

# Action Plan for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa

## Species Action plan Stakeholder Workshop for the Conservation of Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*)

06 – 10 September 2002, Yaoundé, Cameroon

### Workshop Report



**International Species Co-ordinator for Grey-necked Picathartes:**

**Rusell II Mbah Bian, CBCS**

**Facilitators:**

**Roger NGOUFO, CEW (main facilitator)**

**Eric Sande, Nature Uganda**

**Dieter Hoffmann, RSPB**

**Rusell II Mbah Bian, CBCS**

**Report:**

**Roger NGOUFO**

**Russell II Mbah Bian**

**Dieter Hoffmann**

**Eric Sande**

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## Summary

A workshop to draw up a species conservation action plan for the globally threatened Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*) was held in Cameroon from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2002. The workshop brought together species experts and resource persons from the BirdLife Partnership, various national environmental NGOs and government officials of the Species Range States: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria and Cameroon.

This workshop is the third in a series of 8 international action plans for globally threatened bird species in the 3 year BirdLife Species Action Plan project co-funded by the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural affairs (DEFRA) through the Darwin Initiative. Stakeholders appreciated the facilitation of the workshop, which also helped raise the awareness about the species and build capacity of participants.

The long-term vision (10 years) of this plan was *The status of the Grey-necked Picathartes improved from Vulnerable to Near threatened*, while the aim for the 5 year plan was *Current populations of Picathartes stabilized or increased in key sites*. In order to achieve this aim, five objectives together with relevant projects were defined.

The workshop was officially opened by Mrs Legg Lorraine, Chairperson from the environmental education program of Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS), who acknowledged the presence at this workshop of government delegates from Gabon, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon as a sign of commitment to the success of the current project. The success of a species conservation action plan strongly depends on the good will and cooperation between governments and non-governmental agencies in various countries.

## 1. Introduction

*Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally threatened birds in Africa* is a three-year BirdLife project, which aims to build the capacity for species action planning in Africa. The project started in April 2001 and is coordinated on behalf of the BirdLife International Africa Species Working Group by Nature Uganda and the RSPB (BirdLife partners in Uganda and UK respectively). It is implemented by BirdLife partner organisations in 17 African countries. Co-funding has been received from the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) under the Darwin Initiative.

A Species Action Plan (SAP) is a scientifically authoritative, strategic document that defines specific, measurable objectives and actions for conserving priority species. It should be achievable, time-bound and involve all appropriate stakeholders. In previous workshops involving specialists from BirdLife partner organisation in Africa, RSPB and the BirdLife secretariat, a format and process for species action planning in Africa was developed. This format and process is based on a participative planning workshop, involving key stakeholders from all range states, and has been accepted as the standard for BirdLife International in Africa.

Grey-necked Picathartes is one of the eight globally threatened bird species in Africa that have been chosen for the development of an international species action plan under this project. The Grey-necked Picathartes is classified as Vulnerable. The population of the Grey-necked Picathartes continues to decline as a consequence of low breeding success and habitat degradation.

## **2. Workshop**

The workshop was organised by the BirdLife African Species Working Group and hosted by Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS), BirdLife affiliate organisation in Cameroon. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Roger Ngoufo, Chairman of the Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW). Co-facilitators were Mbah Bian Russell II from the CBCS, Dieter Hoffmann, RSPB and Eric Sande, African Species Working Group Co-ordinator.

### **2.1. Workshop objectives**

After the first meeting, introductions and outline of participants' expectations the workshop objectives were defined as follows:

- Supplement basic knowledge on the species
- Develop and adopt a realistic plan for the species
- Set up an Interest Group for the implementation of the actions.

### **2.2. Workshop Programme and Implementation**

The Workshop programme was based on the Species Action plan format developed during previous meetings under this project (Annex 1).

Sessions included some presentations, but mainly facilitated discussions, both in plenary and group work session using overheads projectors, brainstorming on flip charts and cards. The result of each group work session was subsequently presented to the plenary, discussed and agreed. Each day commenced with the facilitator summarising the previous day and ended with a simple evaluation exercise. The workshop programme is shown in Annex 2. Below is a summary of major sessions.

### *Day One-Saturday 7th September*

#### ***Session 1: Opening***

The official opening ceremony of the workshop was postponed to day 2 following the delayed arrival of Nigerian participants and Eric Sande from Uganda caused by accidental traffic difficulties.

Mrs Legg from CBCS welcomed participants. Dieter Hoffmann, Russell II Mbah Bian and Eric Sande presented a background to the presented the background information to the Species Action Plan project. . The participants then introduced themselves in pairs, outlined their position and their expectations out of which the workshop objectives were defined. The participants' details are shown in Annex 3 while their expectations are shown in Annex 4. Russell presented the background information to the Grey-necked Picathartes that led participants during the subsequent discussions.

#### ***Session 2: Plenary session***

This session which focused on identification of gaps in existing knowledge enabled the participants to fill out the tables about the potential status of the species in range states and national legislations which may more or less affect the protection of the species.

#### ***Session 3: Group work, presentation, discussions and evaluation***

The group work was to generate additional information to be incorporated in the background working document, summarizing the existing knowledge about ongoing projects, factors affecting their implementation, main threats and stakeholder analysis. Participants from each range state were asked to identify, analyse five key stakeholders of their respective country and enter them in a table with the following entries: interest, activity, impact of activity on the species (positive or negative), intensity of the impact (Low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦), critical (♦♦♦♦)).

### *Day 2-Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September*

#### ***Session 1: Problem tree***

Participants in group work turned their attention to the identification of main threats affecting the species in a cause-effect relationship. Thereafter results were presented and discussed in plenary session.

#### ***Session 2: Plenary session***

Problems and threats were prioritised, and then participants agreed on the vision, goal and objectives of the plan. The ranking system was as follows:

Low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦), critical (♦♦♦♦). In general, population decline in *Picathartes oreas* is due to low productivity, insufficient nesting sites available (♦♦♦), infanticide (♦♦♦) and habitat destruction or perturbation (♦♦♦♦); another critical problem identified is the lack of local capacities to study the species (♦♦♦♦).

### *Day 3: Monday 9th September*

#### ***Session 1: Appointment of a group to prepare a press release***

Russell II MBAH BIAN (Cameroon), Dr Augustine EZEALOR (Nigeria) and Dieu-Donné MOULOUNGUI (Gabon) volunteered to produce a press release on behalf of all workshop participants.

### ***Session 2: Formulation of Project concepts***

Participants were divided into work groups to identify relevant projects necessary to achieve the defined objectives. Each project was prepared in the form of a concept.

### ***Session 3: Presentations and discussions***

Project concepts were presented and discussed in plenary.

### ***Session 4: Analysis review***

Analysis was reviewed in order to ensure that identified projects covered all propositions made earlier by analysing stakeholder implications. Prioritised objectives were presented in plenary session

### ***Session 5: Completion of Projects Table***

Once discussed and adopted in plenary, projects were presented in form of standard project table including estimated costing, responsibilities, target countries, overall priority and indicators of success.

## ***Day 4–Tuesday 10th September***

### ***Session 1: Monitoring and Evaluation of the plan***

By asking basic questions (**by who** and **how**) participants discussed what should be done at national and international levels and identified people/organisations responsible.

**At the national level**, follow up evaluation should include:

- The relevant ministry
- A coordinator responsible for data collecting, fundraising and networking with international bodies
- Relevant NGOs

**At the international level**

- 1 coordinator (Russell II MBAH BIAN)
- The Species Interest Group

### ***How?***

Follow up will be done:

- By monitoring indicators a the level of the aim, objectives and projects
- Networking through e-mail
- production of an annual report by the coordinator in each country

### ***Session 2: Adoption of the plan***

The plan was unanimously adopted by participants





### 3. Results

The workshop brought together 19 participants from species range states: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria and Cameroon; facilitators came from UK and Uganda. The involvement of government authorities and NGOs representing different countries shows the importance of such meeting.

