

Ethiopian White-winged Flufftail *Sarothrura ayresi* Action Plan



**Final report from
the stakeholder
workshop held in
July 2003, Addis
Ababa, Ethiopia.**



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21 – 23 July 2003, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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**Ethiopian White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*) Action Plan
Species Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop**

21 – 23 July 2003, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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Foreword

Birds are part of the global ecosystem and studying them tells us about the natural environment on which we all depend and its biodiversity. Humankind values birds for educational, economic, recreational, cultural, ethical and spiritual reasons. Because birds are important, 105 organisations worldwide are working together through the BirdLife International Partnership to conserve the world's birds and their habitats.

The BirdLife International Africa Partnership, currently represented in 18 African countries, has so far documented 1,230 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), sites that are internationally important for the conservation of birds and biodiversity in Africa. Unfortunately, 43% of these have no legal designation, leaving a fifth of the continent's globally threatened bird species at greater risk of extinction.

Africa has a total of 349 globally threatened bird species. Some of these are residents of more than one country, others are migratory or widely dispersed. The conservation of cross-border, migratory or widely dispersed species requires concerted strategic species-based approaches such as Species Action Plans, to complement long-term site-based strategies such as National Parks and other protected area systems. Species Action Plans are scientifically authoritative documents that, with wide consultation and agreement with the major stakeholders, provide the relevant agencies with specific and time-bound actions for conserving priority species. Species Action Plans therefore provide a framework for action at local, national and international levels, in addition to being used as fundraising and advocacy tools.

With funding from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under the Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species and with financial and technical support from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB, the BirdLife International Partner in the UK), the Africa BirdLife International Partnership has developed a format and process of species action planning involving the participation of representatives from governments, species experts and interest groups, conservation NGOs and local communities. This Species Action Plan is one of 7 international and 15 national plans for priority bird species in Africa which were produced as a pilot to test the new approach. It is hoped that the format and process used in the production of these plans will act as a model for the production of other plans for the conservation of priority threatened fauna and flora in different countries of Africa and beyond.

The production of action plans is just the beginning of the process, because it is important to translate the plans into action. The involvement and agreement of national government representatives in the production of these plans will help stimulate the inclusion of the plans into existing and proposed national conservation strategies. In addition, members interested in the conservation of individual species will evaluate the successes and failures of the implementation process.

It is hoped that all those interested in the wise use of Africa's natural resources and the conservation of her breathtaking bird diversity will make effective use of these plans.

Executive Summary and Recommendations

The White-winged Flufftail *Sarothrura ayresi* is considered globally Endangered with fewer than 700 individuals remaining in suitable wetland habitats in South Africa and Ethiopia. The Ethiopian population is considered to be Critically Endangered as it has a very small population and is only known from 2 wetland sites in the Ethiopia. A conservation plan compiled by all relevant stakeholders outlining the priority actions needed to conserve this species was therefore urgently needed.

The Middelpunt Wetland Trust, in partnership with BirdLife South Africa and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society, coordinates conservation action aimed at conserving and increasing the White-winged Flufftail population in South Africa and Ethiopia by promoting the sustainable utilisation of its wetland habitats, for the benefit of people and their environment. BirdLife South Africa, one of the largest, most established conservation non-governmental organisations in South Africa, along with the Ethiopian Natural History Society are both Partners of BirdLife International, the largest alliance of international NGO's concentrating on the conservation of birds and their habitats for the benefit of people and their environment.

The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural Heritage Association, Middelpunt Wetland Trust and BirdLife South Africa held a Species Action Planning stakeholder workshop in July 2003 in order to assess the threats facing the White-winged Flufftail in Ethiopia, and to prioritise actions to improve the survival chances of this species. Eskom, the South African power utility, provided the funding for the workshop which contributes to an Africa-wide species action planning project funded by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the UK Darwin Initiative for the Conservation of Species. The workshop was held in Addis Ababa and was attended by 20 participants representing a wide range of stakeholder groups in the key White-winged Flufftail sites in Ethiopia. The workshop was facilitated by BirdLife South Africa and used a species action planning workshop process developed by the BirdLife International Africa Partnership.

The species action planning stakeholder workshop process comprised a series of plenary and working group sessions in which working groups worked through tasks designed to facilitate everyone contributing their ideas, free thinking, brainstorming, discussion and debate, tackling of issues and finally, consensus building and project development.

The primary issues facing the survival of the White-winged Flufftail in Ethiopia include continued loss of its specialised wetland habitat and disturbance to the birds.

The workshop concluded that the aim of the action plan would be to maintain the breeding ground and ensure breeding success of White-winged Flufftails in partnership with the communities of Berga and Werserbi and to search for new White-winged Flufftail sites through to 2008.

In order to achieve this aim the representatives agreed on the following objectives:

- Hunting in Berga & Werserbi stopped by June 2004.
- Grass cutting in Berga & Werserbi area during the WWF breeding season (July – Sept) stopped by September 2005.
- The conversion of WWF habitat, at Berga & Werserbi, to cultivation stopped by September 2008.
- Plans to construct dams at Berga & Werserbi abandoned by September 2008.
- Animal and human, disturbance & trampling reduced to a level that has no effects on the breeding success of WWF at Werserbi & Berga by September 2006.
- Develop alternative income. Generating schemes for low income & landless people at Berga & Werserbi (WWF sites) by September 2008.
- Potential breeding sites for WWF's in Asmara, SNNP & Oromia Regional states surveyed by 2008.
- Population, size and trends of WWF determined at Berga & Werserbi by end 2008.
- Seasonal occurrence and movements of WWF (resident, localised, migration, long distance migration) determined by 2008.
- All relevant information on breeding habitat of WWF determined by September 2008.
- Captive breeding programme established by 2008.

Acronyms/Definition

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

CBO: Community Based Organisation

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

DFID: Department for International Development (United Kingdom)

DNA testing: Deoxyribonucleic Acid testing

EE: Environmental Education

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment

EPA: Environmental Protection Authority

EWCO: Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation

EWNHS: Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society

IBA: Important Bird Area

IBCR: Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research

IDP: Integrated Development Plan

IUCN: The World Conservation Union

MWT: Middelpunt Wetland Trust

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

NIBACS: National Important Bird Area Conservation Strategies

SACWG: South African Crane Working Group

SAG: Species Action Group

SAP: Species Action Plan

SIG: Species Interest Group

SSG: Site Support Group

SWG: Species Working Group

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

WWF: White-winged Flufftail

Chapter 1.

What is a White-winged Flufftail Action Plan?

An Action Plan to conserve the White-winged Flufftail is a flexible working strategy that identifies and prioritises the problems, and proposes practical solutions and specifies certain actions and responsibilities within agreed timeframes, based on specific objectives which are regularly monitored and revised.

Why an action plan for the White-winged Flufftail?

The White-winged Flufftail *Sarothrura ayresi* is considered globally Endangered with fewer than 700 individuals remaining in suitable wetland habitats in South Africa and Ethiopia. The Ethiopian White-winged Flufftail population is only known from two small sites. The South African White-winged Flufftail population is considered to be Critically Endangered as it has a very small population and is only known from 9 wetland sites in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. A conservation plan compiled by all relevant stakeholders outlining the priority actions needed to conserve this species is therefore urgently needed in both Ethiopia and South Africa.

Geographic Scope.

This White-winged Flufftail *Sarothrura ayresi* is applicable to Ethiopia. Consultation with Ethiopian colleagues indicated that threats to this species and its habitats and especially the solutions to these are likely to be quite different for each of the countries. It was therefore decided to do two action plans for White-winged Flufftail, one for South Africa and a separate plan for Ethiopia. This plan therefore takes into account all factors affecting each of the known White-winged Flufftail sites in Ethiopia and solutions to these as well as research work that is urgently needed.

Chapter 2.

Introduction and Overview.

White-winged Flufftail

Sarothrura ayresi

Coturnicops ayresi Gurney, 1877, Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Sometimes placed in *Coturnicops*, usually with, but sometimes without, other flufftail species. Ethiopian birds first described as *Ortygops macmillani* (Bannerman 1911). Forms a species pair with *S. watersi*. Monotypic.

Synonyms: *Coturnicops ayresi*; *Ortygops macmillani*.

Alternative name: White-winged Crake.

IDENTIFICATION Length 13.5 – 14.5cm; wingspan 24cm. A small flufftail; easily identified in flight by conspicuously white secondaries; leading edge of wing also white; no white visible in folded wings. Unlike other flufftails, frequently easy to flush and often has strong, direct flight (see Habits). Uniquely in genus, female looks similar to male. Male has blackish-brown head with chestnut mottling and paler, poorly defined supercilium; neck, upper mantle and breast chestnut; chin and throat whitish; upperparts, and median upperwing-coverts, blackish, broadly streaked olive-brown and narrowly white; other upperwing-coverts plain olive-brown; tail barred black and chestnut. Flanks streaked black and white; centre of belly white; undertail-coverts chestnut, black and rufous. Iris and bill blackish; legs and feet grey to purplish-flesh. Female looks darker than male in flight; duller on head and neck; sides of head mottled buff; upper mantle streaked dark brown; white streaks on upperwings replaced by spots; upperwing-coverts more extensively spotted white. Breast whitish, tinged rufous and scaled dark; flanks spotted white. Immature duller than adult; male has white streaks of upperparts replaced by spots or bars, less chestnut on head, mantle and breast, and less white on underparts; female largely paler than adult, with fewer spots on upperwing-coverts, dark scalloping on chin and throat, and no rufous wash on centre of breast. Juvenile male dark grey-brown, mottled chestnut on head and nape, with small white spots on upperparts and upperwings; chin, throat and belly mottled grey-brown and white; tail as adult. Juvenile female blackish-brown, upperparts spotted tawny on mantle and white elsewhere; breast flecked white; throat and centre of belly white; tail as adult. Inhabits moist to flooded marsh vegetation, predominately of sedges and grasses.

Similar species. Easily separable from other *Sarothrura* species, and from all other sympatric marsh-dwelling birds, by white secondaries. On the ground, when this white is not visible, both sexes superficially resemble dull versions of the male of sympatric marsh and grassland *Sarothrura* species. All ages distinguished from both sexes of all these species, except female Striped Flufftail, by chestnut and black bars on tail; female Striped differs markedly in having paler upperparts with buff scallops and bars, no rufous on hindneck, upper mantle or breast, and different head pattern.

VOICE All information on calls comes from South Africa (Taylor 1994, P B Taylor unpubl.) unless otherwise stated. The common call is a low-pitched *oop* note, repeated every second and continued for up to 3 minutes; it is often given in asynchronous duet, the second bird having a higher-pitched note. Calling usually occurs for up to 15 minutes (occasionally 40 minutes), at dawn and dusk. This call is very similar to a roosting call of the Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*, which, however, is louder, usually a double note or a more complex series, and is often given by several birds together.

Other calls, rarely heard, include deep mooing notes, which are indicative of agitation or aggression in response to taped playback of the *oop* call, and high-pitched short and long hoots. No advertising or territorial calls have been recorded from breeding birds in Ethiopia, but chicks make a loud, plaintive and rather harsh cheeping and a female, when separated from chicks, called to them with quiet quacking notes and occasionally gave quiet gulps, low grunts and subdued *crk-crck* calls (P B Taylor unpubl.).

DESCRIPTION Some confusion surrounds description of different age classes of this species because of the paucity of museum material and the incorrect ageing of some specimens. For example, an “adult female” (Durban Museum) from Franklin, Natal (Mendelsohn *et al* 1983) is in full juvenile plumage, while an “immature female” (BMNH) from Sululta, Ethiopia, dated 22 Sep 1948 (Keith *et al* 1970) is a male moulting from natal down to juvenile plumage.

Adult male. Forehead to nape blackish-brown, proximal half of feathers edged dark chestnut; hindneck and upper mantle dark chestnut; feathers tipped blackish-brown. Lower mantle, back, scapulars and median upperwing-coverts blackish, each feather fringed olive-brown on distal half and with fine white submarginal streak on each web. Lesser and greater coverts olive-brown with vaguely darker centres and no white streaks; some lesser may have small white spots and some greater vague white submarginal streaks; alula and primary coverts similar, with no white markings except occasionally a

few on lesser; marginal coverts white. Primaries dark grey-brown to olive-brown, outer web of outermost primary (P10) whitish on basal three-quarters, outer webs of others sometimes with small buffy spots; inner webs of primaries become progressively paler; P1 brownish-white to white on most of inner web. First secondary olive-brown at base, white on inner web, and mottled brownish and white on outer web; rest of secondaries white, olive-brown basally; first tertial (T1) similar but variably spotted olive-brown on inner web, or patterned as described for T2; T2 olive-brown with variable white spots and bars, or like T3; T3 as scapulars. Axillaries and underwing-coverts greyish-white, olive-brown basally and variably along outer webs. Rump blackish-brown, feathers with narrow, white submarginal streaks or spots; uppertail-coverts and retrices barred black and chestnut. Lores and anterior ear-coverts blackish-brown; rest of sides of head, and sides of neck, dark chestnut, feathers narrowly tipped blackish giving scaly pattern; vague superciliary streak paler chestnut. Chin and upper throat whitish, washed pale chestnut at sides; lower throat, foreneck and sides of breast brighter chestnut; centre of chest pale chestnut; upper flanks like mantle but white streaks broader; lower flanks, thighs and sides of belly broadly streaked black and white; centre of belly white; undertail-coverts chestnut and black, widely tipped pale rufous. Iris dark brown to brownish-black; bill dark brown, or blackish with grey cutting edge; legs and feet grey, or brown to purplish-flesh.

Adult female. Similar to male but more blackish-brown, less rufous, on head and neck; sides of head mottled buff; upper mantle dark chestnut with dark brown feather centres, giving streaked effect. White streaking of upperparts and upperwings replaced by spots or short bars, except on back; all secondary coverts, and lesser primary coverts, usually have white markings. Sides of neck and sides of breast paler chestnut than in male; centre of breast whitish, tinged rufous-brown; dark mottling and scaling usually extend all across breast; flanks black, spotted white; undertail-coverts tinged pale rufous. Iris as male, or ashy hazel; legs and feet as male, or dusky pink.

