

# **Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species**

## **Annual Report**

### **1. Darwin Project Information**

Project title	<i>Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Africa, particularly: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe</i>
Contractor	<i>The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)</i>
Project Reference No.	<i>162/10/019</i>
Grant Value	<i>£157,590</i>
Start/Finishing dates	<i>April 2001 to March 2004</i>
Reporting period	<i>April 2001 to March 2002</i>

### **2. Project Background**

Africa has 349 globally threatened bird species, 90 of which are cross-border. Experience in Europe and elsewhere show, that the traditional site based conservation approach is often not sufficient to ensure the survival of threatened species. Species-based conservation, particularly where it applies to species that occur in more than one country, requires careful strategic planning involving all relevant stakeholders. This project addresses the lack of experience and capacity in Africa in single species conservation and species action planning. It will build up the capacity of African conservationists, both governmental and non-governmental, in 17 African countries, namely Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. To maximise the training, the project will participatively prepare International plans for 8 threatened species: Spotted ground thrush *Zoothera guttata*, Grauer's rush Warbler *Bradypterus graueri*, Rufous-fishing Owl *Scotopelia ussheri*, Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea*, Grey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas*, White-necked Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus*, Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* and Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*. By identifying and setting up the necessary mechanisms for effective conservation, the project will help countries to meet their obligations under the Biodiversity Convention.

The project is co-ordinated, on behalf of the BirdLife Africa Partnership, by the RSPB and Nature Uganda, the BirdLife Partners in the UK and Uganda respectively.

### **3. Project Objectives**

**Project Purpose:** Capacity established for participative action planning for globally threatened bird species in Africa

#### **Project Outputs**

0. Project management structure in place
1. A priority list of species for which species action plan approaches would enhance their conservation
2. Priority countries that CAP (BirdLife Council of the African Partnership) should endeavour to recruit into the partnership based on their importance to the conservation of birds identified
3. Training programme for BirdLife Africa partnership implemented
4. Network of species interest groups functioning
5. International (cross-border) and national species action plans for priority species produced
6. Process for securing funding for action plan implementation initiated

The project logical framework is shown in Annex 1.

The project objectives have not been changed. However, there has been some slippage in the workplan (see output 5 below) which has been approved by the Darwin Secretariat.

### **4. Progress**

This is the first annual report of the project

**Table 1: Progress against the project logframe**

<i>Project summary</i>	<i>Measurable indicators</i>	<i>Achievements in reporting period</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<p><b><u>Overall Goal</u></b></p> <p>To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention</p>	<p>I OG1 Populations of 10 globally threatened species increased</p> <p>I OG2 17 African countries benefit from project</p> <p>I OG3 Additional financial resources mobilised</p>	<p>Participants from 16 African countries have benefited from training in species conservation and an introduction into single species management.</p>	
<p><b><u>Purpose</u></b></p> <p>Capacity established for participative action planning for globally threatened bird species in Africa</p>	<p>I PP1 BirdLife Strategy for species based conservation programme in Africa in place</p> <p>I PP2 Out of a total of 8 high quality cross-border species action plans, 5 are collaboratively produced without outside support</p> <p>I PP3 Co-operative implementation of at least 2 high quality cross-border species action plans initiated by 2003</p>	<p>An analysis of African bird species, for which a species action plan is urgently required, is underway. No further progress planned in reporting period.</p>	
<p><b><u>Outputs</u></b></p> <p>0 Project management structure in place</p>	<p>I 0.1 Annual workplans agreed</p> <p>I 0.2 Tasks implemented on time</p> <p>I 0.3 6 monthly steering committee meetings attended by 2/3 membership</p>	<p>The project management structure incl. all project staff is in place and functioning well. All 17 National Species Action Plan Co-ordinators have been appointed. The steering committee is established and has met twice according to plan. The annual workplan for 2001/02 has been agreed in May 2001, the 2002/03 plan has been agreed in April 2002. Project staff have received training as</p>	<p>The recruitment of the project administrator took longer than expected. Most tasks have been implemented, but there was some delay due to difficulties in recruiting National Species Action Plan Co-ordinators (see output 5).</p>

