

**DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES : APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 9 COMPETITION**

Please read the accompanying Guidance Note before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Applicants are asked not to use the form supplied to cross refer to information in separate documents except where this is invited on the form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required but you may provide additional information on a separate sheet if necessary. Copies of this form are available on disk or by E-Mail on request. You are asked also to complete the summary sheet attached at the end of this form. Although you may reproduce this sheet in a reasonable font, you should not expand it beyond an A4 sheet (leaving the allocated space for DETR comments to be made) as additional information will not be taken into account.

1. Name and address of organisation

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The Lodge, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2DL

2. Principals in project

Details	Project leader	Other UK personnel (if working more than 50% on project)	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	Dr. Hoffmann	Dr. Hilton 1)	Sande
Forename(s)	Dieter	Geoff	Eric
Post held	Head of Global Programmes Department	International Research Biologist	BirdLife African Species Working Group Co-ordinator
Institution (if different to the above)	RSPB	RSPB	Nature Uganda
Department	Global Programmes	Conservation Science	
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

<sup>1)</sup> 20% of time spent on project

Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. These are provided in Annex 3.

3. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Action Plans for Conservation of Globally threatened birds in Africa

4. Abstract of study (in no more than 750 characters)

Using British expertise in species action planning through participative workshops, this project will build institutional capacity by training Species Interest groups, BirdLife Partners and Government Officials in 17 African countries on this approach to conserving globally threatened birds. Species Action Plans (SAPs) are vital in Africa to ensure that limited resources are focused to maximise conservation benefit. International plans for 8 priority globally threatened birds will be prepared (for species each occurring in at least 3 countries of which 2 have BirdLife representation). People trained through the project will then train others at national levels to develop 15 national SAPs. This will ensure value for money, help host countries meet their obligations under the Biodiversity Convention and ensure long-lasting impact (including funding bids for implementation).

5. Timing. Give the proposed starting date and duration of the project.

April 2001 for a period of 3 years

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Please note that this should describe your unit, institute or department within a university.)

#### Aims

The RSPB champions the conservation of birds and other biodiversity in the UK and world-wide, for wildlife, the environment and people. The RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and wildlife; it depends on the support and generosity of others to make a difference. It works with bird and habitat conservation organisations in a global partnership called 'BirdLife International' and our international vision is to maintain the numbers, diversity and geographic distribution of the world's most important sites, species and habitats.

#### Activities

The problems facing wild birds and the environment are large and complex. To make the greatest impact, we focus on priority species, habitats and sites, setting clear conservation objectives for each.

The RSPB leads action for bird conservation by:

- researching conservation issues and developing policies and practical actions to protect important wildlife habitats
- informing and involving our more than 1 million members in conservation issues
- placing strong emphasis on youth and education
- working with central and local government to create solutions to conservation problems
- working in partnership with industry, landowners, the public and other conservation bodies to secure a better future for wildlife and the environment
- buying and managing land as nature reserves, demonstrating habitat management techniques to specialists from the UK and overseas
- working internationally to support other BirdLife Partners to help them promote action for habitat conservation world-wide and to establish effective protection for Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

#### Achievements

All RSPB's work is underpinned by research and investigation carried out by our own scientists and specialist advisors. We influence land use and economic policies and campaign for better wildlife protection nationally and internationally. We regularly brief and advise decision makers, political advisors, civil servants, parliamentary officials and journalists.

*Birds*, our members magazine has a readership of over 1.6 million. Our junior membership "RSPB Wildlife Explorers" has over 140,000 members - the largest wildlife club in the world for young people. This includes 40,000 teenage memberships, known as "RSPB Phoenix". Each year 9,000 volunteers give us some 650,000 hours of help.

RSPB has worked to encourage appreciation of the environment by ensuring that it is included in the National Curriculum. We also provide resources for children's classroom studies. Our education newsletters go to all sixth forms and colleges of further education. We run community programmes to raise local awareness of important habitats and bird species. WE have more than 450 RSPB Wildlife Explorers' groups.

We work in partnership with industry, land managers, statutory and public bodies and other conservation organisations. Commercial partners include Tesco, Honda UK, Frizzell, Karrimor and Canon UK. The RSPB Visa credit card launched ten years ago with the Co-operative Bank has raised over £3 million. We have teamed up with Scottish and Southern Energy to create RSPB Energy offering gas and electricity from renewable sources. We work with agricultural colleges and university departments to influence the farmland managers of tomorrow.

We protect the habitats of threatened birds and manage more than 140 nature reserves in UK covering more than 111,000 hectares. Our nature reserves are home to 80% of the rarest or most threatened bird species in the UK. Each year over 1 million visits are made to RSPB nature reserves. Local community involvement is an important aspect of our approach to nature conservation.

Internationally RSPB scientists focus on key habitats and species, working with other BirdLife Partners to support them in their efforts to identify conservation priorities for action. As part of this work the Important Bird Area programme is a powerful tool to ensure that available resources are channelled to finding and protecting sites of global importance. The RSPB works with BirdLife Partners to influence decision makers including governments, businesses and donors. We seek to influence individual states world-wide and institutions such as the EU. Threats to the world's wetlands, to migratory species and climate change are tackled through our work on international conventions. Our individually developed country programmes allow us to provide targeted financial and technical assistance as required. Our International Division works closely with some 10 African and 8 European countries as well as in India and Sri Lanka. We also support the BirdLife network in the Middle East, Asia and the Americas and we are active in the UK Overseas Territories.

