

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

## Species Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop White-necked Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus*

13 – 17 July 2002, Lakka, Sierra Leone



### Workshop Report

**NATUREUGANDA**



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

**Alhaji Siaka, Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL)**

**Facilitators:**

**Aiah Lebbie, University of Sierra Leone (main facilitator)**

**Steve Evans, BirdLife South Africa**

**Dieter Hoffmann, RSPB**

**Eric Sande, Nature Uganda**

**Report:**

**Alhaji Siaka**

**Aiah Lebbie**

**Steve Evans**

**Dieter Hoffmann**

**Eric Sande**

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## Summary

A workshop to draw up a species conservation action plan for the globally threatened White-necked Picathartes was held in Sierra Leone from 13th to 17th July 2002. The workshop brought together species experts and resource persons from the BirdLife Partnership, various national environmental NGOs and government officials of the Range States of Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

This workshop was the second in a series of 8 international species action plans for globally threatened bird species in the 3 year BirdLife Species Action Plan project co-funded by the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) through the Darwin Initiative. This workshop, however, was the first to develop an action plan using the BirdLife Africa Species Action Plan format and process developed under this project. The format and process has 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 was defined as *White-Necked Picathartes down-graded from Vulnerable to Near Threatened status*, while **the aim of the 5 year plan** is *Population of White-Necked Picathartes stabilized or increased at all strong-holds in all range states*. In order to achieve the aim, seven objectives together with relevant projects to achieve these objectives were defined. The Species Action Plan will be published in December 2002.

The workshop was officially opened by the Minister of Lands, Country Planning, Forestry and Environment, Dr A. Bobson Sesay, who pledged Sierra Leone's government unreserved support to this project in particular and the conservation of globally threatened species of biodiversity importance in general.

## **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 Africa Species Working Group by Nature Uganda and the RSPB (BirdLife Partners in Uganda and UK respectively). It is implemented by BirdLife partner organisations in 17 African countries. Co-funding has been received from the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) under the Darwin Initiative.

A Species Action Plan (SAP) is a scientifically authoritative, strategic document that defines specific, measurable objectives and actions for conserving priority species. It should be achievable, time-bound and involve all appropriate stakeholders. In previous workshops involving specialists from BirdLife partner organisation in Africa, RSPB and the BirdLife Secretariat, a format and process for species action planning in Africa was developed (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.

White-necked Picathartes is one of the 8 globally threatened bird species in Africa that have been chosen for the development of an international species action plan under this project. White-necked Picathartes is classified by IUCN as Vulnerable and is known to occur in the wild only in the Upper Guinea forest from Ghana to Guinea. The population of the White-necked Picathartes continues to decline as a consequence of low breeding success, habitat destruction and change, and possibly species harvest and trade.

This report documents the major milestones and results of the planning workshop for White-necked Picathartes and will be the basis for the production of the SAP.

## 2. Workshop

The workshop was organised by BirdLife African Species Working Group and hosted by Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL). One governmental and one non-governmental representative (National Species Action Plan Coordinators and their government counterparts for countries with BirdLife partner organisations) from each of the Range States in West Africa, scientific experts, staff of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and staff of other BirdLife Africa Partners were invited. The workshop was facilitated by Aiah Lebbie, a lecturer of the University of Sierra Leone. Co-facilitators were Steve Evans, BirdLife South Africa, Eric Sande, Africa Species Working Group Co-ordinator and Dieter Hoffmann, RSPB.

### 2.1 Workshop objectives

The workshop objectives were defined as

- Generate the required information and produce and endorse an implementable White-necked Picathartes Action Plan, ensuring that it addresses the needs of local communities
- Strengthen and formalize a White-necked Picathartes Working/Interest Group
- Learn and apply the SAP approach



### 2.2 Workshop Programme and Implementation

The workshop programme (Annex 2) was based on the Species Action Plan format developed through this project. 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. Below is a summary of major sessions.

#### *Day One-14<sup>th</sup> July*

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

The official opening ceremony had to be postponed to day 2 of the workshop. Alhaji Siaka of Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) (the host of the workshop) welcomed participants on behalf of his organisation. Eric Sande provided the background of the Species Action Plans (SAP)

project and its progress to date. The participants introduced themselves, outlined their position, their expectations from the workshop and experience with White-necked Picathartes. This was done as a poster exercise. The participants' details are shown in Annex 3, while their expectations of the workshop are shown in Annex 4.

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

#### ***Session 2: Background information for SAP for White-necked Picathartes***

The background material on the White-necked Picathartes 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 also brainstormed the on-going projects in the range states that will influence the SAP. The text was revised and 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 species strongholds.