The results of the workshop were incorporated into a draft species action plan presented in Annex 5. Participants decided to create an International Grey-necked Picathartes Interest Group and an inaugural meeting was held. The meeting agreed Terms of reference (TORs), election of officers, follow-up of international Species Action Plans workshop, country report/plan, development of national Action Plans, fundraising strategies, communication link and monitoring and evaluation. The minutes of this meeting are presented in Annex 6. The workshop received considerable coverage from the media and participants agreed on a standard press release (Annex 7) which will be modified accordingly and published in the respective range states

### 4. Next Steps

Specific tasks concerning next steps were assigned to participants with precise deadlines. Some tasks were attributed to specific individuals such as producing the workshop report (by the main facilitator), drafting the action plan (by species international coordinator). Information about activities to be implemented, by who and when is presented in the Table below.

#### Responsibilities and deadlines for the different activities that need to be done

WHAT	BY WHO	WHEN
Produce the workshop report	Roger NGOUFO (facilitator), Russell II MBAH BIAN (Coordinator) Eric SANDE (ASWGC),	End September 2002
Draft the SAP	Russell II MBAH BIAN	December 2002
Comment on the draft	All participants and others	February 2003
Logo	All participants and others	February 2003
AA preface by one among COMIFAC leaders	Roger FOTSO	When the document is ready
Print and circulate the document	Eric SANDE, Russell MBAH , Dieter HOFFMANN	April 2003
Launching and implementing the plan	Russell II MBAH BIAN and Species Interest Group	According to COMIFAC meeting

## 5. Evaluation

At the end of each day, participants were asked to fill in a simple table to evaluate the mood of the group. The results are presented in Annex 8. Participants were extremely positive about the workshop and all the workshop objectives were achieved.

It is worthy noting once more that due to traffic constraints, participants from Nigeria and Uganda were unable to reach Cameroon by 5th September as planned. They instead arrived only on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Subsequently, the workshop started on 7<sup>th</sup> September instead of 6<sup>th</sup>. On the other hand, some participants raised a number of complaints that are being addressed in subsequent workshops. Finally, the workshop brought together participants speaking three different languages (French, English, Spanish), which was as such a technical constraint. At the end of the workshop, one of the participants gave a vote of thanks on behalf of all, which is presented in Annex 9.

## **Annexes**

**Annex 1: BirdLife Africa Species Action Plan Process and Format**

**Annex 2: Workshop Programme**

**Annex 3: List of participants**

**Annex 4: Participants' expectations**

**Annex 5: Draft Species Action Plan for the Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*)**

**Annex 6: Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*)  
Interest Group held on 10 September 2002**

**Annex 7: Press Release**

**Annex 8: Daily Moodometer**

**Annex 9: Vote of thanks by the participants**

## **Annex 1: BirdLife Africa Species Action Plan Process and Format**

### **Process:**

1. Identify species for which action planning is appropriate
2. Identify key individuals
3. Identify workshop participants
4. Collate background information (literature and questionnaire, if appropriate)
5. Produce background section of Action Plan
6. Hold participative, facilitated planning workshop
7. Draft Action Plan and seek endorsement by participants
8. Seek endorsement with relevant agencies
9. Produce and circulate Action Plan
10. Implement Action Plan
11. Review Action Plan following agreed Monitoring and Evaluation system and publish results
12. Update Action Plan at the end of its life

### **Format:**

#### ***Presentation:***

- *Not too plain, not too glossy (This will vary from country to country)<sup>1</sup>*
- *Appropriate language, executive summary also in English*

#### **A) Front Cover**

- Logos
- Picture of species
- Date
- Title
- Subtitle
- National Emblem<sup>2</sup>

#### **B) Inside Front cover**

- Authors
- Contributors
- Interest Group
- Credits
- Citation
- Thanks to local people, if appropriate

#### **Foreword**

- *Government official, Head of state or Royalty*
- Internationally famous conservationist

#### **Table of contents**

- *clear and all on one page*

#### **Acronyms**

#### **Definition**

- What is a Species Action Plan?

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<sup>1</sup> *Italics: notes*

<sup>2</sup> underlined: national action plans only

- Why this plan?
- Geographic scope
- Introduce SAP history and objectives
- National plan to refer to International plan

**0. Executive summary**

- *No more than 1 page.*
- *Multilingual, if appropriate*
  - status
  - distribution
  - conservation priority
  - threats
  - aim, objectives and major activities
  - history of plan and stakeholders
  - wider benefits

**1. Introduction**

- *no more than 1 page*
  - introduce species (distribution, status, threats, emotive)
  - introduce limiting factors
  - introduce stakeholders
  - biodiversity justification and benefits of plan and outcome to species and communities
  - aim and objectives with timescale

**2. Background Information**

- taxonomy as relevant
- distribution and population status
  - *global, (present as summary table)*
  - *local (present as summary table)*

**Table: Population and distribution**

Country	Population (plus quality code)	Distribution	Population trend (plus quality code)	Seasonal occurrence
	<i>Estimate of total number</i>	<i>Widespread, local</i>	<i>Stable, increasing, decreasing</i>	<i>Resident or months</i>

- potential habitat (if appropriate)
- map
- movements, if relevant to plan
- protection status
  - legal protection (*in table, country by country*)
  - international legislation (*in table*)
  - does it occur in protected areas and IBAs? (*list in table per country*)
- Relationship with other SAPs and biodiversity strategies
- Habitat requirements of the species
- Biology and ecology
  - *only relevant information*
  - *bibliography contains all references*
- Threats and potential threats
  - *Short description of each threat*

- *Develop list of key words to ensure consistency of use between plans*
- *Link threats with ecology and biology of species*
- *Always try to quantify threats*
- *Rank threats*
- *State of current knowledge*
- *Gap analysis*
- *Summarise as problem tree, start with conservation status, prioritise direct **causes***  
(◆◆◆◆: critical, ◆◆◆: high, ◆◆: medium, ◆: low, ? unknown)
- Stakeholder Analysis
  - *Summary table*
- Factors influencing success of action plan implementation
  - Socio-cultural effects
  - Economic implications
  - *Strengths and weaknesses of existing conservation measures*
  - Administrative/ political set-up
  - *Biology of species (e.g. does it breed in captivity, how specialised is it, how long does it live?)*
  - Local expertise and interest
  - Cultural attitudes
  - *Appeal of species (eco-tourism)*
  - *Resources*

### 3. Action Programme

- *Aims, objective and projects developed from problem tree*
  - Vision
    - *Long term vision for the status of species*
    - *Specific and measurable/ clear indicators*
    - *Time frame*
    - *Add short text*
  - Aim
    - *Aim of the species action plan*
    - *Specific and measurable/ clear indicators*
    - *Time frame*
    - *Targets might differ between national and international plan, but national plan contributes and refers to international plan*
    - *Use IUCN guidelines, Red Data Book, World Bird Database when applicable*
    - *Add short explanatory text*
  - Objectives
    - *Strategic objectives*
    - *Specific and measurable/ clear indicators*
    - *Use key headings*
    - *Prioritised (◆-◆◆◆◆,?)*
    - *Add short explanatory text for each objective (include summary of activities)*
  - Projects
    - *Table and short description for each*
    - *Should always refer to benefits to local people*
    - *Number each project according to related objective*
    - *List under the following headings:*
      - Policy and legislation

- *Species and habitat*
- *Monitoring and research*
- *Public awareness and training*
- *Community involvement*
- *International*

**Summary table of proposed Projects**

Project	Countries	Overall Priority	Agencies responsible	Cost	Time scale	Indicators	Risks and Opportunities
<b>A) Policy and legislation</b>							
1.1 Name of project	List of countries with priorities ◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆	Score ◆- ◆◆◆◆ /?	Generic for international plan  Specific for national plan	National plan only	Length, start		
1.2 Name of project							
3.3 Name of project							
<b>B) Species and habitat</b>							
1.5 Name of project							
<b>C) Monitoring and research</b>							
Etc.							
<b>D) Public awareness and training</b>							
<b>E) Community involvement</b>							
<b>F) <u>International</u></b>							
Etc.							

- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

**Acknowledgements**

**Bibliography**

**Appendices**

- List of relevant web pages
- Entry from Threatened Birds of the World
- List of protected areas and IBAs where species occurs
- Occupied areas most in need of action
- List of contacts (stakeholders, Species Interest Group, others)

Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa

Species Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop, Grey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas*  
Yaounde, Cameroon 7-10 September 2002  
Workshop Programme

	Saturday 7 September	Sunday 8 September	Monday 9 September	Tuesday 10 September
9:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Opening Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives / Programme</li> </ul> <p>Presentation :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background information</li> </ul> <p>Plenary session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaps in knowledge</li> <li>• On-going projects</li> <li>• Factors influencing implementation</li> <li>• Main threats</li> </ul>	<p>Recap of day 1</p> <p><b>Group work:</b></p> <p>Problem tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify causes of main threats</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations &amp; discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back on problem tree</li> </ul>	<p>Recap of day 2</p> <p>Appoint group to prepare press release</p> <p><b>Group work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate project concepts</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations &amp; discussions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back and agree on project concepts</li> </ul>	<p>Recap of day 3</p> <p>Presentations and discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back</li> </ul> <p>Plenary session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M&amp;E Plan</li> <li>• Adopt plan</li> <li>• Next steps</li> <li>• Creation of Species Interest groups</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>			
14:00 – 17:00	<p><b>Group work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of background information</li> <li>• Stakeholder Analysis</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations and discussions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back</li> </ul> <p>Evaluation</p>	<p><b>Plenary session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise problem / threats</li> <li>• Agree vision, aim and objectives</li> <li>• Indicators</li> </ul> <p>Evaluation</p>	<p>Plenary session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review stakeholder analysis</li> <li>• Prioritise objectives</li> </ul> <p><b>Group work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete project table</li> </ul> <p>Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation</li> <li>• Wrap up (incl. agreement of press release)</li> </ul> <p><b>First meeting of Species Interest Group</b></p>

The Workshop is organised by the Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS), The BirdLife International Affiliate in Cameroon

This project is co-ordinated, on behalf of the BirdLife International African Species Working Group, by NatureUganda and the RSPB (the BirdLife Partners in Uganda and the UK respectively). The project is supported and implemented by 17 African BirdLife partner organisations and RSPB and co-funded by the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under the Darwin Initiative. This workshop was organised by the Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society, the BirdLife Partner International Partner in Cameroon.



### Annex 3: List of participants

Names	Country	Organisation	Position	Contact
Mouloungui Kumbaht Dieudonné	Gabon	Les amis du pangolin	Vice Chairman	<a href="mailto:Seconde.nature@laposte.net">Seconde.nature@laposte.net</a> Tel :241 29 95 47 B. P 14375
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#### **Annex 4: Participants' expectations**

- To produce and implement in future a simple, realistic action plan for the conservation of the species
- Improve the protection status of species
- To learn more about the ecology of the species by sharing experience with those who have carried out studies on the species in the field
- To produce a realistic action plan to ensure species survival in nature
- To learn in order to apply on the Mbam Minkom (IBA) site where the species occurs
- Participate in the production of a concrete plan
- Setting a strategies for species conservation
- Efficient species conservation strategy using a participatory approach during the workshop
- A practical SAP
- A good SAP to halt species extinction
- Develop skills in SAP production
- Setting a sub regional strategy
- Identify and check information and resource persons for Gabon
- Produce a strategic plan based on more experiences about the species
- Update the distribution map
- Produce a sub-regional conservation plan
- Set a strategy and SAP for monitoring and conservation
- Capacity building
- Conservation and survey plan for the species in the subregion
- Produce a realistic plan, applicable all over species range states
- Active participation of experts during discussions.

## Annex 5: Draft Species Action Plan for the Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*)

### Acronyms

### Factfile

**Family:** Picathartidae

**Distribution:** equatorial forest from SE Nigeria to NE Gabon

**Habitat:** primary or secondary rain forest

**Size:** 33-38 cm, 200 – 250g.

**Plumage:** The nape is red and the fore-crown blue. The underparts including belly and throat are of soft lemon-yellow colour, with grey wash on the throat and upper chest. Primaries form a very distinctive black band separating the yellowish vent and the slate grey of the back.

**Voice :** rather silent, but sometimes gives low, quiet drawn out rasping or hissing 'wheet' call, 1-2 s long, repeated several times every 4 s or so, "like the sound of heavy furniture being pushed across a gritty wooden floor".

**Nests:** half-cup of dried mud impregnated with dry grass fibres and dead leaves built on cliffs, rock faces or cave roofs.

**Eggs :** 1 – 3, dark fawn with dark brown blotches, creamy white with chocolate brown and grey blotches,

**Incubation period:** 21-24 days, nestling period: about 24 days

**Diet:** mainly insects (grasshoppers, orthopterans, beetles, weevils...), invertebrates (earthworms, slugs, snails...), and small vertebrates, with some lizards, frogs...

**English name:** Grey-necked Picathartes, Grey-necked Rockfowl.

## 1. Introduction

*Picathartes oreas* is a resident, which occurs in the lower Guinean forests in Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea (including Bioko). It has one congener, *P. gymnocephalus* resident endemic of the Upper Guinea forest, occurring in five countries between Guinea and Ghana. The distribution of Grey-necked *Picathartes* is highly fragmented and all known populations are small and isolated. It is classified as Vulnerable under IUCN/BirdLife International threat criteria, and its primary habitat is disappearing rapidly.

## 2. Background information

### Taxonomy

**Class:** Aves

**Order:** Passeriformes

**Suborder:** Passeri (the Oscines)

**Family:** Picathartidae

**Genus:** *Picathartes*

**Species:** *P. oreas*

The taxonomy status of *Picathartes* constitutes an ongoing ornithological puzzle. The genus has been variously placed in the Corvidae (Serle, 1952; Sibley & Monroe, 1990); the Sturnidae or close to it (Lowe, 1938; Bannerman, 1951); the Muscicapidae, the Timaliidae (Delacour & Amadon, 1951; Hall & Moreau, 1970; Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire, 1993) and the Sylviidae (Sibley *et al.*, 1988). The uncertainty of the taxonomic position of *Picathartes* has generated a concurrent problem of determining the nearest relatives of its genus.

Recent DNA (and anatomical) work by Sibley and Ahlquist supports the corvine relationship of *Picathartes* (the humerus is typically corvine), but suggests that their closest relatives may be the rockjumpers (*Chaetops*) of South Africa (Sibley & Monroe, 1990) which themselves have usually been placed among babblers or thrushes. Brosset suggests that the two species of *Picathartes* may well be the remnants of an archaic avian order. The problem is still unresolved.

### Distribution and its population status

The Grey-necked *Picathartes* is a restricted range species found equatorial forest from SE Nigeria to NE Gabon. It occurs in Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and on the Island of Bioko. It is also expected to be present in the north western tip of the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). Its population throughout West Africa is highly fragmented and may overall be in decline. Its total population could well be less than 10,000 mature individuals.

