Bardawil
2) Zaranik Scrubland –
3) Gebel Shayeb El-Banat
4) Saluga and Ghazal Nile Islands
5) Lake Nasser

Additional potential natural sites of the Great Rift Valley from the World Heritage Tentative List are listed in Appendix 6.

3. The World Heritage Nomination

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

This region is world famous for observing huge flocks of soaring birds. Most species of birds migrate by active flight during the night due to a variety of physiological constraints related to body-wing size proportions (i.e. wing loading). In contrast, soaring birds migrate during the day and are dependent on weather conditions that provide maximum lift, namely light winds and rising heat thermals. The geomorphological structure of the Great Rift Valley coupled with its proximity to large bodies of water (Mediterranean and Red seas) provides ideal conditions within this bottleneck region for soaring birds. The steep elevational gradient within much of the valley creates adiabatic warming of the air, and in the northern part of the valley, combines with the sea breeze that is displaced upward as it hits the bordering mountain ranges.

This amazing phenomenon of concentrated daytime soaring bird migration creates a unique opportunity to observe and study bird migration. One of the most comprehensive, long-term annual migration surveys in the world has taken place in

The entire population of European White Pelicans migrate through the Hula Valley (photo: Hadoram Shirihai).

northern Israel each autumn since 1982 (Shirihai and Christie 1992, Alon et al. 2004). Raptors make up the main taxonomic group of soaring migrant birds in the world with 183 species (62% of all raptor species) of which 43 species migrate through the Middle East (Shirihai et al. 2000). Although a record 1,193,751 migrating raptors have been observed at Eilat, Israel (spring 1985), the overall autumn soaring bird migration recorded in northern Israel is equally impressive both in terms of numbers and species. Maximum numbers of autumn migrants through northern Israel include: 603,846 raptors in 1986 (annual mean of 450,995); 530,301 White Storks in 1997 (mean 257,442); and 76,909 White Pelicans in 1988 (mean 36,923). These numbers include the entire world population of Lesser Spotted Eagles, the entire Palearctic populations of Levant Sparrowhawks and White Pelicans, and significant world populations of White Storks, Crane and Honey Buzzards. Nocturnal migration of songbirds and waterbirds is even more impressive amounting to several hundred million birds.

The outstanding value of the nomination lies not only in its physical size and attributes, but also in its unique ability to serve as a flagship programme for creating a network for cooperation in the protection of natural and cultural heritage. Linking all of these elements together are the birds – a universal symbol of freedom and peace. Migrating birds "know no political boundaries" and can play a pivotal role towards advancing partnerships between peoples of the region.

Authenticity and Integrity

The GRV is the largest single geological landform in the world. This area also supports an important ecological process of concentrated bird migration for the majority of Palearctic migrants (ca. 250 species). The elements necessary to demonstrate the processes of bird migration are easily accessible. A huge variety of high quality habitats create a mosaic of stopover hotspots that are critical for bird conservation and excellent for observing and studying birds. Many of these sites are extensive and pristine, however, authenticity and integrity will need to be assessed for each proposed site based WHC criteria and the site's importance to bird migration.

Elephants crossing the Samburu River in Kenya. Such riparian wetlands are critical habitats for migrant and resident birds (photo: Eyal Bartov).

Nomination Criteria

This nomination is proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List as part of a Trans-national Serial Nomination Natural Heritage Site according to paragraph 138 and 139 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Site meets the criteria listed under paragraph 77 of the Operational Guidelines for natural heritage property under 3 subcategories:

(vii) - contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

The GRV is one of the best places on Earth to witness the phenomenon of concentrated, mass bird migration both in terms of total number of species and individuals migrating per season. The visual impact of observing the passage of tens of thousands of large soaring birds within a few hours is awe-inspiring. During a peak day one can view over 100,000 birds of several species such as White Storks and Honey Buzzards.

Humans have been marvelling at this exceptional natural phenomenon for thousands of years. Aristotle wrote a systematic treaty on bird migration some 2300 years ago in book 8 of his Historia Animalium. Still earlier are several direct references to bird migration within this region can be found in the Bible. Jeremiah (8:7) contrasts the birds that know what to do on migration, with the errors of the people "Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgement of the Lord".

(ix) ***- be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.***

The region is host to one of the world's most significant bird migration routes where hundreds of millions of birds of over 300 species pass twice annually. These species breed from Siberia and the Near East across to the middle of Europe. For many of these species, a significant portion of their entire population passes through the GRV.

The ecological and biological processes related to the evolution of birds are evident by the diversity of species using the site and their differing migration strategies. Among these birds can be found specific examples of species for nearly every migration strategy known to science; long and short distance, full and partial, east-west and north-south, irruptive, wintering and summering. The study of these strategies and the role of stopover and wintering sites for migrating birds is at the forefront of avian conservation biology.

(x) - ***contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.***

The Great Rift Valley Migration Flyway supports a very high biological diversity and is critical to preserving a wide range of Globally Threatened species and in particular, maintaining populations of hundreds of species of migrating birds. At least 141 species of birds found within the GRV are listed as Globally Threatened by the IUCN (Appendix 7).

The region is located at the juncture of several biogeographic areas ranging between the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. Many Eurasian and Mediterranean species are found at their southern and eastern range limit; where as, Saharo-Arabian and Paleotropic species are at their northern and eastern range limit. Asian and Irano-Turanian species are at the western edge of their range limit. Furthermore, the Great Rift Valley provides a northern penetration route for African species into the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East.

Significant habitats for birds include coastal and freshwater wetlands, rivers, forests and large open savannahs. The most important wetlands should be included within the International Convention on Wetlands, Ramsar, 1973.

Management and Monitoring

One of the most significant contributions from this serial nomination will be the development of a standard management scheme. Management and monitoring aspects are described below under a separate section.

Individual properties within the World Heritage Site will be responsible for their own management through the State Parties, which will be conducted in accordance with their legislative and management systems. However, it is essential that individual parts of the World Heritage Site be managed within a standard framework to achieve reliable and cooperative standards of identification, recording, research, protection, conservation, management, and presentation of bird migration in an interdisciplinary, multinational and sustainable capacity.