#### ***Session 3: 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 White-necked Picathartes (positive or negative), intensity of the impact (low, medium, high, critical) and proposed action. An international group identified and analysed 5 international stakeholders.

### ***Day Two-15th July***

The workshop was officially opened by the Minister of Lands, Forestry, Environment and Country Planning. Opening speeches were also given by the President of the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, the Director of the Forestry Division, the Head of the BirdLife Africa Division, the RSPB representative and the Executive Officer of the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone. The opening ceremony was attended by 52 people from government organisations, NGOs, national radio and TV. The list of attendees is presented in Annex 5.

#### ***Session 1: Identification of main threats for White-necked Picathartes***

This was done using a card exercise. Participants brainstormed the threats facing the White-necked Picathartes. The species is classified as Vulnerable because of low population density, declining population, habitat loss and lack of knowledge on distribution.

#### ***Session 2: Problem tree***

Of the four main threats identified in the previous session, declining population, decline in area of suitable habitat and lack of knowledge on distribution were considered to be of primary importance while naturally low population density is a natural phenomenon. Participants were divided into two groups to develop the cause effect relationships of the 3 branches of the problem tree. Two other threats (climate change and civil conflicts) previously identified by participants, were considered but not incorporated into the problem tree.

### ***Day Three-16th July***

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

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

Through a facilitated discussion, participants prioritised the threats under the two main causes of decline (declining population and decline in area of suitable habitat), by assigning the following threat levels: low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦) and critical (♦♦♦♦).

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

It was agreed that the plan should have a life span of 5 years. In plenary and based on the results of the problem tree, participants identified the aim, vision and objectives of the Species Action Plan.

### ***Session 3: Formulation of project concepts***

Participants were divided into two groups, one group working on four of the objectives, the other group dealt with three objectives. Each group was asked to identify the projects necessary and sufficient to achieve the relevant objectives. Each project was prepared in the form of a short summary concept.

## ***Day Four 17th July***

### ***Session 1: Prioritisation of objectives and developing indicators for the aim***

Participants prioritised the 7 objectives according to low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦) and critical (♦♦♦♦) and started to develop indicators for the aim. Due to time constraints, no indicators were developed for the vision and objectives.

### ***Session 2: Completion of Projects Table***

Once discussed and agreed in plenary, the working groups developed the projects further in form of the standard project table, incl. estimated costing, responsibilities, target countries, overall priority and indicators of success.

### ***Session 3: Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan***

Participants discussed the distinction between monitoring and evaluation and arrived at a definition for each term. Monitoring was defined as the collection of specific information in a structured manner to assess change over time. Evaluation was defined as using information collected to assess whether certain projects and objectives have been met. Participants discussed what should be monitored and who should be responsible.

## **3. Results**

With 16 participants representing principally all the range states (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and relevant species specialists, the workshop was well attended. As planned, the workshop attracted one government and one non-government representatives each from 4 out of the 5 range states. Solely Cote d'Ivoire was underrepresented, a researcher from the UK who is presently based in the Cote d'Ivoire was however able to provide relevant information.

Most of the planned work had been achieved, although time did not permit to develop indicators 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 6. The participants decided to create an international White-necked Picathartes interest group and an inaugural meeting was held. The meeting agreed terms of reference, election of office bearers, follow-up of Action plan workshop, country reports and national action plans, fundraising strategies, communication and monitoring and evaluation. The minutes of the meeting are presented in Annex 7.

The workshop received extensive radio, TV and newspaper coverage. A television crew accompanied the participants to the field and managed to get some video coverage of the birds at their nest site. Participants intend to give out press releases in their respective country, the standard press release agreed by the workshop is attached in Annex 8.



#### 4. Next Steps

Activities	By whom	When
Produce and circulate workshop report	Facilitator, Eric Sande, Dieter Hoffmann and Alhaji Siaka	31 August
Draft the SAP and circulate to participants	Alhaji Siaka and SIG	15 September
All participants need to report back to Alhaji Siaka	All participants	25 September
Write the FORWARD of the SAP	Alhaji Siaka and SIG to decide from list	
Logo on SAP	Participants to decide	
Final draft endorsement including Cote d'Ivoire and CAP endorsement	Alhaji Siaka to circulate to participants to endorse	15 November
Printing of document	Alhaji Siaka, Steve Evans, Hazell Thompson, Dieter Hoffmann, Eric Sande	15 December
Circulate the plan	Alhaji Siaka, Steve Evans, Hazell Thompson, Dieter Hoffmann, Eric Sande	31 December
Implement the plan	All range states	from January 2003
Launching and press release	All range states	January 2003
Workshop press release	All range states	July 22, 2002