**Nigeria:** The bird is locally common in undisturbed forest in South-East, close to Cameroon border; 94 breeding sites have been identified in 1987 with estimated 500-1000 birds, mostly between villages of Olum, Kanyang, Bamba and Bashu, in area of *c.* 20 x 50 km centred on 06°15'N, 09°05'E (Ash 1991), and 42 further sites nearby in Oban Hills / Obudu region (Anon, 1995).

**Cameroon:** *P. oreas* is widespread in South-West part of the country, south of 06°N and west of 13°E, mainly in coastal lowland rain forest, up to 1800 m on Mount Cameroon and 1250 m on Mount Nlonako; 13 breeding sites in area of 3 x 5 km just Northwest of Mundemba in Korup National Park, one with 30 nests (Green 1995); near Korup, known from Rumpi Hills and mountains near Usukutang and Nguti (Roderwald *et al.*, 1994); in South, a large colony with 47 nests, at least 40 active, in Dja Biosphere Reserve (Thompson and Fotso, 1995).

**Gabon:** 7 colonies each of 5-15 birds were known in Bélinga, Dibakouélé, and Bengoué (Brosset and Erard, 1986); several colonies 2-3 nests in Reserve de la Lopé in Central Gabon and on R. Mbay (Christy and Clarke, 1994); Birds caught alive, Mouila (01°50'S, 11°02'E), 1981 may have been an escape, but in 1994 a pair was seen not far north, in limestone caves east of Lastoursville (00°50'S, 12°43E) (Y-M. de Martin de Viviers, pers.comm.).

**Bioko:** Butynsky and Koster (1989) mention 10 sightings in almost inaccessible terrain, in SW, where the known distribution is limited to the Gran Caldera de Luba and a 7 km stretch of the Rio Olé at 500 – 750 m near 03°19 N, 08°29 E. The bird is strongly suspected to occur in Rio Muni, mainland Equatorial Guinea.

Appendix 1 shows the local distribution, protected area status and known sites of the Grey-necked Picathartes. The locations of the known and potential sites across the range are shown in Figures 1 map).

### Potential habitat

Picathartes are almost always encountered in primary or secondary forest. In Cameroon, the bird occur predominantly in coastal lowland rain forest associated with caves, cliffs and overhanging rocks in rugged and inaccessible places.

Caves inhabited by Picathartes are open cavities in ferrous rocks. There are large cracks and chimneys in roof, ramifications and bed rocks in the walls (Brosset). However, in 1999, Matthias Waltert and Michael Mühlenberg found a nest of this species attached to the buttress of a large *Piptadeniatrum* tree, 1,5 m above ground, near a small forest stream.

### Population status

Estimates of the population size, distribution and seasonal occurrence are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Population, distribution and seasonal occurrence of Grey-necked Picathartes (Quality code according to the World Bird Database)**

	Estimated population (Individuals)	Distribution	Population trend	Seasonal occurrence	Notes
<b>Nigeria</b>	1000 (B)	Currently known from forests of Cross River State only	↓(A) Probably declining due to habitat loss	Resident with proven breeding records	
<b>Cameroon</b>	< 4000 (A)	Localised et fragmented in Southern forest	↓(A) Probably declining as forest is lost	Resident	More and more sites are found
<b>Gabon</b>	< 1000 (B)		Stable (B)	Resident	Majority of sites found in protected areas. Many datas are from occasional observations
<b>Equatorial guinea</b>	< 500 (C)		Stable (C)	Resident	The bird is mostly found in protected areas.
<b>Congo</b>	Potential (A few hundreds)	?	?	?	?

Population trend: ↓ Declining, (A) Estimations are quiet sure, (B) Estimations based on incomplete information, (C) Poor data

**Figure 1: Map showing the known and potential sites of the Grey-necked Picathartes across the range**

## Protection status

*Picathartes oreas* is Endemic resident, from SE Nigeria to NE Gabon. Classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN/BirdLife threat criteria, its population is seriously threatened by habitat destruction: population is thought to have contracted in area west of Mount Kupe, with the destruction of forest by road building and timber extraction east and north of Kumba (Moore, 1997), and around Yaounde due to habitat destruction (Fotso, 1993).

## Legal protection

Grey-necked Picathartes is protected by National law in Cameroon.

*Picathartes oreas* is listed under the category A in the Ministerial Decree N° 0565/A/MINEF/DFAP/SDF/SRC of MINEF. The animal species in this category are fully protected and cannot be killed. However, capture or detention is submitted to a special authorization issued by the Minister in charge of wildlife.

## International Protection

Grey-necked Picathartes is classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN/Birdlife International threat criteria for threatened species. *P. Oreas* is listed in Appendix I of CITES. The national legislation and signatories to international conservation treaties relevant to Grey-necked Picathartes in range states are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: National legislation and signatories to international conservation treaties relevant to Grey-necked Picathartes in range states.**

Country	National legislation	CITES	CBD	UNESCO: Man & Biosphere	Africa convention	World heritage convention
Nigeria		X	X	X	?	?
Cameroon	Protected: hunting and trapping prohibited	X	X	X	X	X
Gabon		X	X	X	?	?
Equatorial guinea		X	X	?	?	?

## Relationship with other SAPs and biodiversity strategies

Cameroon Ornithological Club (BirdLife's representative in Cameroon) is preparing a National Important Birds Areas Conservation Strategy (NIBACs) which should include a monitoring plan for globally threatened birds species.

Grey-necked Picathartes occurs in Cameroon in the same areas with many other threatened animal species for which some conservation efforts exist: eg.:

- Banyang Mbo, where *Loxodonta africana* (En), *Pan troglodytes* (En), *Mandrillus leucophaeus* (En), *Colobus satanas* (Vu), *Syncerus caffer nanus* (CD), *Cephalophus sylvicolor* (NT)
- Ngovayang where *Gorilla gorilla* (En) occurs.
- Kupé where there is also *Mandrillus leucophaeus* (En), *Pseudopotto martini* (En), *Arctocebus aureus* (NT), *Paraxerus cooperi* (Vu) etc.



National Plans should follow the International Action Plan for the Conservation of Grey-necked Picathartes.

### **Habitat and nests sites**

The birds and their nests are mostly seen in rocky areas below closed-canopy undisturbed rainforest. A prerequisite for nesting seemed to be a rock-face at least 3 m high having an overhang sufficient to provide shelter from falling rain, and sufficient dry surface to permit a nest to be attached (Thompson and Fotso, 1995). The height of nests above ground level varies greatly. Nests are constructed of mud intermixed with rootlets and vegetable fibres, and set into a very hard stone-like structure. There is a considerable variation in nests size but the measurements of a typical nest are 400 mm long, 290 mm wide, and 140 mm thick.

