BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
Africa Partnership

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

## Species Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop Grauer's Rush Warbler *Bradypterus graueri*

**7 – 11 November 2002, Kabale, Uganda**

**Workshop Report**

NatureUganda

RSPB

DARWIN INITIATIVE

**International Species Co-ordinator for Grauer's Rush Warbler:**

**Achilles Byaruhanga, Nature Uganda**

**Facilitators:**

**Eric Sande, Nature Uganda (main facilitator)**
**Achilles Byaruhanga, Nature Uganda**
**Dieter Hoffmann, RSPB**

**Report:**

**Eric Sande**
**Achilles Byaruhanga**
**Dieter Hoffmann**

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**Summary**

A workshop to draw up the international species conservation action plan for the conservation of the Grauer's Rush Warbler (*Bradypterus graueri*), a globally threatened bird species was held in Uganda from 7th to 11th November 2002. The workshop brought together species experts and resource persons from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, various national environmental NGOs and government officials of all the four range states of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.

This workshop was the forth in the series of 8 international species action plan for globally threatened bird species in the 3 year BirdLife International species action plan project supported and implemented by 17 African BirdLife partner organisations and RSPB and co-funded by the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) under the Darwin Initiative. The workshop however, is the third to develop an action plan using the BirdLife Africa Species Action Plan format and process developed under this project. The format and process have proved highly appropriate and the workshop has contributed significantly to raising the awareness of the species and building the capacity of participants.

The long-term vision of this action plan is *To Conserve Viable populations of the Grauer's Rush Warbler,* while the aim of the 5 year plan is *To Improve the Conservation status of the Grauer's Rush Warbler*. In order to achieve this aim, five objectives together with relevant projects to achieve them were defined. The species action plan will be published in April 2003.

The workshop was officially opened by the Chairman Local Council five Kabale District Mr. Edison Kakuru, who was represented by his Vice Mr. Sylvester Baguma. He pledged the district's unreserved support to the conservation of wetlands and promised to take up the recommendations of this action plan.

## 1. Introduction

*Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally threatened birds in Africa* is a 3-year BirdLife project, which aims to build the capacity for species action planning in Africa. The project started in April 2001 and is coordinated on behalf of the BirdLife International African Species Working Group by Nature Uganda and the RSPB (BirdLife Partners in Uganda and UK respectively). It is implemented by BirdLife partner organisations in 17 African countries. Co-funding has been received from the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) under the Darwin Initiative.

A Species Action Plan (SAP) is a scientifically authoritative, strategic document that defines specific, measurable objectives and actions for conserving priority species. It should be achievable, time-bound and involve all appropriate stakeholders. In previous workshops involving specialists from BirdLife partner organisation in Africa, RSPB and the BirdLife Secretariat, a format and process for species action planning in Africa was developed (see Annex 1). This format and process is based on a participative planning workshop, involving key stakeholders from all range states and has been accepted as the standard for BirdLife International in Africa.

Grauer's Rush Warbler *Bradypterus graueri* is among the 8 globally threatened bird species in Africa that has been chosen for the development of an international species action plan under this project. Grauer's Rush Warbler is classified as Endangered and is known to occur in the wild only in the Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. The population of the species continue to decline as consequences of low productivity and possibly high adult mortality.

## 2. Workshop

The workshop was organised by BirdLife African Species Working Group and hosted by Nature Uganda. Participants included governmental and non-governmental representative (National Species Action Plan Coordinators or contact persons) and their government counterparts from each of the Range States, Scientific experts, representatives from research institutions, staff of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSBP). The workshop was facilitated by Eric Sande of Nature Uganda. Co-facilitators were Achilles Byaruhanga also of Nature Uganda and Dieter Hoffmann of the RSPB.

### 2.1 Workshop objectives

The workshop objectives were defined as

- Learn Action Plan Process, net working and exchange experiences,
- Produce SMART Plan
- Increase awareness in plight of Grauer's Rush Warbler
- Create Species Interest Group for Grauer's Rush Warbler

### 2.2 Workshop Programme and Implementation

The workshop was based on the species action plan format developed under this project (Annex 1). Sessions included some presentations, but mainly facilitated discussions, both in plenary and group work using overheads projectors, brainstorming on flip charts and cards. The result of each group work session was subsequently presented to the plenary, discussed and agreed. Each day commenced with the facilitator summarising the previous day and ended with a simple evaluation exercise. The workshop programme is shown in Annex 2. Below is a summary of major sessions.

***Day One-7th November***

***Session 1 Introductions and Workshop Objectives:***

Achilles Byaruhanga of Nature Uganda (the host of the workshop) welcomed participants on behalf of his organisation. Eric Sande welcomed the participants on behalf of the BirdLife international African Species Working Group (ASWG) and provided the background of the ASWG and Species Action Plans (SAP) project. Dieter Hoffman of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds gave his opening remarks.

The workshop was officially opened by the Chairman Local Council 5 Kabale Mr. Edison Kakuru who was represented by his Vice Mr. Sylvester Baguma.

The participants then introduced themselves, outlined their position, their expectations from the workshop and experience with Grauer's Rush Warbler. This was done as a poster exercise. The participants' details are shown Annex 3, while their expectations of the workshop are shown in Annex 4.

The participants grouped the expectations and synthesized them into four main objectives for the workshop (see 2.1).

***Session 2: Background information for SAP for Grauer's Rush Warbler***
The background material on the Grauer's Rush Warbler had previously been circulated to the participants by email. During the workshop, this material was presented and participants had another opportunity of providing new information where appropriate and made corrections. The participants in country groups filled gaps in the background material on population, distribution and seasonal occurrence, local distribution, numbers & protected area status, national legislation and signatories to international conservation treaties and on-going projects with respect to the Grauer's Rush Warbler within range states.

The four tables were displayed for the rest of the week, in order to allow participants to make additional amendments. Participants were also requested to provide a map with actual or potential sites for the species.

***Day two-8th November***

***Session 1: Stakeholder Analysis***
Participants from each range state were asked to identify and analyse 5 main stakeholders of their respective country by considering the stakeholder group under the following headings: interest, activities, impact of activities on the Grauer's Rush Warbler (positive or negative), intensity of the impact (low, medium, high, critical) and proposed action(s). International stakeholders were identified and analysed in the plenary.

***Session 3: Identification of main threats for Grauer's Rush Warbler***
This was done using a card exercise. The species is classified as Endangered because of low population estimate (<10,000 birds), which is caused mainly by continuing decline of mature individuals but also possibly, by naturally low population and very limited data on population size and distribution. Participants brainstormed the direct cause of low productivity and identified four causes: reduced clutch size, increased mortality of juveniles, high mortality of nestlings and eggs and reduced frequency of nesting.

***Session 4: Problem tree***
Participants were divided into four groups. Each group analysed the direct causes of each of the four identified causes of low productivity identified in session 3 (i.e. reduced clutch size, increased mortality of juveniles, high mortality of nestlings and eggs and reduced frequency of nesting) to develop the cause-effect relationships of the four branches of the problem tree.

A small group volunteered to produce a standard press release, which can be adapted for each individual country.

*Day Three-9th November*

Participants had a chance to visit Mubwindi Swamp in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, a key site for the species in Uganda to see and appreciated the specialised habitat of Grauer's Rush Warbler. This helped them to design appropriate projects/activities of the action plan. Mubwindi swamp has about 400 Grauer's Rush Warbler individuals.

*Day Four-10th November*

***Session 1: Prioritisation of main threats***

Through a facilitated discussion, participants agreed on the cause and effect relationship of all the threats of the Grauer's Rush Warbler and prioritised all the threats and their causes in the Problem Tree by assigning the following threat levels: low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦) and critical (♦♦♦♦).

***Session 2: Vision, aim and objectives of the Action Plan***

Participants agreed that the plan should have a life span of 5 years but should be reviewed after 3 years. In plenary and based on the results of the problem tree, participants identified the aim, vision and five objectives of the species action plan. Participants prioritised the 5 objectives according to low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦) and critical (♦♦♦♦).

***Session 3: Formulation of project concepts and indicators for the aim and objectives***

Participants were divided into six groups. Each of the five groups was asked to identify the projects necessary and sufficient to achieve the relevant objective. Each project was prepared in form of a short summary concept. Group six was asked to develop the indicators of the aim and objectives.