Immature male. Less chestnut on head than adult; mantle feathers have broader brownish tips. White streaks on upperwing-coverts of adult replaced by spots; lesser, greater, and primary coverts have variably darker centres, with white spots on secondary coverts (most prominent on greater) and variable small whitish spots on lesser primary coverts. Face darker than adult, having almost no chestnut; sides of breast less extensively chestnut; underparts less extensively white, centre of belly being washed grey; undertail-coverts more uniformly dull rufous. Legs and feet purplish-flesh.

Immature female. Upperparts paler and browner than in adult; head and mantle duller; upperwing-coverts duller, with less distinct pale fringes and fewer spots; chin and throat less contrastingly white, with some dark scalloping; neck and breast duller; no rufous wash across centre of breast. Flanks paler and duller than adult, with less contrasting spots and bars; undertail-coverts tinged whitish. Iris sometimes black; bill dark horn; legs and feet may be dark brown with greenish tinge.

Juvenile male. (One specimen, Ethiopia.) Head and neck predominantly dark grey-brown with dull chestnut mottling; hindneck, sides of neck and mantle grey-brown, washed dull chestnut; rest of upperparts, including upperwings, darkish brown with small white spots. Breast and rest of underparts dull grey-brown, mixed grey-brown and white on chin, throat, centre of breast and most of belly; undertail-coverts faintly tinged rufous; tail as adult. Iris grey.

Juvenile female. (One specimen, South Africa.) Blackish-brown with small tawny spots on mantle and small white spots on rest of upperparts (except head and neck), whitish flecks on breast, and white throat and centre of belly; tail as adult.

Downy young. Down black. Iris blackish brown, eyelids grey; proximal half of bill pinkish-white, distal half ivory, colours separated by Imm-wide black band in front of nostril; legs and feet grey-black.

MEASUREMENTS Wing of 14 males 73-80 (76.3), of 11 females 75-80 (76.9); tail of 8 males 35-40 (36.1, SD 1.6), of six females 35-43 (38.2 SD 3.3); culmen to base of 13 males 12-13.5 (12.4), of 11 females 12-13.5 (12.5); tarsus of 14 males 17-19.5 (18.5), of 11 females 16-20 (18.5). Weight of 1 male 31.8, of 1 chick, 2-3 days old, 5.4 (P B Taylor unpubl.).

GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION Despite the great distance separating this bird's two centres of occurrence, and the lack of records from most of the intervening regions (see Movements), there appears to be no significant morphological differences between South African and Ethiopian populations.

MOULT An adult female flushed in the former Transvaal, South Africa, in February had a gap in the remiges of one wing, indicating moult (Taylor 1994). Adults in Ethiopia, late July, are in very fresh plumage (P B Taylor unpubl.).

DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS Ethiopia, where formerly known from highlands around Addis Ababa (Sululta Plain, Akaki, Entotto and Gefersa), and at a lower elevation to the SW at Charada, Kaffa; Zimbabwe (Harare area); and South Africa (highlands of KwaZulu-Natal and former Transvaal; also recorded Free State and formerly at coastal localities in E Cape and KwaZulu-Natal). There is one reliable record from Zambia, near Chingola, Solwezi District (Brooke 1964). Sound records from Rwanda (Dowsett-Lemaire 1990) are questionable, sonographic analysis indicating that they are calls of the Crowned Crane (Taylor 1994). This globally ENDANGERED and CITES 1 species is one of the rarest and least

known African endemics. From 1939 to 1957 small numbers were recorded occasionally in the Ethiopian highlands; subsequently one bird was seen near Sululta in August 1984 and 4 in Aug-Sep 1995, while an estimated 10-15 breeding pairs were present in August 1996 (Taylor 1996a). In August 1997 a breeding population of at least 200 pairs was found in seasonal and permanent marsh at a new locality near Addis Ababa and it is probable that the species was widespread and locally numerous in the central Ethiopian highlands before intensive human pressure destroyed most of its seasonal marsh habitat (Taylor 1997b). It was recorded in Zimbabwe in Jan-Mar 1997 and 1979 (Hopkinson & Masterson 1984), and possibly bred there in the 1950s (Taylor 1994). In South Africa it was recorded only sporadically after its discovery in 1876, and since the early 1950s 5 highland sites in S KwaZulu-Natal and E Transvaal, South Africa, have held small numbers (maximum overall annual counts 22-29 birds), three of these sites annually in 1990-1992, when regular observations were made. Recent surveys (Taylor 1997a) have identified 5 more sites in the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal where this bird probably occurs annually and the total population at the 10 known sites may be 235 birds. In South Africa the lack of recent records from coastal localities suggests that it may now be confined to the higher-altitude wetlands (Taylor 1994).

This bird's habitats are under severe threat from damming, draining and overgrazing, and its future is precarious (Taylor 1997c). Very large areas of breeding habitat in Ethiopia have been destroyed by overgrazing, trampling and sedge cutting (Taylor 1997b). However, an assumed threat to one remaining site from a proposed dam (Atkinson *et al* 1995) is unfounded (Taylor 1997b). Much suitable breeding habitat in Ethiopia could be re-established by encouraging local communities to manage and utilize wetland resources more effectively (Taylor 1997b), e.g. by restricting early grazing, delaying the cutting of fodder until Oct-Dec (which would also increase the yield from seasonal marshes), and (in Jul-Sep) by encouraging the development of alternative sources of freshly cut vegetation used for feeding dairy cattle in Addis Ababa (EWNHS 1996) and for floor covering; some compensation for local communities for loss of revenue early in the season might have to be provided. In KwaZulu-Natal, critically important wetlands are now threatened by desiccation as a result of commercial afforestation in their catchments, as well as by damming, draining, water abstraction, disturbance and annual burning followed by intensive spring grazing (Taylor 1997a).

MOVEMENTS The apparent lack of subspeciation has been thought to indicate that regular migration occurs between the bird's Ethiopian and South African centres of distribution but the paucity of records from intervening regions, and an overlap in occurrence dates, make this unlikely (Collar & Stuart 1985), while birds may be present throughout the year at one recently discovered marsh near Addis Ababa (Taylor 1997b). However, there may be periodic long-distance dispersal when numbers are high, allowing gene exchange between the N and S populations. Records from Zambia (Nov 1962) and Zimbabwe (Jan-Mar in 1977 and 1979) may reflect such dispersal, and the species is possibly an occasional breeding migrant in Zimbabwe. Much breeding habitat in the C Ethiopian highlands, where most occurrences are recorded from Jun-Sep, is seasonal marsh and is thus unsuitable in the non-breeding season when migration may occur SW to lower-altitude, permanent marshes such as those at Charada, Kaffa (in the Jimma area), whence there is a May specimen (Taylor 1994, 1996a). Guichard (1948) suggested that males arrive in breeding areas before females. In South Africa, where recent records suggest that the species is normally migratory or nomadic, it is recorded from Aug-Mar and in May (Taylor 1994).

HABITAT Most information is from Taylor (1994, 1996a). Ethiopian breeding habitat is seasonal; dense, lush, rapidly growing vegetation, 20-50cm (usually 20-40cm) tall, on firm ground which is flooded to a depth of 20cm (usually to 10cm). Dominant plants include sedges (*Cyperus rigidifolius*, *C. afroalpinus* and *Eleocharis marginulata*), grasses (*Pennisetum schimperi* and *P. thunbergii*) and forbs such as *Uebelinia kigesiensis*, *Trifolium calancephalum*, *Ranunculus multifidus*, *Rumex marginulata*, *Haplocarpha schimperi*, and a *Polygonum* species. Sedges and short grasses tend to dominate in the more shallowly flooded sites, which lie in depressions and at the bases of shallow slopes above seasonal wetlands, as well as within the wetlands themselves. Forbs and taller grasses dominate in the more deeply flooded areas of taller vegetation within the wetlands. In Zimbabwe, birds were recorded from grass 50-100cm tall on dry to moist ground and also from muddy to shallowly flooded marshy ground with grass (*Leersia*, *Hemarthria* and *Cynodon dactylon*) and sedge (including *Cyperus digitatus*) cover (see Hopkinson and Masterson 1984). In Zambia, one bird was found in a pan-like marsh with emergent grass (Brooke 1964). Non-breeding birds in South Africa occur for short periods alongside breeding Red-chested Flufftails (3) in dense hygrophilous grasses (predominantly *Leersia* but also *Andropogon*, *Paspalum*, *Eragrostis*, *Hemarthria*, *Arundinella* and *Aristida*), sedges (*Pycreus*, *Kyllinga*, *Fuirena*, *Eleocharis*, *Schoenoplectus*, *Mariscus*, *Carex* and *Cyperus*) and rushes *Juncus* spp. Averaging 1m tall, on moist to shallowly flooded substrates, and for up to 4 months in dense sedges (principally *Phragmites australis* and reed-mace *Typha capensis*, 1-2m tall, on moist to deeply flooded ground not commonly inhabited by Red-chested Flufftails. It has been recorded breeding alongside the Red-chested Flufftail in Ethiopia, occupying typical seasonally flooded vegetation types while the Red-chested occurred in adjacent taller, sedge-dominated, permanently wet areas (P B Taylor unpubl.). In Ethiopia it occurs at

2,200-2,600m in the central highlands, and at 1,100m in the SW. It is recorded at 1,300-1,400m in Zambia and Zimbabwe; in South Africa it occurs mostly at 1,100-1,900m and has been recorded rarely at c. 150m in coastal areas.

FOOD AND FEEDING Stomach contents are recorded as water insects, grain seeds and 'vegetable mush'. Recent studies in Ethiopia (Taylor 1996a, 1997b) have provided the following information. Adults take earthworms, small freshwater crustaceans, and the adults and larvae of aquatic and terrestrial insects such as Lepidoptera, Coleoptera (including Chrysomelidae) and Diptera. Small chicks are fed on crustaceans, Coleoptera (including Dytiscidae larvae) and Diptera (including large prey such as Tipulidae and Tabanidae larvae over 2cm long). In the breeding habitat birds forage along muddy cattle tracks, at shallow pools, and at patches of cut vegetation and other small open areas in the dense cover, taking insects and other invertebrates from moist ground, mud and shallow water, and from flattened and low-growing vegetation; both adults and chicks apparently also forage in more deeply flooded vegetation. Foraging has been observed from early to mid-morning and in the late afternoon.

HABITS All information is from Taylor (1994, 1996a). This species is diurnal and crepuscular; most activity is recorded from early to mid-morning and from late afternoon to dusk, but birds may be flushed at any time of the day, and in light to moderate rain. In South Africa no activity has been recorded during the hours of darkness, when calling does not occur and birds do not respond to taped playback. In tall, flooded vegetation the birds are extremely difficult to observe, normally remaining within dense cover, but in short, sparse vegetation they may be glimpsed on the ground just before they take flight. Response to taped playback is often poor, but in tall, dense reedbeds the birds will sometimes approach to within 1-2m of an observer, calling and climbing around c. 1.5m up in the vegetation but remaining invisible and impossible to flush. However, in shorter vegetation this species is often easy to flush, rising up to 30m, in front of the observer, remaining airborne for up to 200m and often circling around to fly past the observer. In such circumstances the flight is strong and direct, with legs retracted, neck outstretched and rapid, shallow wingbeats. However, this species has a weak, fluttering, typical flufftail flight, with dangling legs. The birds normally climb to the top of dense, short vegetation before taking flight. In Ethiopian breeding areas, recently arrived birds, and probably those in the early stages of incubation, flush fairly easily and make low flights of 2-40m. Birds with chicks are extremely difficult to flush and may even be caught by hand. Before taking flight, birds on the ground pause briefly with open wings, possibly as a signal to other individuals.

SOCIAL ORGANISATION apparently monogamous. In South Africa, observation of calling patterns and reactions to taped playback suggest that the birds may be territorial in non-breeding habitat in which residence is prolonged (Taylor 1994). In Ethiopia breeding birds occur at a density of c. 2-4 pairs/ha and no territorial activity has been recorded from birds with nests and young chicks (Taylor 1996a, 1997b).

SOCIAL AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR Non-breeding birds in short vegetation appear to move constantly around occupied wetlands, all the birds apparently remaining in loose association with each other (Taylor 1994).

BREEDING AND SURVIVAL Season Nest-building and egg-laying occur in Ethiopia during long rains, Jul-Aug; a juvenile, South Africa, Nov, probably from egg laid Aug (Taylor 1994). Despite claims to the contrary, there is as yet no acceptable evidence that the species breeds in South Africa (Taylor 1994). **Nest** In Ethiopia, nests are probably built in sedge- and grass-dominated vegetation 20-40cm tall, over water up to 10cm deep. Description of nest and eggs from a villager in Ethiopia (Taylor 1996a) agrees in most respects with observations made at Mazowe, Zimbabwe, in 1950s (probably Feb), where 2 unidentified clutches, each of three eggs, were found on seasonally flooded ground; nests were shallow cups of grass built in reedy vegetation 10-12cm above water 30cm deep, with growing vegetation pulled over them in a dome. **Eggs** Eggs from these nests were ovate, white, sparsely spotted grey-brown and olive-green, markings most numerous in ring at blunt end; size of 1 egg 27 x 20 (Taylor 1994). Following information is from Taylor (1996a). **Chicks** Both sexes apparently feed and care for chicks. Adults lead observers away from young chicks by running through short vegetation, often across open patches, and hiding briefly in dense cover. Observations in Ethiopia suggest that birds commence nesting immediately after arrival in breeding habitat in late July, early August, and that the entire breeding cycle may occupy as little as 6 weeks, after which all birds may leave breeding habitat, which may have become unsuitable as a result of damage from grazing, trampling and cutting. Some birds may be able to raise a second brood elsewhere, before end of Oct, in late-developing habitat. Natural predation of eggs and young may be low at Ethiopian breeding sites.

Taken from "Rails, a guide to the Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots of the World" by Barry Taylor and Ber van Perlo, published in 1998 by Pica Press.

Chapter 3.

Action Plan.