As part of the development of a potential transnational, serial nomination, a general management scheme is being developed. In 2002 an Expert Meeting was held at the Dead Sea to discuss the technical aspects of developing such a project and creating an administrative structure for implementation. Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) chaired the meeting, which was attended by 46 experts in a variety of fields from government agencies and NGO's and spanning 7 different countries. A Final Report and Recommendations booklet was published and distributed among interested parties throughout the region. The project has since been presented at meetings of UNESCO in Paris, World Parks Congress of IUCN-WCPA, which took place in Durban, South Africa, and at the World Conservation Congress of IUCN in Bangkok, Thailand. All have received the concept with great interest, and efforts are continuing to implement the full extent of the nomination.

The management mechanism being developed will establish an international agreement to be signed by the appropriate ministries responsible for World Heritage activities for participating States Parties, as well as regional offices. Specific management protocol or best-practice guidelines will be created and will include the establishment of a multinational commission through BirdLife International. The multinational commission will meet annually to discuss implementation of the best-practice or informal management plan, solve problems, review reports, and develop maps, websites and other promotional materials. The commission would also be responsible for reporting to the World Heritage Committee through the World Heritage Centre on a regular basis.

BirdLife International has pledged their support to spearhead this effort through the establishment of an international agreement to be signed by the appropriate ministries responsible for World Heritage activities for participating State Parties, as well as regional offices (Appendix 1). Representatives of the IUCN, and the governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Turkey and Israel, under the guidance of BirdLife

Cover of brochure created for the first Expert Meeting that took place in 2002 at the Dead Sea (the lowest place on Earth).

International (through BirdLife Africa) have undertaken to work together to develop this common management framework. As further States Parties propose parts for inclusion in the World Heritage Site, this group will work to assist and eventually include under a larger, formal structure for international cooperation.

Form and Date of most Recent Records

Scientific studies of migration began in earnest in the 1950's. The comprehensive work by Moreau (1972) The Palaearctic – African Bird Migration Systems, contains detailed information about evolution, routes and strategies of birds crossing Europe and Asia into Africa of which the majority pass through the GRV. Much of the recent records can be found in specific scientific papers and through government and site-specific environmental monitoring organizations throughout the region. BirdLife Africa also maintains a general database of birds within the region.

Almost the entire world population of Eurasian Cranes (ca. 80,000) migrate and winter within the Great Rift Valley (Photo: Dror Galili).

4. The Way Forward

Once declared as a World Heritage Site, any future nominations for extensions to the Great Rift Valley Bird Migration Flyway WHS must be endorsed by existing States Parties within the WHS who must confirm the new nomination has outstanding universal value and that the management principles are adhered to. Such nominations would need to show:

Outstanding universal value of the whole site
Authenticity
Integrity
Appropriate legal protection and management arrangements including a management plan or other appropriate system.

Goals over the next five years are:

Agreement on what constitutes universal value for any part of the GRV WHS.

Defining areas of outstanding universal value that could be included in the WHS.

Developing a common vision for the whole GRV Migration Flyways WHS.

Providing support and advice to other States Parties preparing nominations for inclusion.

Creation of a website.

Developing an international database though existing national and NGO databases.

Developing a full management protocol and best practices handbook for the entire WHS.

Developing research frameworks for the WHS.

Creating a public awareness campaign for the project across the GRV.

Developing other themes as geology, early human culture, pre-history and cultural landscapes in new nominations.

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Appendix

Recent decisions by relevant organizations refering
to the Great Rift Valley Trans-national Serial Nomination

Appendix 1: Recommendations
from the Expert's Meeting, 2002

B. Expert Meeting Recommendations

Preamble

The experts

- acknowledge the international assistance provided from the World Heritage Fund and recall the discussions of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau (2001) to organise an Expert Meeting on the Great Rift Valley, following a number of nominations from the Great Rift Valley which have been deferred or referred,

- acknowledge the efforts of the Host Party in initiating the Meeting on the Great Rift Valley and the study tours to the sites of Masada and the Makhteshim Country,

- recall the adoption of the World Heritage Global Strategy (1994) and the subsequently organised regional thematic meetings, including

  the Second Global Strategy Meeting (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 29 July – 1 August 1996),

  the Expert Meeting on African Cultural Landscapes (Tiwi, Kenya, 9 - 14 March 1999),

  the African Workshop for World Heritage Natural Site Managers (Kruger National Park, South Africa, 18 - 20 September 2000),

  the Workshop on Authenticity and Integrity in the African Context (Zimbabwe, 26 – 29 September 2000),

  the Expert Meeting on Desert Landscapes and Oasis Systems (Oasis Kharga, Egypt, 23 - 26 September 2001), and

  the Johannesburg Declaration on World Heritage in Africa (August 2002),

- recognise that this was a preliminary Expert Meeting to develop a conceptual framework for the Great Rift Valley to promote international exchange and to define a plan of action,

- recognise the universal significance of the aggregate cultural and natural values of the Great Rift Valley, including its geological importance, cultural landscapes, biodiversity and as a route for migratory birds,

- take into account the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the African-Eurasian Water Birds Agreement, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Jeddah Convention on the Biodiversity of the Red Sea,

- recognise the importance of establishing and strengthening partnerships among the States Parties concerned,

- recognise that the World Heritage Committee is in the process of improving the representativity and distribution of sites on the World Heritage list,

- recognise the efforts of States Parties that have already prepared nominations for sites located in the Great Rift Valley and have included such sites on their tentative lists, and encourage the continuing process of nomination,

- recognise the existence of many sites in the Great Rift Valley that are culturally rich, and that provide opportunities to further the socio-economic standing of the communities involved,

- recall the objectives of this Meeting, which include

  identification of the global significance of the Great Rift Valley,

  identification and review themes of potential sites for World Heritage Listing,

  explore strategies and techniques for sustainable management including legal protection, involvement of local communities,

  draft recommendations for the nominations of sites in the Great Rift Valley to the World Heritage List, and

provide a report to States Parties, advisory bodies and the World Heritage Committee.