*Day Five-11th November*

***Session: Agreement on the objectives, Project concepts and indicators for the aim and objectives***
In the plenary, participants rephrased the projects and objectives to realistically achieve the aim of the plan. Participants checked the problem tree to assess whether all the priority threats in the problem tree had been addressed by the projects. They then checked in the stakeholder analysis table to confirm whether the proposed actions for the stakeholders were actually addressed by the projects. The projects were amended accordingly.

Participants then agreed on the indicators of the aim and objectives in the context the projects and checked whether the opportunities and risks affecting the action plan implementation had been taken care of in the projects concepts.

***Session 2: Completion of the projects' Table***
In the plenary, participants agreed on the countries where the projects are relevant, their overall priority [low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦) and critical (♦♦♦♦)] and the cost (♦for < US$ 10,000, ♦♦ for US$ 10,000 – US$ 50,000 and ♦♦♦ for US$ >50,000). There was unfortunately not enough time for the groups to complete the Projects' Table.

***Session3: Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan***
Participants discussed monitoring and evaluation and defined Monitoring as the collection of specific information in a structured manner to assess change over time and Evaluation as using information collected to assess whether certain projects and objectives have been achieved. Participants discussed what should be monitored and who should be responsible.

## 3. Results

With 26 participants from all the range states (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda) representing NGOs, government representatives, research institutions, local stakeholders, relevant species specialists and international stakeholders, the workshop was well attended.

Most of the planned work had been achieved, although time did not permit to completely fill the projects table and the monitoring and evaluation plan. The results of the workshop were incorporated in the first draft of species action plan and are presented in Annex 5. The participants decided to create an International Grauer's Rush Warbler Interest Group and an inaugural meeting was held. The meeting agreed terms of reference, elected the office bearers, follow-up of Action plan workshop, Resource Centre, national action plans, communication/networking, and monitoring and evaluation. The minutes of the meeting are presented in Annex 6.

The workshop received considerable coverage from the print media and participants agreed on standard press release agreed by the workshop (Annex 7) which will be modified accordingly and published in their respective countries.

## 4. Next Steps

| Activities | By whom | By when |
|---|---|---|
| Produce and circulate workshop report | Eric/Achilles/ Dieter | 30 Nov 02 |
| Comments from workshop participants | All participants | 30 Dec 02 |
| Draft action plan and circulate to participants | Eric/Achilles/ Dieter/Andy | 30 Jan 03 |
| Comments from workshop participants | All participants | 28 Feb 03 |
| Finalise the Action Plan | Eric/Achilles/ Dieter/Andy | 15 March 03 |
| Endorsement of governments incl. use of Logos | Government representatives/Participants | 15 March 03 |
| Seek Forward from each of the Environmental Ministers of the range states | Government representatives/Participants | 15 March 03 |
| Publish the Plan | Eric/Achilles/ Dieter/Andy | 30 Apr 03 |
| Launch the Plan | All range states | 5 June 03?? |

## 5. Evaluation

At the end of each day, participants were asked to fill in a simple form to evaluate the mood of the group. The results are presented in Annex 8. Participants were extremely positive about the workshop, in most of the daily evaluations and the overall evaluation most of the participants gave full marks. All workshop objectives were fully achieved.

**Annexes**

Annex 1: BirdLife Africa Species Action Plan Process and Format
Annex 2: Workshop Programme
Annex 3: Workshop Participants and their contacts
Annex 4: Expectations
Annex 5: Draft Species Action Plan
Annex 6: Minutes of inaugural meeting of the Grauer's Rush Interest Group
Annex 7: Press Release
Annex 8: Daily Evaluation/Moodometer

**Annexes**

**Annex 1**

**BirdLife Africa Species Action Plan Process and Format**

**Process:**

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

**Format:**

***Presentation:***

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

**A) Front Cover**

- Logos
- Picture of species
- Date
- Title
- Subtitle
- National Emblem[2]

**B) Inside Front cover**

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

**Foreword**

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

**Table of contents**

- *clear and all on one page*

**Acronyms**

**Definition**

- What is a Species Action Plan?

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[1] *Italics: notes*

[2] underlined: national action plans only

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

**0. Executive summary**

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

**1. Introduction**

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

**2. Background Information**

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

Table: Population and distribution

| Country | Population (plus quality code) | Distribution | Population trend (plus quality code) | Seasonal occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Estimate of total number* | *Widespread, local* | *Stable, increasing, decreasing* | *Resident or months* |

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

- *Link threats with ecology and biology of species*
- *Always try to quantify threats*
- *Rank threats*
- *State of current knowledge*
- *Gap analysis*
- *Summarise as problem tree, start with conservation status, prioritise direct* ***causes*** *(◆◆◆◆: critical, ◆◆◆: high, ◆◆: medium, ◆: low, ? unknown)*

- Stakeholder Analysis
  - *Summary table*
- Factors influencing success of action plan implementation
  - Socio-cultural effects
  - Economic implications
  - Strengths and weaknesses of existing conservation measures
  - Administrative/ political set-up
  - Biology of species (*e.g. does it breed in captivity, how specialised is it, how long does it live?*)
  - Local expertise and interest
  - Cultural attitudes
  - Appeal of species (eco-tourism)
  - Resources

**3. Action Programme**

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

- *Community involvement*
- *International*

**Summary table of proposed Projects**

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

- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

**Acknowledgements**

**Bibliography**

**Appendices**

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

**Annex 2 Workshop Program**

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
Africa Partnership

NatureUganda

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

## Species Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop, Grauer's Rush Warbler, *Bradypterus graueri*

## Kabale, Uganda 7-11 November 2002

### Workshop Programme

| | Thus 7 Nov 2002 | Fri. 8 Nov 2002 | Sat. 9 Nov 2002 | Sun 10 Nov 2002 | Mon 11 Nov 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **9.00-1300** | *Opening*<br>*Introductions*<br>• SAP project<br>• Self introductions<br>• Objectives of workshop<br>• Workshop Program<br>**Presentation**<br>Background information<br>**Plenary session**<br>Gaps in knowledge | ***Recap of day 1***<br>Appoint group to prepare press release<br>**Group work:**<br>• Stakeholder Analysis<br>**Presentations and discussions**<br>• ***Report back***<br>**Plenary**<br>• Identify main threats | **Excursion to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park** | ***Recap of day 2***<br>**Agreement of Press Release**<br>**Plenary:**<br>• Agree vision, aim and objectives<br>**Group work:**<br>• Formulate project concepts | ***Recap of day 3***<br>**Group work:**<br>• Complete Projects Table<br>Presentations and discussions:<br>• Report back on Projects' Table<br>**Plenary session**<br>• M&E Plan<br>• Adopt plan |
| **13.00 – 14:00** | | | | | |
| **14:00 – 17:00** | *Group work*<br>• Population status<br>• Local distribution<br>• National legislation<br>• On-going Projects<br>**Presentations and discussions**<br>• Report back<br>**Plenary**<br>• Factors influencing implementation<br>Evaluation | **Group work:**<br>Problem tree<br>• Identify causes of main threats<br>**Presentations and discussions:**<br>• Report back on problem tree<br>Evaluation | **Excursion to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park** | Presentations and discussions:<br>• **Report back and agree on project concepts**<br>**Plenary:**<br>• Review stakeholders analysis<br>• Review factors influencing implementation<br>Evaluation | • Creation of Species Interest groups<br>• Next steps<br>Evaluation<br>Wrap up<br>**First Meeting of Species Interest Group** |

**The Workshop is organised by *Nature*Uganda, The BirdLife International Partner in Uganda**

This project is co-ordinated, on behalf of the BirdLife International African Species Working Group, by *Nature*Uganda RSPB (the BirdLife Partners in Uganda and the UK respectively). The project is supported and implemented by 17 Af BirdLife partner organisations and RSPB and co-funded by the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural under the Darwin Initiative.