7. Has your organisation received funding under the Initiative before? If so, please give details.

Yes. Two previous awards:

- 1) We received funding in Round 3 totalling £84,000 for a project to identify and classify Important Bird Areas in Tanzania between 1995 and 1997.
- 2) We currently manage a Darwin-funded project in Belarus. This comprises £136,000 awarded in Round 7 for a 3-year project "Management Planning for Conservation of Fen Mire Biodiversity in Belarus" - this project is proving very successful and is now in its second year.

8. Which overseas institutions, if any, will be involved in the project? Please explain the responsibilities of these institutions.

#### **Nature Uganda**

Nature Uganda (the operational name in Uganda of the East Africa Natural History Society) is the country's leading authority on the status and conservation of birds. It is a long-established, non-profit making, membership-based Society with a sound reputation for scientific expertise, and was revitalised in 1989, following years of turmoil in Uganda.

The mission of Nature Uganda is 'To promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of nature in Uganda'. In pursuing this mission, Nature Uganda strives to

- enhance knowledge of Uganda's plants, animals and habitats
- create a nature friendly public
- advocate policies favourable to the environment
- take action to conserve priority sites
- publicise and promote the important areas for biodiversity conservation in Uganda.

Nature Uganda has successfully identified all national sites of international importance for birds and is implementing a number of conservation projects to conserve these sites. Nature Uganda also co-ordinates regular surveys of the country's wetlands and is working closely with Makerere University to document Uganda's flora.

Nature Uganda hosts, on behalf of the BirdLife Africa Partnership, the African Species Working Group Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator is the principle point of contact for this project in Africa. His main tasks related to the project are:

- to support the Africa Species Working Group in identifying species conservation priorities in the region
- to promote the development/ growth of Species Interest Groups
- based on agreed criteria, to provide a priority list of organisations for recruitment into the BirdLife Partnership
- to prepare funding proposals for regional species conservation planning and action
- to build the capacity of the African Partnership for species conservation through training, networking and liaison with other specialists.

#### **BirdLife International Africa Partnership**

BirdLife International is a partnership of non-governmental conservation organisations with a special emphasis on birds. The BirdLife Partnership strives to conserve birds, their habitats, and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife is the leading authority on the status of the world's birds. Each BirdLife Partner represents a unique geographic territory, most often a country. Partners are grouped within geographic regions (Africa, Europe, Middle-East, etc.) for planning and implementing regional programmes. In Africa, BirdLife International is represented in 18 countries (of which 17 are on mainland Africa):

- Botswana: *Botswana Bird Club*
- Burkina Faso: *Naturama*
- Burundi: *Association Burundaise Pour la Protection des Oiseaux*
- Cameroon: *Cameroon Ornithological Club*
- Egypt: *Sharif Baha El Din*
- Ethiopia: *Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society*
- Ghana: *Ghana Wildlife Society*
- Kenya: *Nature Kenya*
- Nigeria: *Nigerian Conservation Foundation*
- Rwanda: *Association Pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda*
- Seychelles: *BirdLife Seychelles*
- Sierra Leone: *Conservation Society of Sierra Leone*
- South Africa: *BirdLife South Africa*
- Tanzania: *Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania*

- Tunisia: *Association Les Amis des Oiseaux*
- Uganda: *Nature Uganda*
- Zambia: *Zambian Ornithological Society*
- Zimbabwe: *BirdLife Zimbabwe*

(Overseas institutions - continued:)

The BirdLife Africa Partnership's most recent success includes the identification of all (>1,500) of Africa's most important sites for birds (Important Bird Area Programme). This programme has been recognised by major international agencies such as the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a significant contribution to nature conservation in Africa. Ten BirdLife Partners in Africa are also involved in a project co-funded by GEF to conserve these IBAs through site action, public awareness and advocacy work.

The BirdLife Partnership in Africa is guided by a regional strategy and workplan defined and adopted by the heads of all Partner organisations (Council of the Africa Partnership, CAP). Conservation objectives have been grouped under four equally important headings: species, sites, habitats and people. The species objectives are:

- to take action for all globally threatened bird species
- to conserve, and where possible increase the populations and natural range of declining wild bird species
- to maintain the populations and ranges of all naturally occurring wild bird species.

Individual BirdLife Partners are responsible for implementing the BirdLife Programme on a national level. For the purpose of this project, BirdLife Partners will select a national species co-ordinator as main contact. These national species co-ordinators will ensure that all main national stakeholders, particularly government departments and research institutions, are involved in all national and relevant regional action planning workshops. The national species co-ordinator will also facilitate the translation of the international action plans into detailed national plans in a participative way and advocate or collaborate with relevant institutions for their implementation. It is expected that each BirdLife Partner will participate in the production of at least one species action plan.

In order to strengthen BirdLife's species work, the African Partners have created a species working group. The goal of the African Species Working Group (ASWG) on behalf of the BirdLife African Partnership, is to set priorities for conservation among Africa's bird species and to develop and implement programmes to achieve the conservation of those that are globally threatened.

For each individual priority species, a Species Interest Group, involving the relevant national BirdLife species co-ordinators as well as other specialists on the status and conservation of the species will be formed.

**Others: Government Departments, Universities, specialists**

The BirdLife Partners in Africa recognise the importance of wide consultation and collaboration. For example, the above-mentioned GEF-funded IBA project is based on a close collaboration of BirdLife Partners with relevant government departments in their respective countries. For the purposes of this project, national BirdLife Partners will seek collaboration with all relevant national government departments, research institutions and other NGOs as well as international specialists in the species concerned. The production and implementation of individual species action plans will be a fully participative process involving at least one representative from each of the relevant governments, and specialists from other organisations.