General

The Great Rift Valley mega-system is a geological phenomenon of global scale, which is of fundamental significance for understanding the evolution of the earth. It represents major crustal plate tectonic processes and the origins and development of oceans.

Extending for over 7,000 kilometres, through over 20 States, it is the longest rift valley system in the world, with an average width of between 50 – 60 kilometres, and 600 – 900 metres relief. It also includes the lowest point on the earth's surface at the Dead Sea.

The experts highlighted the diversity of landforms, migratory patterns and natural biomes, including lake systems, hot springs and other water bodies, mountains and active geological processes with volcanoes and seismic activity. The experts in particular noted the high biodiversity, as well as emphasising the importance of the Great Rift Valley as a global migratory route for birds between Europe, Asia and Africa. Furthermore, the experts recognised the significance of protecting the diverse ecosystems along the Great Rift Valley as habitats used as stopovers, and feeding and wintering areas for the birds.

The Great Rift Valley is one of the cores of human origins on earth and the subsequent movement of people. This is evidenced by the fossil record of hominid sites and archaeological remains, as well as cultural landscapes and itineraries.

The experts recognised the need to develop a strategy identifying the Great Rift Valley as an outstandingly unique geo-system with significant cultural and natural values on a global scale.

The experts call on all States Parties and partners, including representatives of civil societies, NGOs, international and national donors, as well as other programmes and conventions, UN organisations, such as UNEP and the World Bank, and international bodies to participate in this venture.

The experts encourage the States Parties to consider the following natural heritage themes when identifying sites for World Heritage listing:

- geological phenomena, including volcanoes, plate tectonics, and geological evolution,
- landforms, such as mountains, canyons and escarpments, and
- fresh and saline water bodies, such as lakes and rivers.

Prominent in the experts' discussion of cultural themes, were:

- human evolution with hominid fossil sites and features,
- archaeological sites, including palae-ontology and rock art,
- cultural landscapes, including among others agricultural,
- heritage routes and itineraries, movements of people, subsistence and modes of production and,
- traditional life styles.

The experts recognise that, for some scientific studies, the Great Rift Valley may be divided into three segments, northern continental, central coastal and marine and southern African continental, and indicate the theme of the central part as a coastal and marine system.

The experts discussed the boundaries of the Great Rift Valley and recommend that in preparing nominations, not only the valley, the cliffs and the rim be considered, but also the broader context, both physical and social.

The experts encourage States Parties to manage and develop their areas in the Great Rift Valley in a sustainable manner and specifically for cultural, ecological and therapeutical tourism, taking into consideration the needs of local communities, and encourage their participation.

The expert group therefore recommends that action be taken by the following bodies:

1. **States Parties**

1.1 States Parties and other partners should join the process to identify, protect and manage sites along the Great Rift Valley, through their participation in international programmes (e.g., Man and the Biosphere (MAB)) and conventions (e.g., the Ramsar Convention), and call on UNESCO to recognise the Great Rift Valley as a conceptual framework for coordination the promotion of World Heritage values, necessitating coordination of the States Parties,

1.2 States Parties which have already nominated sites in the Great Rift Valley, or are in the process of doing so, should be encouraged to continue their efforts to bring to completion including the Great Rift Valley Lakes in Kenya and the Makhteshim Country in Israel,

1.3 States Parties to set up or review their tentative lists to include potential sites along the Great Rift Valley, and to use the relevant Expert Meetings as a basis for the comparative analysis required,

1.4 States Parties consider extending existing sites in the Great Rift Valley to include additional areas, and enlarge buffer zones,

1.5 States Parties consider renominating sites under additional criteria (e.g., cultural values for natural properties),

1.6 Recognising the work by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Task Force on Transboundary Protected Areas, that States Parties be encouraged to consider the model of Peace Parks and transboundary cooperation and management,

1.7 States Parties be encouraged to use all options in the nomination process – mixed, serial, transboundary, phased nominations – as well as extension to existing sites,

1.8 Recalling the decision of the World Heritage Committee concerning transboundary nominations, that, regarding nominations of sites in the Great Rift Valley, States Parties should not be limited to one nomination per year,

1.9 States Parties be encouraged to protect fair representations of biodiversity included in the concerned area, to protect and rehabilitate endangered species and their habitats, to protect water bodies and other ecosystems critical for the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their life cycles, and consider nominating sites of the Ramsar Convention for Wetlands of international importance,

1.10 States Parties be encouraged to consider regional initiatives including migratory birds as a means of promoting partnerships in the areas of conservation, education, eco-tourism, agriculture and flight safety,

1.11 States Parties should use to the fullest extent, the expertise of the ICOMOS scientific committees and the IUCN Commissions (and WCPA and CEM),

1.12 States Parties be encouraged to submit focused UNESCO participation programme requests towards the implementation of the plan of action,

1.13 States Parties participating in international cooperation projects dealing with cultural heritage in the areas concerned, link these projects to the Great Rift Valley initiative,

1.14 States Parties cooperate on inter-, intra- and sub-regional levels to promote the protection of sites along the Great Rift Valley, and in existing initiatives,

1.15 States Parties, who are also Parties to the Jeddah Convention, and having been informed about the Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant for the protection of the Biodiversity of the Red Sea, should establish the appropriate framework for coordination to draw on the outcome of the above grant initiative,

1.16 States Parties consider, as appropriate, reviewing existing management plans and their implementation, to properly protect and safeguard World Heritage values at existing sites, and prepare management plans where such do not exist,

1.17 States Parties should encourage the membership of NGOs and other bodies in the national World Heritage Committees and support the exchange of information and the promotion of public awareness towards the values of the Great Rift Valley and their educational programmes. NGOs should be included and supported in all future meetings relating to the Great Rift Valley,