<p>Aim To maintain the breeding grounds and ensure breeding success of White-winged Flufftails in partnership with the communities of Berga and Werserbi and to search for new White-winged Flufftail sites by 2008.</p>	<p>Indicator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Support Groups active in Berga and Wezerbi • No further loss in habitat by 2008 • Stable breeding population by 2008
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Indicator</p>
<p>1. Hunting in Berga & Werserbi stopped by June 2004</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hunting by 2008
<p>2. Grass cutting in Berga & Werserbi RBI area during the WWF breeding season (July – Sept) stopped by September 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No grass cutting during WWF breeding season by 2008
<p>3. The conversion of WWF habitat, at Berga & Werserbi, to cultivation stopped by September 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further conversion to cultivation by 2008
<p>4. Plans to construct dams at Berga & Werserbi abandoned by Sept 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No dam construction at Berga or Wezerbi
<p>5. Animal and human disturbance & trampling reduced to a level that has no effects on the breeding success of WWF at Werserbi & Berga by September 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of breeding success proves that trampling is below acceptable levels by 2008
<p>6. Develop alternative income. Generating schemes for low income & landless people at Berga & Werserbi (WWF sites) by Sept. 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two income generating schemes developed by 2008 in Wezerbi and Berga.
<p>7. Potential breeding sites for WWF's in Asmara, SNNP & Oromia Regional states surveyed by 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one annual survey in new potential WWF site undertaken.
<p>8. Population, size and trends of WWF determined at Berga & Werserbi by end 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring programme established by 2008.
<p>9. Seasonal occurrence and movements of WWF (resident, localised, migration, long distance migration) determined by 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring programme established by 2008
<p>10. All relevant information on breeding habitat of WWF determined by Sept 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and research programme implemented by 2008
<p>11. Captive breeding programme established by 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captive breeding programme in place by 2008

Projects Table.

Legend:

Cost in Ethiopian Birr:

X = 0 – 10 000

XX = 11 000 – 25 000

XXX = 26 000 – 50 000

XXXX = > 50 000

Priority

X = low

XX = medium

XXX = high

XXXX = critical

Table 1. Objectives and activities.

OBJECTIVE 1: Hunting in Berga & Werserbi stopped by June 2004							
Activities	Site	Priority	Agencies	Time Scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks & Opportunities
To obtain consensus amongst the authorities to stop issuing hunting licenses for Berga & Werserbi	Berga & Werserbi	*****	EWNHS	Sept 2003 to June 2004	*	No licenses granted	Risks - Birding of officials (Werserbi) Opportunities - Cooperation with natural resource Department and all responsible authorities.
Keeping the SSG, local communities & local administration aware through the regular meetings and letters to stop hunting in Berga & Werserbi	Berga & Werserbi	***	EWNHS	**	*	No illegal hunting	Opportunities - To instil the awareness of bad effects of hunting in marshes
OBJECTIVE 2: Grass cutting in Berga & Werserbi area during the WWF breeding season (July – Sept) stopped by September 2005							
As mentioned above in point 1.1 and 1.2 plus grass cutting in Berga & Werserbi	Berga & Werserbi	*****	Berga dairy farm	Sept 2003 - Sept 2005	*	No grass cutting	Opportunities – Attack, insult the reporter, to instil the awareness of bad effects of grass cutting
Strengthen the site patrolling by SSG establish out posts at least at two sites	Berga & Werserbi	*****	SSG dairy farm natural resource bureaus	Sept 2003 - Sept 2005	*	No grass cutting	Risks - Attack / insult Opportunities - Active patrolling programme already in place
Advocacy work through regular meetings with local administrators present association and Judiciaries together with SSG and dairy farm	Berga & Werserbi	***	EWNHS, Berga dairy farm & natural resource office	Sept 2003 - Sept 2005	*	Illegal grass cutting prosecuted	Opportunities - Cooperate with community and authorities.

OBJECTIVE 3 : The conservation of WWF habitat, at Berger & Weserbi, to cultivation stopped by September 2008							
Activities	Site	Priority	Agencies	Time	Cost	Indicators	Risks & opportunities
Field survey to determine rate of habitat conversion to cultivation	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS ONRRLA, SSG	March 2004- Sep 2008	*	Info on rate of conversion produced	Risks -Lack of co – op with farmers Opportunities - Small, accessible survey presence of on going project
Enforcement of current ONRRLA land policy to prevent conversion of habitat to cultivation	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, ONRRLA, SSG	March 2004- Sep 2008	*	Total prevention of habitat conversion	Risks - Lack of co- op with farmers Opportunities - policy already proclaimed
Community awareness programme involving implications of WWF habitat modification	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, EPA, SSG, ONRRLA,	Nov 2003- Sept 2008	*	Conversion of habitat stopped	Risks - Lack of co- op with farmers Opportunities – Platform for including other activities
OBJECTIVE 4: Plans to construct dams at Berger & Weserbi abandoned by Sept 2008							
Activities	Site	Priority	Agencies	Time	Cost	Indicators	Risks & opportunities
Detailed report on implication of dam construction formulated & distributed, meeting set up.	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, EPA, SSG, IBCR, EWCO, ONRRLA	Oct 2003 – Jan 2004		National task force setup to investigate impact	Risks - Early start of construction. Unwillingness of government to cooperate. Weakened relations between NGO's & government Opportunities - National liason committee already in place. Higher levels of government already aware of importance of WWF.
Produce promotional publication to mobilise local and international support	Berga & Weserbi	****	ONRRLA, IBCR, EWCO	March 2004- June 2004	***	Government responds to local and international pressure	Risks - Alienating relationships with gov. Opportunities – Increased international concern
Collection of petition & distribution to government	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, EPA, SSG, IBCR, ONRRLA, EWCO	Sep 2004- Jan 2005	*	Government responds to local & international pressure	Risks - Alienating relationships with gov. Opportunities – Increased international concern
Organise rallies	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, EPA, SSG, IBCR, ONRRLA, EWCO	Mar 2005- Sep 2008	**	Government responds to local & international pressure	Risks - Alienating relationships with gov. Opportunities – Increased international concern

OBJECTIVE 5: Animal and human, disturbance & trampling reduced to a level that has no effects on the breeding success of WWF at Weserbi & Berger by September 2006							
Activities	Site	Priority	Agencies	Time	Cost	Indicators	Risks & opportunities
Design & develop methodology to determine levels of impact of disturbance on breeding success.	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, DNSM	Aug 2003 Sep 2003	*	Working methodology formulated	Risks - Insufficient data Opportunities - Usefulness of method for other studies
Conduct impact surveys	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, DNSM	Jun 2004 – Sep 2008	****	Impact level realised	Risks - Insufficient data logistical limitation Opportunities - facilitates other research
Formulation of improved grazing system	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, ONRRCA, SSG	Jan 2004 – Sep 2008	****	No impact on breeding success due to grazing	Risks - Lack of co-operation by farmers Opportunities – develop. of model for other comm.
Identify sensitive breeding zones a safe-guard them	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, ONRRCA, SSG	Jun 2004 – Sep 2008	**	No impact on breeding success	Risks - Difficulty in identifying zones Methodology constraints on measuring breeding success
Establish alternate routes for horses.	Berga & Weserbi	**	EWNHS, ONRRCA, SSG	Sep 2003 Mar 2004	**	Marshes no longer used as through – way for horses	Risks - Lengthy distance for alternate routes Cooperate with farmers Opportunities - Safer routes for horses
Establish SSG at Weserbi based on Berger SSG principles	Weserbi	****	EWNHS, ONRRCA, SSG	Sep 2003 Dec 2004	*	SSG establish & operational	Risks - Lack of volunteers Community politics Opportunities - Previous members still interested Co-operation with Berger and SSG

OBJECTIVE 6: Develop alternative income generating schemes for low income & land less people at Berger & Weserbi (WWF sites) by Sept. 2008							
Activities	Site Province	Priorit y	Agencies	Time	Cost	Indicators	Risks & opportunities
Wealth & education analyses to identify the relatively low income and educated group	Berga & Weserbi	***	EWNHS communities & Woreda natural resource offices ,consultants	Jan 2004 to Sept 2004	*	Report from agencies	Opportunities - Gain knowledge & economic circumstances
Train two bird guides at Berga & Weserbi each to promote eco-tourism	Berga & Weserbi	**	EWNHS	Jan 2005 – Sept 2008	*	4 Trained bird guides	Risks - Departure of guide after training
To establish small flour mill to create a job & serve the local community to be run by SSG, land less & job less	Berga	***	Woreda authorities EWNHS	Jan 2007 to Sept 2008	****	Establishment of flour mill	Risks - Poor management Opportunities - Need for flour mill
To train 30 landless & jobless people in bee keeping & provide them in modern beehive each	Berga & Weserbi	*	EWNHS, Woreda authority Holetta bee reseach	Jan 2006 to Sept 2008	****	Trained bee keepers with at least one beehive	Opportunities - EWNHS experience in the field
Construction of store & purchasing of grain during harvesting season	Berga & Weserbi	**	EWNHS, Woreda Authority	Jan 2006 – Sept 2007	****	Complete store which make people enthusiastic for conservation	Opportunities: EWNHS previous experince, farmers experience
OBJECTIVE 7: Potensial breeding sites for WWF's in Amara, SNNP & Oromia Regional states surveyed by 2008							
Activities	Province	Priorit y	Agencies	The scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks & Opportunities
Conduct stakeholders analysis & workshop with both federal & regional states to identify potential new breeding sites	Amana, Oromia & SNNP	****	Ramsar, EWNHS, Wattled Crane survey, EPA,EWCO, IBCR, Regional states, AFWC	Jan – Jun 2004	*** 30 people for 2-3 days	Potential new breeding sites identified	Risks - Lack of co-op from stakeholders Potential miss-conception of intent by stakeholders Opportunities - High diversity of NGO's, CBO's, GOV. agencies Growing interest in environmental issues
Conduct field surveys for WWF at identified potential breeding sites	Amana, Oromia & SNNP	****	EWNHS & relevant regional bureaus	Jul 2004 To 2008	****	All identified potential breeding sites surveyed	Risks - Inaccessibility of sites to due to remoteness Relevant stakeholders unable/unwilling to assist with surveys Opportunities - Potential for success high

OBJECTIVE 8: Population, size and trends of WWF determined at Berga & Weserbi by end 2008							
Activities	Province	Prio-rity	Agencies	Time scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks & Opportunities
Devise best methods for assessing WWF population & trends at Berga & Weserbi	Oromia	****	International EWNHS	Jul 2003 Oct 2004	*	Survey methods perfected	Risks - Number of birds & densities too low to permit statistical analyses of survey results (i.e. sample sites too low not realistic capable of improvements) Secretiveness of WWF Lack of experience of researchers Opportunities – Education centre at Berga as base for surveys
OBJECTIVE 9: Seasonal occurrence and movements of WWF (resident, localised, migration, long distance migration) determined by 2008							
Activities	Province	Prio-rity	Agencies	The scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks & Opportunities
Conduct surveys at regular intervals at Berga & Weserbi	Oromia	****	EWNHS	Oct 2004 To 2008	****	Surveys conducted	As above
Determine population trends from survey results	Addis Ababa	****	EWNHS	Oct 2004	*	Population trends determined	Risks – Poor sample sites in analyses
Conduct surveys near river courses at breeding wetlands	Oromia	***	EWNHS	Dry seasons of 2004 /5 5/6 6/7 7/8	**	Surveys completed	Risks – Unavailability of EWNHS staff
Conduct surveys at potential WWF wetlands in low lying areas during winter to investigate potential movements	Oroma, SEEF, Amrra	***	EWNHS	Dry seasons of 2005/6 6/7 7/8	****	Potential sites surveyed	Risks – Unavailability of EWNHS staff Inaccessibility of some sites due to remoteness, no roads, security concerns
Conduct isotope analyses of WWF feathers to investigate potential long distance migration between Ethiopia and SA	Oromia, SA & Ungary	***	EWNHS, Middelpunt Wetland Trust, DBSM, UNP, Fitz Patrick University	Jan 2003 Jan 2004	*		Risks – Analysis in lab problems Poor or inadequate samples Inconclusive results

OBJECTIVE 10: All relevant information on breeding habitat of WWF determined by Sept 2008							
Activities	Province	Priority	Agencies	The scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks & Opportunities
Devise best study methods for investigating WWF breeding habitat preferences, incl. Veg, water levels, impact of grazing & disturbance	Oromia Berga Weserbi	****	Addis Ababa university and EWNHS	Summer seasons of 2005	**	Study methods perfected	Risks – Unavailability of University students Unavailability of EWNHS staff
Conduct breeding habitat study at Berga and Weserbi	Oromia Berga Weserbi	****	Addis Ababa university and EWNHS	Summer seasons of 2006/7	****	Habitat preferences Determined	Risks – Unavailability of University students Unavailability of EWNHS staff
OBJECTIVE 11: Captive breeding programme established by 2008							
Activities	Province	Priority	Agencies	Time scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks & Opportunities
Establish Captive breeding population	Ethiopia or International	**	EWHNS, EPA, IBCR, EWCO	2007	****	Successful captive breeding population	Risks – not approved by Ethiopian authorities May not succeed Opportunities – Educational opportunities Experience of other flufftails successfully bred in captivity Insurance against extinction

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

What? & Why? The monitoring and evaluation plan is needed to determine whether activities are progressing according to schedule. Obtaining information on the progress made with regards to the completion of the activities and using this information in conjunction with the indicators it is possible to assess how far we have proceeded with implementing the action plan and achieving the aim and objectives outlined in it. Monitoring and evaluating progress made on a regular basis means that priorities can be assessed and adjusted when required. It serves as a basis for keeping everyone informed as to what is happening.

Who? It was agreed that this is the task of the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society. The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society agreed to allocate this task to the appropriate staff member. The task involves co-ordinating the monitoring and evaluation, which includes financial reporting.

How & How often? Annually every April. The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society would circulate the table for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the White-winged Flufftail Action Plan to the agencies responsible for the different components. Each agency would fill in updated information based on their progress and return the table to the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society. The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society would then collate the information into one table for distribution to all members and stakeholders in the conservation of the White-winged Flufftail and other interested organisations and individuals.