The project focuses primarily on the 17 countries where BirdLife is represented in mainland Africa. However where the range states of a species include those not represented in this network (for example, such as in the case of blue swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea* which occurs in DR Congo, Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland in addition to 6 countries within the BirdLife network) in every case we will endeavour to involve knowledgeable specialists from each of these countries to contribute to the process. This will mean that the project will have training impact in several further countries outside the current BirdLife network. In fact BirdLife already has existing contacts in all of the countries concerned but the project will serve to expand and build on these contacts.

An organogram describing the management structure of the project is outlined below.

INSERT ORGANOGRAM

## PROJECT DETAILS

9. Define the purpose (main objective) of the project in line with the logical framework.

The project purpose is defined as  
“Capacity established for participative action planning for globally threatened bird species in Africa”  
Species action planning has been demonstrated to be an effective tool to guide the recovery of threatened species. In Europe for example it has helped focus the efforts and funding priorities of a wide range of international and national governments, NGOs and other conservation agencies and has turned around the conservation fortunes of a range of previously endangered species on a continent-wide basis (see below). Cross-border species are particularly difficult to conserve because only concerted action in all countries will guarantee success. Eight globally threatened bird species have been selected to demonstrate the method of participative species action planning. These are:

Spotted ground thrush	<i>Zoothera guttata</i>
Grauer’s rush warbler	<i>Bradypterus graueri</i>
Rufous-fishing owl	<i>Scotopelia ussheri</i>
Blue swallow	<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>
Grey-necked picathartes	<i>Picathartes oreas</i>
White-necked picathartes	<i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i>
Lappet-faced vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
Houbara bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>

The selection of cross-border species will ensure that maximum numbers of bird conservationists from a wide range of countries in Africa will receive training and practical experience in species action planning. The implementation of a selection of cross-border Species Action Plans on both cross-border and national levels will be clearly focused through collaborative planning between governmental and non-governmental organisations.

10. Is this a new project or the continuation of an existing one?

This is a new project. The project builds on experience from the European BirdLife Partnership, which on behalf of the European Union, and co-ordinated by the RSPB, has produced species action plans for all globally threatened birds in Europe. The resulting publication ‘Globally Threatened Birds in Europe’ is highly influential in European bird conservation. The BirdLife Africa Partnership has identified the need for a species-based approach to bird conservation as a complement to its site based approach. A Species Working Group has been formed and is co-ordinated by a Species Working Group Co-ordinator. The Species Working Group Co-ordinator has assisted in the preparation of this proposal, but the African Partners lack experience in the production and implementation of species action plans.

11. What is the evidence for a demand or need for the work? How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country(ies)? How would the project assist the host country with its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?

How was the work identified?

BirdLife International is currently represented in 17 countries in mainland Africa. Between 1994 and 2000, BirdLife International executed a programme to identify Important Bird Areas in Africa. This programme developed capacities for site-based biodiversity conservation, by identifying key sites, and building in-country capacity. However, the site-based approach cannot successfully conserve all threatened bird species: some species are dispersed over wide areas, and hence the majority of their populations fall outside key sites; others require targeted management within key protected sites. Therefore, the site-based approach needs to be complemented by a species-based approach. Additionally, some bird species are migratory, or occur in more than one country and conservation of such species require a collaborative cross-border effort.

At its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in 1998, the African BirdLife Partnership, guided by the Council for the African Partnership, set-up an African Species Working Group (ASWG) to promote single species conservation initiatives.. It was envisaged that the interest of partners in the conservation of particular species could be used as a nucleus to form Species Interest Groups across the region. It was felt that BirdLife, as a Partnership of national conservation organisations, is uniquely placed to work across country borders.

The production and implementation of widely agreed single species action plans has been shown to enhance significantly the conservation of threatened bird species. Such an approach has, for example, led to the recovery of the critically threatened Seychelles magpie robin from 23 individuals in 1990 to 80 individuals by 1999. The European BirdLife Partnership, on behalf of the European Union, and co-ordinated by the RSPB, has produced species action plans for all 23 globally threatened birds in Europe. The resulting publication 'Globally Threatened Birds in Europe' continues to be highly influential in European bird conservation and the plans are used as the key criteria to guide funding priorities and action under the EU LIFE Nature Programme. When the Africa Partnership decided to follow the species action planning approach, it recognised its profound lack of expertise in this field: only two (Seychelles, and Uganda) out of 18 Partners have some experience, and both of these were assisted by RSPB. As RSPB has a long tradition in supporting a number of African Partners through capacity building and financial support, the Partnership approached RSPB for assistance. RSPB has provided some seed-funding in order to allow the employment of a Species Working Group Co-ordinator, based at Nature Uganda. The aim of this support was to allow intensive consultation for the production of a widely supported project proposal for species conservation in Africa.

Africa now has 349 globally threatened species, 90 of which are cross-border species (BirdLife International, 2000: *Threatened Birds of the World*). From these 90 species we have selected 22 that occur in at least three countries, at least two of which have BirdLife representation. We also identified a further 3 trans-national 'near-threatened' species whose inclusion might help to provide a full set of participating partners and which are of obvious interest as flagship species. Out of these 25 species we have preliminarily selected 8 for inclusion in this project to ensure that the training benefit is extended to the maximum number of countries. It is felt that this is the maximum number the project can handle effectively at this stage and is also based on practical considerations such as security in the respective countries and selection of flagship species. It is envisaged that all 17 BirdLife Partners/representatives in mainland Africa will receive training and participate in at least one cross-border species planning process. Within the Africa Region BirdLife is also represented in Seychelles; however it will not be necessary to include this island group in this training project since skills in utilising the Species Action Plan approach are already well developed here. The project will result in 8 international plans and 15 follow-up national plans being produced. This will maximise the project's training and capacity building effect.