1.18 States Parties shall be encouraged to develop educational pro-grammes to explain the phenomena of the Great Rift Valley, both natural and cultural, together with the relevant NGOs. Efforts should be made to develop electronic and other programmes for the interpretation of these sites,

2. World Heritage Committee

2.1 Provide priority assistance in the preparation of tentative lists and nominations, as appropriate,

2.2 In order to assist States Parties in focusing on their nomination of sites, the World Heritage Committee is requested to give priority to the analysis of tentative lists within the Great Rift Valley system,

2.3 Recalling the successful Africa 2009 Programme, capacity building, training and educational programmes be strengthened by the World Heritage Committee, States Parties, international and advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM). This programme should be open to NGOs and other interested bodies,

2.4 Draw the attention of the international community to the fact that many sites and traditional technologies are threatened, and encourage international collaboration in order to mitigate these threats,

2.5 Draw the attention of the international community to the fact that

a number of sites in the Great Rift Valley are threatened and/or included in the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger,

underwater prehistorical and archaeological sites are threatened by changes in the water levels and water quality,

and encourage international collaboration in order to mitigate these threats,

2.6 Provide assistance through its advisory bodies and develop clear guidelines for such management plans, and make efforts to integrate a risk preparedness programme with specific recommendations concerning earthquakes into the management plans,

2.7 Coordinate and facilitate further scientific research, including thematic and comparative

studies by ICOMOS and IUCN, such as those relating to fossil hominid sites, cultural landscapes, geological phenomena, fossil sites and marine and coastal zones, past technological achieve-ments and migratory patterns,

2.8 Commission IUCN and ICOMOS, in cooperation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), to use the databases of the existing sites on the World Heritage List, and sites that appear on the tentative lists of the States Parties concerned, categorise the sites to assist the States Parties, and prepare illustrative base maps showing existing and tentative sites and their relationships with key cultural and natural features along the Great Rift Valley,

2.9 Encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation for the management and protection of the Great Rift Valley, and that States Parties and the World Heritage Committee strengthen cooperation with funding institutions, such as the World Bank, the United Nations Foundation, the Getty Trust and the World Monuments Fund,

2.10 Request of the advisory bodies that, in the evaluation of viable management systems, cultural patterns should be recognised, such as arrangements between traditional owners,

3. Advisory Bodies

3.1 Assist the World Heritage Centre and States Parties, through their National and Scientific Committees and other activities, in the effort of protecting the values of the Great Rift Valley,

3.2 encourage the Scientific Committees to address specific issues relevant to the Great Rift Valley (e.g., cultural landscape),

4. International Cooperation

4.1 The World Heritage Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, will take the lead in the cooperation with other international conventions and agreements towards an integrated action plan for the whole Great Rift Valley (Ramsar 1971, CMS 1979, Biodiversity 1992, the Jeddah Convention on the Red Sea Marine and Coastal Areas), including encouraging States Parties to join the Convention for the Protection of Underwater Archaeology and other relevant conventions to which they are not yet a party,

4.2 All development agencies should consider the overall protection of the Great Rift Valley in their programmes and projects to avoid damage to the area's unique values,

4.3 Recognising the Resolution adopted by the Secretaries-General of the National Commissions for UNESCO of the Arab and European Region, to endorse these Great Rift Valley recommendations to become a part of the Euro-Arab programme,

4.4 Recognising the importance of the catalystic role of civil society in the process, that regional and international NGOs participate in this process of nominating sites for the Great Rift Valley and protecting and safeguarding its unique values,

5. Mainstreaming into UNESCO programmes

5.1 UNESCO encourage the recognition of the concept of the Great Rift Valley and integrate this recognition in the relevant budgets of the Science, Education and Cultural Sectors,

5.2 The significance of the Great Rift Valley should be

emphasised in the next UNESCO Strategic Plan,

5.3 Further to D.G. Note number 02/13, from the 31 May 2002, concerning reconstruction and reconciliation in the Middle East, that UNESCO adopt the World Heritage Committee initiative on the Great Rift Valley as an initiative for Euro-Arab regions programming.

Proposed Timetable

The experts propose the following timetable and plan of action:

January 2003	Final report and proceedings of the workshop to be disseminated to the World Heritage Committee and, subsequently, to be disseminated to States Parties and advisory bodies
June 2003	Submission of report and recommendations to the 27th Session of the World Heritage Committee Submission of initial assistance request by a State Party (Kenya) for the next workshop
Fall 2003	World Parks Congress: submission of recommendations
October 2003	Second Expert Meeting on the Great Rift Valley (Kenya)
June 2004	States Parties meeting in connection with the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee (South Africa)

Appendix 2: Letter of support and intent from BirdLife International to direct the multinational management scheme for the Great Rift Valley World Heritage Site

BirdLife
INTERNATIONAL

Together for birds and people

BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK
Tel +44 (0)1223 277318, fax +44 (0)1223 277200 Email birdlife@birdlife.org
www.birdlife.org

Our Ref: proigencam

Thursday, 16 September 2004

Dr Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

Dear Dr Bandarin

Great Rift Valley Project

I write to confirm that BirdLife International is highly committed to the nomination of the Great Rift Valley as a World Heritage Transboundary Serial Site.

The BirdLife International Partnership, especially those representing countries spread along the Great Rift Valley, are already closely involved in the conservation of specific areas within the Great Rift Valley, and believe that the nomination of the entire flyway as a World Heritage Transboundary Serial Site would strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of this unique area of the world.

The BirdLife Secretariat will work with these Partners to secure financial support for a BirdLife Project Co-ordinator, to be based at our Regional Office in Nairobi, to take this initiative forward if that would be helpful. We very much hope and expect, given the enthusiasm already expressed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, that UNEP will be able to support this initiative as well, and we know that a number of BirdLife Partners throughout the Great Rift Valley have already expressed considerable enthusiasm and commitment to help.

I would be most grateful for an update on this initiative from UNESCO's perspective.