		planned (see below: training). One database each on funding sources and species specialists are established and are being populated.	
1 A priority list of species for which species action plan approaches would enhance their conservation	I 1.1 Final list of species list agreed July 2001 I.1.1 Final list of species to be included in project agreed by July 2001	The list of species to be included in the project has been confirmed as in the project document. All bird species classified as critically endangered and endangered have been analysed against agreed criteria. A draft report identifying birds species for which the production of a species action plan is critical is presently being circulated (see Annex 2).	The analysis of species for which species action plans would enhance their conservation had been delayed due to time constraints. The negotiations in recruiting National Species Action Plan Co-ordinators took much more time than expected. The final report is expected in July 2002
2 Priority countries that CAP should endeavour to recruit into the partnership based on their importance to the conservation of birds identified	I 2.1 Prioritised list of African countries to be recruited into partnership presented to CAP (BirdLife Council of the Africa Partnership) by August 2001	A report has been presented to the Council of the BirdLife Africa Partnership in October 2001. A refined version has been produced in February 2002 (see Annex 3).	
3 Training programme for BirdLife Africa partnership implemented	I 3.1 Training programme developed by 2001 I 3.2 17 national species co-ordinators receive 1 week participative training on species action plan I 3.3 45-50 people from 17 African countries trained in species action planning	The training programme in species action planning and introduction to species management was developed and implemented during 2 sub-regional workshops involving 30 participants from 16 countries.	Following a recommendation from the steering committee, it was decided to divide the BirdLife Partners in 2 rather than 3 sub-regions. The main reasons for the change were logistics and the possibility to improve communication between neighbouring countries. This hasn't affected the number of people trained. 16 out of 17 National species co-ordinators were able to attend the formal training workshops. The Egyptian co-ordinator has received all the training material and is participating in the project.
4 Network of species interest groups functioning	I 4.1 Five additional species interest groups created I 4.2 Workplans for 2 species interest groups	New species interest groups (SIG) for 6 target species are being created. SIGs for Blue Swallow and White-necked Picathartes	

	<p>agreed</p> <p>I 4.3 45-50 people from 17 African countries trained in single species conservation (cf. I 3.3)</p> <p>I 4.3 Experts from each respective country contribute to SIG annual report</p>	<p>already exist. International co-ordinators for each of the interest groups have been agreed. An email discussion group has been set-up to improve communication and exchange of information.</p>	
<p>5 International (cross-border) and national species action plans for priority species produced</p>	<p>I 5.1 Eight international (cross-border) species action plans published by June 2003</p> <p>I 5.2 15 national action plans produced and endorsed/adopted by national governments by 2003</p>	<p>During a participative workshop involving 16 participants from 12 African countries and 3 specialists from RSPB a new and innovative format for species action planning has been developed. This format, based on a review of experience in other regions, has been accepted as the standard for BirdLife International in Africa (see Annex 4). Background material for 3 target species has been prepared and circulated to relevant stakeholders for review. The first three international workshops have been scheduled for June, July and August.</p>	<p>Due to the delay in the recruitment of the National Species Action Plan Co-ordinators, and imminent elections in Sierra Leone (initially identified as the location of the first international Species Action Plan Workshop), the two international workshops planned had to be delayed. It is likely that there will therefore be some further slippage both in the production of international and national action plans. We don't expect that this will affect the overall output of the project.</p>
<p>6 Process for securing funding for action plan implementation is initiated</p>	<p>I 6.1 5 Funding proposals submitted to donors by March 2004</p>	<p>SIGs for Blue Swallow and White-necked Picathartes are exploring funding opportunities from Earthwatch, the Trust of Endangered Species and local sources</p>	

The project provided the following training:

- Africa Species Working Group Coordinator (ASWGC):
  - on-the-job training in project management, workshop organisation, database development.
  - training course in workshop facilitation and 3 weeks on-the-job training in workshop facilitation, under the supervision of RSPB specialists.
  - French course at the Alliance Francaise, Uganda.
- 16 participants from 12 African countries (incl. 12 National Species Action Plan Coordinators (NSAPCs)) received a participative training on species action plans.
- 14 NSAPCs received a participative training in species action planning and single species conservation. The details are shown in the workshop reports.
- 9 government officials received a participative training in species action planning and single species conservation. The details are shown in the workshop reports.
- The project administrator received a 2 week training in project administration and accounting
- A training workshop in bird monitoring techniques was held for BirdLife Partners in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa and Ethiopia.

The methods applied during the training workshops were highly participative and encouraged an exchange of experience between workshop participants. Methods included short presentations, group discussions, case studies, and discussions of video recordings of individual's facilitation exercises. Workshop participants were the appointed national species action plan co-ordinators and their government counterparts.

Research undertaken by the project focused on analysis, based on agreed criteria, of BirdLife's World Bird Database to identify African bird species which urgently require a species action plan (see Annex 2). 19 out of 91 bird species classified as critically endangered or endangered have been identified as top priorities for the production of species action plans. The database was also consulted to prioritise African countries, based on a species approach, for action (see Annex 3). The project also produced a database on potential funding sources for single species conservation in Africa (Annex 5) and a list of species specialists for each of the 8 priority species (Annex 6).

