2. Name
The association’s name is African Bird Club hereinafter referred to as ‘the Club’

3. Objects
3.1. The objects of the Club shall be:
(a) to advance the education of the public in African ornithology,
(b) to promote, organise, carry on and encourage study, research, and conservation in all branches of the science of African ornithology.

3.2. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise the Club shall:
(a) act as a forum for people interested in African birds by holding regular meetings when and where the Club shall decide, which will be advertised and open to non-Club members,
(b) collect, collate, and disseminate ornithological data on countries in Africa and on surrounding islands by publishing a Bulletin,
(c) work with individuals and other organisations with similar aims and pursuing activities concerned with African ornithology, and shall in particular support individuals, societies and journals within Africa, provided that such support is in furtherance of exclusively charitable objects.
(d) Encourage Members to carry out research on African birds and their habitats.

4. Application of the Income and Property
4.1. The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.

4.2. A Trustee may pay out of, or be reimbursed from, the property of the Club reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Club.

4.3. None of the income or property of the Club may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Club. This does not prevent:
(a) a member who is not also a Trustee from receiving reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Club;
(b) a Trustee from:
(i) buying goods or services from the Club upon the same terms as other members or members of the public;
(ii) receiving a benefit from the Club in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Club, provided that the Trustees comply with the provisions of sub clause 4.6, or as a member of the Club and upon the same terms as other members;
(c) the purchase of indemnity insurance for the Trustees against any liability that by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to a Trustee or other officer in respect of any negligence, default breach of duty or breach of trust of which he or she may be guilty in relation to the Club but excluding:
(i) fines;
(ii) costs of unsuccessfully defending criminal prosecutions for offences arising out of the fraud, dishonesty or wilful or reckless misconduct of the Trustee or other officer;
(iii) liabilities to the Club that result from conduct that the Trustee or other officer knew or ought to have known was not in the best interests of the Club or in respect of which the person concerned did not care whether that conduct was in the best interests of the Club or not.

4.4. No Trustee may be paid or receive any other benefit for being a Trustee.

4.5. A Trustee may:
(a) sell goods, services or any interest in land to the Club;
(b) be employed by or receive any remuneration from the Club;
(c) receive any other financial benefit from the Club, if:
(d) he or she is not prevented from so doing by sub-clause 4.4; and
(e) the benefit is permitted by sub-clause 4.3; or
(f) the benefit is authorised by the Trustees in accordance with the conditions in sub-clause 4.6.

4.6. (a) If it is proposed that a Trustee should receive a benefit from the Club that is not already permitted under sub-clause 4.3, he or she must:
(i) declare his or her interest in the proposal;
(ii) be absent from that part of any meeting at which the proposal is discussed and take no part in any discussion of it;
(iii) not be counted in determining whether the meeting is quorate;
(iv) not vote on the proposal.
(b) In cases covered by sub-clause 4.5, those Trustees who do not stand to receive the proposed benefit must be satisfied that it is in the interests of the Club to contract with or employ that Trustee rather than with someone who is not a Trustee and they must record the reason for their decision in the minutes. In reaching that decision the Trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with or employing a Trustee against the disadvantage of doing so (especially the loss of the Trustee’s services as a result of dealing with the Trustee’s conflict of interest).

(c) The Trustees may only authorise a transaction falling within paragraphs 4.5(a)–(c) of this clause if the Trustee body comprises a majority of Trustees who have not received any such benefit.
(d) If the Trustees fail to follow this procedure, the resolution to confer a benefit upon the Trustee will be void and the Trustee must repay to the Club the value of any benefit received by the Trustee from the Club.

4.7. A Trustee must absent himself or herself from any discussions of the Trustees in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the Club and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest) and take no part in the voting upon the matter.

4.8. In this Clause 4, “Trustee” shall include any person firm or company connected with the Trustee.

5. Dissolution
5.1. If the members resolve to dissolve the Club the Trustees will remain in office as Club Trustees and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Club in accordance with this clause.

5.2. The Trustees must collect in all the assets of the Club and must pay or make provision for all the liabilities of the Club.