With warmest regards,

Yours sincerely

Michael Rands

Dr Michael Rands
Director & Chief Executive

Cc: Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director, UNEP
Yossi Leshem, Director, International Centre for the Study of Bird Migration
Marco Lambertini, Director of Network & Programme, BirdLife International

Appendix 3: Decisions of IUCN

Vth IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa

8–17 September 2003

WPC Recommendation V.4: Building Comprehensive and Effective Protected Area Systems

Therefore, PARTICIPANTS in the Workshop Stream on Building Comprehensive Protected Area Systems at the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa (817 September 2003):

> 11. CALL on parties to the World Heritage Convention to encourage the nomination of global physiographic, natural and cultural phenomena as large-scale multi-state, serial World Heritage Routes to serve as frameworks for local and transboundary World Heritage sites and protected areas;

WPC Recommendation V.21: The World Heritage Convention

6. CALL on the World Heritage Committee, the States Parties, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, IUCN (and the other Advisory Bodies, the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, as appropriate) to:

   e. PROMOTE the identification, nomination and protection of World Heritage serial and transboundary sites and large biological corridors, Biosphere Reserves or other bioregional scale initiatives to include World Heritage areas;

8. CALL on UNESCO, secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and IUCN, to seek further international, regional and national synergies and integration between the work of the World Heritage Convention and other regional and international conventions dealing with terrestrial and marine biodiversity and protected areas, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Possibilities for joint work programmes to benefit World Heritage conservation should be explored.

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand

17–25 November 2004

Nomination of large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage Routes

RECALLING Recommendation V.4 Building Comprehensive and Effective Protected Area Systems noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003), which calls on States Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention "to encourage the nomination of global physiographic, natural and cultural phenomena as large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage Routes to serve as frameworks for local and transboundary World Heritage sites and protected areas";

RECOGNIZING the significance of large-scale physiographic phenomena (also referred to as 'mega phenomena'), which occur throughout the world, for the world's biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the contribution of such phenomena to the holistic approach of conservation, essential for maintaining the interconnection between natural and cultural resources;

UNDERLINING the value of these phenomena for the formation of transboundary protected areas and corridors, which are of extreme importance for biodiversity conservation;

EMPHASIZING specifically the global significance of these phenomena as potential multi-state serial World Heritage Routes such as the Great Rift Valley and the Gran Ruta Inca as mega phenomena which encompass many valuable resources;

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED by the loss of precious habitats and sites along these routes which threaten the very interconnection between the routes' phenomena; and

NOTING that the adoption of this motion by IUCN members does not compromise the IUCN Secretariat's advisory role to provide independent technical evaluation of nominated sites for World Heritage listing;
The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

1. RECOGNIZES Recommendation V.4 noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress, which calls on States Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention "to

encourage the nomination of global physiographic, natural and cultural phenomena as large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage Routes to serve as frameworks for local and trans-boundary World Heritage sites and protected areas";

2. INVITES the Committee of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention to:
   (a) encourage the concept of large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage nominations as one means for implementing the World Heritage Convention;
   (b) consider examining specifically the concept of selected large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage nominations, as part of the emerging global strategy, by providing support for regional experts' meetings to be held in order to consider, and if appropriate develop and promote, the implementation of initiatives such as those for the Great Rift Valley and Gran Ruta Inca; and
   (c) consider providing international assistance to relevant State Parties so that they may prepare tentative lists of sites that may merit inscription in the World Heritage list and their subsequent nomination;

3. CALLS UPON the States Parties to promote the identification and establishment of protected areas along these Routes and to nominate those that have potential for World Heritage listing; and

4. CALLS UPON IUCN, national and international non-governmental organizations and foundations to play a full part in regional expert meetings, and to provide support for the development of tentative lists and for promoting coordinated management of the protected areas, identified during such regional expert meetings, that have potential for World Heritage listing.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record: State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

Appendix 4: Decisions of UNEP

UNEP General Assembly Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya

February 2005

Representations worldwide including 45 government ministers officially opted to support efforts to nominate the Great Rift Valley Migration Flyway Transnational Serial Nomination. A special event was organized with UNEP Director Klaus Topfer and muscician Paul Winter played part of his Flyways composition.

International and Regional Workshop on the World Heritage Convention and the Conservation of African Cultural Landscapes, Malawi

November 2005

Dr. Gorge H. O. Abungu, Kenya

After deliberations on the Great Rift Valley the participants recognized and appreciated the international aspect of it, and also note earlier efforts in recognizing this phenomenon; the participants therefore recommend that the issue of cooperation leading to nomination be reconsidered.

Appendix 5: Inscribed sites of State Parties along the Great Rift Valley

(as of 2004 - To be updated in 2006)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO:

1979 Virunga National Park
1980 Kahuzi-Biega National Park
1980 Garamba National Park
1984 Salonga National Park
1996 Okapi Wildlife Reserve

EGYPT:

1979 Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur
1979 Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis
1979 Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae
1979 Islamic Cairo
1979 Abu Mena
2002 Saint Catherine Area

ETHIOPIA:

1978 Rock-hewnChurches, Lalibela
1978 Simien National Park
1979 Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region
1980 Aksum
1980 Lower Valley of the Awash
1980 Lower Valley of the Omo
1980 Tiya

ISRAEL:

2001 Masada
2001 Old City of Acre
2004 Tel Aviv Bauhaus

JORDAN:

1985 Petra
1985 Quseir Amra

KENYA:

1997 Mount Kenya National Park *I* Natural Forest
1997, 2001 Lake Turkana National Parks
2001 Lamu Old Town

LEBANON :

1984 Anjar
1984 Baalbek 1984 Byblos 1984 Tyre
1998 Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab)

MALAWI:

1984 Lake Malawi National Park

MOZAMBIQUE:

1991 Island of Mozambique

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC:

1979 Ancient City of Damascus
1980 Ancient City of Bosra
1980 Site of Palmyra
1986 Ancient City of Aleppo

TURKEY:

1985 Historic Areas of Istanbul
1985 Goreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia
1985 Great Mosque and Hospital of Divrigi
1986 Hattusha
1987 Nemrut Dag
1988 Xanthos-Letoon
1988 Hierapolis-Pamukkale 1994 City of Safranbolu
1998 Archaeological Site of Troy