NATUREUGANDA RSPB

**Annex 3: Workshop Participants and their contacts**

| First Name, Name | Organisation | Country | Position | Expertise in GR Warbler | Address | Telephone/ email |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Elysee Nkeshimana | Association Burundaise Bur La Protection Des Oiseaux (ABO) | Burundi | Government Representative | None | P.O. Box 7036 Bujumbura | Fax: +257 217166<br>Mob:0836057<br>Cedeschoolclub@yahoo.fr |
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| Jean-Marie Negura | LODE<br>Ligue Organisationnelle de Defenseurs de Developpement | DRC | Coordinator | None | P.O. Box 12<br>Gisenyi-Rwanda<br>Paroisse NDA Goma | Tel: 00250 08626245 or<br>00250 08540652<br><lode_minority@yahoo.fr> |
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| | | | | | | |
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| Laurent Ntahuga | ABO | Burundi | Chair ABO | None | | laurmtahuga@yahoo.com<br>B.P 1855 Bujumbura Burundi<br>Tel: 257/2218312<br>257/889750 |
| Martin Sindikubwabo | N.F.C.P/W.C.S | Rwanda | Research Assistant | 10 years Bird P.C | P.C.F.N<br>BP: 1699<br>Kigali Rwanda | Tel/Fax +25083574<br>Mob: +250 08303077 |
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| Michel Masozera | WCS | Rwanda | Country Director | Coordinate research, inventory of birds in Nyungwe forest | P.O. Box 1699<br>Kigali Rwanda | Tel: 250 08567827<br>mmasozera@wcs.org |
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| | | | | | | |
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**Annex 4: Participants' workshop expectations**

- Know more about NatureUganda
- Interact with specialists in Bird "business"
- SAP for Grauer's Rush Warbler endorsed by all participants
- Learn Species locations in Albertine Rift
- To Know what to do for the species
- Learn action Plan process
- Improve French skills
- Protection measure
- Sensitize young people
- Good plan for Grauer's Rush Warbler
- Create Grauer's Rush Warbler species interest group
- Implementation of plan in short time
- Make group that will sensitize locals
- Learn more about strategies
- Benefit from other experiences
- Set up National Action Plan
- Exchange experience
- Ameliorate methods of data collection
- Produce good organization
- Make realistic plan
- Running surveys
- Learn about RSPB/BirdLife
- Species Planning process
- Know about birds in general
- Networking
- Achievable Action Plan
- Key stakeholder sensitized
- Contribute in development of National Action Plan
- Increase awareness in plight of Grauer's Rush Warbler
- Produce SMART Plan
- International Action Plan
- Create a Species Interest Group
- Bird watching

**Annex 5: Draft Species Action Plan**

**Acronyms:**

DRC-Democratic Republic of Congo
UWA-Uganda Wild life Authority.
WID-Wetlands Inspection Division.
UTB-Uganda Tourist Board.
FD-Forest Department.
WCS-Wildlife Conservation Society.
UBGC-Uganda Bird Guides Club.
UWS-Uganda Wildlife Society.
BLI-BirdLlife International.
RSPB -Royal Society For the Protection of Birds.
MUIENR -Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources.
WARM-Wildlife and Animal Resources Management,.Fac. of Vet. Med. Makerere University
EBA-Endemic Bird Area
BINP-Bwindi Impenatrable National Park
NSAPCs-Naional Species Action Plan Coordinators
CBD-Convention of Biological Diversity
CMS-
UNESCO
RSPB
ICCN Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
CRSN Centre de Recherche en Sciences naturelles
DE Département de l'Environnement

**Factfile**

**Family**: SYLVIINAE

**Distribution**: Grauer's Rush Warbler is restricted to highland swamps in the mountains around Lake Kivu and Edward in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, South -Western Uganda, Rwanda and Northern Burundi.
**Size**: wing, ♂(n=7) 56-60.5 (58.0),♂(n=5) 56-58.8 (57.5), tail,♂(n=7) 71-75(72.9),♂(n=5) 65.7-68.8 (67.4), bill to skull, ♂(n=7) 15-16.4 (15.7),♂(n=5) 14.5-15.3 (14.9); tarsus,♂(n=1) 23.5; weight (Uganda, mar)♂(n=9) 16-19 (17.3),♂ (n=6) 15-18 (16.7)
**Immature:**⚜ similar to adult but spots on breast are narrower, the lower breast and under parts are mainly white with pale yellow wash, flank feathers cinnamon brown.

**Plumage**: medium sized dark brown, with white super cilium, with heavy spotting on throat and upper breast, with smaller spots on breast. Tail long and steeply graduated, but often looks frayed and worn.
**Voice:** song is a rapid trill, preceded by 1-2 loud guttural notes, 'tchew' or 'chew', and occasionally followed by similar notes, 'tchew-tchew-trrrrrrrrr'or at times ends with another 'tchew'. In display, calls are repeated without pause 'chup-chup- chup-trrr'
**Diet:** small beetles, caterpillars, spiders and small seeds.
**Population Size:** Possibly greater than 10,000 but less than 20,000 mature individuals (10,000-20000)
Area of occupancy**: -** the range covers about 15,000 km² while the area of occupancy is probably c. 200-250 km sq.

**1. Introduction**
Grauer's Rush Warbler *Bradypterus graueri* is an endangered species (Bird life International 2000) restricted to highland swamps in the Mountains around Lakes Kivu and Edward, in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), south-western Uganda, Rwanda and Northern Burundi. The specie is endemic to the Albertine rift and can be identified by its medium sized dark brown plumage with white spots. Its outstanding trill for a song cannot be missed in its swamp habitat. Little is known about its population size, feeding behaviour, breeding behaviour, nest and eggs. Although there is scanty information on breeding biology, some observations were made in Rwanda (Urban *et al* 1997) and a newly completed nest was observed for four days and six hours on each occasion in Mubwindi Swamp in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) before the birds abandon the nest (Mwambu 2001) although no details on the observations were provided.
However there are a few breeding indications across the range. In Eastern DRC, female with a brood observed in mid-march and immatures in end February and early October (ref). In Uganda nesting observed in February in Mubwindi swamp (ref).

**Background information**
**Taxonomic notes.**
Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes
Sub-order: Sylvanae
Family: Sylviinae
Species: *Bradypterus graueri*
Common name: Grauer's Rush Warbler
French name: Fauvette de Grauer

**Distribution and population status**

The species is an endemic resident, probably sedentary (Urban et al 1997). Locally common in highland swamps in Eastern DRC, south-western Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Eastern DRC: west of lake Edward near Lubero and in northern Alimbongo, western Kivu volcanoes, west of lake Kivu at Mumba and Nyawaronga in mountains above Kalehe and in Kahuzi swamp, in Kahuzi-Biega national park. South-western Uganda: Mubwindi and Ruhizha swamps in BINP. Rwanda: in north in Tshava, Kitabi and Rwasenkoko in Rugezi swamp western Kivu volcanoes below mount Sabinyo in marshes between Virunga volcanoes, and in south western at Kamiranzovu and Mukohore swamps in Nyungwe (Rugege) forest. Northern Burundi: Rwegura and between Teza and Rwandan border. Common, but total population size probably small due to restricted montane habitat, which is threatened by human pressure. In 1984, population estimated to be c.3000 pairs in Kamiranzovu(c. 900 ha) in Rwanda, but only c. 100 pairs in the whole of Burundi (.Vande weghe, 19?? quoted in Collar and Stuart 1985). Table 1 shows the estimates, distribution and population trends of Grauer's Rush Warbler in the range states.