The preliminary species short-lists and further background on those selected are presented in Annex 3. The species selected for the International Action Plans are listed in Section 9 above.

How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country?

Globally threatened species (Critical, Endangered, Vulnerable, Data Deficient) occur in 56 countries and associated islands in Africa (BirdLife International 2000: *Threatened Birds of the World*). Only a very few of these species are currently benefiting from direct conservation activities, other than site based approaches. The project focuses directly on some of the most threatened species to be found in each of the target countries. Through dissemination of a process of careful planning, it will seek to ensure that the limited resources available for nature conservation in these countries are able to be used in such a way as to have the maximum benefit.

The project's purpose to establish capacity for participative action planning for globally threatened bird species throughout Africa will be a vital step towards the wider goal to conserve the globally threatened species of birds in Africa. The skills gained will be invaluable within each country's conservation planning processes in helping prioritise actions for globally threatened species in a carefully structured and participative way. It will also act as a catalyst to encourage the development of further Action Plans for other threatened taxa and so contribute towards implementation of the various countries' respective National Biodiversity Conservation Strategies. It will thereby contribute to the overall goal of assisting such countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention.

All the countries included in the project are signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As outlined below, Contracting Parties to CBD are obliged to 'rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems, and promote the recovery of threatened species through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies'; and to 'develop or maintain necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations' [Article 8(f) and 8(k) respectively]. This project will significantly enhance national capacity in 17 countries in Africa to implement these key articles. Nationals of other countries will also be involved where some of the range states of a selected species do not yet have BirdLife representation.

How will the project assist the host country meet its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has three objectives:

- the conservation of biological diversity
- the sustainable use of its components
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

The proposal will support the first two of these objectives by identifying and setting up the necessary mechanisms for effective conservation and, as appropriate, sustainable use of threatened bird species. The species for which species action plans are to be developed have been identified in accordance with CBD article 7 in connection with Annex I. All species are globally threatened or near threatened (BirdLife International 2000: *Threatened Birds of the World*).

Article 7 requests Contracting Parties to 'identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use having regard to the indicative list of categories set down in Annex I'. Annex I, paragraph 2 lists 'species and communities which are: threatened; wild relatives of domesticated or cultivated species; of medicinal, agricultural or other economic value; or social, scientific or cultural importance; or importance for research into the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, such as indicator species'.

The species action plans aim to ensure the long-term survival of healthy populations of the threatened species in question and their habitats. Thus, they support the implementation of CBD article 8d and 8k. Article 8: 'Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate...d) Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings... k) Develop or maintain necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations'.

The species action plans will be developed participatively (involving both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders) at a regional level and will therefore facilitate regional co-operation for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. This supports CBD article 5: 'Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, co-operate with other Contracting Parties... in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction and on other matters of mutual interest, for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity'.

A significant tool for the first phase of the species action plans is to hold a number of training sessions at the regional and national level in species action planning. This helps to fulfil the requirements of CBD article 12, which says: 'The Contracting Parties, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, shall... establish and maintain programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components and provide support for such education and training for the specific needs of developing countries'.

12 In what ways can this project be considered a Darwin project? How does the project relate to the Darwin principles? How would the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?

The project clearly addresses the Darwin Initiative's key objectives and key areas in the following ways:

- **Institutional capacity building** This is the main aim of this project. It will build capacity of government officials and NGOs to develop Action Plan based approaches to the conservation of biodiversity. The project will also strengthen individual BirdLife Partners and the Council of the African Partnership to manage conservation activities within the Partnership, and will initiate network development to recruit other countries into the Partnership thus helping strengthen the effectiveness of the NGO nature conservation movement in Africa to assist in implementation of their respective countries' National Biodiversity Conservation Strategies.. More specifically, the project staff at the African host NGO (Nature Uganda) will acquire important skills through training in management of International Projects.
- **Training** The project will fund training workshops for trainers tailor-made to deliver skills to develop and implement Action Plans. These workshops will involve both NGOs and government officials. Involvement of government officials will increase their awareness, facilitate the implementation of the prepared Action Plans and will enhance the continuation of project initiatives even after the end of the project period. Training workshops will involve exchange/sharing of experience at all stages of the project. Government-NGO capacity built in the course of developing international Action Plans will be used to train others at the national level while developing national Action Plans.