UGANDA:

1994 Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
1994 Rwenzori Mountains National Park
2001 Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA:

1979 Ngorongoro Conservation Area
1981 Ruins ofKilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara
1981 Serengeti National Park
1982 Selous Game Reserve
1987 Kilimanjaro National Park
2000 Stone Town of Zanzibar

YEMEN:

1982 Old Walled City of Shibam
1986 Old City of Sana'a
1993 Historic Town of Zabid

ZAMBIA/ZIMBABWE:

1989 Mosi-oa- Tunya/Victoria Falls

ZIMBABWE:

1984 Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas
1986 Great Zimbabwe National Monument
1986 Khami Ruins National Monument

Appendix 6: Possible Natural Sites of the Great Rift Valley (from the tentative lists)

Egypt

1) Bird Migration Routes- Sites include:

Lake Bardawil – Situated on the Mediterranean coast of Northern Sinai, it is a Ramsar site of about 59,000 ha. It is also an important wintering and staging area for about half a million birds of 244 species, including 24 species of raptors.

Zaranik Scrubland – This migration hotspot lies on the north coast of the Sinai Peninsula, east of Lake Bardawil, consists of a lagoon, beach, and desert scrub vegetation. Lacking data on migrant birds.

Gebel Shayeb El-Banat – Located on the Red Sea coast, the site comprises four major mountains with Gebel Shayeb El-Banat is the highest peak (2187 m) from among the Red Sea coastal mountains in Egypt. The coastal area is organized into coastal desert plain and littoral salt marshes. Lacking data on migrant birds.

Saluga and Ghazal Nile Islands – These two islands are within the group of the First Cataract Islands within the Nile stream in Aswan The islands are among the Important Bird Areas of Egypt and are important for resident and migratory birds during the migration seasons, particularly for water birds (herons, ducks, waders and terns). A high diversity within a small area, at least 100 species, both migratory and resident, were recorded in the Saluga and Ghazal Islands, within an area of not more than 100 acres, or approximately 42 ha.

Lake Nasser – This huge man-made water reservoir (early 1970s) extends about 300 km upstream the Aswan High Dam in Egypt and continues as Lake Nubia for another 200 km in Sudan encompassing an area of about 5000 sq. km. Large wetlands have formed in the deltaic mouths of the dry wadis where they join the Lake. Located in the heart of the great Sahara Desert, the lake is becoming increasingly important as a wintering area for migratory Palaearctic water birds, and is now on the list of Important Bird Sites in Egypt. Abundant birds include Black-necked Grebe, White Pelican, Tufted Duck, Northern Pochard, Northern Shoveler, Wigeon, and Black-headed Gull. During the summer, significant numbers of Yellow-billed Storks and Pink-backed Pelicans can be seen on the Lake. Winter visitors of the Lake include the Ferruginous Duck, which is on the list of globally threatened species. The large numbers (more than 1% of a biogeographic population) of White Pelicans wintering on the Lake are also an endangered species. Regarding the country's important birds, the African Skimmer and the African Pied Wagtail bred at the Lake's wetlands and not elsewhere in Egypt.

Sudan

1) **Dinder National Park –** Situated along the border to Ethiopia, this biosphere reserve represents the tropical savanna and grassland ecosystems. It covers an area of about 650,000 hectares. The whole biosphere reserve is considered as a core area with rich flora and fauna. It serves as a vital habitat for terrestrial migratory species that spend the dry season in the park. The park's extensive wetlands also provide critical habitat for a large number of migratory birds.

Kenya

1) **Great Rift Valley Ecosystem –** Need details.
2) **Lake Bogoria National Reserve –** Bogoria is a narrow, shallow, alkaline lake located within the lowlands of the GRV. The area consists of 10,700 ha and is listed as an IBA.
3) **Lake Naivasha –** This IBA consists of a shallow freshwater lake (15,600 ha) and a surrounding Acacia woodland (c.7,000 ha) for a total of 23,600 ha.
4) **Lake Nakuru National Park –** This area comprises a very shallow, strongly alkaline lake (3,300 ha) with surrounding woodland and grassland. Total proposed area is 18,800 ha, which is also designated as an IBA.

Malawi

1) **Mulanje Mountain Biosphere Reserve –** The reserve totals 45,130 ha and is situated half way between the mountain chains and upland areas extending from the Ethiopian Highlands to South Africa. It has a rich biodiversity with a high level of endemism.
2) **Nyika National Park –** The Nyika Plateau is the largest montane complex in the country, with some 180,000ha above the 1,800m contour (above which montane conditions prevail) with a total of 313,400 ha. This IBA is an important catchment area and contains the source of four large rivers that drain into Lake Malawi, including the North Rukuru, and one into the Luangwa River in Zambia (the Chire or Luwumbu).

Tanzania

1) Gombe National Park -At just 1,580 ha, Gombe is the smallest of Tanzania's national parks and is located in the northwest corner on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, sharing a border with the neighboring country of Burundi, about 20km North of Kigoma. The lake is an important wintering and stopover location for birds.

