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Foundation completes 2nd bird strike prevention training East Africa

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The AviAssist Foundation continues its support to reducing the risks of wildlife to aviation. It completed a seven day wildlife hazard management training at Kilimanjaro Airport in Tanzania. A four day training was followed by a three day master class on the same subject. With both training events, the Foundation continued the support it started in September 2009.

“With 25 participants from 7 countries in the region, the workshop is part of the Foundation’s efforts campaign to bring best safety practices within reach of aviation professionals in East and Southern Africa” explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. “The workshop followed international standards on this subject. The Foundation was pleased to find 2 members of the International Bird Strike Committee prepared to make their expertise available to their colleagues in this region. The overwhelming interest for participation to the workshop is also testimony to the region’s interest in trying to tackle this complicated issue. We were happy to be able to include Mweka Wildlife College from Tanzania in our efforts to support ICAO in making make the region self sufficient in imparting safety training. We will continue our support to the wildlife strike prevention community in the region through regular features in our complimentary safety magazine *SafetyFocus* and a dedicated part of our website”.

Financial and in kind support of the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, the United States Department of Agriculture, Precision Air and host Kilimanjaro Airports Development Company made the workshop possible and largely free to participants. The participants had to cover their own travel and accommodation cost and made small contribution to the aviation safety award fund that the Foundation is setting up. The Aviators award, that the Foundation plans to start in 2011, aims to reward safety champions in the region.

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The AviAssist Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization. It provides safety support to African countries and companies. As regional affiliate of the Flight Safety Foundation, it identifies threats to aviation safety, analyzes the problems and works on practical solutions to them. It aims to replicate safety successes from elsewhere on the African continent and beyond. It does so in close coordination with ICAO, stakeholders and safety support providers. More at www.aviassist.org