

SPECIAL SESSION 11

Integrating nature into private sector investments: Nature-sensitive renewable energy and ecotourism in the Arab region

Thursday, 17 March 2022, 2:15 – 3:45 pm Beirut time

Objective

The main objective of the session is to share lessons learned and best practices developed through the Migratory Soaring Birds project implemented by BirdLife International in cooperation with UNDP to support partner countries along the Red Sea/Rift Valley flyway to mainstream nature-sensitive solutions into the renewable energy and tourism sector investments with focus on partnerships with the private sector.

Background

The Red Sea/Rift Valley flyways is the second most important flyway in the world for migratory soaring birds like raptors, storks, and pelicans, with 1.5 million birds across 37 species using the corridor between breeding grounds in Europe and Asia to the wintering grounds in Africa. The migratory Soaring Birds Project mainstreams bird conservation considerations into the policies and practices of the agriculture, energy, hunting, tourism and waste management sectors in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Djibouti. This session sheds light on the created tools and partnerships with the private sectors in the renewable energy and ecotourism sectors.

Questions to be addressed

1. The role GEF-UNDP-BirdLife International Migratory Soaring Birds Project in supporting the implementation of SDGs.
2. Mainstreaming bird conservation through created tools and bird monitoring plans at renewable energy projects
3. Role of emerging tourism operators with focus on ecotourism and birdwatching niche markets

Moderator

- **Dr. Adel Soliman**, Assistant Director of the Migratory Soaring Birds Project, UNDP, Egypt

Panelists

- **Ms. Yulia Isaeva**, Regional Climate Change and Environment Specialist, UNDP, Jordan.
- **Mr. Osama Al Nouri**, Project Manager, Migratory Soaring Birds Project, Birdlife International, Jordan.
- **Dr. Tris Allinson**, Senior Global Science Officer, Birdlife International, UK.
- **Eng. Faisal Eissa**, General Director, Lekela Egypt, Egypt.
- **Mr. André Béchara**, Owner and CEO, Great Escape, Lebanon.

This Special Session will be virtually organized. Please register at [this link](#).

In-person attendees of AFSD can participate in the session in Committee Room II, B1 level.