Table 2. Monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Ethiopian White-winged Flufftail Action Plan.

OBJECTIVE 1: Hunting in Berga & Werserbi stopped by June 2004							
Activities	Site	Priority	Agencies	Time Scale	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
To obtain consensus amongst the authorities to stop issuing hunting licenses for Berga & Werserbi	Berga & Werserbi	****	EWNHS	Sept 2003 to June 2004		No licenses granted	
Keeping the SSG, local communities & local administration aware through the regular meetings and letters to stop hunting in Berga & Werserbi	Berga & Werserbi	***	EWNHS	**		No illegal hunting	
OBJECTIVE 2: Grass cutting in Berga & Werserbi area during the WWF breeding season (July – Sept) stopped by September 2005							
As mentioned above in point 1.1 and 1.2 plus grass cutting in Berga & Werserbi	Berga & Werserbi	****	Berga dairy farm	Sept 2003 - Sept 2005		No grass cutting	
Strengthen the site patrolling by SSG establish out posts at least at two sites	Berga & Werserbi	****	SSG dairy farm natural resource bureaus	Sept 2003 - Sept 2005		No grass cutting	
Advocacy work through regular meetings with local administrators present association and Judiciaries together with SSG and dairy farm	Berga & Werserbi	***	EWNHS, Berga dairy farm & natural resource office	Sept 2003 - Sept 2005		Illegal grass cutting prosecuted	

OBJECTIVE 3 : The conservation of WWF habitat, at Berger & Werserbi, to cultivation stopped by September 2008							
Activities	Site	Priority	Agencies	Time	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Field survey to determine rate of habitat conversion to cultivation	Berga & Werserbi	****	EWNHS ONRRLA, SSG	March 2004- Sep 2008		Info on rate of conversion produced	
Enforcement of current ONRRLA land policy to prevent conversion of habitat to cultivation	Berga & Werserbi	****	EWNHS, ONRRLA, SSG	March 2004- Sep 2008		Total prevention of habitat conversion	
Community awareness programme involving implications of WWF habitat modification	Berga & Werserbi	****	EWNHS, EPA, SSG, ONRRLA,	Nov 2003- Sept 2008		Conversion of habitat stopped	

OBJECTIVE 4: Plans to construct dams at Berger & Weserbi abandoned by Sept 2008							
Activities	Site	Priority	Agencies	Time	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Detailed report on implication of dam construction formulated & distributed, meeting set up.	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, EPA, SSG, IBCR, EWCO, ONRRLA	Oct 2003 – Jan 2004		National task force setup to investigate impact	
Produce promotional publication to mobilise local and international support	Berga & Weserbi	****	ONRRLA, IBCR, EWCO	March 2004- June 2004		Government responds to local and international pressure	
Collection of petition & distribution to government	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, EPA, SSG, IBCR, ONRRLA, EWCO	Sep 2004- Jan 2005		Government responds to local & international pressure	
Organise rallies	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, EPA, SSG, IBCR, ONRRLA, EWCO	Mar 2005- Sep 2008		Government responds to local & international pressure	
OBJECTIVE 5: Animal and human, disturbance & trampling reduced to a level that has no effects on the breeding success of WWF at Weserbi & Berger by September 2006							
Activities	Site	Priority	Agencies	Time	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Design & develop methodology to determine levels of impact of disturbance on breeding success.	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, DNSM	Aug 2003 Sep 2003		Working methodology formulated	
Conduct impact surveys	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, DNSM	Jun 2004 – Sep 2008		Impact level realised	
Formulation of improved grazing system	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, ONRRC, SSG	Jan 2004 – Sep 2008		No impact on breeding success due to grazing	
Identify sensitive breeding zones a safe-guard them	Berga & Weserbi	****	EWNHS, ONRRC, SSG	Jun 2004 – Sep 2008		No impact on breeding success	
Establish alternate routes for horses.	Berga & Weserbi	**	EWNHS, ONRRC, SSG	Sep 2003 Mar 2004		Marshes no longer used as through – way for horses	
Establish SSG at Weserbi based on Berger SSG principles	Weserbi	****	EWNHS, ONRRC, SSG	Sep 2003 Dec 2004		SSG establish & operational	

OBJECTIVE 6: Develop alternative income generating schemes for low income & land less people at Berger & Weserbi (WWF sites) by Sept. 2008							
Activities	Site Province	Priorit y	Agencies	Time	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Wealth & education analyses to identify the relatively low income and educated group	Berga & Weserbi	***	EWNHS communities & Woreda natural resource offices ,consultants	Jan 2004 to Sept 2004		Report from agencies	
Train two bird guides at Berga & Weserbi each to promote eco-tourism	Berga & Weserbi	**	EWNHS	Jan 2005 – Sept 2008		4 Trained bird guides	
To establish small flour mill to create a job & serve the local community to be run by SSG, land less & job less	Berga	***	Woreda authorities EWNHS	Jan 2007 to Sept 2008		Establishment of flour mill	
To train 30 landless & jobless people in bee keeping & provide them in modern beehive each	Berga & Weserbi	*	EWNHS, Woreda authority Holetta bee reseach	Jan 2006 to Sept 2008		Trained bee keepers with at least one beehive	
Construction of store & purchasing of grain during harvesting season	Berga & Weserbi	**	EWNHS, Woreda Authority	Jan 2006 – Sept 2007		Complete store which make people enthusiastic for conservation	
OBJECTIVE 7: Potensial breeding sites for WWF's in Amara, SNNP & Oromia Regional states surveyed by 2008							
Activities	Province	Priorit y	Agencies	Time scale	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Conduct stakeholders analysis & workshop with both federal & regional states to identify potential new breeding sites	Amana, Oromia & SNNP	****	Ramsar, EWNHS, Wattled Crane survey, EPA,EWCO, IBCR, Regional states, AFWC	Jan – Jun 2004		Potential new breeding sites identified	
Conduct field surveys for WWF at identified potential breeding sites	Amana, Oromia & SNNP	****	EWNHS & relevant regional bureaus	Jul 2004 To 2008		All identified potential breeding sites surveyed	

OBJECTIVE 8: Population, size and trends of WWF determined at Berga & Weserbi by end 2008							
Activities	Province	Prio-rity	Agencies	Time scale	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Devise best methods for assessing WWF population & trends at Berga & Weserbi	Oromia	****	International EWNHS	Jul 2003 Oct 2004		Survey methods perfected	
OBJECTIVE 9: Seasonal occurrence and movements of WWF (resident, localised, migration, long distance migration) determined by 2008							
Activities	Province	Prio-rity	Agencies	The scale	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Conduct surveys at regular intervals at Berga & Weserbi	Oromia	****	EWNHS	Oct 2004 To 2008		Surveys conducted	
Determine population trends from survey results	Addis Ababa	****	EWNHS	Oct 2004		Population trends determined	
Conduct surveys near river courses at breeding wetlands	Oromia	***	EWNHS	Dry seasons of 2004 /5 5/6 6/7 7/8		Surveys completed	
Conduct surveys at potential WWF wetlands in low lying areas during winter to investigate potential movements	Oroma, SEEF, Amrra	***	EWNHS	Dry seasons of 2005/6 6/7 7/8		Potential sites surveyed	
Conduct isotope analyses of WWF feathers to investigate potential long distance migration between Ethiopia and SA	Oromia, SA & Ungary	***	EWNHS, Middelpunt Wetland Trust, DBSM, UNP, Fitz Patrick University	Jan 2003 Jan 2004			

OBJECTIVE 10: All relevant information on breeding habitat of WWF determined by Sept 2008							
Activities	Province	Priority	Agencies	The scale	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Devise best study methods for investigating WWF breeding habitat preferences, incl. Veg, water levels, impact of grazing & disturbance	Oromia Berga Weserbi	****	Addis Ababa university and EWNHS	Summer seasons of 2005		Study methods perfected	
Conduct breeding habitat study at Berga and Weserbi	Oromia Berga Weserbi	****	Addis Ababa university and EWNHS	Summer seasons of 2006/7		Habitat preferences Determined	
OBJECTIVE 11: Captive breeding programme established by 2008							
Activities	Province	Priority	Agencies	Time scale	Completion date	Indicators	Remarks
Establish Captive breeding population	Ethiopia or International	**	EWHNS, EPA, IBCR, EWCO	2007		Successful captive breeding population	

