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Contact: Tom Kok
Director, AviAssist Foundation
Tel: +31 (0)207143148/12
tom.kok@aviassist.org

Contact: Emily McGee
Director of Communications, FSF
Tel. +1 703.739.6700 (ext. 126)
mcgee@flightsafety.org

Foundation completes bird strike prevention workshop East Africa

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The AviAssist Foundation completed a four day wildlife hazard management workshop at Kilimanjaro Airport in Tanzania on Friday. The course provided an introduction and refresher to wildlife hazards to aviation. The workshop was oversubscribed with 27 participants from 7 countries in the region.

“A number of airports in the East African region suffer from a fairly serious bird strike problem. The workshop is part of the Foundation’s efforts campaign to bring best practices within reach of African aviation professionals in East and Southern Africa” explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. “The workshop was closely coordinated with ICAO and the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) of the East African Community (EAC). It 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 may be testimony to the region’s interest to tackle this complicated issue”.

In his opening address, CASSOA Executive Director Mtesigwa Maugo underlined his Agency’s support to the possible establishment of a regional Wildlife Management Committee. During the workshop, the Foundation managed to facilitate the start of the East African Interim Wildlife Hazard Management Committee. The Foundation will support the committee as part of its regular mandate.

Financial and in kind support of the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Precision Air and host Kilimanjaro Airports Development Company made the workshop possible and free to participants other than having to cover their own travel and accommodation cost.

“We will step up our efforts to make best safety practices available to aviation professionals in this region. In June next year, we will start the Foundation’s full colour safety magazine ‘*SafetyFocus*’. The international aviation community doesn’t always appreciate that most aviation professionals here cannot easily browse the worldwide web for such best practices. The Foundation will close that gap with a full colour magazine that will be distributed for free in hard copy to key decision makers in the African industry. Organisations can turn the magazine into their in-house safety magazine as part of the implementation of Safety Management Systems. For advertisers, the magazine will be a unique opportunity to access 22 East and Southern African countries with their products and services. In that way, they can start accessing the region for a nominal fee per country - an excellent option in these times of tight budgets.”

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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