

PRBO Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive #11
Petaluma, CA 94954
707-781-2555
www.prbo.org



prbo

Contact: Melissa Pitkin (707) 781-2555 ext 307

Migratory Birds in the Middle East and Africa: Promoting Collaboration and Conservation across the Hemispheres

June 4, 2009

In an effort to preserve wildlife and biological richness across the globe, conservation biologists from PRBO Conservation Science and the U.S. Forest Service International Programs office will host 10 conservation leaders from seven Middle Eastern and African countries at PRBO's Palomarin Field Station in Bolinas, California on Thursday June 4, 2009.

Representatives from Egypt, Ethiopia, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, and the West Bank are participating in the event, which is part of the U.S. Forest Service's Migratory Birds in the Middle East initiative. The program encourages collaboration among Middle Eastern and African countries toward a common goal of bird conservation. Participants will visit the internationally recognized avian research and conservation organization to learn about bird conservation, climate change, research methods, and to further training opportunities for visiting scientists.

With more than 40 years of continuous research on birds and ecosystems, PRBO is one of the world's leaders in bird research and ecosystem conservation methodologies. The visit to the Palomarin Field Station, PRBO's longest term research site in Bolinas, highlights data sets that reveal the fingerprints of climate change on birds and ecosystems.

Because Palomarin is PRBO's primary training site for new field biologists, tour participants will also obtain information that will allow them to design and implement rigorous studies in their home region. Since 2008, PRBO has hosted and trained three interns from Egypt and Israel. Expanded international collaborations between PRBO and the participants will also be explored during the tour.

"This is an incredibly special opportunity to learn about their work and to share PRBO's proven best practices across the world," said Ellie M. Cohen, President and CEO of PRBO Conservation Science. "Especially in this time of accelerating changes in climate and land-use, seeding collaborations with like-minded leaders is tremendous for advancing bird and ecosystem conservation on a global scale."

Tour participants will be presented with information and guidance that will enable them to design and implement scientifically rigorous studies in their region. They will learn how PRBO uses birds as indicators of environmental health and conservation

PRBO Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive #11
Petaluma, CA 94954
707-781-2555
www.prbo.org



investments to yield the most for birds, other wildlife and human communities. In a continuation of this international initiative for global bird conservation, additional exchange scientists from Egypt will arrive at PRBO this fall.

About PRBO Conservation Science:

PRBO Conservation Science works to conserve birds, other wildlife and ecosystems through innovative scientific research and outreach. We partner with hundreds of governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as private interests to ensure that science is driving conservation, benefiting our environment, our economy and our communities. Visit PRBO on the web at www.prbo.org.

About U.S. Forest Service International Programs:

The International Programs of the U.S. Forest Service (an agency of the Department of Agriculture) promote sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation across the globe. By linking the skills of the agency's field-based staff with partners overseas, the U.S. Forest Service can help address the world's most critical natural resource issues and concerns. Wildlife biologists, forest economists, hydrologists, disaster and fire management specialists, and policy makers -- all among the Forest Service's more than 30,000 employees -- stand available to lend their expertise to the International Programs. More information about International Programs is available at www.fs.fed.us/global.

#####