5.3. The Trustees must apply any remaining property or money:
(a) directly for the Objects;
(b) by transfer to any Charity or charities for purposes the same as or similar to the Club;
(c) in such other manner as the Charity Commission for England and Wales (“the Commission”) may approve in writing in advance.

5.4. The members may pass a resolution before or at the same time as the resolution to dissolve the Club specifying the manner in which the Trustees are to apply the remaining property or assets of the Club and the Trustees must comply with the resolution if it is consistent with paragraphs (a)–(c) inclusive in sub-clause 5.3.
5.5. In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Club be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club (except to a member that is itself a Charity).

5.6. The Trustees must notify the Commission promptly that the Club has dissolved. If the Trustees are obliged to send the Club’s accounts to the Commission for the accounting period which ended before its dissolution, they must send the Commission the Club’s final accounts.

6. Amendments

6.1. The Club may amend any provision contained in Part 1 of this Constitution provided that

(a) no amendment may be made that would have the effect of making the Club cease to be a Charity at law;
(b) no amendment may be made to alter the Objects if the change would not be within the reasonable contemplation of the members of or donors to the Club;
(c) no amendment may be made to clause 4 without the prior written consent of the Commission;
(d) any resolution to amend a provision of Part 1 of this constitution is passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting.

6.2. Any provision contained in Part 2 of this constitution may be amended, provided that any such amendment is made by resolution passed by a simple majority of the members present and voting at a general meeting.

6.3. A copy of any resolution amending this constitution shall be sent to the Commission within twenty one days of its being passed.

PART 2

7. Membership

7.1. Membership categories

(a) Full Membership is open to individuals over eighteen.
(b) Associate Membership is open to individuals under eighteen.
(c) Joint Full Membership is available to married couples (or other couples) living at the same address.
(d) Supported Membership (Full or Associate) is available to people normally resident in Africa who are nominated and supported by a full or corporate member or otherwise nominated and approved by the trustees.
(e) Corporate Membership is available to organizations approved by the Trustees.
(f) Affiliated Membership is available to non-profit making associations in Africa that demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Trustees that their objects are compatible with those of the Club.

7.2. Refusal of Membership

(a) The Trustees may only refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the Club to refuse the application.
(b) The Trustees must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty-one days of the decision.
(c) The Trustees must consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The Trustees’ decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.

7.3. Membership is not transferable to anyone else.

7.4. The Trustees may elect Honorary Full Members who shall not be required to pay a subscription but shall have all the privileges of Membership.

7.5. The Trustees must keep a register of names and addresses of the members. The register shall indicate whether members are Full Members, Associate Members, Supported Members, Corporate Members, Affiliated Members, Honorary Members or other class of membership.

8. Termination of Membership

Membership is terminated if:

8.1. the member dies or, if it is an organisation, ceases to exist;
8.2. the member resigns by written notice to the Club unless, after the resignation, there would be less than two members;
8.3. any sum due from the member to the Club is not paid in full within six months of it falling due;
8.4. the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the Trustees that it is in the best interests of the Club that his or her membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:

(a) the member has been given at least twenty one days’ notice in writing of the meeting of the Trustees at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;
(b) the member or, at the option of the member, the member’s representative (who need not be a member of the Club) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

9. Presidents and Vice Presidents

9.1. The Trustees may elect a President and Vice-Presidents to serve for periods up to ten consecutive years.
9.2. The President and Vice-Presidents are not required to be trustees.
9.3. The Trustees may remove a person from the office of President or Vice-President if in the view of the Trustees it is in the best interests of the Club so to do.

10. General meetings

10.1. An annual general meeting must be held in each calendar year and not more than fifteen months may elapse between successive annual general meetings.
10.2. A statement of the Club’s finances examined by an independent professional person shall be presented to each Annual General Meeting for approval of the Membership.
10.3. All general meetings other than annual general meetings shall be called special general meetings.
10.4. The Trustees may call a special general meeting at any time.
10.5. The Trustees must call a special general meeting if requested to do so in writing by at least ten members or one tenth of the membership, which ever is the greater. The request must state the nature of the business that is to be discussed. If the Trustees fail to hold the meeting within twenty-eight days of the request, the members may proceed to call a special general meeting and in doing so they must comply with the provisions of this Constitution.