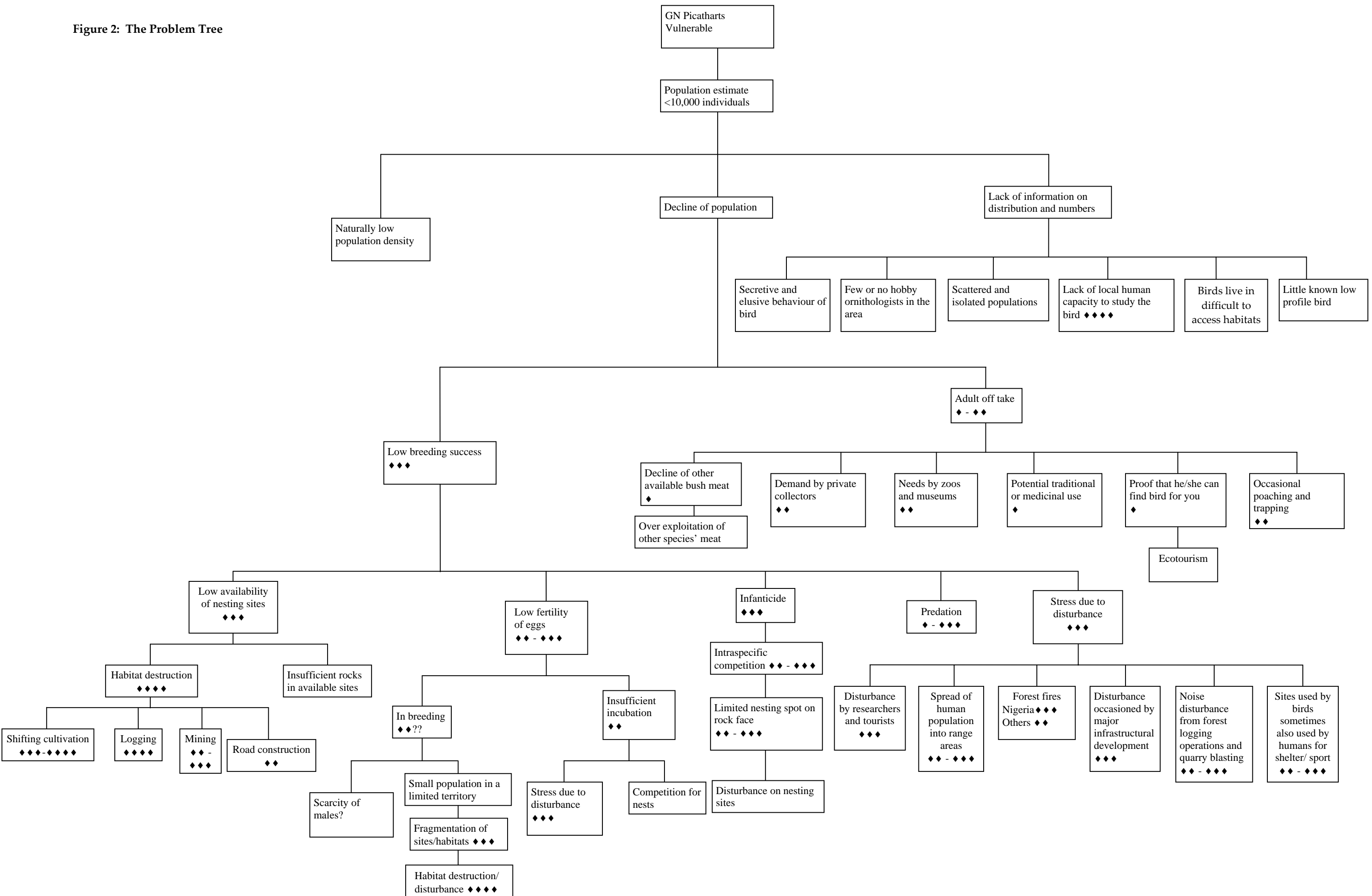
### **Biology and Ecology**

*Picathartes* is usually encountered in primary and secondary forest, usually singly or in pairs but occasionally in small groups of three to four birds. The food Grey-necked Picathartes consists mainly of forest floor invertebrates – insects, earthworms, millipedes, centipedes... Small vertebrates, primarily frogs and lizards also form part of the diet (Birds of Africa, Vol 6). The bird is exceptionally shy and elusive in areas where it is disturbed or persecuted. *P. oreas* is very active in the earlier morning. It breeds colonially where nests sites are limited (the majority of colonies consisting of two-five nests, but it not a colonial breeder in Mount Cameroon where nests sites are abundant and possibly does not breed in colonies on Bioko (Butynski *et al.*, 1996). Breeding is associated with the wet season, occurring twice a year where rainfall distribution is bimodal. Nesting activities in Cameroon are observed between March and November with a peak between August and November. The majority of nests contain two but occasionally three eggs. In Cameroon, the birds have been recorded between 45 – 2100 m.

### **Threats and potential threats**

Grey-necked Picathartes is seriously threatened by habitat destruction/clearance (◆◆◆◆) which leads to low availability of nest sites (◆◆◆) and low fertility of eggs (◆◆-◆◆◆) which together with infanticide (◆◆◆) and stress due to disturbance (◆◆◆◆) leads to low breeding success (◆◆◆). Low breeding success is the main biological factor that leads to declining population of the Grey-necked Picathartes. The details of the threats in the cause and effect relationship are presented in the Problem Tree (Figure 2). Some nests in Korup are known to have been destroyed by Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), and Drills (*Papio leucophaeus*) and on Mt Kupe it is caught in spring-traps set for mammals

Figure 2: The Problem Tree



### Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholders impact on the species positively or negatively with varying degrees of intensity. The main stakeholders in the 4 range states were: government departments/ministries, environmental NGOs, local communities and development agencies. The details of the stakeholders' impact on the species, their activities and the proposed activities to address the impact for each range state are presented in Appendix 2.

### Factors influencing success

In Cameroon, *Picathartes oreas* occurs in 10 of the 33 confirmed IBAs sites and the IBA Process is now being considered by the Cameroon Ministry of Environment and Forestry as a toolkit for the identification process of potential protected areas.

In Nigeria, the *Picathartes* is generally regarded as being too small to hunt deliberately.

According to Hazell and Fotso (2000), the populations of *Picathartes* occur in what is sometimes highly degraded forest close to the city of Yaounde where the population is more than one million. The implications of this discovery are that the *Picathartes* have fairly high disturbance thresholds and make more use of non-forested habitat than was previously thought. It has become a flagship species for biodiversity conservation in Cameroon. The Cameroon Ornithological Club, local partner of BirdLife International uses its picture on his logo. The general factors affecting the success of the action plan implementation are presented in Table 3 and ongoing projects in range states that may benefit the Grey-necked *Picathartes* are shown in Table 4.

**Table 3: Factors affecting the success of Action Plan implementation**

	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Risks</b>
<b>Scientific</b>		The species may be decimated for scientific or tourism purposes
<b>Species attraction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ecotourism</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perturbations due to ecotourism</li></ul>
<b>Biology of species</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easy to observe</li><li>• Suitable habitat easily identified</li><li>• Nesting in marginal rocky areas</li><li>• Food diversified</li><li>• Discrete species</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Species easily disturbed</li><li>• Intraspecific competition</li><li>• Susceptibility to habitat change</li><li>• Even under optimal conditions the population density remains low</li></ul>
<b>Socio-cultural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Species respected even feared by some ethnic groups of Cameroon</li><li>• Species not hunted in Nigeria Gabon due to its small size.</li><li>• Pride for the home range region</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Species poorly known</li></ul>

**Table 4: Ongoing Projects in Range States**

Title	Institutions	Working phase	Strength	Weaknesses
<b>CAMEROON</b>				
Projet Korup	WWF/CPO/UE/GTZ	Ending phase	Strong support	Low Conservation
Campo Ma'an	SNV/ TROPENBOS WWF	Ending phase	Conservation advantages	
Yaoundé Massif Forest Project	C B C S	Starting	Community support	Lack means of transport
Takamanda Forest Project	G T Z W C S			
Coastal Zone Project	WWF WSC, CRES	2 <sup>nd</sup> phase	Participatory management	
SDDL (Dja)	SNV			
Projet Dja	ECOFAC			
Ngovayang Project	CBCS		Launching imminent	
Mt Kupe	WWF			
<b>GABON</b>				
Biodiversity survey	MEFEPN/DFC WCS WWF	Last phase	Large areas covered Many species recorded	Indirect methods Identification more general
<b>EQUATORIAL GUINEA</b>				
ECOFAC	Ministry of Forest ; EU funding, Spanish Cooperation with equatorial Guinea government	Ongoing	Funding Long-term Project  Good experience in conservation	Does not cover the whole country
CUREF	Ministry of Forests	Last phase	Surveys, research at critical sites	Short duration
<b>NIGERIA</b>				
Gorilla research Project	NCF-WCS en collaboration avec Cross River State Commission	Ongoing with a monitoring team in the field	Trained personnel, devoted to collecting data on Picathartes	Research on Picatharte is not the first priority
Resurvey of ape distribution	NCF-WCS en collaboration avec Cross River National Park	Ongoing with a team in the field	Trained personnel, devoted to collecting data on Picathartes	Research on Picatharte is not the first priority