The major difficulties encountered during the reporting period were:

- Poor communication systems in some parts of Africa where the project is being implemented especially in West Africa led to problems in communication with project partners.
- Some of the participating BirdLife Partners depend on volunteers for the implementation of the project. This has led to some delay in the recruitment of National Species Action Plan Co-ordinators and hence in the running of international planning workshops. Some partner organisations were not able to get government representatives to attend the training workshops.
- The political situation (imminent elections) in Sierra Leone has caused the White-necked Picathartes workshop, originally planned for March 2002, to be shifted to July 2002.

The project design has not been changed over the last year, the timetable (workplan) for the next reporting period is presented in Annex 7.

## **5. Partnerships**

There has been good collaboration between the UK and Africa over the year. Four British experts with different expertise facilitated the three training workshops held and transferred their different technical conservation skills to African nationals. The project staff in Africa have been regularly visiting UK and interacting with other British experts. An e-mail discussion group has been initiated to promote exchange of expertise between all project partners. Communications with some partner organisations have been difficult due to inadequate communication systems such as phone lines. The relationship between UK and the African Partnership will improve the chances for raising funds for the implementation of the Species Action Plans. It has also helped to transfer the wide experience in the UK and Europe to Africa.

The project has enabled a number of BirdLife Partners to establish good links with government representatives.

In Africa, the project has established links with the BirdLife Seabird Conservation Programme, which will prepare action plans for 15 southern Africa breeding seabirds. Links have also been established with IUCN's Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, which will actively participate at the first species action plan workshop to be hosted in South Africa. It is therefore expected that the Blue Swallow action plan will be officially endorsed by IUCN. Similar discussions are on-going for the other species. The project has also established links with the European Division of BirdLife International, which is producing species action plans for Europe. The Division is considering adopting the Africa model. Conservation International has shown interest in the species action plan model developed by the project.

## **6. Impact and Sustainability**

The project has received extensive media coverage in several countries in Africa and progress was reported in the BirdLife Africa newsletter, which has a wide circulation both in Africa and internationally. The press (print media, radio and television) was invited to observe the workshops in Uganda and Cameroon and discuss with workshop participants. All workshop participants produced press releases to be distributed in their countries. All 17 National Species Action Plan Co-ordinators have identified government counterparts who have expressed willingness to participate at the relevant species action plan workshops and take the resulting recommendations forward.

The Council of the Africa BirdLife Partnership (CAP) regards this project as priority in as far as the conservation of cross-border globally threatened species and capacity building in action planning are concerned. CAP has adopted the species action plan format produced by this project as standard for the region. All the 17 partner organisations across the continent working with the project have appointed a National Species Action Plan Coordinator who are the points of contact not only for the project, but for species conservation work in general.

## 7. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

**Table 2. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)**

Code No.	Quantity	Description
5	1	Africa species Working Group Coordinator (ASWGC) received 1 year of on-the-job training in project management, workshop organisation and facilitation, database development.
6A/B	1/ 13 weeks	ASWGC is undertaking a French course (evening classes)
	12/ 1 week	1 week workshop to develop a species action planning format was held in Uganda. 12 instead of the planned 17 National Species Action Plan Coordinators (NSAPCs) received one week on participative species action plans. The main reason for the reduced number were difficulties in recruiting NSAPCs and other work commitments.
	30/ 1 week	2 sub-regional training workshops were held. 30 People from 14 countries each received 1 week's training in species action planning and single species conservation (2 workshops). This was against a target of 45 people from 17 countries. The main reason for the reduced number was the difficulty of some partners in recruiting NSAPCs and government counterparts.
	0	It was planned that by attending 2 international species action plan workshops, some 40 people would receive on the job-training in species action planning. However the workshops had to be delayed until June/ July 2002.
	22/ 1 week	A one-week training workshop in bird monitoring was held in Tanzania. This is additional and was not included in the original project plan.
	1/ 2 weeks	The project administrator received 2 weeks training at RSPB and BirdLife Secretariat in project administration and accounting
8	4	The project leader spent 4 weeks in Africa to facilitate training workshops, attend 1 steering committee meeting and visit to Nature Uganda. This is 1 week more than expected
	2	The senior species action planning specialist spent 2 weeks on the project in Africa to facilitate training workshops. He was expected to spend 3 weeks in Africa. The difference is due to the delay in the species action plan workshops.
	3	The international research biologists spent 3 weeks on the project in Africa to facilitate training workshops