- **Research** Research will involve collection of the already existing information about the species, which will lead to the improvement of information base for the bird species for which the Action Plans will be prepared. For threatened species on which there is some conservation action already in place, this project will seek a regular update on the progress. This will help in updating the World Bird Database and assessing general biodiversity changes using birds as indicators. In addition there is likely to be a strong research component to the activities prescribed in the species action plans. Hence research expertise will be required to design appropriate research programmes.
- **Assisting countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources** The project will be implemented in Africa where the countries are poor in terms of financial resources but very rich in biological diversity. Partly because there are few resources available for the conservation of biodiversity in many African countries, coupled with the enormous pressures for land use change and resulting habitat loss, much of this biodiversity is being reduced and some species are already extinct. The project will use birds, which are recognised flagships for biodiversity, and will focus on globally threatened ones that need cross-border action to enhance the conservation of biodiversity.
- **British expertise transfer** The project will involve transfer of Technical Conservation and Project Management skills from the British experts to African nationals and more than 90% of the funds will be spent in Africa (the balance being on international flights). The following experts will be involved in the project: Dr. Dieter Hoffman, Mr. Martin Davies, Dr. Geoff Hilton, Dr. Gary Allport, Mr. Peter Newbery and Mr. Paul Buckley. All these have different expertise which will be transferred to Africa through this project.
- **Lasting impact to help recipient countries meet their obligations under Biodiversity Convention** The project will enhance international co-operation and action since it will involve pooling of knowledge and resources from different countries. The project will lead to an increased African skill base, better co-operation between Governments, and an extended network of NGOs with similar conservation goals across the continent. This will improve the status of globally threatened species in Africa, which is an obligations under the Biodiversity Convention. The project will develop capacity to produce International Action Plans for priority species and will initiate production and implementation of National Action Plans for other species.
- **High quality and scientific excellence** The project will deliver good quality work of high scientific excellence with the help of British experts in research, training, capacity building, project management, writing and implementing action plans.
- **Catalytic effect** In Europe, the European Union Life Nature funds are linked to and dependent on Action Plans. Action Plans are a good basis for targeted, informed and effective decisions and project proposals. International Action Plans, in conjunction with the Bonn Convention, will facilitate international agreements between states for the protection and management of migratory species that have unfavourable conservation status and would benefit from international co-operation. In addition, analysing species status and promoting the growth of Species Interest Groups provides an objective mechanism for setting a continent-wide species conservation agenda, promoting cross-boarder action and building the capacity of the BirdLife Partnership in Africa to conserve birds and other biodiversity.
- **Additionality (should not cut across work being funded from other sources)** RSPB has provided some money for the preparatory work of the African Species Working Group Co-ordinator but no other funds are available for this project whose urgent need has been identified. The project is prioritising to focus on species where there is little or no existing conservation action and it will make use of the existing information to develop action plans with real and lasting benefits.
- **Value for money** The bird species chosen will be representative of a wide range of taxonomic families which occur in different habitats (biomes) and fairly evenly distributed across the continent. Building the capacity to develop International Action Plans will ensure that the process is replicated at national level. Eventually all the globally threatened species in Africa will be catered for through the multiplier effect. It is hoped that the technique can be applied not only to birds but also to other taxa as well. In fact, most of the BirdLife partners involved have a broad organisational remit to conserve all biodiversity. The project will use existing and voluntary networks for optimum efficiency.
- **Projects should be distinctive and innovative** The Darwin name will be promoted at all the workshops and launch and the Darwin logo will be used on all the publications, reports, newsletters and magazines. In Africa, conservation of biodiversity through the Action Plan process has not been widely used for species conservation although elsewhere in the world the technique has been proven to enhance significantly the conservation of individual bird species by focusing conservation effort. In addition, developing International Action Plans with capacity building and local training and will be an effective way of implementing national conservation priorities in Africa.
- **Exit strategy** The African BirdLife Partnership will be strengthened, new African Partners will be recommended to CAP for recruitment into the Partnership and the BirdLife network will be increased. Involvement of governments will help in the implementation of the International Action Plans and initiation of National Action Plans. The strategy should eventually cover all appropriate globally threatened species in Africa. Co-operation between nations will be enhanced and biodiversity conservation awareness in the African continent increased.

INSERT TIMEPLAN

13. Set out the proposed timetable for the work, including the programme's measurable outputs using the attached list of output measures.

See Timeplan for the whole project (opposite).

#### Year 1

The project infrastructure will be established and project staff will receive training in project administration and management. Experience from other regions will be reviewed and a standard for a species action planning process will be developed participatively by the African Partners, with support from RSPB and other specialists. A detailed training programme will be developed and implemented. The species list for attention by the project will be revised and finalised. Databases for 1) relevant species specialists and key contacts in partner countries, 2) potential funding sources and 3) globally threatened species/ action plans in Africa will be established. New Species Interest Groups will be created and at least two cross-border species action planning workshop will be held.

#### Year 2

Results of the first planning workshop will be evaluated and at least 6 international (cross-border) species action planning workshops will be held. Plans will be drafted, widely circulated for comment, finalised and at least 3 cross-border species action plans will be published. At least 5 national action planning workshops will be held and at least 3 plans will be published.

#### Year 3

Continuation of national species action planning workshops. The remaining 5 cross-border species action plans will be published. The remaining 10 national action plans will be produced (thus overall addressing 15 out of 17 participating countries, depending on the situation in participating countries). Project proposals for implementation of action plans will be produced. An independent final project review will be undertaken.

### **In relation to the standard output measures:**

#### Training outputs

5 *Number of people to receive at least one year training*

1: the Africa Species Working Group Co-ordinator will receive extensive training in project management, workshop facilitation and leading the production of cross-border and national action plans

6A *Number of people to receive other forms of training*

a) 17 national species action plan co-ordinators from 17 different African countries will receive one week of participative training on species action plans

b) 45 people from 17 African countries will receive a one week training course in species action planning and single species conservation (3 sub-regional workshops)

c) 100 people from over 20 African countries will receive on-the-job-training in the production of cross-border species action plans (1 three-day workshop with between 10 and 18 African participants for each of 8 cross-border species action plans)

d) the project administrator will receive training in project administration

e) ASWG co-ordinator will receive training in project planning and management, team building, workshop facilitation and networking and French.