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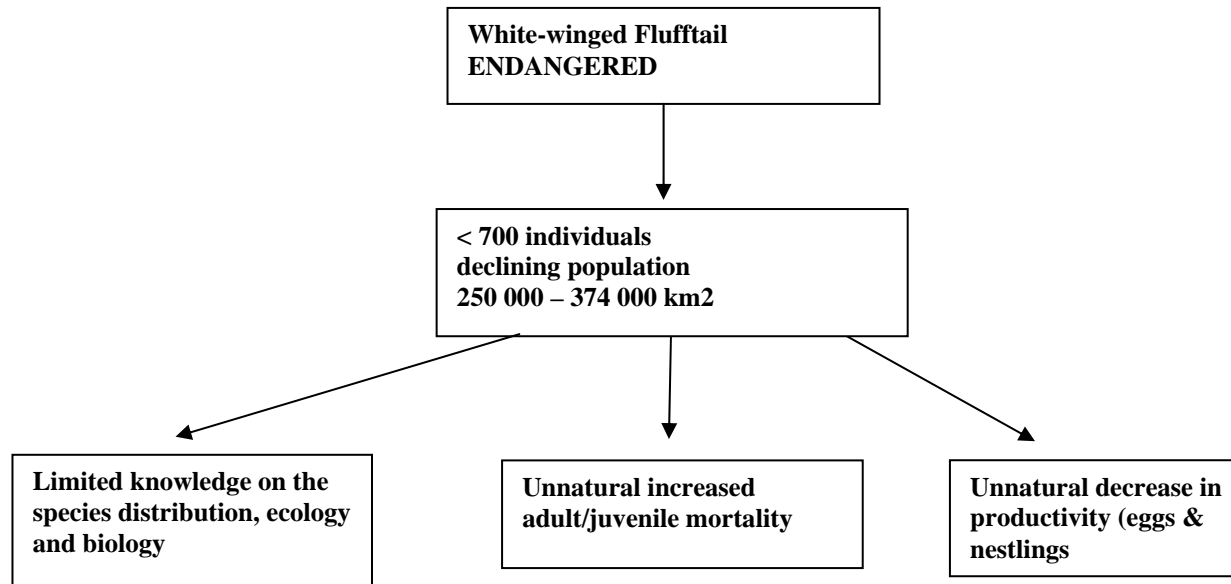
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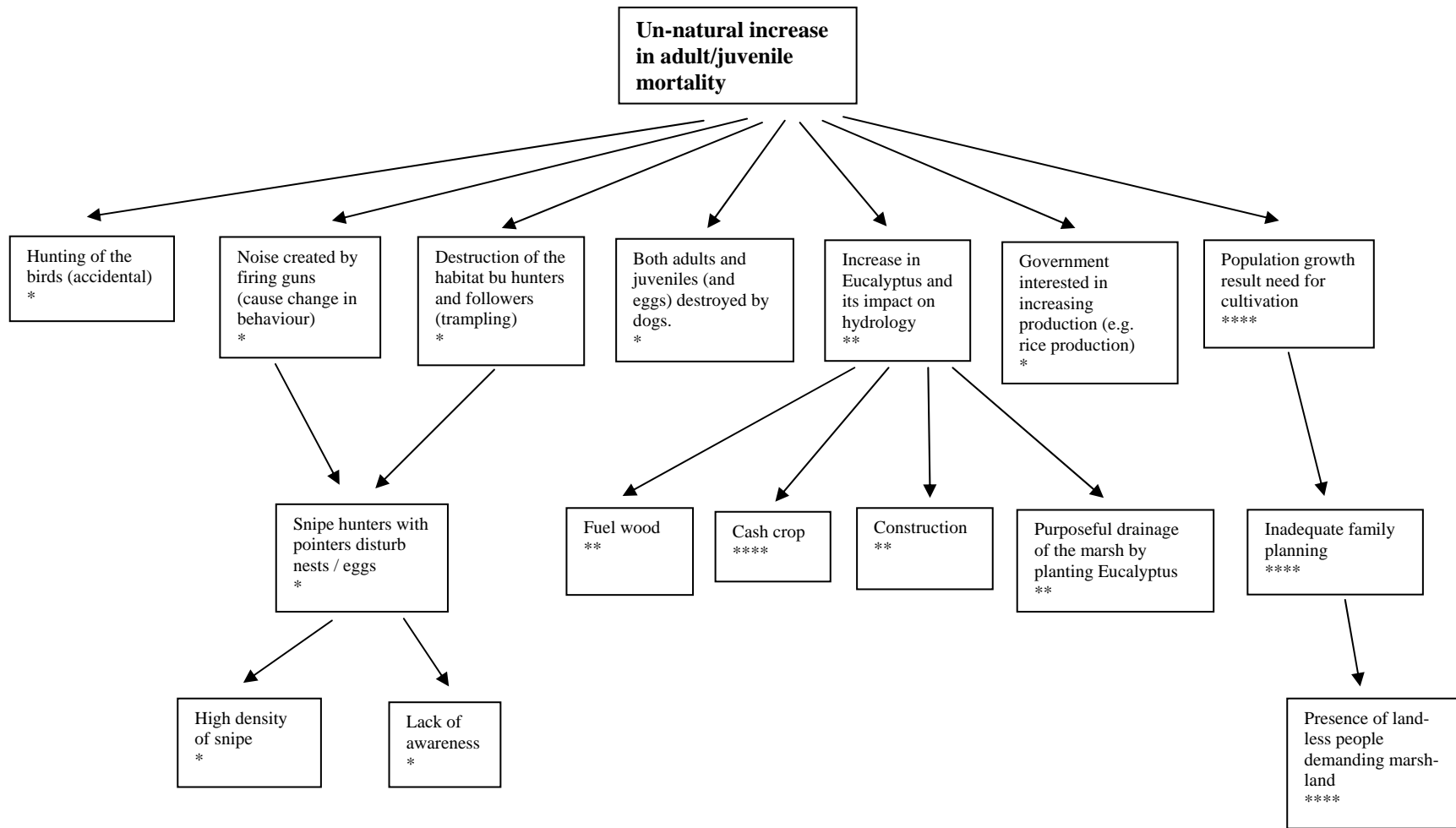
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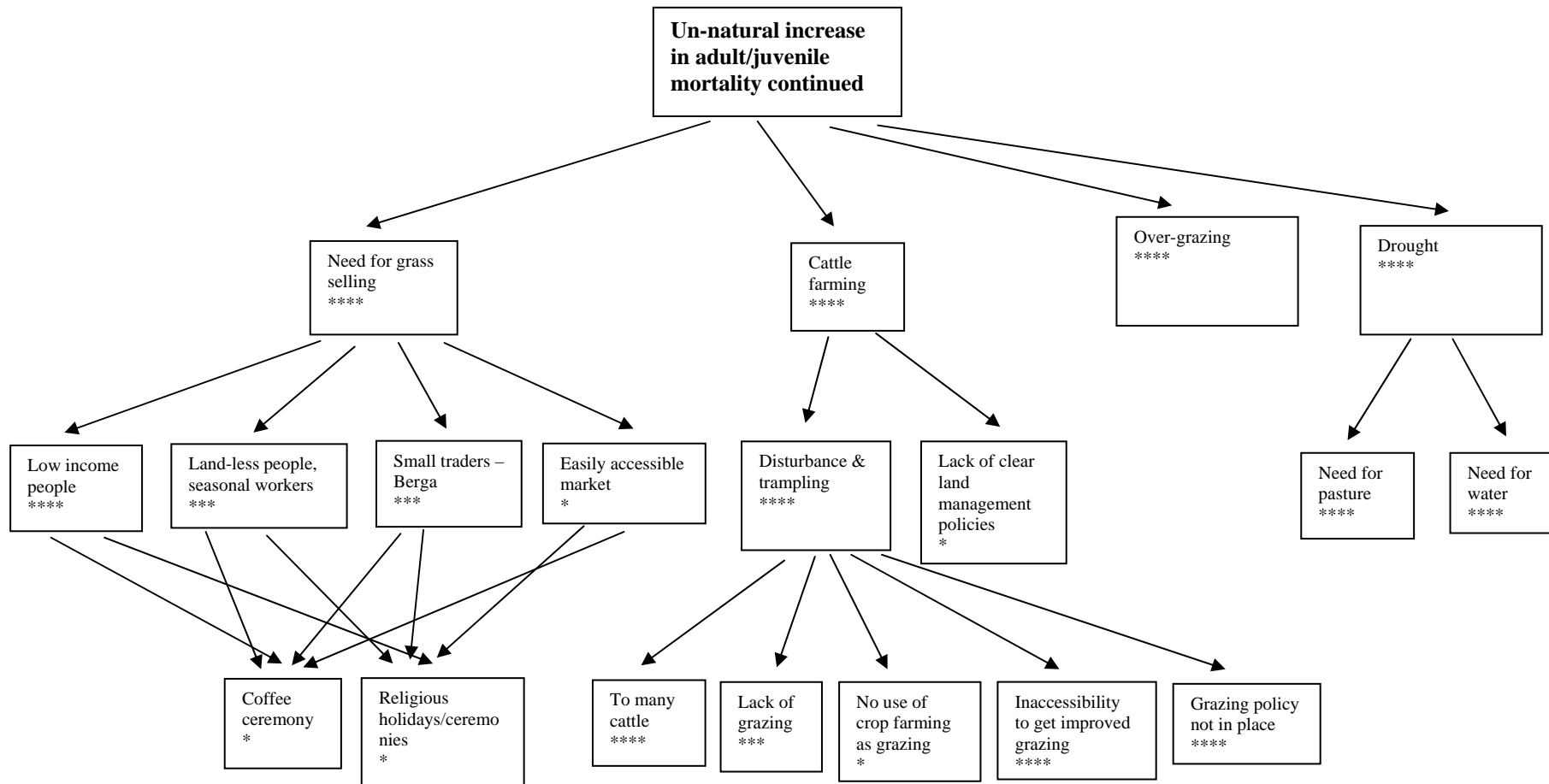
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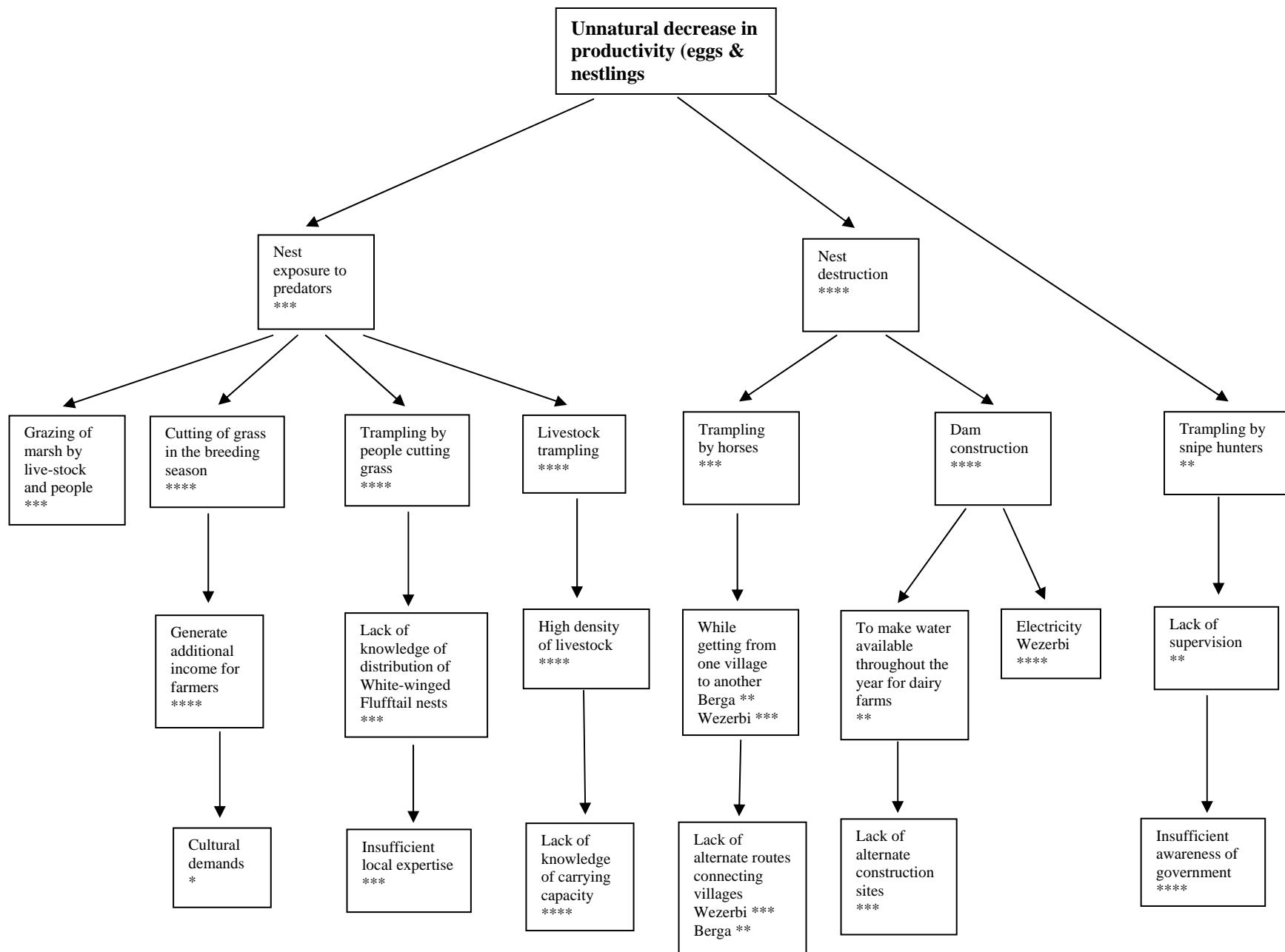
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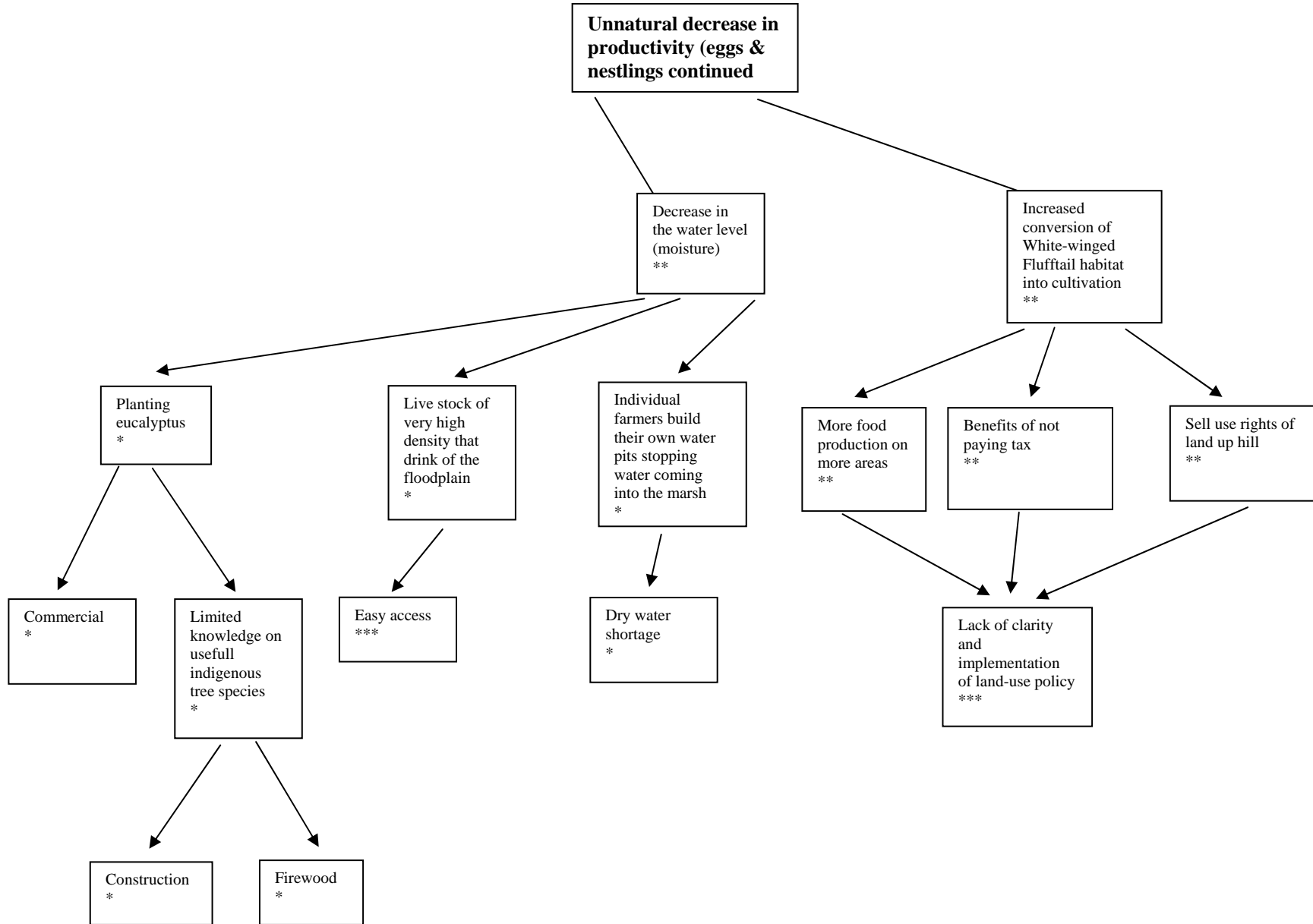
Problem tree