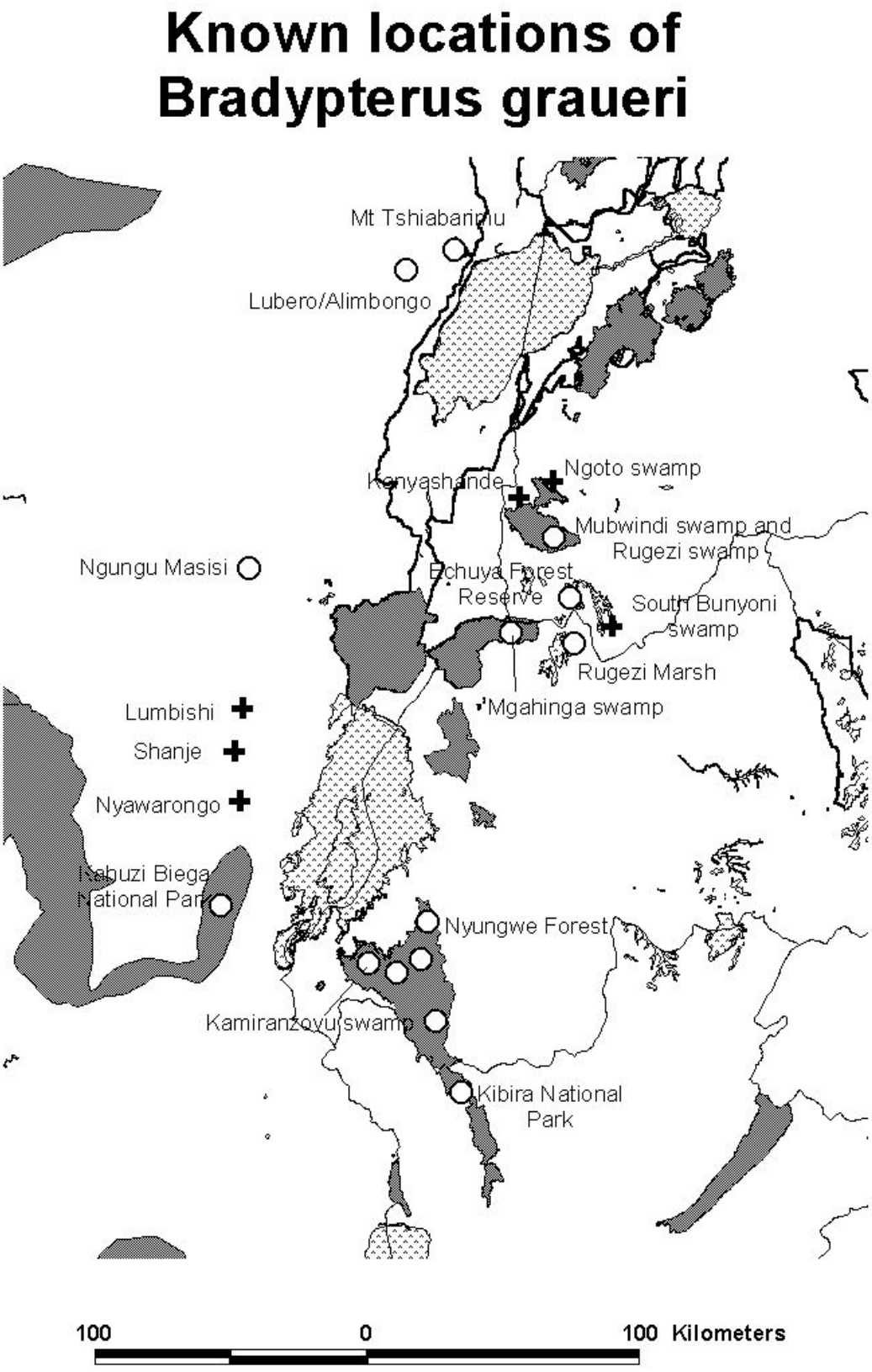
Distribution of Grauer's Swamp Warbler is restricted to highland Swamps in the Mountains around Lake Kivu and Edward, In Eastern D.R.C, South Western Uganda, Rwanda and Nothern Burundi. The type-

specimen was collected in Rwanda in 1907 at 2,200m in the lower spurs of Western Kivu Volcanoes below Mount Sabinyo. ( Neumann 1908, Chapin 1953, Schouteden 1966). The next record was of a bird collected in 1927 10 km South of Lubero, just South of Mount Mapanda on the Mountains West of Lake Edward in Eastern DRC (Chapin 1953). In the 1950s three more birds were collected West of Lake Edward at 2,200m North of Alimbongo (Chapin 1973). In the mountains West of Lake Kivu, the species was collected at Nyawarongo, at 2,180 in 1959, at Mumba 2,240-2,270m in 1967 and in the Kahuzi Swamp, 2,280-2,370 m in 1969 and 1970. Observation of the species were made in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, west of Lake Kivu, in 1978 (Carter *in litt*. 1984). Three specimen (no date given) have been collected at Mukohole in the Nyungwe (Rugege) forest, Rwanda and it has been found in the Kamiranzovu Swamp in same forest in recent years (J P Vande eghe 1983) In 1978, a specimen was collected nearby at tshava, 2250 m. Further recent exploration in northern Rwanda has collected the species in the Rugezi swamp (Vande weghe 1983) and the marshes between the Volcanoes, though it probably no longer occurs in the type-locality itself. In 1978 a specimen was collected in Burundi between Teza and Rwandan border and a bird was observed at this locality ( Vande weghe 1984). The species was discovered in Uganda 1967 when 12 birds were collected in the Bwindi Swamp at 2000m in Impenetrable forest (Friedmann and Williams 1968). A further nine specimens were collected in the Bwindi Swamp and the nearby Ruhizha swamp in 1969 (Friedmann and Williams 1970). This species is absent from many apparently suitable sites, most notably in the Itombwe Mountains. The most Important site for it is probably the Rugezi swamp in Northern Rwanda, which covers 8,000 ha (Vande weghe 1983). Other Swamps in which the species occurs such as ,the Kamiranzovu swamp which covers 100-200 ha,are very small (Vande weghe 1983). The total area suitable for the species in Rwanda Where it occurs from 1,950-2,600m, has been estimated at only about 9000 ha (J.P Vande Weghe 1983) , while in Burundi probably only 50 -100ha of suitable habitat survives (J.P Vande Weghe in litt1984). One account has estimated the total range of the species at no more than " a few square miles" (Hall and Moreau1970). Appendix 1 shows the local distribution and protected area status known and potential sites of Grauer's Rush Warbler in the range states. The locations of the known and potential sites across the range are shown in Figure 1.

**Table 1. Population, distribution and seasonal occurrence of Grauer's Rush Warbler (Quality code according to the World Bird Database; A = reliable, B = incomplete; C = poor; U = unkown)**

| Country | Population (plus quality code) | Distribution | Population trend (plus quality code) | Seasonal occurrence | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Burundi** | ± 600 individuals **(B)** | Localised to forests (Kilira + Buruli?) | Decreasing **(A)** | Resident | • Only few foreign ornithologists<br>• Other wetlands to be investigated |
| **DRC** | > 1000 individuals **(U)** | Large stable Population especially in Kahuzi-Biega | Stable **(A)** | Resident | • Security concerns outside Pas<br>• Mining, illegal activities outside Pas<br>• NGO work (LODE) |
| **Rwanda** | 3,000-4,000 individuals **(B)** | Locally distributed in Nyungwe, Rugezi, marsh between Virunga Volcano | Increasing **(U)** | Resident | • Gold mining decreasing |
| **Uganda** | <1,700 individuals **(B)** | Patchy in high altitude swamp marshes | Not known but probably stable | resident | |
| **Total** | **<10,000 individuals** | | | | |

**Figure 1:**




*O=Known sites,* **+***= Potential sites*

**Table 2: National legislation and signatories to international conservation treaties relevant to Grauer's Rush Warbler in range states**

| Country | National legislation | CITES | CBD | UMB | AC | RS | WHC | O |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Burundi** | • National Strategy for the Burundi Environment (SNEB)<br>• Environmental Code (CE)<br>• Protected Area Decree<br>• NBSAP not adopted | X | X | X | ? | X | ? | CCD |
| **DRC** | • None specific for Grauer's Rush Warbler | X | X | X | - | X | X | - |
| **Rwanda** | • Protected Area Decrees | X | X | X | ? | - | X | - |
| **Uganda** | • Uganda Wildlife statute 1995<br>• Protected species Act<br>• National wetlands policy 1995 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

**UMB=UNESCO Man & Biosphere, WHC= AC=African Convention, WHS=World Heritage Convention, O= Others, RS= RAMSAR**

**Movements**

When breeding, Eastern DRC, females were seen with brood patch mid-March, immature, in Nyawarongo, end of February and in limbongo early October (Urban, *et al* 1997).

**Protection status**

As a conservation measure taken, the Kahuzi swamp is protected in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Prigogine 1983). Despite political turmoil and wars in DRC since 1996 , the Kahuzi swamp is still totally under control by park authority. The Virunga Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda includes several sites for this species, but the conservation of these swamps is by no means secure.