6B *Number of training weeks to be provided*

a) national species action plan co-ordinators: 1 week

b) national species action plan co-ordinators and other specialists: 1 week in each of 3 sub-regions = 3 weeks

c) 7 cross-border species action plan workshops (the two Picarthartes species will be dealt with in the same combined workshop), 3-4 days each: total 5 weeks

d) Project administrator: 2 weeks

e) ASWGC: 8 weeks

total 19 weeks

7 *Number of training materials to be produced*

1 manual for species action planning to be distributed to at least 17 countries

### Research outputs

8 *Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country*

Project manager: 10 weeks  
Senior species action planning specialist: 4 weeks  
Researcher: 11 weeks  
Country programme officer: 4 weeks  
Total: **29 weeks**

9 *Number of species/habitat management plans to be produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country*

8 cross-border species action plans, covering the following species:

Spotted ground thrush	<i>Zoothera guttata</i>
Grauer's rush warbler	<i>Bradypterus graueri</i>
Rufous-fishing owl	<i>Scotopelia ussheri</i>
Blue swallow	<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>
Grey-necked picathartes	<i>Picathartes oreas</i>
White-necked picathartes	<i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i>
Lappet-faced vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
Houbara bustard	<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>

15 national species action plans (species to be determined through the workshop discussions)

11A *Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals* 2

11B *Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals* 3

12A *Number of computer based databases to be established and handed over to the host country*

1 database on specialists for globally threatened species in Africa

1 database on potential funding sources

12B *Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to the host country*

1 database on globally threatened species and their geographic range

14B *Number of conferences/seminars/workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/  
disseminated*

3 BirdLife Africa Partnership meetings

1 Pan African Ornithological Congress

plus 1 national workshop meeting in each of the individual countries involved (=17)

15A *Number of national press releases in host country(ies)*  $\geq 1$  in each of 17 host countries

15A *Number of national press releases in UK* 3

16A *Number of newsletters to be produced* 3: one per year

16B *Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)* 1,800: 50 for each of 17 participating countries

16C *Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK* 50

17A	<i>Number of dissemination networks to be established</i>	1 (threatened species network)
17B	<i>Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced</i>	2: BirdLife Africa Partnership, Africa Species Working Group
18A	<i>Number of national TV programmes/feature in host country(ies)</i>	17: 1 in each host country
19A	<i>Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(ies)</i>	≥17: ≥1 in each host country

Physical outputs

20	<i>Estimated value of physical assets to be handed over to host countries</i>	£2,200	1 PC, software,
		£1,500	scientific literature

Financial outputs

23	<i>Value of resources raised from other sources (i.e. in addition to Darwin funding for project work)</i>	
	from partners in host countries:	£65,312
	from RSPB and other UK sources	£79,154

In addition, we estimate that the project will help develop funding proposals which should subsequently raise an initial £50,000+ to start to fund implementation of elements of the species action plans.

14. Do you know of any other individual/organisation carrying out similar work? Give the details of the work, explaining the similarities and differences.

No other individuals or organisations are carrying out a capacity-building programme of Species Action Plans (SAPs) in Africa.

Species Action Plans have been developed and used extensively for globally threatened bird species that occur in Europe. Specifically, BirdLife International and Wetlands International, with funding from the RSPB and the European Union, prepared Species Action Plans for Europe's most threatened species (Heredia *et al* 1996 *Globally threatened Bird Species in Europe*).

The proposed project aims to take the expertise developed during the production of Species Action Plans in the UK and Europe, and transfer it for the first time to the African context.

A few of the species covered by the European SAPs occur in Africa for at least part of the year, but at the time few African conservationists were involved in the production of the plans, and as a result their African components are minimal. The relevant IUCN Species Survival Commission specialist groups have developed Action Plans for cranes, grebes, parrots, partridges & francolins, some of which species occur within Africa. These plans give rather superficial coverage of large numbers of species, and therefore arrive at rather generic conclusions. They were not produced with an African focus, nor with expertise-transfer as an aim. All of the specialist groups are based in the developed world, and all of the Action Plan authors/editors are based in the developed world. The only systematic attempt that we are aware of to produce SAPs for birds within Africa has been by the International Crane Foundation, which is attempting to develop SAPs for all the African crane species. The Endangered Wildlife Trust-South African Crane Working Group recently hosted a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop, which developed an Action Plan for the South African wattled crane population. The only one of our short-listed species currently subject to an action plan is the houbara bustard, and this only for the race *C. u. fuertaventurae* found in the Canary Islands. An African plan is necessary to complement this.

Currently therefore, there is very limited expertise available for the development and implementation of Action Plans within Africa, a gap which this project seeks to fill. This is vital if conservation organisations and funding agencies are to ensure that their efforts and the limited resources available are focused to derive the maximum conservation benefit.

This project is the first attempt within Africa to use the participative production of a series of SAPs as a means of catalysing the action planning approach. We will begin a cascade process, whereby participants in this project will use the experience gained to develop further Action Plans, most notably for endemic species within their own countries. This process will bring in new practitioners at a national level. The selection of trans-national species from a complementary suite of countries is specifically aimed at maximising participation by African conservation practitioners from as wide a geographical range as possible. Furthermore, the trans-national approach will foster

international co-operation and transfer of skills within Africa. Thus, in contrast to earlier Action Planning projects, our approach is driven primarily by the aim of maximising skills transfer.

A second important difference between this and other projects is that the involvement of the unique African BirdLife partnership of in-country NGOs means that there is an in-built mechanism for co-operation during the project. Even more crucially, there will be a continuation of the process beyond the three-year timescale, into full-scale implementation of the SAPs by African organisations. In order to avoid duplication of effort, an explicit criterion in the selection of species for action plan production in this project was that there is only limited conservation action for them currently taking place, but that the interest in them and therefore the potential for conservation action exists.

15. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate how many trainees will be involved, from which countries and what will be the criteria for selection. How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length of any training course.

The lack of expertise in species action planning has been identified by the Council of African Partners of BirdLife International as a major constraint to species conservation in Africa (see Annex 5 for letters of support from the Council of the African Partnership). It is urgent and essential that training and development are therefore fundamental components of this programme. RSPB's experience in this field has been extensive and over a long time period and it is thus in a good position to be able to offer to share this experience with partners across the BirdLife partnership in Africa.