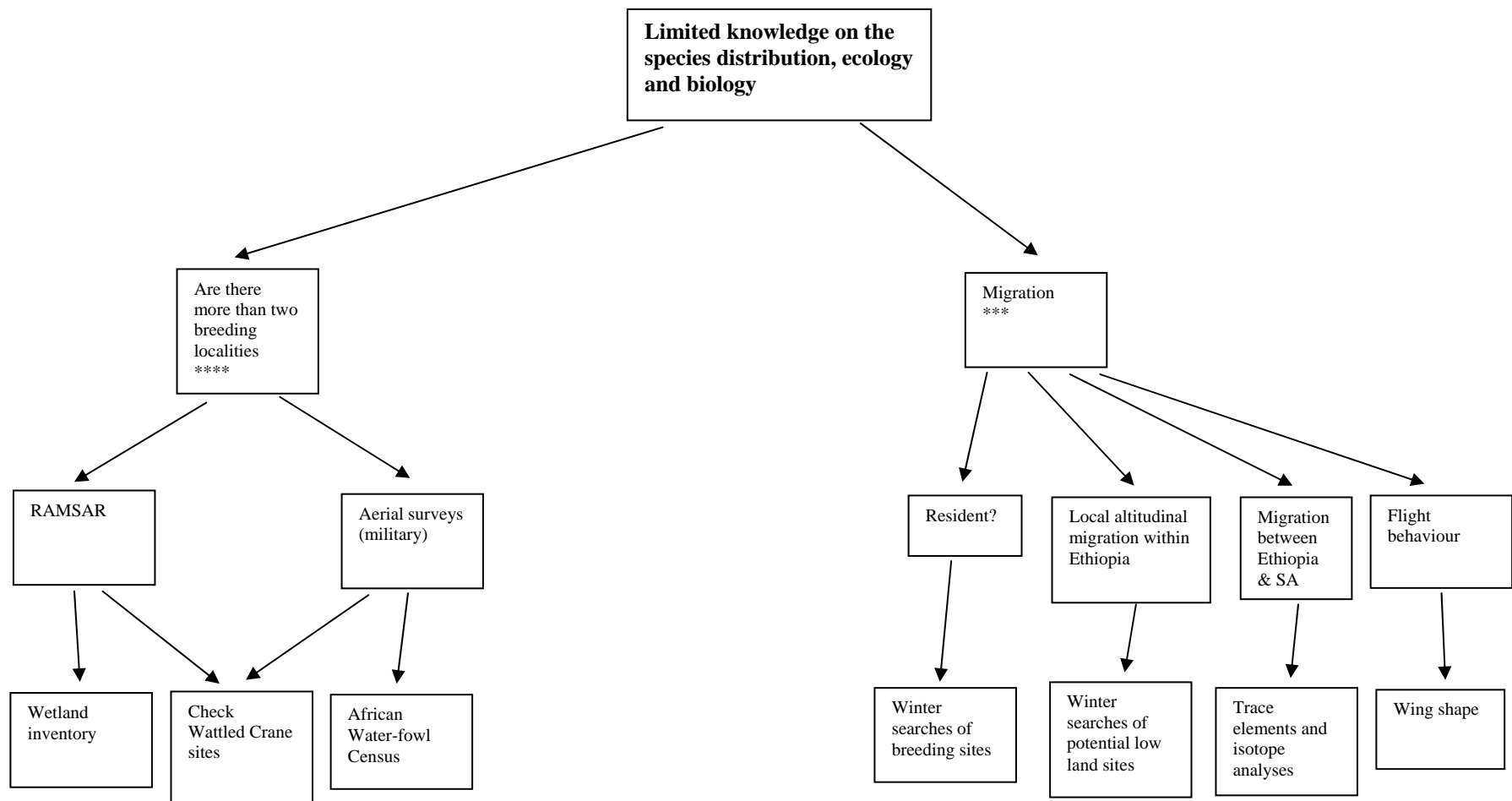


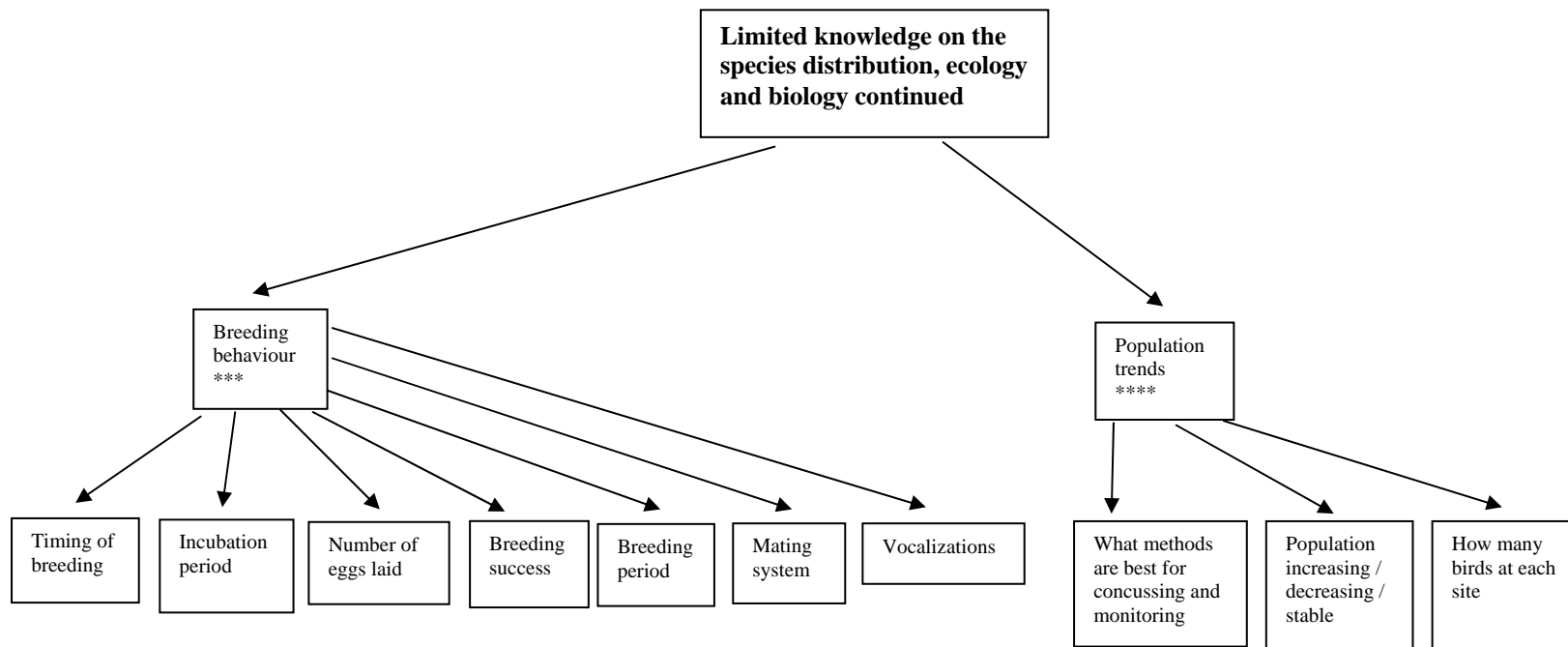


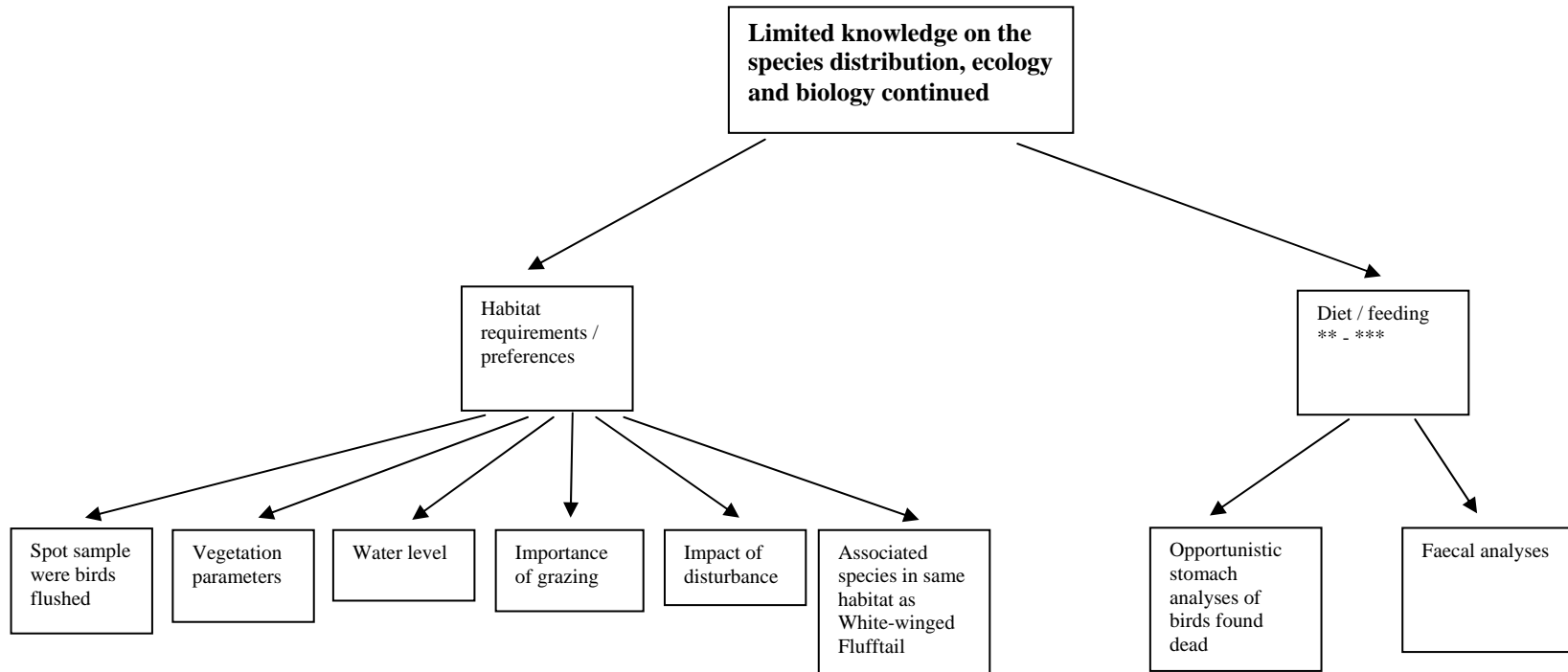












Chapter 5.

Issues affecting successful implementation of a White-winged Flufftail Action Plan.

Opportunities		Risks	
1.1	The club formed at the site	1.1	No rules & regulations to enforce on land users
1.2	SSG in place		Lack of practical land use policy
1.3	Local community supportive of the conservation initiatives	1.2	
1.4	Local commitment		
1.5	Awareness of the local people increased (SSG)		
1.6	Incentives for associated local communities		
1.7	Awareness will be created in community		
1.8	Convince the community to protect the WWF		
2.	Conservation of the countries biodiversity	2.1	A change in government authorities
		2.2	Unstable governmental structures
3.1	There is a project going on	3.1	Lack of resources (material, financial)
3.2	A project in place to assist the community	3.2	Funding & other resources might not be available
3.3	Improved conservation status for sites	3.3	Logistical constraints (financial, skilled staff)
3.4	Community support gained from the kindergarten initiated	3.4	Funding
3.5	Assist support group in commercial venture	3.5	Irregular monitoring of sights
3.6	Money available to implement some of the action plans objectives		
3.7	EWNHS is already operation at the site		
4.1	The presence of Berga dairy farm	4.1	Loss of the main road during investigation
4.2	Improvement of present economic ventures	4.2	Floods may cause problems (to walk)
5.	Favourable conditions to implement projects towards the end	5	Change of government
6.	Habitat restoration	6.	If not endorsed
7.1	Eco-tourism	7.1	Limited knowledge
7.2	Opportunity to increase eco-tourism	7.2	Having an informed public about plan
8.	Provide training for monitoring personnel	8.1	Privatisation of areas with the WWF
		8.2	Use rights of sites to be privatised
		8.3	Transfer of wetland to new owner
		8.4	Site privatisation
		8.5	Privatisation of site
		8.6	Privatisation is a risk

9.	South African partnership	9.1	Enjoying continued support of sustainable support group
		9.2	Decline of enthusiasm shown by community
		9.3	Farmers loss of grazing land for animals
		9.4	Locals who make a living from the sale of cutting Sages will also rebel
		9.5	Government support of administering dairy marshes in WWF friendly way
		9.6	If EWNHS leave the site
		9.7	Lack of community interest
		9.8	Shortage of grazing land
		9.9	Balancing humans living with WWF conservation
		9.10	Increasing demands for cultivable land
		9.11	No concerted effort at district level on conservation of the site
10.	Research opportunities		
11.			
11.1	Local government collaboration		
11.2	Co-operation of the district authorities		
11.3	Attention of the government		
11.4	Privatisation and investment bureau are collaborative		
11.5	Governmental bodies will be aware of the issue		
12.	Accessibility		
13.	Manageable size of breeding site		

Chapter 6.

Workshop Participants.

Name	Organization	Position /job title	Where based	Tel.	e-mail
1. Steven Evans	BirdLife S.A(BLSA)	Species and sites Programme Manager	Johannesburg	011 789 1122	iba@birdlife.org.za
2. Deon Coetsee	Middelpunt Wetland Trust	Chairman of Trustees	Johannesburg		
3. Kinfe Abebe	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS)	Executive Director	Addis Ababa	630476 09/24-23-69	ewnhs@telecom.net.et
4.Mengistu Wondaferash	EWNHS	Biodiversity Team Leader	Addis Ababa	628525	ewnhs@telecom.net.et
5.Befekadu Refera	Environmental Protection Authority(EPA)	Mammalian Biodiversity Specialist	Addis Ababa	46-48-85	befekadurefera@yahoo.com
6. Yegezu Kilkaye	Berga Dairy Farm enterprise	Farm manager	Ada Berga/Berga		
7. Zewditu Tessema	EWNHS	Head of Resource and Information centre	Addis Ababa	628525	ewnhs@telecom.net.et
8.Bekele Negussie	Berga Bird Lovers Group	Chair person of the Group	Berga		
9.Dr. Fikru Diksissa	Oromia Rural land and Natural Resource Development	Deputy Head	Addis Ababa	09/228758 156539	
10.Derege Tsega	Sululta Mullo Rural land and Natural Resource Development	Office Head	Chanchoo		
11. Tafa Dekeba	Berga Bird Lovers Group	Member	Berga		
11. Aster Tefera	EWNHS	Site Conservation Officer	Addis Ababa	628525	ewnhs@telecom.net.et
12..Teshome Begiga	Ada Berga district Natural Resource and land administration office	Office Head	Inchini		
13. Girma Mamme	Berga State Dairy Farm	Guard/elders representative	Berga		

14.David Allan	Durban Natural Science Museum	Orinitologist	Durban		
15.Ateneh Shimelese	EWNHS	Research Officer	Addis Ababa	628525	ewnhs@telecom.net.et
16.Yilma Delelegne	EWNHS	Berga project Team Leader	Addis Ababa	628525	ewnhs@telecom.net.et
17.Alistair McInnes	Durban Natural Science Museum	Research Assistant	Durban		
18. Lakew Birehanu	EWCO(Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization)	Conservation Biologist expert	Addis Ababa	537702	

Chapter 7.

Participant Goals and Hopes.