### 3. Action Programme

Vision (10 years)	Description and justification	Indicators
The status of Grey-necked Picathartes improved from Vulnerable to Nearly Threatened		

Aim (5 years)		
Current populations of Picathartes stabilised or increased in key sites		

Objective	Description	Indicators
1. The distribution and estimation of population trend Grey-necked Picathartes in known and potential sites determined ♦♦♦♦		
2. Stress due to presence of human activity reduced ♦♦-♦♦♦		
3. Local human capacities to study Grey-necked Picathartes built ♦♦♦-♦♦♦♦		
4 Assessment of Human impact on Picathartes ♦♦-♦♦♦		
5. Better protection and management of key sites ♦♦♦♦		

## Projects

### **Objective 1: The distribution and estimation of population trend Grey-necked Picathartes in known and potential sites determined ♦♦♦♦**

1. Preliminary surveys of known and potential sites to generate baseline data. The following methods shall be used: scientific techniques available such as GIS, aerial photographs, remote sensing, transects, digital mapping. Literature review and interviews will be done.
2. Annual monitoring of sites previously surveyed in order to assess evolution trends
3. Identification and awareness of potential collaborators active on the ground

### **Objective 2: Stress due to presence of human activity reduced ♦♦-♦♦♦**

1. sensitise tourists, researchers and investors on the impact of their activity on the species.
2. adequately train local guides.
3. Strengthen legislation by restricting entries at sites.
4. Protect better potential and key sites by turning them into protected areas.
  - Document factors reducing the stress as much as possible.

### **Objective 3. Local human capacities to study Grey-necked Picathartes built ♦♦♦-♦♦♦♦**

1. Training on population surveys
  - Training Workshop
  - Data collection
  - Data management
2. Stakeholder awareness on the importance of Picathartes.
  - Develop environment education programme on Picathartes
  - Workshop on participatory management (MARP)
  - Media coverage (press- Radio TV posters)

### **Objective 4: Assessment of Human impact on Picathartes**

Socio-economic surveys at sites where the species occurs through Questionnaires, MARP

### **Objective 5: Better protection and management of key sites ♦♦♦♦**

- 1 Improvement of key sites
  - Assess status at sites
  - Reconnaissance and surveys of key sites.
- 2: Institutional support
  - Training and equipment support
  - Funding for running.
- 3: Produce a socio-economic development programme at key sites through MARP workshops

Table 6 summarises the projects under the headings Policy and legislation, Species and habitat, Monitoring and research, Public awareness and training with the countries of priority, overall priority of the project, agencies responsible, time scale and cost estimates.

**Table 6: The Projects Table**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Over all priority</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Risks and opportunities</b>
<b>A) Policy and Legislation</b>							
2.3 Law enforcement	All	◆◆◆◆	Government	2003-2007	◆◆-◆◆◆	Gazette modifying existing laws published in each country	State reluctance to promulgate the law
<b>B) Species &amp; Habitat</b>							
2.4 Protection of potential and key sites by turning them into PAs	All	◆◆◆◆	Government and NGOs	2003-2007	◆◆◆	At least 1 Picathartes site designated as PA in each country	Expansion of the current PAs network
5.1 Improvement of key sites	All countries concerned	◆◆◆◆	-Governments NGOs, Donors	2003-2007	◆◆◆	Management Plan adopted, published and implemented	
<b>C) Monitoring &amp; Research</b>							
1.1 Preliminary surveys	All	All	NGOs and relevant government bodies	mid 2003	◆◆◆	Preliminary report published in each country and distribution map produced	Problem of using technologies. Willingness lacking at the community level, political instability
1.2 Annual surveys and monitoring	All	◆◆◆◆	NGOs and relevant government bodies	mid 2003 - 2007	◆◆◆	Annual report published in each country. Updated maps	No compliance with funding schedules, lack of willingness at the community level
1.3 Collaboration with other projects	All	◆-◆◆	NGOs and relevant government bodies	2003 - 2007	◆◆	Pithacartes mentioned in other Biodiversity projects	Collaborators not volunteering, ongoing biodiversity projects

Project	Country	Over all priority	Responsible agency	Duration	Cost	Indicators	Risks and opportunities
<b>D) Public awareness and training</b>							
2.1 Tourists, researchers and economic interest groups sensitised	All	◆◆◆◆	NGOs and Government	2003-2007	◆◆	Report observations	Foreign currency reduced
2.2 Adequately train local guides	All	◆◆◆	Local NGOs and Government	2003-2004	◆◆	At least 1 guide trained per country	Collaboration with other projects
3.1 Training in Picathartes population surveys	U	◆◆◆	Government NGOs, local communities	2003-2007	◆◆	Stakeholders sensitised and cooperative	Human resources trained
3.2 Stakeholder awareness on the importance of the species	U	◆◆◆	Governments NGOs Local communities	2003-2007	◆◆	Stakeholders sensitised and cooperative	Funding not available, involvement of local communities lacking
3.3 Training in monitoring and research		◆◆◆◆	Government research institutions, universities NGOs, Donors	2003-2007	◆◆◆	Research and Monitoring team trained and available	Human resources trained
5.2 institutional support	„	◆◆◆◆	Governments NGOs, Donors	2003-2007	◆◆	Institutions equipped and operational	Protection of other species
5.3.1 Socio-economic study	All	◆◆◆	NGOs and Government		◆◆◆	Reports published	Collaboration with other projects
5.3.2 Produce a socio-economic development programme	„	◆◆	Governments NGOs, local communities	2003-2007	◆◆◆	At least X projects implemented in key sites	No involvement of local communities

Low (◆), medium (◆◆), high (◆◆◆), critical (◆◆◆◆): ◆ < \$10000 ; ◆◆ \$ 10000 – 50 000 ; ◆◆◆ > \$50 000



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**Appendix 1: Local distribution, number and protected area status, number of colonies and nests of Grey-necked Picathartes in rage states**

Site name	Province	Site (IBA n°)	Protection status	N° colonies	N° of nests	References
<b>CAMEROON</b>						
Banyang Mbo Wildlife sanctuary	SW	CM017	Wildlife Sanctuary		>20	
Mbam Minkom-Kala	CE	CM028	Unprotected		>100	Thompson and Fotso (1996)
Korup National Park	SW	CM019	National Park		>30	
Mont Manengouba	LT /SW	CM021	Unprotected			Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett (1999c, 2000a)
Bakossi Mountains		CM022	Unprotected			Dowsett-Lemaire (2000)
Mount Nlonako		CM023	Unprotected		>30	Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett (1999c, 2000a, 2001a)
Mont kupe		CM025	Unprotected			Bowden (2001)
Yabassi		CM026	Unprotected			Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett (2001a)
Dja Faunal Reserve		CM029	Wildlife Reserve, Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site		C.50	Christy 1994
Campo Ma'an Complex		CM031	National park, Unprotected			Languy and Demey 2000
Ngovayang	South	CM035	Unprotected			Fotso
Yabassi	Littoral	CM026	Unprotected			Dowsett-Lemaire
<b>EQUATORIAL GUINEA</b>						
Rio Campo	Littoral		National Reserve			Butynsky Koster Christy
Monte Alen	Centro Sur		National Park			ECOFACT Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett (1999)
Pico de Basile	Bioko Norte		Nature Reserve			Butynsky Koster Christy
Caldeira de Luba	Bioko Sur		Scientific Reserve			Butynsky Koster