#### **Project staff**

The African Species Working Group Co-ordinator (ASWGC) will receive training in project planning and management, team building, workshop facilitation and networking (4 weeks). He will also attend an intensive French course. The project administrator will receive on-going training in administration and project accounting and reporting throughout the project.

#### **International Action Planning trainees**

Each of the 17 African BirdLife Partners will appoint one national species co-ordinator (staff member or volunteer of the Partner). During a one-week workshop, the species co-ordinators, together with the Africa Species Working Group Co-ordinator and RSPB and other specialists will develop a common understanding of species action planning and a species action plan format. This workshop will also define further training needs.

Additionally, each of the 17 African Partners will appoint one government representative and if appropriate other interested parties to benefit from species action plan training. 3 one-week sub-regional workshops will be held and all trainees (national species co-ordinators, government representatives, others: total approx. 45-50 participants) will receive training in the production of participative species action plans and species conservation techniques. They will also receive training in workshop facilitation techniques.

#### **Effectiveness of training**

While the production of the first 4 cross-border species action plans will be facilitated and supported by RSPB specialists, the production of the remaining 4 plans will be led by the Africa Species Working Group Co-ordinator. The quality of these latter plans will be a measure of success of his training. Each of the 17 national species co-ordinators and government representatives will participate in at least one cross-border species action planning process. This on-the-job training will build their confidence to translate the international plan into detailed national species action plans. The quality of the national action plans, facilitated by the national species co-ordinators will be a measure of success of these training exercises.

16. How will trainee outcomes/destinations be monitored after the end of the training?

The principle training objective in this project is to address the lack of theoretical and practical experience in species action planning. The project will actively support the production of 8 cross-border species action plans and at least one national action plan for 15 out of 17 participating countries (given the security situation in some countries, it is unlikely that national plans can be produced for all). While the first four cross-border plans will be produced under the guidance of RSPB specialists, the African Species Working Group Co-ordinator will facilitate the production of four further cross-border species action plans without outside support. The African BirdLife Partners, through their individual species co-ordinators, and in collaboration with governments departments and other national stakeholders, will take the lead in the translation of international, cross-border plans into detailed national species action plans. The steering committee will assess and comment on the quality of all 8 cross-border species action plans and 15 national plans. National and cross-border species action plans will include clear and realistic indicators of achievement. The African Species Working Group Co-ordinator will maintain regular

contact with trainees, BirdLife Partners and relevant government departments and will ensure regular progress reporting on both national planning and plan implementation. Reports will be evaluated by the project steering committee.

17. How is the work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? A clear exit strategy must be included.

Project continuation will take two forms: production of new Action Plans, and implementation of the SAPs produced under this project.

By the end of the project there will be a substantial group of African conservation practitioners who have direct experience of the Action Planning process. These people will be equipped to develop national SAPs for the species covered in the main project, and to develop further SAPs for endemic species in their countries. This will lead to more people being drawn into the Action Planning process.

The development of funding proposals for implementation of plan components will begin before the end of the project, and this activity will continue after the end of the grant period.

These activities will be facilitated by the following aspects of the project:

- The inclusion among the project activities of funding workshops and development of funding proposals.
- Including government officials as participants in the project, who will be involved in encouraging governments to adopt the SAPs.
- The continuing existence of the BirdLife partnership as a permanent network of in-country NGOs providing advice, support, and collaborative links.
- The development of Species Interest Groups within Africa as part of the project.

There is no exit strategy for the partner organisations, because they form part of an established and self-sustaining network of organisations - BirdLife International. The relationships between organisations will continue indefinitely.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

18. Describe how progress on the project would be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its aims and objectives, both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. How would you ensure that it achieves value for money? What arrangements will be made for disseminating results? If applicable, how would you seek the views of clients/customers?

**Management structure:** (the structure of the project is shown in the organogram opposite).

- **Monitoring/evaluation** With Darwin Initiative funding, a Darwin Project Steering Committee (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife International Secretariat, Nature Uganda, African Species Working Group Co-ordination Committee, African Species Working Group Co-ordinator) will be formed. This committee will set meeting schedules, develop the mechanisms for progress and financial reporting, refine the roles and responsibilities of all the individuals and institutions involved, agree the annual work plan of the ASWG Co-ordinator, conduct the annual review of project progress and conduct a final review of the project. An independent evaluation will be organised at the end of project and used to guide future species action plan work.
- **Ensuring value for money** The approach of this project to work on cross-border species across the African continent in conjunction with the African BirdLife partnership will benefit a large number of people who will be trained cost-effectively. The skills gained will result in many more species action plans being compiled in due course and implemented beyond the time frame of this project. Compilation and implementation of the first set of International Species Action Plans is only the start of this approach to conserving species within the BirdLife International African Partnership. In addition, development of the BirdLife African partners' ability to compile Species Action Plans will equip them with the knowledge of a valuable conservation planning tool. This knowledge, along with sound planning capabilities, will enable each BirdLife partner or groups of BirdLife partners (depending on their bird species of interest) to seek funding for compilation and/or implementation of further Species Action Plans, independent of the ASWG Co-ordinator and external technical expertise

**Disseminating results** Results of the project will be disseminated through the following media:

- **Scientific papers** will be published on various findings of the project work in both national and international journals.
- **Conferences and ornithological meetings** such as the XI Pan African Ornithological Congress will also be used
- **Newsletters** will also be used to disseminate research findings at national and International level. Articles will also be produced in the local newspapers.

- **National, local press releases, TV and radio programmes** The importance of gaining press coverage especially in the host countries will be emphasised.
- **World Bird Database** Information gathered during the project will be added to the database so that all interested can access it.
- **Seek views of clients/customers** The training workshops will involve constant exchange of peoples' experiences through discussions. At the end of every training workshop, a questionnaire asking the participants what they expected of the training, what they have gained and their suggestions on future courses will be given to every participant. This will assist the organisers to assess the trainees' needs and to improve future courses. Constant E-Mail contact of the clients/customers with the project will keep the two parties informed of each others views and needs.