11. Notice

11.1. The minimum period of notice required to hold any general meeting of the Club is fourteen clear days from the date on which the notice is deemed to have been given.
11.2. A general meeting may be called by shorter notice, if it is so agreed by all the members entitled to attend and vote.
11.3. The notice must specify the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is to be an annual general meeting, the notice must say so.
11.4. The notice must be given to all the members and to the Trustees.

12. Quorum

12.1. No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.
12.2. A quorum is:

(a) ten full members (excluding trustees) entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting; or
(b) one quarter of the total membership at the time, whichever is the smaller.
12.3. The authorised representative of a member organisation shall be counted in the quorum.
12.4. If:
(a) a quorum is not present within half an hour from the
time appointed for the meeting; or
(b) during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the
meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as
the Trustees shall determine.

12.5. The Trustees must re-convene the meeting and must give
at least seven clear days’ notice of the re-convened
meeting stating the date time and place of the meeting.

12.6. If no quorum is present at the re-convened meeting within
fifteen minutes of the time specified for the start of the
meeting the members present at that time shall constitute
the quorum for that meeting.

13. Chair

13.1. General meetings shall be chaired by the person who has
been elected as Chair.

13.2. If there is no such person or he or she is not present within
fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting a
Trustee nominated by the Trustees shall chair the meeting.

13.3. If there is only one Trustee present and willing to act, he or
she shall chair the meeting.

13.4. If no Trustee is present and willing to chair the meeting
within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding
it, the members present and entitled to vote must choose
one of their number to chair the meeting.

14. Adjournments

14.1. The members present at a meeting may resolve that the
meeting shall be adjourned.

14.2. The person who is chairing the meeting must decide the
date time and place at which meeting is to be re-convened
unless those details are specified in the resolution.

14.3. No business shall be conducted at an adjourned meeting
unless it could properly have been conducted at the
meeting had the adjournment not taken place.

14.4. If a meeting is adjourned by a resolution of the members
for more than seven days, at least seven clear days’ notice
shall be given of the re-convened meeting stating the date
time and place of the meeting.

15. Votes

15.1. Each member shall have one vote but if there is an
equality of votes the person who is chairing the meeting
shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote he or
she may have.

15.2. A resolution in writing signed by each member (or in the
case of a member that is an organisation, by its authorised
representative) who would have been entitled to vote upon
it had it been proposed at a general meeting shall be
effective. It may comprise several copies each signed by
or on behalf of one or more members.

16. Representatives of Other Bodies

16.1. Any organisation that is a Corporate Member of the Club
may nominate any person to act as its representative at
any meeting of the Club.

16.2. The organisation must give written notice to the Club of the
name of its representative. The nominee shall not be
entitled to represent the organisation at any meeting
unless the notice has been received by the Club. The
nominee may continue to represent the organisation until
written notice to the contrary is received by the Club.

16.3. Any notice given to the Club will be conclusive evidence that
the nominee is entitled to represent the organisation or
that his or her authority has been revoked. The Club
shall not be required to consider whether the nominee has
been properly appointed by the organisation.

17. Officers and Trustees

17.1. The Club and its property shall be managed and
administered by a committee comprising the Officers and
other members elected in accordance with this
Constitution. The Officers and other members of the
committee shall be the Trustees of the Club and in this
constitution are together called “the Trustees”.

17.2. The Club shall have the following executive officers:
(a) A chair,
(b) A vice chair,
(c) A secretary,
(d) A treasurer.

17.3. A Trustee must be a full member of the Club or the
nominated representative of an organisation that is a
Corporate Member of the Club.

17.4. No one may be appointed a Trustee if he or she would be
disqualified from acting under the provisions of Clause 20.

17.5. The number of Trustees shall be not less than six but
(unless otherwise determined by a resolution of the Club in
general meeting) shall not be subject to any maximum.

17.6. A Trustee may not appoint anyone to act on his or her
behalf at meetings of the Trustees.

18. The Appointment of Trustees

18.1. The Club in general meeting shall elect the Officers and
the other Trustees.

18.2. The Trustees may appoint any person who is willing to act
as a Trustee. Subject to sub-clause 18.6(b), they may also
appoint Trustees to act as officers.