Site name	Province	Site (IBA n°)	Protection status	N° colonies	N° of nests	References
<b>GABON</b>						
Minkebe	Wolen-Ntem et Ogoué – Ivindo		Wildlife Reserve	Unknown	Unknown	Patrice Christy Canopée n°21/01
Bengoué *	Moyen Ogoué		Unprotected			
Mt de Cristal	Estuary		Wildlife Reserve			
Mt Doudou	Nyanga		Wildlife Reserve			
Massif du Chaillu	Ngounie Ogoué-Lolo		Unprotected but potential protected area			
Mt Belinga *	Ogoué – Ivindo		Unprotected but potential protected area			
Lopé	Ogoué – Ivindo		Wildlife Reserve		2 to 3	Christy and Clark
Mouila Region	Ngounie		Unprotected			Martin de Viviès
<b>NIGERIA</b>						
AFI River Forest Reserve	Cross River State (CRS)	NG005	Forest Reserve	-	-	Ash 1991
AFI Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary	CRS		Wildlife Sanctuary			
Cross River National Park Okwangwo	CRS	NG010	National Park	6 (Mbe)	6 (Mbe)	
Mbe Mountain	CRS		Unprotected			
Cross River National Park Oban	CRS	NG007	National Park	-		
Obudu Plateau	CRS	NG001	Unprotected	-		
Bashu Extension	CRS		National Park			

7 colonies of 5 to 15 individuals counted by Brosset and Erard

## Appendix 2: Stakeholders analysis

Stakeholder	Interest (Mission)	Activities	Impact	Intensity	Proposed Activity
<b>CAMEROON</b>					
Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF)	Natural resources management for the whole country	-Enact and enforce laws. -Fund conservation and protection projects -Coordinate all activities related to protection and conservation -Create and manage PAs	+	◆◆◆	- Recruit and train personnel - Expand the PAs network
ONG	Conservation and protection of natural resources	- Funding projects - Research - Capacity building	+	◆◆◆	- Coordinate their activities related to the species - Focus more on conservation
Local Communities	Maximum profit from natural resources	- Poaching- itinerant agriculture - Timber cutting	-	◆◆◆◆	- Sensitization - Improved techniques
Investors	Maximum profit from natural resources	- Trapping, catching - Forest exploitation - Poaching, mining	-	◆◆◆◆	- Law enforcement - Develop FMU (Forest Management Units) - Undertake impact assessment
Other Administrations					
Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI)	Increase crop harvest	Vegetation clearing	-	◆◆◆◆	Improve agricultural systems
Ministry of Tourism (MINTOUR)	Valuing tourism	Ecotourism Development	+/-	◆◆◆	Improve ecotourism systems
Ministry of Planning (MINPAT)	Planning	Ensure equilibrium of the territory  - Funding	+/-	◆◆◆	Decentralise funding Respect the 30 % quota permanent forested area

Stakeholder	Interest (Mission)	Activities	Impact	Intensity	Proposed Activity
<b>NIGERIA</b>					
Government	- Conserving biodiversity and natural resources - Tourism - Income generating (forest concessions)	-Enacting laws - Law enforcement - Giving away concessions - Classification of protected sites	+ + - -	◆◆ ◆◆ ◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	- Reviewing laws - Improve equipment, funding and staff training - Strengthening regulations and procedures (EIA) - Discontinuity of reserved spaces
Forest industries	- Timber cutting	- Forest clearing - Opening up access trails -Hunting/agriculture	- - -	◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	- Improve timber exploitation system - Wildlife protection laws enforced within concessions
Universities and researchers	research opportunities -Excursion opportunities	- Presence of research teams - Biodiversity Monitoring and studies	+ +	◆◆	Increase funding opportunities for research
Local communities	- Non timber forest products and animal proteins - Gardens	- Harvesting fruits and hunting - Itinerant agriculture	- -	◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆	- Provide subsistence alternatives to local communities - Adopt family planning methods to regulate human population - -introduction of intensive techniques in agriculture - Agrarian reform (Land tenure)
Environmental NGOs	Conservation of Biodiversity and natural resources	- Biodiversity survey and monitoring - Public awareness and sensitisation	+ +	◆◆ ◆	- Funding micro - projects as alternatives - Improve public awareness

Stakeholder	Interest (Mission)	Activities	Impact	Intensity	Proposed Activity
<b>EQUATORIAL GUINEA</b>					
Ministry of Forests, Fisheries and	Conservation and protection of biodiversity	Enact and enforce conservation laws	+	◆◆◆	Improve law enforcement by listing Pithacartes as protected species
NGO	Nature protection	Public awareness	+	◆◆	Produce sensitisation programmes de for the protection of the species
Investors	Timber extraction	- Opening up trails	-	◆◆◆◆	Establish a management plan for rationale use of resources in target zones
Local communities	Resource exploitation	- Agriculture - Hunting - Fishing	-	◆◆◆◆	Public awareness on protection of the species
Researchers	Undertake studies on the biology of he species	Scientific observations	+	◆◆◆	Intensify research in target zones
<b>GABON</b>					
Ministry of forests, Fisheries and Nature protection) Office for wildlife and hunting (DFC)	Management of renewable resources	- Conservation - PAs management	+ +	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	- Updating data --Counting colonies - Tourism?
Amis du Pangolin	Species conservation	Awareness	+	◆◆◆	- Conferences and talks -Ecotourism
Forest exploiters	Forest exploitation	- Timber extraction - Road construction	-	◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆	-Impact assessment - Counting nesting sites
Local communities	Use of natural resources	- Extensive agriculture - Hunting - Anarchical urbanisation	- - -	◆◆◆◆ ◆ ◆◆◆◆	- Intensive agriculture - Develop fishing and farming - Setting plots outside
Oil exploiters and miners	Oil and mineral extraction	- Exploration - Forages - Construction of access roads	-	◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆	- Impact assessment -Site counting

## **Annex 6: Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*) Interest Group held on 10 September 2002**

The first meeting of the Grey-necked Picathartes Species Interest Group (SIG) was held in Yaounde Cameroon on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2002. This meeting took place immediately following the international species action plan (SAP) workshop which held from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2002. This forum was seen as a good opportunity for the creation and inauguration of the SIG since a good number National Species Action Plan Coordinators (NSAPCs)/contact persons as well as government representative of the 4 different countries where the Grey-necked Picathartes is presently known to occur were present.

Members indicated that the function of this group is to undertake the necessary conservation actions for the Grey-necked Picathartes They also agreed that the Grey-necked Picathartes SIG will be under the umbrella of the BirdLife International African Species Working Group..

The meeting was chaired by Mr Russell II MBAH BIAN, the international coordinator of the species and he started with the presentation of a proposed 10 points agenda of items for discussion by members.

### **Proposed agenda**

1. Terms of reference (TORs)
2. Election of officers
3. Follow-up of international Species Action Plans (SAP) workshop.
4. Country report / plan
5. Development of national Action Plans
6. Fundraising strategies
7. communication link
8. Monitoring and evaluation
9. next meeting
10. Any other business

Members went through the proposed agenda and later adopted for it discussion.