Appendix 7: Globally Threatened Species Found within the Great Rift Valley. Criteria according to IUCN Redlist (2004):

EW Extinct in the wild
CR Critically Endangered
EN Endangered
VU Vulnerable
NT Near Threatened
DD Data Deficient

Common name		Latin name		Status
Afrotropical Species				
Djibouti	Francolin	*Francolinus*	*ochropectus*	CR
Christmas-Island	Frigatebird	*Fregata*	*andrewsi*	CR
Long-billed	Tailorbird	*Apalis*	*moreaui*	CR
Taita	Thrush	*Turdus*	*helleri*	CR
Taita	Apalis	*Apalis*	*fuscigularis*	CR
Aberdare	Cisticola	*Cisticola*	*aberdare*	EN
Amani	Sunbird	*Anthreptes*	*pallidigaster*	EN
Basra	Reed-warbler	*Acrocephalus*	*griseldis*	EN
Clarke's	Weaver	*Ploceus*	*golandi*	EN
Congo	Bay-owl	*Phodilus*	*prigoginei*	EN
Ethiopian	Bush-crow	*Zavattariornis*	*stresemanni*	EN
Grauer's	Scrub-warbler	*Bradypterus*	*graueri*	EN
Kungwe	Apalis	*Apalis*	*argentea*	EN
Madagascar	Pond-heron	*Ardeola*	*idae*	EN
Nahan's	Francolin	*Francolinus*	*nahani*	EN
Sharpe's	Longclaw	*Macronyx*	*sharpei*	EN

Common name		Latin name		Status
Sokoke	Scops-owl	*Otus*	*ireneae*	EN
Sokoke	Pipit	*Anthus*	*sokokensis*	EN
Spotted	Ground-thrush	*Zoothera*	*guttata*	EN
Taita	White-eye	*Zosterops*	*silvanus*	EN
Thyolo	Alethe	*Alethe*	*choloensis*	EN
Turner's	Eremomela	*Eremomela*	*turneri*	EN
Udzungwa	Forest-partridge	*Xenoperdix*	*udzungwensis*	EN
Uluguru	Bush-shrike	*Malaconotus*	*alius*	EN
Usambara	Akalat	*Sheppardia*	*montana*	EN
Usambara	Hyliota	*Hyliota*	*usambara*	EN
Usambara	Weaver	*Ploceus*	*nicolli*	EN
White-winged	Flufftail	*Sarothrura*	*ayresi*	EN
Yellow-throated	Seedeater	*Serinus*	*flavigula*	EN
Yellow-throated	Apalis	*Apalis*	*flavigularis*	EN
Abbott's	Starling	*Cinnyricinclus*	*femoralis*	VU
African Green	Broadbill	*Pseudocalyptomena*	*graueri*	VU
Albertine	Owlet	*Glaucidium*	*albertinum*	VU
Ankober	Serin	*Serinus*	*ankoberensis*	VU
Banded	Sunbird	*Anthreptes*	*rubritorques*	VU
Blue	Swallow	*Hirundo*	*atrocaerulea*	VU
Cape	Gannet	*Morus*	*capensis*	VU
Chapin's	Flycatcher	*Muscicapa*	*lendu*	VU
Dapple-throat	Modulatrix	*orostruthus*		VU
Degodi	Lark	*Mirafra*	*degodiensis*	VU
East-coast	Akalat	*Sheppardia*	*gunningi*	VU
Harwood's	Francolin	*Francolinus*	*harwoodi*	VU
Hinde's	Pied-babbler	*Turdoides*	*hindei*	VU

Common name		Latin name		Status
Iringa	Akalat	*Sheppardia*	*lowei*	VU
Karamoja	Apalis	*Apalis*	*karamojae*	VU
Kilombero	Weaver	*Ploceus*	*burnieri*	VU
Kulal	White-eye	*Zosterops*	*kulalensis*	VU
Madagascar	Pratincole	*Glareola*	*ocularis*	VU
Mrs Moreau's	Warbler	*Bathmocercus*	*winifredae*	VU
Nechisar	Nightjar	*Caprimulgus*	*solala*	VU
Papyrus Yellow	Warbler	*Chloropeta*	*gracilirostris*	VU
Prince Ruspoli's	Turaco	*Tauraco*	*ruspolii*	VU
Rockefeller's	Sunbird	*Nectarinia*	*rockefelleri*	VU
Rufous-winged	Sunbird	*Nectarinia*	*rufipennis*	VU
Salvadori's	Serin	*Serinus*	*xantholaemus*	VU
Shelley's	Crimson-wing	*Cryptospiza*	*shelleyi*	VU
Shelley's	Crimson-wing	*Cryptospiza*	*shelleyi*	VU
Shoebill	Balaeniceps	*rex*		VU
Sidamo	Lark	*Heteromirafra*	*sidamoensis*	VU
Slaty	Egret	*Egretta*	*vinaceigula*	VU
Socotra	Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax*	*nigrogularis*	VU
South Pare	White-eye	*Zosterops*	*winifredae*	VU
Swynnerton's	Robin	*Swynnertonia*	*swynnertoni*	VU
Usambara	Eagle-owl	*Bubo*	*vosseleri*	VU
Wattled	Crane	*Grus*	*carunculatus*	VU
White-tailed	Swallow	*Hirundo*	*megaensis*	VU
White-winged	Apalis	*Apalis*	*chariessa*	VU
Abyssinian	Longclaw	*Macronyx*	*flavicollis*	NT
African	Skimmer	*Rynchops*	*flavirostris*	NT
Asian	Dowitcher	*Limnodromus*	*semipalmatus*	NT

Common name		Latin name		Status
Black	Crowned-crane	*Balearica*	*pavonina*	NT
Blue-winged	Goose	*Cyanochen*	*cyanoptera*	NT
Buff-breasted	Sandpiper	*Tryngites*	*subruficollis*	NT
Dwarf	Honeyguide	*Indicator*	*pumilio*	NT
Fischer's	Lovebird	*Agapornis*	*fischeri*	NT
Fischer's	Turaco	*Tauraco*	*fischeri*	NT
Forest	Ground-thrush	*Zoothera*	*oberlaenderi*	NT
Fox's	Weaver	*Ploceus*	*spekeoides*	NT
Grauer's	Cuckoo-shrike	*Coracina*	*graueri*	NT
Grey-crested	Helmet-shrike	*Prionops*	*poliolophus*	NT
Jackson's	Widowbird	*Euplectes*	*jacksoni*	NT
Kipengere	Seedeater	*Serinus*	*melanochrous*	NT
Kivu	Ground-thrush	*Zoothera*	*tanganjicae*	NT
Lagden's	Bush-shrike	*Malaconotus*	*lagdeni*	NT
Lilian's	Lovebird	*Agapornis*	*lilianae*	NT
Little Brown	Bustard	*Eupodotis*	*humilis*	NT
Locustfinch	Ortygospiza	*locustella*		NT
Malindi	Pipit	*Anthus*	*melindae*	NT
Moreau's	Sunbird	*Nectarinia*	*moreaui*	NT
Olive-headed	Weaver	*Ploceus*	*olivaceiceps*	NT
Papyrus	Gonolek	*Laniarius*	*mufumbiri*	NT
Plain-backed	Sunbird	*Anthreptes*	*reichenowi*	NT
Red-collared	Mountain-babbler	*Kupeornis*	*rufocinctus*	NT
Red-faced	Barbet	*Lybius*	*rubrifacies*	NT
Rouget's	Rail	*Rougetius*	*rougetii*	NT
Sassi's	Greenbul	*Phyllastrephus*	*lorenzi*	NT
Southern Banded	Snake-eagle	*Circaetus*	*fasciolatus*	NT