Other measures have been proposed, which are more adequate conservation measures required to safe guard the montane swamp habitat of these species. Although the Rugezi swamp in Rwanda must contain a large proportion of the total population of this species, it is probably not possible to protect it, since human pressure on the land is very great (Vande Weghe 1984). However, the Nyungwe Forest Conservation Project has been established since and it is hoped that this will conserve the Kamiranzovu swamp and many other small swamps where the species occurs (Vande Weghe 1983, 1984).

In Uganda, BINP is well protected, but Echuya Forest Reserve is not. In Rwanda, reports suggest that Nyungwe Forest Reserve has suffered little encroachment recently, due to human emigration following conflicts in the area. In DRC the only protected swamps are in Kahuzi-Biega National Park and on Mount Tshiaberimu, ( Strattersfield and Capper 1998).

**Habitat requirement for the species**

The Grauer's Rush warbler is restricted to montane swamps, (Hall and Moreau 1962, 1970, Friedmann and Wiliams 1968, 1970). The species covers a variety of swamp vegetation types. It is comfortable in short grass swamps, swamps with medium sized sedges and ferns. Grauer's Rush Warbler would also

enjoy living in swamps with dense scrubby vegetation (Vande weghe 1983). The species requires montane swamp at an altitude of 1950-2600m.

It is monogamous and territorial. In Uganda there was some evidence of breeding activity in February-may and it may breed in march in Eastern DRC( Strattersfield and Capper 1998).

**Biology and ecology**
The Grauer's Rush Warbler is a medium sized-dark brown with white supercilium. The male has heavy spotting on the upper breast while the female has smaller spots on the breast. Its tail is long and steeply graduated often skulks but is unusually visible for a *Bradypterus* warbler and will sit on high exposed perch particularly when disturbed or in song.

The Grauer's Rush Warbler is not shy and when disturbed flies low with flattering flight for a few meters giving short rattling trill. It then drops down into cover singing from tops of stems and stems, then makes short display flight with snapping wings low over vegetation. The species is very vocal and impossible to miss if present in a swamp. It feeds in the open, near ground and sometimes on floating vegetation, when it uses its tail to balance. Outside breeding season it moves in groups of 10-12 birds. Feeds mainly on small beetles caterpillars spiders and small seeds (ref).

Breeding of this species is monogamous, territorial. Territories of isolated pairs in Kitabi Rwanda, 0.1-0.5 ha in extent (Dowsett-Lemaire 1990). In sexual display, the bird perches near the top of sedge, rapidly flutters wings above back and calls constantly. Display may last c. 90s, but stops abruptly when an individual gives chase to probable mate alighting in sedge a few meters away.

The Grauer's Rush Warbler inhabits most commonly highland swamps. In the Nyungwe Forest it occurs in tiny swamps surrounded by forests suggesting that the species can penetrate forest along small watercourses. In Northern Rwanda, it survives at great distances from forest and so it cannot be considered a forest species. (Prigogine 1978, Weghe 1983. It feeds in the lower strata of the vegetation but sings on higher stems and twigs. (Vande Weghe 1983).
In Uganda it is recorded in sedges and shrubby areas where numbers in the sedges ???? part of the swamp was significantly higher than the mean number found in the shrubby areas (Mwambu 2001).
There has been some unconfirmed observation in

**Threats and potential threats**

Habitat destruction (♦♦♦♦) and habitat alteration/fragmentation (♦♦♦) were identified as the major threats which ultimately lead to reduced frequency of nesting (♦-♦♦?), high mortality of nestling and eggs (♦♦-♦♦♦?), reduced clutch size (♦?) and increased mortality of juveniles (♦♦♦-♦♦♦♦?), the direct causes of low productivity. The low productivity of the Grauer's Rush Warbler was identified as the major cause of continuing decline of mature individuals as indicated in the Problem Tree.

**Stakeholders analysis**
Stakeholders impact on the species positively or negatively with varying degrees of intensity. The main stakeholders in the 4 range states were NGOs, government departments and local communities. The details of the stakeholders' impact on the species, their activities and the proposed activities to address the impact for the 5 major stakeholder groups in each range states and the international stakeholders are shown in Appendix 2.

**Targets recommended in BirdLife International (2000).**
-Protect Rugezi swamp in Rwanda
-Assess the current status of the main swamp areas in Nyungwe Forest
-Confirm its absence in Itombwe massif.

**Table 3: Factors affecting success of Action Plan Implementation**

| | Opportunities | Risks |
|---|---|---|
| **Existing conservation measures** | • PAs receiving funding for protection<br>• Available national legislation<br>• Opportunity for countries that have signed and ratify the wetland/RAMSAR convention and other relevant conventions | • Inaccessibility of site<br>• Political instability<br>• Densely populated areas where species occur |
| **Appeal of the species** | • Rare Species specialists want to see it<br>• Not shy- easy seen in natural habitat<br>• Responds to play back<br>• Calls are specific to the species in most parts of the range | • Dull brown bird, not attractive to politicians, etc<br>• Little awareness on birds and biodiversity in general<br>• Small size<br>• Potential risk for trapping because of being un shy |
| **Biology of species** | • Where they occur, they occur in high densities<br>• Behaviour allows easy monitoring<br>• Responds to play backs | • Restricted range<br>• Specialized habitat requirements<br>• In breeding may be a potential risk<br>• Habitat fragmentation<br>• Habitat good for agriculture |
| **Resources** | • Financial resources for habitat protection<br>• Biodiversity hot spot | • Limited human expertise |

**3. Action Programme**

*Table 4: Vision Aim and Objectives*

| *Vision* | *Description and justification* | *Indicators* |
|---|---|---|
| **Viable populations of Grauer's Rush Warbler conserved** | | |

| *Aim (5 years)* | *Description and justification* | *Indicators* |
|---|---|---|
| Grauer's Rush Warbler conservation status improved | The species being globally endangered, its conservation status needs to be improved | • Habitat destruction reduced on at least 3 key sites outside PAs<br>• Estimated populations at 5 key sites at least 1 in each country stable or recovering |

| **Objectives** | **Description and Justification** | **Indicators** |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Distribution, population size and trends of Grauer's Rush Warbler determined (♦♦♦♦) | There is not much known about the population size, distribution and trends in all range states | • Population at all the known sites* determined within two years<br>• At least 5 potential sites surveyed within 5 years<br>• Key sites surveyed for the second time within 5 years |
| 2. The ecology of the Grauer's Rush Warbler better understood (♦♦♦) | Very little is known about the ecology of the species at the moment | • Information generated and disseminated on factors that affect mortality and reproductive success within 5 years<br>• Understanding of habitat requirements within 3 years |
| 3. Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat quality maintained and improved at key sites (♦♦) | Habitat alteration and destruction were the main threats of the species as per the problem tree | • Management actions on ground aimed at maintaining Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat in at least 50 % of key sites within 5 years<br>• Monitoring programmes in place for the species and its habitat at key sites |
| 4. Impact of human activities at key sites minimised (♦♦♦♦) | | • Extent and quality of habitat stable at key sites including Rugezi |
| 5. Profile of Grauer's Rush Warbler and its habitat raised (♦♦♦) | Profile of the species low at the moment | • At least one site achieves RAMSAR or Biosphere reserve status |

**Bwindi, Echuya, Virunga Volcanoes, Nyungwe, Kahuzi-Biega, Tshiaberimu, Rugezi, Kibira*

**Projects**

***Objective 1: Distribution, population size and trends of Grauer's Rush Warbler determined***

1. Assess the distribution of Grauer's Rush Warbler habitats using remote sensing, vegetation maps, etc
2. Assess the distribution of Grauer's Rush Warbler population size and identify key sites
3. Develop and implement a monitoring method for the species and train survey teams

***Objective 2: The ecology of the Grauer's Rush Warbler better understood***

1. Capacity building to undertake ecological studies
2. Assessment of the ecological factors influencing Grauer's Rush Warbler survival and reproduction (disease, inbreeding, habitat fragmentation, competition, weather conditions, food availability, predation, dispersal, disturbance during breeding, mortality).
3. Assess habitat requirements of Grauer's Rush Warbler so that we know how to manage the habitat