#### 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 9. Participants were extremely positive about the workshop, in most of the daily evaluations and the overall evaluation all 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**

**Annex 4: Expectations**

**Annex 5: Attendance at Opening Ceremony**

**Annex 6: Draft Species Action Plan**

**Annex 7: Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the White-necked Picathartes Interest Group**

**Annex 8: Press release**

**Annex 9: Daily Evaluation/ Moodometer**

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

### **Process:**

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

### **Format:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Foreword**

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

#### **Table of contents**

- *clear and all on one page*

#### **Acronyms**

#### **Definition**

- What is a Species Action Plan?
- Why this plan?
- Geographic scope
- Introduce SAP history and objectives

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

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

- National plan to refer to International plan

## 0. Executive summary

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

## 1. Introduction

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

## 2. Background Information

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

Table: Population and distribution

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

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

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

### 3. Action Programme

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

Summary table of proposed Projects

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

- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

**Acknowledgements**

**Bibliography**

**Appendices**

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

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

### Species Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop, White-necked Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus*

Freetown 14 – 17 July 2002

#### Workshop Programme

	14 July	15 July	16 July	17 July	18 July
8:30 – 12:30	Introductions Workshop objectives  <b>Presentation:</b> Background information	Opening ceremony  Recap of day 1  <b>Group work:</b> Problem tree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify causes of main treats</li> </ul>	Recap of day 2  Appoint group to prepare press release  <b>Group work:</b> formulate projects	Recap of day 3 <b>Group work:</b> Indicators  M&E Plan Adopt plan	<b>Excursion</b>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch				
14:00 – 17:00	<b>Plenary session:</b> Response to presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify gaps in knowledge</li> <li>identify main threats</li> </ul> <b>Group work:</b> Stakeholder Analysis  Evaluation	<b>Group presentations and discussions:</b> report back on problem tree  Prioritise problems/ threats  Agree vision, aim and objectives  Evaluation	<b>Group presentations and discussions:</b> report back on projects  Evaluation	Next steps  Creation of Species Interest Group  Evaluation Wrap up (incl. agreement of press release) <b>First meeting of Species Interest Group</b>	

The workshop is organised by the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, BirdLife Partner

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

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### Annex 3: Workshop Participants

First Name, Name	Organisation	Country	Position	Expertise in Picathartes conservation	Address	Telephone/ email
Dr. Aiah Lebbie	Njala University College	Sierra Leone	Lecturer	Observed adult birds and visited nest sites	Dept. of Biological Sciences, Njala University College, PMB Freetown, Sierra Leone	+232-76-647779 <a href="mailto:aiahlebbie@yahoo.com">aiahlebbie@yahoo.com</a>
Steven W. Evans	BirdLife South Africa	South Africa	IBA programme Manager	none	PO Box 515, Randburg South Africa, 2125 89 Republic Road, Ferndale, Randburg	Tel: Fax + 27 (0) 11 789 5188, <a href="mailto:iba@birdlife.org.za">iba@birdlife.org.za</a>
Evangeline Swope	Forest Development Authority	Liberia	Research Officer	none	Forestry Division Authority Box 3010, Monrovia, Liberia	Tel: 06550187 <a href="mailto:C/o_scnl2001@yahoo.com">C/o_scnl2001@yahoo.com</a>
Mike Adu-Nsiah	Ghana Wildlife Division	Ghana	Coordinator Natural Resource Management Programme	none	Wildlife Division PO Box MB 239 Accra Ghana	233-21-662832/664654 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@wildlife-gh.com">mike@wildlife-gh.com</a> <a href="mailto:madunsiah@yahoo.com">madunsiah@yahoo.com</a>
Moses Massah	Society for Conservation of Nature of Liberia	Liberia	IBA Officer	none	SCNL, Monrovia Zoo, Lakpazee P O Box 2628 Monrovia, Liberia	Tel:+231-226-888, +231-330-414, <a href="mailto:scnl2001@yahoo.com">scnl2001@yahoo.com</a>
Dr. Paul Donald	RSPB	UK	International Research Biologist	Has ringed Grey-necked Picathartes	RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL UK, Fax:+44 (0) 1767 683211	<a href="mailto:paul.donald@rspb.org.uk">paul.donald@rspb.org.uk</a>
Dr. Hazell Shokellu Thompson	BirdLife International	UK	Head Africa Division	14 years experience including PhD research	Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 ONA, UK	Tel: 01223-277318, Fax: 01223-277200, <a href="mailto:hazell.thompson@birdlife.org.uk">hazell.thompson@birdlife.org.uk</a>
Dr. Dieter Hoffmann	RSPB	UK	Head of Global Programmes Department	none	RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL	++44 1767680551 <a href="mailto:dieter.hoffmann@rspb.org.uk">dieter.hoffmann@rspb.org.uk</a>
Dodoo Ishmael N.A.	Ghana Wildlife Society	Ghana	Asst. Project Officer (Forestry Conservation, Resource policy and Advocacy)	None	Ghana wildlife Society PO Box 13252 Accra Ghana	233-21-665197 <a href="mailto:wildsoc@ighmail.com">wildsoc@ighmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ishdot@hotmail.com">ishdot@hotmail.com</a>