		and attend 1 steering committee meeting. This is against 5 weeks planned. The difference is due to the fact that species action plan workshops had to be delayed.
	1	The country programme officer spent 1 week on the project in Africa to attend 1 steering committee meeting and visit Nature Uganda. This is against 2 weeks planned.
	1	The Head of the BirdLife Africa Division spent 1 week on the project in Africa to observe a training workshop and to attend 1 steering committee meeting. This is against 0.5 weeks planned.
9	0	It was planned to produce 2 cross-border species action plans during the reporting period. However, due to difficulties in recruiting NSAPCs, these had to be postponed to mid 2002.
14B	1	BirdLife Partnership meeting attended by 5 Steering Committee members
15A	14	14 NSAPCs have produced and circulated press releases. None was planned for this reporting period.
15C	1	A press release was produced and circulated, but targeted magazines/ newspapers did not publish the material.
16A/B	1/ 750	Two articles about the project and the project progress were published in the BirdLife International Africa Newsletter with a circulation of 750
16C	150	Circulation of the newsletter in UK: 150
17A	1	An email discussion group has been established. This was not included in the original plan
18A	3	The project received extensive television coverage in Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Uganda. This is one more country than planned.
19A	2	One radio interview each in Sierra Leone and Cameroon.
20	£2,015.61	Computer, printer & software
23	£51,532.08	This contribution is against a target of £56,781. The difference is due to the fact that species action plan workshops had to be postponed. This does not include the contribution of staff time by government representatives (9 representatives, ≥ 1 week each), nor the expenditure for the bird monitoring training workshop (6A/B).

**Table 3: Publications**

<b>Type *</b> (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (title, author, year)	<b>Publishers</b> (name, city)	<b>Available from</b> (e.g. contact address, website)	<b>Cost £</b>
Workshop report	Action Plans for Conservation of Globally threatened birds in Africa. Workshop 1 Report: Development of Species action Plan Format. Hoffmann, D. (2001)		RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL	
Workshop report	Action Plans for Conservation of Globally threatened birds in Africa. Workshop 2a Report: Species in species conservation and Action planning. Hoffmann, D. (2001).		As above	
Workshop report	Action Plans for Conservation of Globally threatened birds in Africa. Workshop 2b Report: Species in species conservation and Action planning. Sande, E. and Hoffmann, D. (2001).		As above	

Workshop reports have been circulated to all workshop participants. The workshop reports have proven to be very popular. Many workshop participants and other, non BirdLife people have requested additional copies for circulation in their country.

## 8. Project Expenditure

**Table 4: Project expenditure during the reporting period (claim) (£)**

Item	Budget	Expenditure
Salaries (specify) (Eric Sande, Africa Species Working Group Co-ordinator)		
Rent, rates, heating, lighting, etc.		
Postage, stationary		
Travel, subsistence		
Printing		
Conferences, seminars		
Capital items/equipment		
Others		
Total		

<sup>1)</sup> Under spent due to the fact that 2 species action plan workshop were delayed. The budget is carried over to the next financial year. This change has been approved by the Darwin Secretariat.

## 9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

The project is overseen by a steering committee composed of RSPB, Nature Uganda, African Species Working Group Coordination Committee, BirdLife Secretariat, Africa Species Working Group Co-ordinator. This committee has met twice during the reporting period and have reviewed the workplan, and project progress. Minutes of the meeting are on file. The steering committee meeting in April 2002 will review annual progress against the workplan and the project logframe. In March 2002, the country programme officer reviewed the project filing and accounting system at Nature Uganda. Steering committee members also reviewed all project documents. The species action plan format has been reviewed by the BirdLife Africa Technical Advisory Committee. This committee involves technical specialists from BirdLife Partners in Africa and Europe, the Secretariat, Wetlands International and other international organisations.

Communications across Africa has been more difficult than expected. We will therefore need to allow more time for the preparation of workshops. This might lead to a slippage in the production of national and international action plan, but should not prevent the achievement of all project objective as originally planned.

## 10. Author(s) / Date

Dr. Dieter Hoffmann, Head of Global Programmes Department, RSPB (Project leader)

Eric Sande, Africa Species Working Group Co-ordinator, NatureUganda

30 April 2002

**Annex 1: Project Logframe**

**Annex 2: Analysis of species which benefit from Species Action Plan Approach  
(draft report)**

**Annex 3: Priority countries for species conservation in Africa (draft report)**

**Annex 4: Species Action Plan Format**

**Annex 5: Funding Database Outline**

**Annex 6: Outline of database on Species Specialists**

**Annex 7: Workplan 2002/03**