***Objective 3: Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat quality maintained and improved at key sites***

1. Design and implement a monitoring system for the species, habitat quality and extent of habitat using Ranger-based monitoring
2. Research to understand the hydrological factors affecting the vegetation at key sites
3. Conservation of Grauer's Rush Warbler incorporated in management plans of Protected Areas
4. Capacity building and training for park staff and rangers in wetland management and monitoring

***Objective 4: Impact of human activities at key sites minimised***

1. Identify human activities leading to habitat destruction at key sites
2. Assess ecosystem services of swamps-floods and pollution reduction
3. Review existing laws affecting the conservation of key sites
4. Lobby locally and internationally the protection of key sites and their habitats including government and developing agencies
5. Research on attitudes of local communities visa-avis Grauer's Rush Warbler conservation habitat
6. Develop and implement programmes to involve local leaders and integrate local community livelihoods in Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat conservation
7. Explore and if appropriate implement incentives-based conservation of Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat
8. Promote or lobby Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of developmental projects

***Objective 5:Profile of Grauer's Rush Warbler and its habitat raised***

1. Develop and implement awareness programmes and communication materials targeting specific audiences such as local communities, school clubs (wildlife clubs), decision makers, tourists, etc
2. Capacity building of key stakeholders through and provision of equipment and materials
3. Develop partnerships/networks with other agencies to raise the profile of the species e.g. collaboration with international Convention Secretariats, law enforcement agencies, politicians, etc
4. Develop Site Support Groups at key sites
5. Have a functional Grauer's Rush Warbler Species Interest Group
6. Encourage government bodies to ratify Conventions (RAMSAR) and list key sites where appropriate

**Table 5: Project table**

| | Project | Countries | Overall Priority | Agencies responsible | Time scale | Cost | Indicators | Risks and opportunities |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **A) Policy and Legislation** | | | | | | | |
| 4.3 | Review existing laws affecting the conservation of key sites | All | ♦♦♦♦ | BLI po,, Government Departments | 2003-2004 | ♦♦ | | Unwillingness of governments to review the laws (R) |
| 5.3 | Develop partnerships or networks with other agencies to raise the profile of the species | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, Government Departments | 2003-2008 | ♦ | | |
| 5.6 | Encourage government bodies to ratify Conventions (RAMSAR) and list key sites | All | ♦♦ | BLI po, Government Departments, WCS | 2003-2008 | ♦ | | |
| | **B) Species & Habitat** | | | | | | | |
| 2.3 | Assess habitat requirements of GRW for better habitat management | Uganda, Rwanda | ♦♦♦♦ | BLI po, OBIKOC, WCS, Research Institutions | 2003-2006 | ♦♦ | | |
| 3.3 | Conservation of GRW incorporated in management plans of Protected Areas | All | ♦♦♦♦ | BLI po, OBICOK, Government Departments, WCS | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | |
| 4.4 | Lobby locally and internationally the protection of key sites and their habitats | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, Government Departments, WCS | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | |
| 4.8 | Promote or lobby EIA of developmental projects | All | ♦♦♦♦ | BLI po, Government Departments | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | |
| 5.5 | Have a functional GRW Species Interest Group | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, WCS, OBICOK | Nov 2002 | ♦ | | Some members of SIG are already doing research on species (O) |
| | **C) Monitoring & Research** | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Assess the distribution of GR Warbler habitats using remote sensing, vegetation maps, etc | All | ♦♦♦♦ | BLI po, WCS, OBICOK, WCS | 2003-2005 | ♦♦♦ | | Bird population surveys underway in Albertine Rift (O) |
| 1.2 | Assess the distribution of GRW population size and identify key sites | All | ♦♦♦♦ | BLI po, WCS, OBICOK | 2003-2005 | ♦♦♦ | | Floral surveys underway in Albertine Rift (O) |
| 1.3 | Develop and implement a | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po,, Government Departments, | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | monitoring method for the species and train survey teams | | | Research Institutions, WCS | | | | |
| 2.2 | Assessment of the ecological factors influencing GRW survival and reproduction | Uganda, Rwanda | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, OBICOK, Government Departments, Research Institutions, WCS | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | Genetic studies are currently being done (O) |
| 3.1 | Design and implement a monitoring system for the species, habitat quality and extent of habitat using Ranger-based monitoring | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, OBICOK, Government Departments, Research Institutions, WCS, MUIENR Macarthur | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | |
| 3.2 | Research to understand the hydrological factors affecting the vegetation at key sites | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, OBICOK, Research Institutions | 2003-2006 | ♦♦♦ | | |
| 4.1 | Identify human activities leading to habitat destruction at key sites | All | ♦♦♦♦ | BLI po, OBICOK, Government Departments, Research Institutions, WCS | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | |
| 4.2 | Assess ecosystem services of swamps-floods and pollution reduction | DRC, Rwanda | ♦♦ | BLI po, OBICOK, Research Institutions | 2004-2008 | ♦♦ | | |
| | **D) Public awareness and Training** | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Capacity building to undertake ecological studies | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, OBICOK, WCS | 2003-2004 | ♦♦ | | |
| 3.4 | Capacity building and training for park staff and rangers in wetland management and monitoring | All | ♦♦ | BLI po, OBICOK, Government Departments, WCS | 2003-2005 | ♦♦ | | |
| 5.1 | Develop and implement awareness programmes and communication materials targeting specific audiences | All | ♦♦♦♦ | BLI po, LODE, Government Departments | 2003-2008 | ♦♦♦ | | |
| 5.2 | Capacity building of key stakeholders through and provision of equipment and materials | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, Government Departments, | 2003-2004 | ♦♦ | | |
| | **E) Community involvement** | | | | | | | |
| 4.5 | Research on attitudes of local communities visa-avis GRW conservation habitat | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, LODE, Government Departments, Research Institutions | 2003-2007 | ♦♦ | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.7 | Develop and implement programmes to involve local leaders and integrate local community livelihoods in GRW habitat conservation | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, LODE, Government Departments | 2003-2008 | ♦♦♦ | | |
| 4.8 | Explore and if appropriate implement incentives-based conservation of GRW habitat | All | ♦♦ | BLI po, LODE | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | |
| 5.4 | Develop SSGs at key sites | All | ♦♦♦ | BLI po, LODE | 2003-2008 | ♦♦ | | |

*BLI po=BirdLife International Partner Organisation, LODE=Ligue Organisationnelle de Defenseurs de Developpement, MUIENR=Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, O=Opportunity, OBICOK =Organisation of information about Biodiversity and Conservation in Congo-Kinshasa,*
*R= Risk, WCS= Wildlife Conservation Society*

**Monitoring and evaluation**

Participants identified who and what will be monitored and evaluated in the action plan implementation.

**Who?** African Species Working Group, Species Interest Group, National Focal Points (National Species Action Plan Co-ordinators).

**What?** Progress on the implementation at aim, objective and project levels of the plan.

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**Appendix 1: Local distribution, numbers & protected area status of Grauer's Rush Warbler sites within range states: K=Known, P=Potential sites**

| Country | Region /Province | Site (IBA site no. if applicable) | PA status | No. of Sites | No. of pairs | References | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Burundi** | Mugamba | Kibira NP (IBA Code B1002) | NP | ? (K) | - | -Burundi Birds Specialists | |
| | Buruli | Buruli | NR | ? (P) | | | Inaccessibility of the two sites |
| **DRC** | North Kivu | PNVi (IBA Code CD010.) | NP, WHS (RAMSAR Site) | Tshabirimu (low) | - | -Lippens & Wille 1976<br>-BirdLife International 2000<br>-Prigogine 1985<br>-Schotederi 1966<br>-Butynski 1998 | |
| | | Alimbongo | None | 2(K) | - | -BirdLife International 2000 | |
| | | Ngungu | None | 1(K) | - | -Pederson (see web site) | |
| | South Kivu | PNKB (IBA Code CD013) | NP, WHS | Kahuzi swamps (high) | <1000 individuals | | |
| | | Nyawarongo | None | 1(K) | - | -BirdLife International 2000 | |
| **Rwanda** | Nyungwe | - | NP | 6 (K) | | - Schotederi 1966<br>-J.V Vande Weghe<br>-WCS report | |
| | Virunga | - | NP | 1 (K) | - | | |
| | Rugezi | - | -- | - | - | - | Drained |
| **Uganda** | South Western | BINP (IBA Code UG004) | NP | 2 (K) | 400 | WSC surveys (unpublished)<br>Mwambu 2001<br>UBGC | -<br>- |
| | | Echuya (IBA Code UG002) | FR | 1(K) | <1000 | WSC surveys (unpublished) | -Muchuya threatened with fire |
| | | Mgahinga (IBA Code UG 001) | NP | 1(K) | <100 | | -forest taking over the swamp |
| | | Bunyonyi | - | 1(K) | <100 | Malcom Wilson (per.com) | Gureno Bay drained for dairy farming |
| | | Kanyansande | - | 1(K) | <50 | Mugabe (per.com) | - |
| | | Rugezi | - | 1(K) | <50 | | |
| | | Ngoto swamp | | P | | | Needs survey |
| | | North of Muhere (Kisoro) | - | P | | | |
| | | Rubungiri (near Ruhiza) | | P | | | |
| | | Ndego River Valley | | P | | | Needs survey |