Alhaji Siaka	CSSL	Sierra Leone	GEF-IBA Site Officer	Undergraduate research on White-necked Picathartes	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone 4 Sanders Street, P O Box 1292 Freetown	<a href="mailto:alhajisiaka@yahoo.com">alhajisiaka@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:cssl@sierratel.sl">cssl@sierratel.sl</a> Tel: 232-22-229716 Fax: 232-22-224439
Gilbert Koker	Forestry Division, Ministry of Lands, Country Planning, Forestry and the Environment	Sierra Leone	Senior Assistant Conservator of Forests	Seen nest in Gola Forest	P O Box 893 Freetown, Sierra Leone	076634197  232-22-223445
Dr. Eric Sande	Nature Uganda	Uganda	African Species Working Group Co-ordinator	none	P O Box 27034 Kampala. Uganda	+25641540719 <a href="mailto:eanhs@imul.com">eanhs@imul.com</a> , <a href="mailto:ericssande@hotmail.com">ericssande@hotmail.com</a>
Mansaray Mohamed	Wildlife Conservation Forestry Division	Sierra Leone	Assist. Game Supt. Wildlife Counterpart IBA Officer (Government)	3-years of field experience in observation site location and monitoring	Wildlife Conservation Branch, Ministry of Lands, Country Planning, Forestry and the environment, Tower hill, Freetown	Tel: 232-22-225352 232-2222-9716
Namory Keita	Directorate of Water and Forests	Guinée	Chairman Liaison Committee ZICO	Seen adult White-necked Picathartes at 2 sites	DNEF BP 624 Conakry, Guinea Tel: 41108911269520	Namory54@yahoo.fr
Ibrahima Sory Conte	Guinée-Ecologie	Guinée	Head of Project ZICO	Seen adult White-necked Picathartes at 2 sites	Guinée Ecologie BP 3266 Tel: 224- 21-68-88 Conakry	ibrahimasory@voita.fr
Hugo Rainey	University of St. Andrews, UK	UK	PhD student, Africa Forest hornbills in Cote d'Ivoire	visited 9 colonies in 2 parks, seen, trapped	School of Biology, Bute Medical Building, Univ. of St. Andrews, KY16 9TS, UK	Jh3@st-andrews.ac.uk

#### **Annex 4: Expectations**

- To learn from workshop
- A SAP for Picathartes endorsed by all participants
- Ensure knowledge of best practice of Picathartes conservation is used locally
- Develop skills in production of SAP
- Improve the status of Picathartes from threatened status
- Ensure its conservation
- Take active part in drawing up SAP
- Develop skills for developing action plan for species
- Methodology for producing SAP
- How SAP will address needs of the local communities
- Action plan for Picathartes that is realistic and operational
- Learn more about SAP workshop process
- An action plan that will conserve Picathartes without conflicts
- Participants learn and apply the approach
- Produce an implementable Picathartes action plan
- Develop Picathartes working group
- See 10 lifers including Picathartes
- Generate information required for development of SAP for Picathartes
- Develop process and experience and use in AP for Rufous Fishing Owl
- Methodology for dealing with birds
- Development of an Action Plan and training of participants
- Develop capacity for further training in country
- Methods of conservation and protection of species and restructuring of habitats for survival
- Protection of vulnerable endemic species (biodiversity)