Name	Organization	Position	Where based	Expectations of this workshop
Steven Evans	BirdLife S.A (BLSA)	Species & Sites Programme Manager	Johannesburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a realistic action plan to conserve the WWF in Ethiopia • Improve networking between individuals & conserve WWF in SA & Ethiopia • Confirm the existence of the WWF by finally getting to see it
Deon Coetzee	Middelpunt Wetland Trust	Chairman of Trustees	Johannesburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To form a working group • Establish continued research for “new” sites • Make new friends
Kinfe Abebe	Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society (EWNHS)	Executive Director	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience to develop spp. Action plan • Make people more aware of the threatened bird species
Mengistu Wondafrash	Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society (EWNHS)	Biodiversity Team Leader	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus reached how to conserve the Habitats of WWF
Befekadu Refera	Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)	Mammalian Biodiversity Specialist	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop action plan • Government, NGO & local people partnership will be developed
Yigelu-Kelkayle	Dairy – development - enterprise	Farm manager	Adaberge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation on WWF
Zewditu Tessema	EWNHS	Head of resource & information centre	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing workable action plan to conserve WWF
Bekele Noph	SSG	Treasurer and head of funds	Ada-Berga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment of govt. & civil organisations for the conservation of WWF
Fikru	Oromin rural land & Natural resources development	Deputy head	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find solution that will conserve WWF • That the workshop achieves it’s objective
Dereje Tsefa	Lulal land administration & natural resource	Head of the office	Sulultaa & Muloo district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good conservation strategy to save WWF

	office			
Tafa Dekeba	SSG	Member	Ada-Berga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain experience on the conservation of WWF
Aster Teferra	Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society	Conservation officer	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional & time bound action plan A human centered action plan (not only focused on the birds)
Teshome Befiga	Ade'a berga Wereda Natural resource & environmental protection office	Wereda Natural resource environmental protection officer head	Berga / Inchinil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan of protection of WWF Experience shared
Girma Mamme	SSG	Group Leader	Berga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain NGO support
David Allan	Durban Natural Science Museum	Ornithologist	Durban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective conservation of the WWF Identification of key gaps in our knowledge of WWF & a plan of how to fill them
Anteneh Shimelis	EWNHS	Research Officer	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a action plan WWF
Tilma	EWNHS	Project manager Wetland Advisory	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop action plan
Alistair McInnes	Durban Natural Science Museum	Research Assistant	Durban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiply stakeholder co-operation in the formulation of a realistic WWF action plan
Lakew	EWCO	Conservation Biologist expert	Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a action plan

Chapter 8.

APPENDIX 1: National White-winged Flufftail Action Planning workshop programmes.



Ethiopian White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*) Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop, Addis Ababa, Semien Hotel, 21 – 23 July 2003.

Workshop Programme.

	21 July	22 July	23 July
8:30 – 13:00	<p>Welcome (EWNHS/DC/SE). Introductions & Expectations (SE). Explanation of workshop techniques (SE) What is a Species Action Plan? (SE) Overview of the workshop programme (SE)</p> <p>Presentation of background information (DC)</p>	<p>Recap of day 1 (SE)</p> <p>Group work: Problem tree analyses.</p> <p>Group presentations and discussions: - Report back on problem tree. - Review brainstorm of issues. - Prioritise issues at highest level.</p>	<p>Recap of day 3. Agree the Vision and Aim of the Action Plan. (SE)</p> <p>Group work: Formulation of Project Concepts.</p> <p>Group presentations and discussions: - Report back on Project Concepts.</p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH		
14:00 – 18:00	<p>Response to presentation (DC/SE) - any gaps? - questions & answers?</p> <p>Identify main issues affecting implementation of a White-winged Flufftail Action Plan? (SE)</p> <p>What are the main issues (threats) affecting the White-winged Flufftail? (SE)</p> <p>Evaluation (ALL).</p>	<p>Group work: Draft the Objectives. - Consider the life-span of the Action Plan (3 – 5 years).</p> <p>Group presentations and discussions: - Report back on Objectives. - Prioritise the Objectives.</p> <p>Evaluation (ALL).</p>	<p>Group work: Completion of Projects Table.</p> <p>Group presentations and discussions: - Report back on completed Projects Table.</p> <p>Monitoring & Evaluation Plan. - Why? / How? / Who? / When?</p> <p>Adoption of the White-winged Flufftail Action Plan.</p> <p>Evaluation (All).</p>

EWNHS = Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society, DC = Deon Coetzee, SE = Steven W. Evans, ALL = everyone.

White-winged Flufftail Action Plan stakeholder workshop, 21 – 23 July 2003.

Programme:

Date & Time.	Time (min)	Activity	Description	Person responsible
Monday 21st July 2003: Day 1.				
08:30 – 08:45	15	Welcome	Plenary. Brief welcome to everyone by a member of the Middlepunt Wetland Trust (White-winged Flufftail). Introduction of the facilitator.	EWNHS
08:45 – 09:45	60	Introductions & Expectations?	Plenary – Cards. Name, Organisation, Position, Where based?, Spp. conservation experience & Expectations of this workshop (X 3). - Put cards with headings up on the wall.	Steven W. Evans
09:45 – 10:00	15	Explanation of workshop techniques.	Plenary – Cards & Over-heads. Explain rationale behind: - Brainstorm first; only then open discussion. - Use of Cards & flipchart.	Steven W. Evans
10:00 – 10:30	30	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:30 – 11:15	45	What is a Species Action Plan?	Plenary - Flipchart. Compile a definition.	Steven W. Evans
11:15 – 11:30	15	Workshop programme.	Brief overview of the entire workshop programme.	Steven W. Evans
11:30 – 12:30	60	Presentation of background information.	Plenary – Over-heads/Slides. Presentation of the information contained in the background document prepared for the workshop.	Deon Coetzee
12:30 – 14:00	90	LUNCH		
14:00 – 15:00	60	Response to presentation.	Plenary – Flipchart. Questions and answers session. Identify any gaps in knowledge. Not done for threats. This will be covered by the problem tree analyses.	Steven W. Evans
15:00 – 16:00	60	What are the main issues that will affect successful implementation of the White-winged Flufftail Action Plan?	Plenary – Cards (Over-heads). Brainstorm the risks & opportunities (include ongoing projects). Group and discuss.	Steven W. Evans
16:00 – 16:30	30	Tea/Coffee Break		
16:30 – 18:00	90	What are the main issues (threats) affecting the White-winged Flufftail?	Plenary – Cards. Brainstorm, group and discuss cards.	Steven W. Evans
18:00 – 18:05		Evaluation	Happy, medium, sad face.	Steven W. Evans
19:00 -		DINNER		

Tuesday 22nd July 2003: Day 2.				
08:30 – 09:00	30	Recap of day 1.		
09:30 – 11:30	120	Problem tree analyses.	Groups – Cards. Group 1: Decreased breeding success and increased adult mortality. Group 2: Decrease in habitat quantity and quality. Use IUCN criteria as the starting point. Tea/Coffee available at 10:30.	Steven W. Evans
11:30 – 12:30	60	Report back on problem trees. Review brainstorm on threats cards – are they all captured in the problem tree.	Plenary – Cards. Each group presents their problem tree. Discussion refinement and agreement.	Steven W. Evans
12:30 – 13:00	30	Prioritise issues (threats)	Rating of 1 (most important) to 4 (least important).	Steven W. Evans
13:00 – 14:00	60	LUNCH		
14:00 – 15:30	90	Draft Objectives Consider the life-span of the Action Plan (3 – 5 years).	Group – Cards. Each group drafts Objectives. Discusses the life-span of the Action Plan.	Steven W. Evans
15:30 – 16:00	30	Teal/Coffee		
16:00 – 17:30	90	Report back to plenary on Objectives.	Plenary. Each group presents their Objectives. Should be 4 – 8 Objectives in total. Discussion & refinement.	Steven W. Evans
17:30 – 18:00	30	Prioritise the Objectives.	Plenary. Rating of 1 (most important) to 4 (least important).	Steven W. Evans
18:00 – 18:05		Evaluation	Happy, medium, sad face.	Steven W. Evans
19:00 -		DINNER		

Wednesday 23rd July 2003: Day 3.				
08:30 – 09:00	30	Recap of day 2.		
09:00 – 10:00	60	Agree the Vision and Aim of the Action Plan.	Plenary – Flipchart. Use a change in the threat status of the species as a measurable outcome.	Steven W. Evans
10:00 – 11:30	90	Formulation of Project Concepts.	Groups – Cards. Project Concepts must be directed at achievement of each Objective. Should be 4 – 8 Project Concepts per Objective. Tea/Coffee available at 10:30.	Steven W. Evans
11:30 – 12:30	60	Report back to plenary on Project Concepts.	Plenary – Cards. Each group presents their Project Concepts.	Steven W. Evans
12:30 – 13:30	60	LUNCH		
14:00 – 15:00	60	Completion of Projects Table	Groups – Cards Headings: Policy & Legislation, Species & Habitat, Monitoring & Research, Public Awareness & Training, Community Involvement. Tea/Coffee available at 15:30.	Steven W. Evans
15:00 – 16:00	60	Report back to plenary on completed Projects Table.	Plenary – Cards. Each group presents their Project Table.	Steven W. Evans
16:00 – 17:00	60	Action Plan Monitoring & Evaluation Plan.	Plenary. Participants consider who & how and how often the Action Plan implementation will be monitored and evaluated.	Steven W. Evans
17:00 – 17:30	30	Adoption of the Action Plan.	The entire plan is reviewed. Any changes needed are discussed and made. A participant proposes the plan be adopted and seconded by another participant.	Steven W. Evans
17:30 – 17:45	15	Workshop close.	Votes of thanks.	EWHNS / Deon Coetzee / Steven W. Evans
17:45 – 18:00	15	Final Evaluation	Happy, medium, sad face	Steven W. Evans

Notes:

- 1) Put up two sheets of flipchart paper in one corner for people to anonymously record their complaints / concerns.
- 2) Put up paper for those wanting to serve as editors of the draft White-winged Flufftail Action Plan to record their names and e-mail addresses.

- Problem tree analyses.

Compile cards effects: White-winged Flufftail – pop decline (reduced br. success / increased adult mortality/off-take
- habitat loss

- Prepare cards of explanation of rules to workshop techniques.

- Print over-heads in black and white.

APPENDIX 2: Considerations when describing objectives.

**White-winged Flufftail Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop,
21 – 23 July 2003.**

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives that are determined appropriate for the White-winged Flufftail Action Plan must be **SMART**.

Specific – it must be clear to everyone what needs to be done, avoid any vagueness or ambiguity.

Measurable – what you measure is what you get. If you cannot measure whether you have achieved an objective how will you know that you have achieved it or be able to tell others that it has been achieved?

Agreed – consensus should be reached on each objective.

Realistic – can the objective be achieved in the available time, are the resources needed available or can they be secured in the available time?

Timely – a definite end time must be specified for when achievement of the objective is expected.

APPENDIX 3: Considerations when describing project concepts.

PROJECT CONCEPTS.

The following filters should be considered when developing project concepts for the White-winged Flufftail Action Plan.

- Is the project relevant?
- Does it contribute to achieving the overall aim of the White-winged Flufftail Action Plan?
- Does it contribute to finding a solution to a priority problem(s)?
- Does it fall within the core competencies of those responsible for implementation?
- Does it fall within the mandate of those being considered responsible for its implementation?
- Is the capacity available to do it?
- Will the project have the desired impact?
- Can funding be obtained to complete the project?
- Is the project scientifically sound?
- Are all the appropriate role players (stakeholders) involved?

Each project concept contributes to achieving an objective. Each objective contributes to achieving the aim of the White-winged Flufftail Action Plan. The Action Plan contributes to conserving White-winged Flufftail.

APPENDIX 4: Profile of the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society.



The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society is a membership-based, non-political and non-profit-making environmental indigenous NGO established in 1966. Its main mission is to assist the Government of Ethiopia in protecting and conserving the country's flora and fauna for the benefit of present and future generations. The Society is the oldest and sole NGO in Ethiopia engaged in advocating conservation of environment, biodiversity and natural resources of the country.

Presently, the Society is employing innovative method of biodiversity conservation through using birds as indicators of key biodiversity sites of the country, in a form of IBAs. And thus is a leading authority in Ornithological knowledge and status of Ethiopia's birds and their habitats.

EWNHS promotes understanding, appreciation and conservation of nature by working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Bureaus of Regional States, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization (EWCO), Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research (IBCR), Schools, Community groups and other government and nongovernmental conservation organizations in all issues pertaining to conservation of biodiversity to ensure that the future generations treasure and protect Ethiopia's natural heritage.

Mission: Conservation, development and sustainable utilization of the environment, biodiversity and other natural resources of Ethiopia through research, awareness raising and advocacy.

Programme Area: To achieve its mission, the Society runs several projects, which are categorized under two programme areas.

I. Environmental Education and Awareness Creation Programme.

- Indoor and Out Door Activities.
- Schools Environmental Education Project.
- Environmental Education Support Publication.

II. Biodiversity Conservation Programme

- Important Bird Areas Project
- Plant Locally and Nurture Trees (Plant)
- Biodiversity Conservation in Ancient Church and Monastery Yards

Objectives

- Raise awareness of members and non-members on the need to conserve the environment and sustainable utilization of natural resources of the country
- Promote environmental education in schools and communities through establishment of Nature Clubs.
- Conduct, support and promote research initiatives on biodiversity
- Undertake on-the-ground conservation activities at key and threatened biodiversity sites.
- Disseminate information on natural resources conservation and environmental protection activities to various stakeholders (e.g. Policy and decision-makers, conservation related organizations, educational institutions, communities, researchers, etc.)
- Advocate the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources
- Conduct monitoring activities at selected IBA sites
- Promote the planting of indigenous tree species at the expense of fighting against exotic species

- Assess the current status of biodiversity in the sacred lands (ancient churches and monasteries) and evaluate its contribution towards conserving the wider biodiversity of the country

APPENDIX 5: Profile of the Middelpunt Wetland Trust.



Middelpunt Wetland Association was formed in 1994 with the prime objective of conserving the critically endangered White-winged Flufftail and its habitat. A formal trust was registered in 2002. The trustees are Deon Coetzee (Chairman), Warwick Tarboton, Les Underhill, Sandy de Witt and Malcolm Drummond.

In 1994 there were three known sites in South Africa where the bird had been intermittently recorded during the summer season. One of these was the Middelpunt vlei on a farm between Belfast and Dullstroom. To protect this vlei, a ten-year lease was negotiated with the owner. Five kilometres of one-metre deep draining trenches down the edges of the vlei, which had been dug in 1982, were filled-in to return the water table to its original level. The other two vleis where the bird had occurred were Wakkerstroom and Franklin in East Griqualand.

