



Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The second Southern African Bird Atlas (SABAP2) was launched on 26 June 2007 in Pretoria. The project is an update and refinement of the first Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP1) which ran from 1987-1991 and culminated in the publication of The Atlas of Southern African Birds in 1997. SABAP2 is joint project of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town (ADU) and BirdLife South Africa (BLSA). The project plans to run from July 2007 to at least 2010.

The broad aim of SABAP2 is to determine the impacts of environmental change on the distribution and abundance of bird species in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland over the past 15 years. It also aims to promote the public awareness of birds through the large-scale mobilization of 'citizen scientists'. The project entails volunteer bird-watchers recording bird species in a five-minute by five-minute grid cell (approx. 7 km x 8 km) over a five day period. This information is then sent to the Avian Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town where the data is captured into a central database. It is important for observers to try and cover as much of the grid cell as possible in order for an accurate and comprehensive bird list to be compiled for the area.

As a landowner or manager you can provide vital support to SABAP2 volunteers by granting them access to private or restricted areas so that they can cover as much of the survey area as possible. Atlasers have been issued with a SABAP2 observer identification card confirming them as registered participants with the project – observers should carry this card with them at all times and be able to produce them when requested to do so. As a registered observer they also need to adhere to the Code of Ethics as laid out in the project's protocol and guideline documentation. These codes have been drawn up by BLSA and include guidelines on obtaining permission to private land and how to conduct oneself when entering private property.

Should you have any queries or questions concerning SABAP2 or a SABAP2 observer please contact Neil Smith of BirdLife South Africa (Tel. 082 859 3788, e-mail: neil.smith@sabap2.org) or myself at the ADU.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D. M. Harebottle'.

DOUG HAREBOTTLE
Project Manager



Avian
Demography
Unit



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