

# PRESS RELEASE

## GLOBAL BIRDFAIR 2026 CONSERVATION PROJECT



We are proud to announce the Global Birdfair 2026 Conservation Project, **Preventing Island Extinctions**.

The island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe, in the Gulf of Guinea is the second smallest country in Africa. Covering an area smaller than Greater London and characterised by its incredible tropical forest landscapes, it is recognised as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. São Tomé and Príncipe is home to exceptionally high numbers of endemic species, some of which currently face extinction.

The Flagship Species for this year's Global Birdfair Conservation Project is the Dwarf Ibis with a population of probably less than 2,000 individuals.

These Island Endemic species, although protected by law, are still extremely vulnerable to habitat loss due to agricultural development, extraction of timber and unsustainable hunting, as well as disturbance, predation and competition from invasive mammals.

The Global Birdfair 2026 **Preventing Island Extinctions** project donation will enable BirdLife International to adapt and design practical actions to reduce threats to at least three Critically Endangered Endemic Bird species in São Tomé, while building conservation capacity and raising awareness throughout the country.

Education and engagement are the key to success. BirdLife will work with a network of ornithologists with specific knowledge of São Tomé and Príncipe endemics together with in-country early career conservationists and students, representatives from National Park authorities, hunters and local communities to deliver the project.

Preventing the extinction of the most vulnerable and special species in São Tomé and Príncipe is an urgent conservation priority, as it is for many endemic species in other island nations.

Looking forward, here is a wonderful opportunity for the population of this island nation as they become increasingly aware of their home's unique biodiversity: developing a sustainable tourism offer focused on avitourism and the country's national parks which will benefit the future for both birds and people.

Thank you in advance for supporting Global Birdfair 2026  
Tim Appleton and Penny Robinson  
Global Birdfair Organisers  
28 January 2026



10, 11 & 12 July, Lyndon Top, Rutland UK  
More information at [www.globalbirdfair.org](http://www.globalbirdfair.org)  
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