Since then a programme of monitoring and research has been undertaken. Fortuitously, in 1995, the bird was rediscovered by local and British scientists in Ethiopia. Consequently, we sponsored Barry Taylor, who had done work for us locally, to go to Ethiopia to study the bird and its habitat there. He was successful in finding a few birds, including a female with three chicks, thus establishing that the WWF breeds in Ethiopia during their July/August rainy season.

He also discovered that the bird inhabited marshes with mixed grasses and sedges compared to the South African caryx sedge habitat. With this new habitat knowledge the trust again made use of Barry's services to look for new South African sites where the bird might occur during our summer season. He found six new sites, viz. two more in East Griqualand and four in the eastern Free State.

In 1998 we again sent Barry Taylor to Ethiopia where he found the first scientifically recorded nest at a new site in Berga wetland, about 90 kilometres from Ethiopia. The nest contained five eggs.

The trust has undertaken an ongoing programme of monitoring and conservation since then. Deon Coetzee and Warwick Tarboton went to Ethiopia in December 2001 with the main objective of trying to protect the two known breeding sites. Both marshes were under considerable threat through privatization of state-owned dairy farms, which would have resulted in unmanaged grazing of the marshes during the breeding season. They were successful in managing to get governmental agreement to stop issuing hunting licences for the marshes.

One marsh, Weserbi, has been privatized, but with the exclusion of the marsh, which is now under government conservation control. The second marsh, Berga, is still under state dairy control. The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) has initiated successful conservation action through the formation of a site support group.

The Berga site support group has provided protection to the marsh, during the breeding season, to prevent cutting of grasses and sedges for the culturally important Ethiopian coffee ceremony. A major problem for the Berga community was the 10-kilometre walk to the nearest primary school, which was too far for the small children to walk each day.

The support group suggested that the building of a schoolroom, which could double as a meeting room for the village elders and the support group, would really benefit the community. Middelpunt Wetland Trust financed one half of the building of the schoolroom, which was completed in July 2003. Two shifts of 48 children each will be schooled there.

In 2003 a partnership was formed between Eskom, BirdLife South Africa and Middelpunt Wetland Trust to mitigate potential disturbance and damage, which could potentially be caused by the construction of the Braamhoek pumped storage scheme. The Bedford Chatsworth marsh, at the top dam site in the eastern Free State, is one of the White-winged Flufftail sites discovered by Barry Taylor for Middelpunt Wetland Trust.

We have already seen substantial and direct benefits from this partnership through the Eskom sponsorship of both the South African and Ethiopian White-winged Flufftail species action plan workshops in 2003. Both workshops were facilitated by Steven Evans of BirdLife South Africa.

The trustees of Middelpunt Wetland Trust are confident that this new partnership will help extend knowledge and understanding of the White-winged Flufftail and its conservation needs.

For more information please contact Malcolm Drummond, BirdLife South Africa, P.O. Box 515, Randburg 2125, South Africa. Tel 011 789 1122, Fax 011 789 5188, email: publicrelations@birdlife.org.za and www.birdlife.org.za or Deon Coetzee, Middelpunt Wetland Trust, 082 490 1212 or tel. & fax 011 884 2739.

APPENDIX 6: Profile of BirdLife South Africa.



Description and Mission

BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) is an 8000-member, nationwide, conservation and birding non-government organisation with 27 branches and 18 affiliates around South Africa. Founded in 1930 as the Southern African Ornithological Society, the name was changed to BirdLife South Africa in 1996.

The mission of BirdLife South Africa is to promote the enjoyment, conservation, study and understanding of wild birds and their habitats. Increasingly, the context of BirdLife South Africa is about taking action for birds through people at all levels of South African society.

History and development

Founded as a scientific society for the study of ornithology, the membership grew in the 1970s and 1980s to include a significant component of recreational birders, organized through local branches. In 1995, the Council of the Society determined a new direction to develop education and conservation action programmes, to be given effect through the appointment of a professional executive. A full-time director was appointed from 1 January 1996. The impetus and funding for action programmes increased with links to the BirdLife International partnership that began in 1996.

The Society has developed rapidly. Since 1996, annual budgets have grown from about R300 000 to over R8 million in 2003, and from 2 part-time staff members in 1995 to the current 35 full-time and part-time staff. Programmes have increased from none to twelve. The Society now plays a significant role in training, education, conservation, guide training, skills upliftment, job creation and avitourism. The Society owns its own headquarters (the Lewis House, donated by the Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation) in Johannesburg, has the Wakkerstroom guide training and avitourism centre, and offices in Stellenbosch and Richards Bay.

BirdLife International

BirdLife South Africa is the Partner in South Africa of BirdLife International, which is the world's largest voluntary coalition of nationally based conservation organisations, represented by 2.5 million members in 105 countries. A secretariat based in Cambridge, England, provides the central administration for regional partnerships within BirdLife International. The African Partnership, in which BirdLife South Africa plays a vital role, includes 18 African countries.

BirdLife South Africa subscribes to the mission and values of BirdLife International, encapsulated through the themes of "Species, Sites, Habitats and People". BirdLife South Africa is represented by its Director on the African Regional Committee and he represents Africa on the Global Council of BirdLife International. These links allow BLSA to influence international conservation action through the collective strength of the coalition.

The Society runs the Global Seabird programme, for BirdLife International, from an office in Stellenbosch. BLSA is one of the Partners in a ten-country African programme - the Important Birds Areas Conservation programme. The Richards Bay Rio Tinto programme is global and coordinated by BirdLife International.

The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - the United Kingdom Partner of BirdLife International) assists with an in-country support programme for BirdLife South Africa, conducted within the context of the BirdLife International Partnership.

Publications and media

BirdLife South Africa publishes its own quarterly, national newsletter for its 8 000 members. This is a well-read, 40-page, word-heavy newsletter with advertising, which updates members on all our activities. Eight pages are published for the Society in each issue of *Africa – Birds & Birding*, which is renowned for its superb photographs and excellent text. It has a current circulation of 19 000 with a readership of about 120 000, and received the PICA award for best magazine in 1999 and 2000. Since 1930, BirdLife South Africa has published *Ostrich*, the premier scientific journal of ornithology in Africa. *Ostrich* has been the medium of choice for the publication of the proceedings of the four-yearly Pan-African Ornithological Congresses.

BirdLife South Africa has a website at www.birdlife.org.za, funded by Sasol, that contains much information about the Society, its activities, birds and birding. The site contains many useful facilities, such as a southern Africa bird finder and links to other complementary websites. It is currently receiving in excess of 1 000 visits a day.

In conjunction with the Avian Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town, we have published the *Atlas of Southern African Birds*, *The Important Bird Areas in Southern Africa* and the *Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*. There have also been a number of other publications such as the *Nature and Value of Birding in South Africa*.

Structure

BirdLife South Africa's constitution defines a governing Council, which meets a minimum of twice annually and includes member representatives and designated members. Certain responsibilities and financial management have been delegated to the Board of Management, which meets six times a year.

Essentially, branches run recreational birding programmes with central elements of outings, indoor meetings and a newsletter. Many branches have conservation and education programmes.

The secretariat provides administration for membership and national programmes, fundraising, public relations and management of publications and formal meetings.

Programmes

The Important Bird Areas programme is funded by the Global Environmental Facility, which is administered by the United Nations Development Programme. The programme has identified and seeks to protect a network of 122 sites in South Africa that are critical for the long-term survival of threatened species. It is run by Steven Evans.

The Learning for Sustainable Living Programme was started in 1998 and is funded by the British National Lottery, sourced by and managed in partnership with the RSPB. Run by Sibongile Mokoena, the programme has created a resource for all South African 9-13 year-olds using the environment to deliver various learning areas in the context of Outcomes-based education. As well as providing workbooks, teachers and subject advisers are trained through participation in workshops to use the resource in schools throughout South Africa. In June 2003, this project won the Green Trust Award for best environmental education programme.

The Wakkerstroom Programme began in 1998 with a grant of R1 million from Sappi. It is a multi-functional conservation, education and awareness facility situated on a farm adjacent to the Wakkerstroom wetland in Mpumalanga, in the heart of the proposed 1 500 000 hectare Grassland Biosphere Reserve. The centre promotes ecotourism and offers accommodation and camping, and is the home of the Guide Training programme. The facility is also available for hire for fully catered training courses, meetings and conferences. BirdLife South Africa has established a permanent bird-ringing site at the facility. Nigel Anderson manages the programme.

The Guide Training Programme was initiated through funding from Sasol in 1999 and has since trained 90 persons from previously disadvantaged communities as bird guides. The programme is evolving rapidly in association with the government-driven initiative to regulate the guiding industry in South Africa. Ecotourism, and bird-guiding in particular, is a core focus of sustainable development programmes in South Africa. We are seeking to involve the broader South

African community in bird conservation by creating ownership and economic development relating to birds through birding tourism. Andre Botha and John Isom run this programme.

The Global Seabird programme, founded in 1997, is managed by BirdLife South Africa on behalf of BirdLife International. It is a truly global programme, with involvement by many countries, focusing on international action. Funded initially by the RSPB, then the British Birdwatching Fair, the primary objective is to reduce the deaths of albatrosses and petrels. Currently, about 300 000 birds are drowned every year after swallowing baited hooks and being dragged underwater as a result of longline fishing industry practices. This is viewed as a long-term programme that will evolve to tackle other conservation issues in the course of time. Leon Viljoen co-ordinates the programme and Deon Nel is the specialist seabird officer.

The Building on Experience Programme is funded by the British High Commission and began in 2002. A tried and tested BirdLife International and RSPB framework is used to train selected representatives in governance, administration and management. The programme will run for two years and will train staff from 40 conservation NGOs from the previously disadvantaged sectors in organisational development. Andre Botha manages this programme.

The Richards Bay Rio Tinto Programme. Funded by Rio Tinto and Richards Bay Minerals, it began in 2002 and aims to promote the awareness and conservation of birds through avitourism. Through the creation of a partnership with Richards Bay Minerals and a range of local stakeholders, the programme will expand the operation of the Zululand Birding Route and create a network of birding sites with trained guides from local communities, and market this resource nationally and internationally. The programme aims to ensure the long-term survival of birds in Richards Bay through awareness, job creation and input into long-term planning, and thus also promote the value of birds in natural habitats in a far wider area. Duncan Pritchard has been appointed as the Project Co-ordinator

The Oppenheimer Trust De Beers Programme is funded by the Oppenheimer Trust and De Beers and began in 2003. It is a broad-based initiative using skills development and will use education, research and monitoring, and development of birding tourism to create an array of opportunities at some of the sites owned by the Oppenheimer Trust and De Beers in southern Africa. This programme is part of the much larger Kopanang initiative led by the Oppenheimer Trust and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The objective is to integrate a range of NGOs and organisations in a synergistic programme to empower communities to create a sustainable environment. It will initially concentrate on the Oppenheimer Trust and De Beers properties and their surrounding communities. Soza Simango is the Programme Manager.

The Bedford Wetland Park will be formed as part of the mitigation process for the building of a new pumped storage scheme on the Drakensberg escarpment. A partnership between Eskom, BirdLife South Africa and Middelpunt Wetland Trust will be finalised in 2003. Several farms will be consolidated into a single unit, the Bedford Wetland Park of about 7 000 hectares, which will be managed for effective conservation. Fairly extensive gully and sheet erosion and damage to the wetland will be rehabilitated. This programme will deliver important bird and habitat conservation results on a regional, national and international scale.

Northern Cape Guide Training Programme. R 200 000 has been provided by the National Lotteries Board to train bird guides for Important Bird Areas in the Northern Cape. One component of this project is the establishment of BirdLife's first branch in this Province. The programme builds on a process developed at the Blue Swallow Natural Heritage Site IBA in Kaapschehoop. It is managed by Steven Evans and implemented by Duan Biggs.

Rudd's Lark Study. David Maphisa is undertaking an MSc on Rudd's Lark in a three-way partnership between the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, the RSPB and BirdLife South Africa, funded by the RSPB. Rudd's Lark is the only South African species listed as Critically Endangered in the Threatened Birds of the World. This project will help develop our species programme and produce an experienced black researcher.

Avitourism Development Programme. BirdLife South Africa is developing avitourism through the implementation of community-based BirdLife Birding Routes. The birding routes will combine existing resources into exciting avitourism destinations that will conform to standards agreed with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. These will ensure not only high standards of service and product quality, but also the mechanisms to drive community participation and transformation. The Richards Bay Rio Tinto initiative forms part of the foundation of this programme.

The National Trust of BirdLife South Africa funds tertiary research and other educational activities. Expenditure is financed by income from the trust's capital.

Partnerships

BirdLife South Africa seeks to build long-term partnerships with partners such as corporates, aid agencies and NGOs. Such partnerships should be mutually beneficial, addressing the needs of all parties. BirdLife South Africa believes that it represents quality branding and seeks to involve appropriate institutions to further its aims. A Corporate Policy governs partnerships with companies. Some partnership details, not previously described, are itemised below.

Avian Demography Unit (ADU) at the University of Cape Town. There are a number of monitoring programmes, including CAR (Coordinated Avifaunal Road Counts), BIRP (Birds in Reserves Project), CWAC (Coordinated Wetland Counts) and SAFRING (the South African Bird Ringing Unit), managed by the ADU, participated in through data collection by BirdLife South Africa members and supported financially by the Society.

The Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology houses BirdLife South Africa's extensive book and journal holdings in the Niven Library at the University of Cape Town.

Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). Steven Evans, IBA officer at BirdLife South Africa, is also manager of the Blue Swallow Working Group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust. We are developing closer ties with the South African Crane Working Group of the EWT.

Parrot Study Group. BirdLife South Africa supports the Parrot Study Group, based at the University of Natal, and focusing particularly on the Cape Parrot.

International Conferences

In 1998, BirdLife South Africa hosted the very successful 22nd International Ornithological Congress (IOC) in Durban with 1 100 delegates, combining it with a National Festival of Birds and Exhibition. This was the first IOC to be held on the African continent. In October 2001, BirdLife South Africa managed the launch of the Directory of Important Bird Areas for Africa. We will host the four-yearly World Congress of BirdLife International in February 2004 in Durban, with an anticipated 600 delegates from 115 countries – also a first for Africa.

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