**Darwin Project Steering Committee** will consist of :

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (Dieter Hoffmann, Peter Newbery, Geoff Hilton)
- BirdLife International Secretariat (Gary Allport),
- Nature Uganda (Julius Arinaitwe)
- African Species Working Group (ASWG) Co-ordination Committee (Steven Evans and Roger Fotso)
- ASWG Co-ordinator ( Eric Sande)

This role of this forum in management of the project will be to:

- Secure funds for the project and provide British expertise.
- Set meeting schedules according to the various opportunities that exist.
- Assist with developing the mechanisms for progress and financial reporting.
- Refine the roles and responsibilities of all the individuals and institutions involved.
- Agree the annual work plan of the ASWG Co-ordinator.
- Conduct the annual review of project progress.
- Conduct a final review of the project.



## 19. Logical framework.

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p><b>Overall Goal</b> 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 I OG2 17 African countries benefit from project I OG3 Additional financial resources mobilised</p>	<p>1. Monitoring reports 2., 3. Project reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued financial support from governments and donors</li> </ul>
<p><b>Purpose</b> 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 I PP2 Out of a total of 8 high quality cross-border species action plans, 5 are collaboratively produced without outside support I PP3 Co-operative implementation of at least 2 high quality cross-border species action plans initiated by 2003</p>	<p>1. Strategy document 2., 3. Project report, species action plans</p>	
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>0 Project management structure in place</p> <p>1 A priority list of species for which species action plan approaches would enhance their conservation</p> <p>2 Priority countries that CAP should endeavour to recruit into the partnership based on their importance to the conservation of birds identified</p> <p>3 Training programme for BirdLife Africa partnership implemented</p> <p>4 Network of species interest groups functioning</p>	<p>I 0.1 Annual workplans agreed I 0.2 Tasks implemented on time I 0.3 6 monthly steering committee meetings attended by 2/3 membership</p> <p>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</p> <p>I 2.1 Prioritised list of African countries to be recruited into partnership presented to CAP by August 2001</p> <p>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</p> <p>I 4.1 Five additional species interest groups created I 4.2 Workplans for 2 species interest groups agreed I 4.3 45-50 people from 17 African countries trained in single species conservation (cf. I 4.3)</p>	<p>Progress reports</p> <p>Project report</p> <p>Minutes of CAP</p> <p>Project report Workshop reports</p> <p>Project report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional funding secured</li> </ul>

<p>5 International (cross-border) and national species action plans for priority species produced</p> <p>6 Process for securing funding for action plan implementation is initiated</p>	<p>I 4.3 Experts from each respective country contribute to SIG annual report</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>I 6.1 5 Funding proposals submitted to donors by March 2004</p>	<p>Species action plans</p> <p>Letters of acknowledgement from donors</p>	
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>0.1 Establish steering committee &amp; meeting schedule</p> <p>0.2 Recruit administrator</p> <p>0.3 Agree roles &amp; responsibilities &amp; annual workplans</p> <p>0.4 Identify &amp; deliver project staff training needs</p> <p>0.5 Produce activity and financial reports</p> <p>0.6 Produce project brief (with objectives, roles and responsibilities) in English and French</p> <p>0.7 Establish/ populate databases (species action plans/ species)</p> <p>0.8 Carry out annual review &amp; end of project evaluation</p> <p>0.9 Produce strategy for species conservation in Africa</p> <p>1.1 Consult with other experts over criteria for spp selection</p> <p>1.2 Agree criteria for selection of species priorities</p> <p>1.3 Prepare species list</p> <p>2.1 Identify countries with no BirdLife representation but significant numbers of GT birds</p> <p>2.2 Report to CAP and ASWG the relative importance of different countries in terms of species</p> <p>3.1 Identify the training needs for all people involved</p> <p>3.2 Hold 3 sub-regional training workshops</p> <p>3.3 Exchange/share experience at all stages of the project and between SIL co-ordinators</p> <p>3.4 Assess quality of species action plans</p>	<p><b>Activities (continued):</b></p> <p>4.1 Identify potential SIG members for each priority spp</p> <p>4.2 Identify existing species interest groups</p> <p>4.3 Develop contacts for all countries in spp range and involve them in the AP process</p> <p>4.4 Where appropriate start new SIGs for priority species</p> <p>4.5 Hold training workshops in single species conservation (cf. 4.2)</p> <p>5.1 Review experience of SAP</p> <p>5.2 Hold consultative workshop to develop species action plan outline and planning process</p> <p>5.3 Promote benefits of SAP approach to National. governments &amp; International Institutions</p> <p>5.4 Review previous work &amp; contact stakeholders for each species</p> <p>5.5 Hold workshops &amp; draw up draft plans for consultation &amp; endorsement</p> <p>5.6 Finalise and publish/launch/distribute/promote cross-border plans</p> <p>5.7 Hold national species action planning workshops</p> <p>5.8 Support National species co-ordinators to write, publish and promote national plans</p> <p>5.9 Produce species action planning manual</p> <p>6.1 Identify resources needed to implement international and national action plans</p> <p>6.2 Identify donors and develop database</p> <p>6.3 Promote the benefits of the SAP approach to potential donors</p> <p>6.4 Submit project funding proposals for implementation of international and national action plans to appropriate donors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security situation allows to work in 17 countries</li> <li>• Governments in at least 17 countries willing to collaborate</li> </ul>	