### **Agenda 1. TORs for GNPIG**

The chairman further explained the functions of the SIG and how it is expected to operate in the protection and conservation of the Grey-necked Picathartes throughout its range. Members agreed that the SIG should do the following:

- Publicity
- Education
- Advocacy
- Networking
- Fundraising

#### **Agenda 2. Election of officers for the Grey-necked Picathartes Interest Group (GNPIG)**

Mr Anthony Bassey proposed 4 official positions which were brainstormed among members. The following positions and officials were identified; nominations and elections were done democratically by casting of votes:

- Coordinator: Russell II Mbah Bian
- Secretary: Anthony Bassey
- Fundraising Officer: Dr. Augustine Ezealor
- Publicity/ Education Officer: Mrs Loraine Legg

#### **Agenda 3. Follow-up of international SAP workshop**

Participants suggested that each member should endeavour to publish the press release produced during the just ended SAP Workshop as soon as possible in their various countries. Each member country should then inform the network on the response to the published Press Release (letters to newspapers, TV commentaries, newspapers articles ... good or bad).

#### **Agenda 4. Country report / Plan**

It was agreed that a brief country update on the Grey-necked Picathartes and other Globally threatened Birds Species be prepared by the NSAPC/contact person and sent to the African Species Working Group Coordinator (ASWGC) before the end of September for presentation in the Council of African Partnership (CAP) meeting in Nigeria.

#### **Agenda 5. Development of National Action Plans**

The ASWGC explained that there is funding for 8 International and for 15 National Action Plans. Countries which will be ready to organise their national Workshops will contact the ASWGC. Following suggestions from the members, it was generally agreed that country members should wait until the International Action plan comes out before National Action Plans Workshops can be organised. However, members were advised to start thinking about their National Action plans for



the Grey-necked Picathartes. Mr Joseph Ngowou the representative of the Gabon Government at the Workshop accepted to be the contact person for Gabon.

**Agenda 6. Fundraising strategies.**

Funding opportunities such as BP (British Petroleum) were identified as potential donors for projects. The ASWGC said that he has been developing in the framework of the Action Plans Project, a database for possible funding sources for species work, which is almost ready and will be availed to the partners.

**Agenda 7. Communication link**

It was agreed that each member or organisation should use the email and communicate to others. Members were advised to established regular and immediate response to email messages even if it means only to acknowledge the receipt.

**Agenda 8. Monitoring and evaluation**

The participants agreed that the NSAPCs should carry out these outputs at the national level. For Gabon the Association « Les amis du pangolin » assisted by Joseph Ngowou the government representative at the workshop were nominated and Mr. Engono Victor-Luis for Equatorial Guinea.

**Agenda 9. Next meeting**

The coordinator should look out for opportunities where a good number of the SIG members will be present or represented to hold the SIG meeting. The African BirdLife Partnership meeting provides such forum. The dates of such meetings should be communicated well in advance to members by the SIG coordinator.

Group meetings at local level should be organised by NSAPCs.

**List of members present**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Addresses</b>
Lorraine Legg	CBCS
Joseph NGOWOU	MEFPEPN, BP. 112 Libreville, Gabon
Russell II MBAH BIAN	CBCS, <a href="mailto:bianrusell@yahoo.com">bianrusell@yahoo.com</a>
Anthony BASSEY	NCF, <a href="mailto:biodiversity@hyperia.com">biodiversity@hyperia.com</a>
Dr Augustine EZEALOR	NCF, Ahmadou Bello University, Zaria, Dept of Bio. Sc. <a href="mailto:ezealor@abu.edu.ng">ezealor@abu.edu.ng</a>
Dieu-Donné MOULOUNGUI	Les amis du pangolin, <a href="mailto:seconde.nature@laposte.net">seconde.nature@laposte.net</a>
Jean-Miche TAKUO	CBCS, <a href="mailto:picathartesoreas@yahoo.com">picathartesoreas@yahoo.com</a>
Mercy BOMA	CBCS, <a href="mailto:bomamercy@yahoo.com">bomamercy@yahoo.com</a>
Jean-Bernard DONGMO	CBCS, <a href="mailto:jbdoxy@yahoo.com">jbdoxy@yahoo.com</a>
Moses TITA	CBCS, <a href="mailto:njoyamoses@hotmail.com">njoyamoses@hotmail.com</a>
Dr Eric SANDE	<a href="mailto:eanhs@imul.com">eanhs@imul.com</a> , <a href="mailto:ericsande@hotmail.com">ericsande@hotmail.com</a>

Chairman (Russell II MBAH BIAN)

Secretary: Anthony Bassey

Date: 10 September 2002

## Annex 7: Press Release

### FIRST STEP TO SAVE A RARE AND ENDANGERED BIRD FROM EXTINCTION

An international workshop to develop an Action Plan specifically for conserving the Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*) was held in Yaounde Cameroon from 7-10 September 2002. The Grey-necked Picathartes is one of eight threatened priority bird species for which the African Species Working Group (ASWG) of BirdLife International is facilitating the development of Action Plans aimed at their conservation. BirdLife International is an international coalition of NGOs, which works to conserve birds and their habitats, and in so doing other biodiversity.

The Grey-necked Picathartes has been variously described by ornithologists as rare, unique, enigmatic and elusive. The species is presently known to occur only in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Nigeria. Its current global population is estimated by experts to be about 2,500 to 10,000 individuals. This low population is believed to be declining throughout the bird's range as a result of habitat loss, off-take by humans, low breeding success, naturally low population densities, stress due to disturbances, and natural predation. The bird is globally-threatened and its current status is assessed as **Vulnerable**. This means that the species is likely to become **Endangered** and subsequently **Extinct**, if no conservation interventions are put in place.

Participants at the workshop agreed that the survival of this unique bird species will depend on the timely addressing of vital issues pertaining to environmental policy and legislation, knowledge of the species' general biology and ecology, monitoring and research with regard to defining its population trends and distribution, and public awareness together with strengthening of local capacity to continue investigations and conservation activities on the species in its four range countries. An Action Plan document, which defines priority actions to address these issues, was produced at the workshop.

The Action Plan project is coordinated by Nature Uganda and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), with funds provided by the latter and the UK Government Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species. The workshop was organized by the Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS) formerly the Cameroon Ornithological Club (COC) in collaboration with ASWG. Participants were drawn from lead NGOs and relevant government agencies in the range countries. The CBCS, Nature Uganda, NCF and RSPB are all members of the BirdLife International partnership.

Further information on the Grey-necked Picathartes and the Action Plan for its conservation may be obtained from:

MBAH BIAN RUSSELL II

International Species Action Plan Coordinator for Grey-necked Picathartes

Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society

PO Box 3055 Messa Yaounde Cameroon

Tel (237) 221 16 58

Email: coc@iccnet.cm

**Annex 8: Daily Moodometer**

	UNHAPPY	HAPPY	VERY HAPPY
Day 1		●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●
Day 2	●●	●●●●●●	●●●●●●
Day 3	●	●●	●●●●●●●●●●
Day 4		●●●●●●	●●●●●●
OVERALL		●●●●●●	●●●●●●

**Annex 9: Vote of thanks by the participants**

Dear Project Coordinator,  
 Dear Facilitators  
 Experts Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the closing of this workshop on management of Grey-necked populations in four countries from the sub region, organised by Cameroon Society for Biodiversity Conservation (CBCS) and its immediate partners,

I am honoured to express on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues from Cameroon, Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, our sincere thanks for your participation and concern for a job well done that enabled experience sharing in a brotherly mood throughout almost a week

Our thanks go to people and institutions that contributed in organising and making this workshop a success namely:

- RSPB and Nature Uganda, respective BirdLife partners in UK and Uganda for coordinating this project.
- The British Government Darwin initiative foundation and RSPB for funding the project.
- Mr et Mrs Legg for the warm reception organised at their home,
- CBCS team and Prestige Hotel personnel

I cannot conclude my speech without praising the good initiative taken by Cameroon in wildlife management. It is our duty to establish a close collaboration to ensure sustainable management of natural resources in our various countries.

Regarding the Picathartes, we shall always resort to Cameroonian expertise whenever need will arise.

Thanks