*Key: NhFR = non hunting Forest reserve; FR = Forest reserve; FnR = Faunal reserve; SNR = Strict Nature Reserve; BR = Biosphere Reserve; NP = National Park; WHS = World Heritage Site.*

**Appendix 2: Stakeholders analysis**

| **UGANDA** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Stakeholder** | **Interest/Mission** | **Activities** | **Impact** | **Intensity** | **Proposed activity** |
| PA managers | -Conservation<br>-Sustainable use | -Law enforcement<br>- Country conservation<br>- Tourism development<br>- Research | + | ♦♦♦♦ | Increased awareness about Grauer's Warbler |
| Local communities | More resource land, water, forest products | - Drainage swamps outside PAs | - | ♦♦♦♦ | - Survey swamps being drained |
| | | - Collection of water | - | ♦♦ | - Increased awareness |
| | | - Fires | - | ♦♦ | IGAs |
| | | | + | ♦♦ | |
| | | -Collection of materials: fishing, food, bambo | - | ♦♦ | - On farm substitutions |
| NGO/Development agencies | -Conservation<br>-Poverty alleviation | -Water drainage | - | ♦♦♦♦ | -Monitoring to include GRW |
| | | -Micro credit schemes | + | ♦♦ | |
| | | | + | ♦♦ | |
| | | -Public awareness | - | ♦ | -Training |
| | | -Research | + | ♦♦♦ | -Awareness raising/ advocacy |
| Tourist/Tour operators | -Twitching/ Ticketing<br>-Cash | -Bird watching | + | ♦♦♦ | -Community projects for local communities to benefit e.g Echuya |
| | | | - | ♦ | |
| | | -Guiding/ marketing | + | ♦♦♦ | -Training local communities |
| Researchers | -Generating information<br>-Protection | -Data collection | + | ♦♦ | -Encourage research on GRW, population estimates |
| | | -Analysis | + | ♦♦ | -Survey potential areas |
| | | | - | ♦ | -Monitoring<br>-Disseminate information |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DRC** | | | | | |
| Government Institutions<br>(i) Department of Environment (Park authority) | - Sustainable development | -Policies<br>Law enforcement<br>-Natural resource management | +<br>+<br>+<br>- | ♦♦♦<br>♦♦<br>♦♦<br>♦♦ | -Institutional support<br>-Lobby for peace and political stability |
| (ii) Education and research | -Capacity building<br>-Improve scientific knowledge | -Training opportunities<br>-Data management and information | +<br>+<br>+<br>- | ♦♦♦<br>♦♦♦<br>♦♦♦<br>♦♦ | -Institutional support (equipments, curricula)<br>-Experience sharing and networking<br>-Resource centers |
| Local communities | -Income | -Subsistence agriculture<br>-Mining, hunting, logging<br>-Cash cropping | -<br>-<br>- | ♦♦♦<br>♦♦♦<br>♦♦ | -Alternative sources of incomes<br>-Local empowerment and involvement |
| Donors | -Sustainable resource management<br>-Community welfare | -Funding<br>-Technical support | +<br>+ | ♦♦<br>♦♦ | -Fundraising<br>-Grant support<br>-Potential source of funding |
| NGOs (LODE,OBICOK) | -Nature conservation and development | -Environment education<br>-Guidance/ consultancy<br>-Implement development projects | +<br>+ | ♦<br>♦ | -Identify donors<br>-Capacity building |
| Media | -Nature conservation | -Broadcasting<br>-Information dissemination | + | ♦♦♦ | -Identify donors<br>-Capacity building |
| **BURUNDI** | | | | | |
| Local population | -Income, livelihood | -Agriculture, hunting, bee farming, bamboo exploitation,<br>-contribution to conservation | +<br>- | ♦-♦♦<br>♦♦♦♦ | -Awareness raising<br>-Alternative income sources |
| Government | -Conservation and management | -Management and PA planning | +<br>- | ♦♦♦<br>♦ | -Species awareness<br>-Species site identification |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rebels | -Refugee | -Habitat and bio diversity destruction | - | ♦-♦♦ | -Collaboration with park managers |
| Gold miners | -Gold (income) | -Habitat degradation | - | ♦♦♦ | -Awareness raising<br>-Alternative income sources |
| Sponsors | -Funding of conservation | -Institution support | + | ♦ | -Efficient financial support<br>-Capacity building<br>-More information on BDI/PAs |
| ABO | -Bird conservation (Grauer's) | -Advocacy and Lobbying | + | ♦♦ | |
| **RWANDA** | | | | | |
| Local communities | -Economic benefits | -Agriculture<br>-Mining<br>-Grass cutting | -<br>-<br>- | ♦♦♦<br>♦<br>♦ | -Alternative source of income<br>-Environment education<br>-Sustainable use of wetlands |
| ORTPN | -Conservation and tourism | -Guarding<br>-Housing<br>-Guiding | - | ♦♦♦ | -Expand activities in other Grauer's habitats |
| NGOs (ACNR) | -Research<br>-Conservation<br>-education | -Research on Grauer's inventories | + | ♦♦♦ | -Expand activities in other Grauer's habitats |
| Electro Gas | -Power supply | -Dam building | - | ♦♦♦ | -Conduct environment impact studies<br>-Source energy lobbying |
| Government department | -Environment protection | -Land tenure<br>-Wetland conservation<br>-Soil conservation | + | ♦♦ | -Policy, legislation on PAs |
| ACNR | -Environmental education research<br>-Advocacy | -Nature club<br>-Research on wetlands | + | ♦♦♦ | -Advocacy for the protection of Rugezi<br>-Awareness on SPP |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INTERNATIONAL** | | | | | |
| WCS | -Conserving wildlife and wild lands | -Research survey training | + | ♦♦♦ | -collaboration "more funding" for getting information out expand activities |
| INTMCOM | -Money/profit<br>-Buying minerals form locals | -Encouraging exploitation<br>-Fuelling conflicts<br>-Local markets<br>-Govt. intermediary, organizations | -<br><br>+ | ♦♦♦<br><br>♦ | -Lobby for essential sustainable use campaign |
| RAMSAR | -Wetland conservation | -Identify and high light wetlands of international importance to government | + | ♦ | -Lobby for more sites<br>-Raise awareness<br>-Getting to know focal point in government |
| Community Development Agencies | -Poverty alleviation<br>-Sustainable livelihood | -ICDP<br><br><br>-Agricultural importance<br><br>-Micro-credit<br>-Health and education<br>-GTZ in parks | +<br>-<br>-<br>+<br>+<br>+<br>+ | ♦♦♦<br>♦♦♦♦<br>♦♦<br><br>♦♦<br>♦<br>♦♦♦ | -Raise awareness<br>-Monitor positive and negative impacts<br>-Advocacy |
| ARCOS (Laurent) | -Biodiversity conservation | -Information dissemination<br>-Regional networking<br>-Coordination of conservation activities | + | ♦-♦♦ | -Work together raise funds<br>-Development net working and advocacy |

**Annex 6: Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Grauer's Rush Warbler Interest Group held on 11 Nov 2002 at Kabale Uganda**