Common name		Latin name		Status
Stanley's	Bustard	*Neotis*	*denhami*	NT
Stierling's	Woodpecker	*Dendropicos*	*stierlingi*	NT
Taita	Falcon	*Falco*	*fasciinucha*	NT
White-naped	Pigeon	*Columba*	*albinucha*	NT
White-winged	Collared-dove	*Streptopelia*	*reichenowi*	NT
Eurasian Species				
Balearic	Shearwater	*Puffinus*	*mauretanicus*	CR
Northern Bald	Ibis	*Geronticus*	*eremita*	CR
Slender-billed	Curlew	*Numenius*	*tenuirostris*	CR
Sociable	Lapwing	*Vanellus*	*gregarius*	CR
Black-browed	Albatross	*Thalassarche*	*melanophrys*	EN
Saker	Falcon	*Falco*	*cherrug*	EN
White-headed	Duck	*Oxyura*	*leucocephala*	EN
Aquatic	Warbler	*Acrocephalus*	*paludicola*	VU
Atlantic	Petrel	*Pterodroma*	*incerta*	VU
Dalmatian	Pelican	*Pelecanus*	*crispus*	VU
Great	Bustard	*Otis*	*tarda*	VU
Houbara	Bustard	*Chlamydotis*	*undulata*	VU
Lappet-faced	Vulture	*Torgos*	*tracheliotus*	VU
Lesser	Kestrel	*Falco*	*naumanni*	VU
Lesser White-fronted	Goose	*Anser*	*erythropus*	VU
Marbled	Teal	*Marmaronetta*	*angustirostris*	VU
Red-breasted	Goose	*Branta*	*ruficollis*	VU
Syrian	Serin	*Serinus*	*syriacus*	VU
Audouin's	Gull	*Larus*	*audouinii*	NT
Buff-breasted	Sandpiper	*Tryngites*	*subruficollis*	NT

Common name		Latin name		Status
Cinereous	Bunting	*Emberiza*	*cineracea*	NT
Cinereous	Vulture	*Aegypius*	*monachus*	NT
Corncrake	Crex	*crex*		NT
Dupont's	Lark	*Chersophilus*	*duponti*	NT
European	Roller	*Coracias*	*garrulus*	NT
Fea's	Petrel	*Pterodroma*	*feae*	NT
Ferruginous	Duck	*Aythya*	*nyroca*	NT
Great	Snipe	*Gallinago*	*media*	NT
Jouanin's	Petrel	*Bulweria*	*fallax*	NT
Lesser	Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus*	*minor*	NT
Pallid	Harrier	*Circus*	*macrourus*	NT
Persian	Shearwater	*Puffinus*	*persicus*	NT
Red	Kite	*Milvus*	*milvus*	NT
Red-footed	Falcon	*Falco*	*vespertinus*	NT
Semicollared	Flycatcher	*Ficedula*	*semitorquata*	NT
Sooty	Shearwater	*Puffinus*	*griseus*	NT
White-eyed	Gull	*Larus*	*leucophthalmus*	NT
Yellow-breasted	Bunting	*Emberiza*	*aureola*	NT
Black-winged	Pratincole	*Glareola*	*nordmanni*	DD

Appendix 8: Supporting Letter of the 24th International Ornithological Congress's President

24th International Ornithological Congress

Hamburg, Germany

13-19 August 2006

24. Internat. Orn. Congress, Institute of Avian Research, 26386 Wilhelmshaven

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Dear Dr. Laemmerhold,

As President of the 24th International Ornithological Congress to be held in Hamburg, 13-19 August 2006, I have been delighted to see that the Scientific Program Committee of the Congress enthusiastically accepted the organization of a Round Table discussion on "*The Importance of the Great Rift Valley for Palearctic Bird Migration*". This event will be organized and coordinated by Prof. Yoram Yom-Tov, Dr. Hazell Thompson, Director of BirdLife Africa, Dr. Benman, officer of BirdLife International, Zev Labinger and Prof. Yossi Leshem.

Needless to say the importance of this initiative which will be a "host spot" of the congress, given the importance of the Great Rift Valley for migrating birds and wildlife in general. This will be a nice opportunity for drawing the attention of ornithologists from many parts of the world on the project to make the entire Great Rift Valley, from the Taurus Mountains in Turkey until Mozambique in Africa, a world heritage site. The International Ornithological Congress which is organized every four years with an expected attendance of more than 1500 delegates will be an unique opportunity for getting the project moving up.

As you know, as many as 22 countries are involved in this project. Most of them are in the Middle East and Africa but, for financial reasons, very few delegates from these countries are able to afford to pay the costs of the flights and lodging.

Professor Franz Bairlein, Secretary General of the Congress in Hamburg is doing his best for inviting as many delegates as possible with reduced fees and lodging facilities.

I respectfully ask you to consider the possibility to offer flight tickets for helping them to attend this Congress and contribute their part in the discussion which should result in the establishment of an active working group that will work on the realization of this unique idea.

We would very much like to have in the congress one scientist from each country concerned by the Great Rift Valley.

I warmly thank you in advance for your efforts,

Yours sincerely,

Jacques Blondel