

Minutes of CBCN monthly meeting for November

11/18/2020

The meeting was held on Wednesday 18 November, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm Nigerian time, and was attended by 24 members.

The meeting was chaired by the CBCN Executive Director Prof Edem Eniang. Prof Eniang welcomed all members and reiterated the vision of the coalition, seeking the support of all members.

Thereafter, Mr Adewale Awoyemi reiterated the group etiquette of the CBCN, delivered apologies from Dr Talatu Tende, who was unable to attend the meeting and introduced the guest speaker Dr Sam Ivande.

Dr Ivande's talk focused on the Nigerian Bird Atlas Project, which aims to map the distribution of birds in the country, enhance citizen science and build local capacity. According to Dr Ivande, this project has recorded remarkable successes, as seen in the numbers of pentads covered (9 x 9 km unit area), bird clubs started and replicated initiatives in other African countries.

The session for asking associated questions, and making comments and recommendations about the talk, which was moderated by Mr Abubakar Ringim, was an indication of the level of interest generated by the atlas project. Worthy of note are concerns regarding declining vulture populations and the willingness of the Atlas Team to make collected data available for research purposes.

Thereafter, Dr Salamat Fada reported that a total of N223,000 has so far been generated through donations by coalition members, and that only N5000 for registration and N2000 for the students assisting with the website, were the only expenses. Further, Dr Fada remarked that the team drafting the constitution had concluded the work and sent the draft to the Interim National Committee, before it would be shared with the general group for further input. She said the perception paper was with the last group that just commenced work on the discussion section. Dr Taiwo Crossby gave an update on the status of the CBCN website, which was undergoing development, and encouraged members to update their profile online for capture in the database, make recommendations and submit action photos and videos that could enhance the website.

Further, Dr Fada said the decision to allow only the Secretary to post on the coalition was for regulation so that members are not inundated with posts and messages. This shouldn't discourage members and anyone with useful posts should first share it with the Secretary who would examine and post appropriately.

In his closing remarks, Prof Eniang highlighted the effort some members are making in increasing publicity for the coalition, encouraged other members to do same,

recommended a virtual get-together, coordinated the wrap-up section and scheduled the next meeting for Friday 18 (the norm) December 2020.

Adewale Awoyemi

(Secretary)

On behalf of the CBCN