18.3. Each of the Trustees shall retire with effect from the
conclusion of the annual general meeting next after his or
her appointment but subject to sub-clause 18.4 shall be
eligible for re-election at that annual general meeting.

18.4. No trustee shall serve for more than four consecutive
years unless it is to become or continue as an executive
officer of the Club.

18.5. Notice of proposals by members other than trustees for the
election of a Trustee or an Officer at any general meeting
shall reach the club secretary at least three months before
the meeting and the notice shall:
(a) be signed by at least five members entitled to vote at the
meeting;
(b) state the member’s intention to propose the
appointment of a person as a Trustee or as an
officer;
(c) be signed by the person who is to be proposed to
show his or her willingness to be appointed.

18.6. (a) The appointment of a Trustee, whether by the Club in
general meeting or by the other Trustees, must not cause the
number of
Trustees to exceed any number fixed in accordance
with this constitution as the maximum number of Trustees.

(b) The Trustees may not appoint a person to be an
Officer if a person has already been elected or
appointed to that office and has not vacated the
office.

19. Powers of Trustees

19.1. The Trustees must manage the business of the Club and
have the following powers in order to further the Objects
(but not for any other purpose):
(a) to determine the rate of members subscriptions and
fix the price of publications;
(b) to raise funds. In doing so, the Trustees must not
undertake any substantial permanent trading activity
and must comply with any relevant statutory
regulations;
(c) to establish and maintain a Conservation Fund;
(d) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or
otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and
equip it for use;
(e) to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of
the property belonging to the Club. In exercising this
power, the Trustees must comply as appropriate with
sections 36 and 37 of the Charities Act 1993;
(f) to lend money and to charge the whole or any part of
the property belonging to the Club as security for
repayment of the money borrowed. The Trustees
must comply as appropriate with sections 38 and 39 of
the Charities Act 1993 if they intend to mortgage
land;
(g) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies
and statutory authorities and to exchange information
and advice with them;
(h) to establish or support any charitable trusts,
associations or institutions formed for any of the
charitable purposes included in the Objects;
20. Disqualification and Removal of Trustees

A Trustee shall cease to hold office if the he or she:

20.1. is disqualified for acting as a Trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
20.2. ceases to be a member of the Club;
20.3. becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
20.4. resigns as a Trustee by notice to the Club (but only if at least two Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or
20.5. is absent without the permission of the Trustees from three consecutive meetings and the Trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated.

21. Proceedings of Trustees

21.1. The Trustees may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of this constitution.
21.2. Any Trustee may call a meeting of the Trustees.
21.3. The secretary must call a meeting of the Trustees if requested to do so by a Trustee.
21.4. Questions arising at a meeting must be decided by a majority of votes.
21.5. In the case of an equality of votes, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
21.6. No decision may be made by a meeting of the Trustees unless a quorum is present at the time of the decision is made to be put.
21.7. The quorum shall be four or the number nearest to one third of the total number of Trustees, whichever is the greater or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the Trustees.
21.8. A Trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that Trustee is not entitled to vote.
21.9. If the number of Trustees is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Trustees or Trustee may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.
21.10. The person elected as the Chair shall chair meetings of the Trustees.
21.11. If the Chair is unwilling to preside or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.
21.12. The person appointed to chair meetings of the Trustees shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by this constitution or delegated to him or her in writing by the Trustees.
21.13. A resolution in writing signed by all the Trustees entitled to receive notice of a meeting of Trustees or of a committee of Trustees and to vote upon the resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Trustees or (as the case may be) a committee of Trustees duly convened and held.

21.14. The resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form each signed by one or more Trustees.

22. Delegation

22.1. The Trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee of two or more Trustees but the terms of any such delegation must be recorded in the minute book.
22.2. The Trustees may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:
(a) the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee to whom they delegate;
(b) no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the Club except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the Trustees.
22.3. The Trustees may revoke or alter a delegation.
22.4. All acts and proceedings of any committees must be fully and promptly reported to the Trustees.