**Members present**

| Name | Organization | Country |
|---|---|---|
| Johnnie Kamugisha | UBGC | Uganda |
| Vital Katembo | ICCN/VIRUNGA | DRC |
| Theoneste Rutagengwa | ACNR | Rwanda |
| Robert Byamana Kizungu | OBICOK | DRC |
| Byaruhanga Achilles | Nature Uganda | Uganda |
| Charles Ntaganda | ACNR | Rwanda |
| Eric Sande | Nature Uganda | Uganda |
| Charles Kahindo | MUIENR | DRC |
| Gangiriba Robina | UWA | Uganda |
| Nyiramana Aisha | Nat. University | Rwanda |
| Jean-Marie Negura | LODE | DRC |
| Eric Giti | ABO | Burundi |
| | | |

**Agenda:**

1. Introduction
2. TORs
3. Election of office bearers for the SIG
4. Follow up before and after the publication of the Grauer's Rush Warbler international action plan
5. Networking and communication
6. Monitoring and evaluation
7. Resource center /database
8. National action plans
9. A.O.B

**1. Introduction**

The meeting was chaired by Achilles Byaruhanga, the international coordinator for the Grauer's Rush Warbler. He first outlined the BirdLife International structures, the history of the African Species Working Group (ASWG) and how the SIGs fit in. He then asked the members whether they were interested in forming a SIG and whether the SIG would be under the umbrella of the BirdLife international African Species Working Group.

**Decision: Member unanimously accepted to form a Grauer's Rush Warbler SIG under the umbrella of the BirdLife International African Species Working Group**

**2. TORs of the Grauer's Rush Warbler SIG**

The SIG will essentially operate to conserve the species more effectively by:

- Promoting the conservation of the Grauer's rush warbler
- Coordination
- Exchanging information especially with regards to fundrising opportunities
- Advocating for the implementation of then action plans

**3. Election of office bearers**

The following members were elected in office for a **2-year** term:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairman/Coordinator | **Achilles Byaruhanga** (Uganda) |
| Vice chairman | **Charles Kahindo** (DRC) |
| Secretary | **Eric Giti** (Burundi) |
| Publicity Secretary | **Vital Katembo** (DRC) |
| Committee Member | **Aisha Nyiraman** (Rwanda) |

**4. Follow up before and after the publication of the Grauer's Rush Warbler international action plan**

- Members agreed that the National Species Action Plan coordinators /contact persons in the respective countries should be the contact persons for the Grauer's Rush Warbler in their respective countries, i.e. Fidele (Rwnda), Eric Giti (Burundi), Charles Kahindo (DRC) and Achilles Byaruhanga (Uganda).

- To ensure that the activities between now and the time when the action plan is published, all the members should lobby BirdLife International partner organizations and governments to ensure that the action plans are endorsed. The focal point persons can take a lead on this but should also inform the executive especially Aish should be in touch with Fidele.

- All the members were encouraged to do something about fundraising and send the relevant information to the SIG coordinator (chairman) who will then suggest what to do with the information.

- Members in addition agreed that lobbying should start now rather than waiting for the action plan to be launched with members putting information from various sources together and start implementing some activities. The workshop report will be used to lobby for the implementation of some of the activities as we wait for the action plan to be published.

- Members of the SIG agreed that they should seek any information not yet known about the species and share it with the committee taking a lead on exploring the opportunities on the already on going projects. Charles Kahindo agreed to share any information since he is involved in WCS and other ongoing projects.

**Action Points:**

- **Lobbying and action plan implementation starts straight away**
- **NSAPCs points of contact for the SIG and take lead on species work in their respective countries**
- **The executive to ensure that the information about the species and funding sources is disseminated to all SIG members**

**5. Networking and communication**

Now that the committee is in place, the executive will keep in contact with all the members.

**Actions:**

- **Eric Sande and Achilles Byaruhanga will set up the African Grauer's Rush Warbler Email discussion group and will be moderated by Achilles.**
- **Eric Sande will invite all the members of Grauer's Rush Warbler SIG to join the African Species Working Group E-mail discussion Group.**
- **Achilles, the African Partnership RAMSAR focal point should endeavor to send basic information on RAMSR and listing of sites to the SIG members**

**6. Monitoring and evaluation**
The SIG agreed to put together a budgeted plan of activities for the species as soon as possible.

**Actions:**
- **ASWGC take the work plan for the Grauer's Rush warbler forwards**
- **The SIG Coordinator brings the chairman ASWG into the loop**

**7. Resource Centre**
Members expressed concern that there is need to establish some form of Resource Centre for the SIG. The Resource Centre will have a database with the available information about the species. Currently there exists some databases on possible funding sources for species work, species experts for globally threatened species and species for which species action planning is appropriate at Nature Uganda where the SIG coordinator and the ASWGC sit. .

**Decision: Members agreed that the Resource Centre for the Grauer's Rush Warbler Interest Group will for the mean time be based at Nature Uganda**

**8. National Species Action Plans**
The ASWGC informed the members that there is funding national action plan workshops but the Steering Committee of the SAP project is still working out the modalities of the process.

**Decision: The SIG ready to start the national workshops as soon as the SAP Project gives a go ahead**

**9. AOB**
- ASWG should endeavor to fundrise for the GRW SIG
- Explore meeting next by email chart but any other opportunity like CAP can be used
- There are opportunities to write regional proposals and SIG can take a lead. A small proposal for surveying a key site and involving experts from all the range states is one of the possible viable proposal.

**Annex 7: Press release**

## PRESS RELEASE

### Threatened wetlands a home to endangered species
### Save wetlands or go to hell

Grauer's Rush Warbler, a globally threatened species only found in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, and Uganda, is more endangered than was previously thought. A workshop of international experts from range states and Europe, held at Green Hills In in Kabale from 6th to 12th November 2002, estimated that there are fewer than 10,000 (ten thousand) individuals in the world.

Dr. Andrew Plumptre of Wildlife Conservation Society said 'the bird is only found in high altitude wetlands, which vary in size from 0.1km2 to only 8 km2, in the Albertine rift. The human population density surrounding these wetlands is one of the highest in Africa'. The birds are therefore highly threatened from conversion to agriculture. This makes this species one of the rarest birds in the world.

The International workshop organized by ***Nature***Uganda and cofunded by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and UK government Darwin Initiative, brought together all the existing knowledge on this species to develop an International Species Action Plan to ensure its conservation.

Achilles Byaruhanga the Executive Officer of NatureUganda emphasized the importance of developing a regional Action Plan to coordinate conservation actions across the species range states. He said a regional Interest Group would be formed to coordinate activities in the different countries where the species in found.

In Uganda this Species is confined to Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks and Echuya forest reserve. In Rwanda this species is confined to Rugezi marsh, Volcanoes National Park and Nyungwe forest. The largest sub population in the world probably occurs in Kamiranzovu swamp in Nyungwe according to the Wildlife Conservation Society's research there. In Burundi this species is only known from Kibira National Park, which currently is inaccessible. In DRC the largest population occurs in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park although other populations occur up to Tshiaberimu in isolated wetlands.

Actions needed to conserve this species include raising awareness about its status with governments, ensuring effective management of the wetlands in protected areas where it occurs and developing methods to ensure its protection in swamps outside protected areas.

In a speech read for him by the Vice Chairman, the LC5 chairman Kabale Mr. Adson Kakuru emphasized the importance of involving political leaders and the local communities if conservation actions are to succeed in the long term. He reiterated that people who destroy wetlands should bear in mind that it is sin that can take them to hell. The experts put together activities of the plan that they hope will be instrumental in saving this endangered species from extinction.

For more information contact Achilles Byaruhanga, ***Nature***Uganda, P.O. Box 27034, Kampala. Tel. 540719, Fax: 533528, Mob. 077522727.

**Annex 8: Daily Evaluation/ Moodometer**

| | ☹ | 😐 | ☺ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Day 1 | | ●●●●●● ●●●● | ●●●●●● ●●●●● |
| Day 2 | | ●●●●●● ●●● | ●●●●● ●●●●● |
| Day 3 | ●●●●● | ●●●●● | ●●●●● ●●●● |
| Day 4 | ●●● | ●●●●● ●● | ●●●●● ●●●●●● |
| Day 5 | | ●●●●● ●●●● | ●●●●● ●●●●● |
| Overall | | ●●● ●● | ●●●●●●● ●●●●●●● |