



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Foundation secures contract on support to birdstrike prevention program Hoofddorp, Netherlands, 22 April, 2010 —**

The Netherlands Ministry of Transport (NMoT) contracted the AviAssist Foundation to organise a number of events on wildlife management & aviation. Wildlife issues and in particular birdstrikes remain a major safety issue for airlines and operators in East and Southern Africa. A number of destinations in that region have a significantly higher bird strike ratio than ICAO minima prescribe. The region does not have an established program on training on the subject nor does it have a regional wildlife management committee. The Foundation will organise two events that will be hosted by Kilimanjaro Airports Development Company in Tanzania in September.

”The AviAssist Foundation continually invests in developing programs that address industry priorities” explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. “The two upcoming events built on a successful workshop on the subject in November 2009. That event present a great learning experience for the participants, it also led to the start of the interim East African Wildlife Committee. Interim because there are discussions ongoing with the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) of the East African Community to embed the committee in its programs. From the November workshop, the Foundation has continued its support to the subject by providing support to the participants by email. “Just like the previous event we will rely on partners and sponsors to ensure that the costs of participation remains realistic. It is a privilege for the AviAssist Foundation to continue to work with the NMoT as the major supporter for this program. Hosting such events and providing (in kind) support provides an excellent opportunity for such partners to demonstrate their commitment to improving aviation safety and improve their profile in the region. It also means that participants may be able to learn from other stakeholders that would not necessarily be presenting at such events otherwise. For example, in this upcoming event, we hope to have in kind support from an engine manufacturer through a presentation to increase participants’ appreciation of the engineering side of bird strikes and wildlife encounters”

The four day workshop and the three day masterclass will see facilitation by a team of renowned experts and will see input and sponsoring by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

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**AviAssist Foundation** is an independent, non-governmental organisation, supporting improvements in African aviation safety. It aims to replicate safety successes from elsewhere on the African continent and beyond. As the regional affiliate of the Flight Safety Foundation, it identifies threats to aviation safety, analyzes the problems and works on practical solutions to them. It does so in close coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization, stakeholders and other safety support providers. More information at [www.aviassist.org](http://www.aviassist.org)