23. Representatives of the Club

23.1. The trustees may appoint Representatives in African or non-African countries to assist them with the work of the Club.
23.2. The Trustees must keep a register of names and addresses of the representatives which must be made available to any member upon request.

24. Irregularities in Proceedings

24.1. Subject to sub-clause 24.2, all acts done by a meeting of Trustees, or of a committee of Trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a Trustee:
(a) who was disqualified from holding office;
(b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;
(c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interest or otherwise, if, without:
(d) the vote of that Trustee; and
(e) that Trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the Trustees at a quorate meeting.
24.2. Sub-clause 24.1 does not permit a Trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the Trustees or of a committee of Trustees if the resolution would otherwise have been void.
24.3. No resolution or act of
(a) the Trustees
(b) any committee of the Trustees
(c) the Club in general meeting
shall be invalidated by reason of the failure to give notice to any Trustee or member or by reason of any procedural defect in the meeting unless it is shown that the failure or defect has materially prejudiced a member or the beneficiaries of the Club.

25. Minutes

The Trustees must keep minutes of all:
25.1. appointments of Officers and Trustees made by the Trustees;
25.2. proceedings at meetings of the Club;
25.3. meetings of the Trustees and committees of Trustees including:
(a) the names of the Trustees present at the meeting;
(b) the decisions made at the meetings; and
(c) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.

26. Annual Report and Return and Accounts

26.1. The Trustees must comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 with regard to:
(a) the keeping of accounting records for the Club;
(b) the preparation of annual statements of account for the Club;
(c) the transmission of the statements of account to the Club;
(d) the preparation of an annual report and its transmission to the Commission;
(e) the preparation of an annual return and its transmission to the Commission.

26.2. Accounts must be prepared in accordance with the provisions of any Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Commission, unless the Trustees are required to prepare accounts in accordance with the provisions of such a Statement prepared by another body.

27. Registered particulars
27.1. The Trustees must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the Club’s entry on the Central Register of Charities.

28. Property
28.1. The Trustees must ensure the title to:
(a) all land held by or in trust for the Club that is not vested in the Official Custodian of Charities; and
(b) all investments held by or on behalf of the Club, is vested either in a corporation entitled to act as custodian Trustee or in not less that three individuals appointed by them as holding Trustees.

28.2. The terms of the appointment of any holding Trustees must provide that they may act only in accordance with lawful directions of the Trustees and that if they do so they will not be liable for the acts and defaults of the Trustees or of the members of the Club.

28.3. The Trustees may remove the holding Trustees at any time.

29. Repair and insurance
29.1. The Trustees must keep in repair and insure to their full value against fire and other usual risks all the buildings of the Club (except those buildings that are required to be kept in repair and insured by a tenant). They must also insure suitably in respect of public liability and employer’s liability.

30. Notices
30.1. Any notice required by this constitution to be given to or by any person must be:
(a) in writing; or
(b) given using electronic communications.

30.2. The Club may give any notice to a member either:
(a) personally; or
(b) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her address; or
(c) by leaving it at the address of the member; or
(d) by giving it using electronic communications to the member’s address.

30.3. A member who does not register an address with the Club or who registers only a postal address that is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the Club.

30.4. A member present in person at any meeting of the Club shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

30.5. (a) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.

(b) A notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of an electronic communication, 48 hours after it was sent.

31. Rules
31.1. The Trustees may from time to time make rules or bye-laws for the conduct of their business.

31.2. The bye-laws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:
(a) the admission of members of the Club (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such members, and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;
(b) the conduct of members of the Club in relation to one another, and to the Club’s employees and volunteers;
(c) the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Club’s premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;
(d) the procedure at general meeting and meetings of the Trustees in so far as such procedure is not regulated by this Constitution;
(e) the keeping and authenticating of records. (If regulations made under this clause permit records of the Club to be kept in electronic form and requires a Trustee to sign the record, the regulations must specify a method of recording the signature that enables it to be properly authenticated.)
(f) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of the rules of an unincorporated association.

31.7. The Club in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye-laws.

31.8. The Trustees must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bye-laws to the notice of members of the Club.

31.9. The rules or bye-laws shall be binding on all members of the Club. No rule or bye-law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, this constitution.