## Annex 5: Attendance at Opening Ceremony

	Name	Institution
1	A. B. Sera	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning, Forestry and Environment
2	E. M. Kargbo	©
3	Sama Banya	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL)
4	E. K. Alien	Forestry Division
5	Gilbert Koker	Forestry Division
6	Agnes F. Kobba	CSSL member
7	F. M. E. Sawi	CSSL
8	Steven Evans	BirdLife South Africa
9	Evangeline Swope	Forestry Division Authority, Liberia
10	A.B. Karim	Dept. of Biological Sciences, FBC
11	B.M.S. Turay	College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences
12	A.P. Koroma	CSSL
13	Ibrahima S. Conte	Guinee-Ecologie, Guinee
14	Ismael Jesse-Dodoo	Ghana Wildlife Society
15	Paul Donald	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK
16	Watter Sarata	Shelter for Africa
17	Matthew Quartey	Reporter F.M. 89, ID
18	Sarah John	CSSL
19	Aiah Lebbie	Center for Biodiversity Research
20	Abdulai Barrie	Center for Biodiversity Research
21	Eric Sande	Nature Uganda
22	Joseph Akus	CSSL
23	Tommy Gannetts	EFA
24	Moses Massah	SCNL, Liberia
25	Mike Adu-Nsiah	Wildlife Division, Ghana
26	Ibrahim Burine	Standard Times
27	T.D.K. Tayloe	Marine Resources
28	H.O. Peacock-Sawyer	NLCPPD????
29	T.D.K. Taylor	Marine Resources
30	Mustapha Bendu	Headman, Lakka
31	Bai O. Kabia	Headman, Ogoo Farm
32	Jennifer Neate	CSSL (Volunteer)
33	Keita Namory	DNEF, Guinea
34	Stephen Younge	PAGE
35	Anthony B. Gbani	Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR)
36	Malcolm S. Jusu	Rice Research Station
37	F. M. Rogers	CSSL
38	Geoffrey Cressman	GTZ, Technical Advisor
39	Augustine Koroma	GTZ, Project Officer
40	Joseph Mustapha	World Vision, Sierra Leone
41	Sonia Sillah	CSSL
42	Mohamed Mansaray	Wildlife Conservation Branch, Forestry Division
43	Abu Ansumana	NATC/NUC Ogoo Farm
44	Victor Fomba	CSSL
45	Fatmata Bangura	CSSL
46	D.D. Siaffa	CSSL
47	Cecilia Sama	CSSL
48	Alhaji Siaka	CSSL
49	John P. Moriba	CSSL
50	Harold Williams	Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service
51	Dieter Hoffmann	RSPB, UK
52	Hazell S. Thompson	Birdlife International, UK
53	Bartholomew Kamara	National Biodiversity Strategy Action Project

## Annex 6: Draft Species Action Plan

### Fact file

Family: Picathartidae

Distribution: Equatorial forest belt from Guinea to Ghana in West Africa

Habitat: Lowland rain forest

Size: 38 – 41 cm; 200 – 250g

Plumage: Black, grey-brown or slate grey above, white or lemon yellow below, lemon wash on chest, yellow bare head with black parietal patches. Sexes similar

Voice: Mostly silent; soft metronomic clucks or continuous whirring 'chirr'; raucous, loud alarm call – "Oww" or "Kaaa";

Nests: Cup-shaped mud nests (11 x 17 x 13 cm) impregnated with leaves fibres and twigs built on cliffs, rock faces or cave roofs

Eggs: usually 2, occasionally 1 (26 x 38 mm), white marked with brown blotches of varying size; incubation period: 20 days; nestling period 25 – 26 days

Diet: forest floor invertebrates, mainly insects, earthworms and spiders; occasionally frogs and lizards largely taken in the breeding season for nestlings

English names: White-necked Picathartes, Bare-headed Rockfowl, Yellow-headed Picathartes.

### 1. Introduction

The White-necked Picathartes – *Picathartes gymnocephalus* is a resident endemic of the Upper Guinea forest, occurring in five countries between Guinea and Ghana. It has only one congener, *P. oreas* which occurs in the lower Guinean forests in Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Bioko. The distribution of the White-necked Picathartes is highly fragmented and all known populations are small and isolated. It is classified as Vulnerable under IUCN/BirdLife International threat criteria, and its primary habitat is disappearing rapidly. Its striking appearance and strange behaviour has generated considerable research and conservation interest in recent years.

### 2. Background Information

#### Taxonomy

Class Aves

Order Passeriformes

Suborder: Passeri (the Oscines)

Family: Picathartidae

Genus: *Picathartes*

Species: *P. gymnocephalus*

#### History of taxonomic status

The systematic position of *Picathartes* is still unclear and has been the subject of some controversy. The genus has been variously placed with the crows, starlings, flycatchers, babblers, and the warblers. White-necked Picathartes is now usually placed in a separate family (Picathartidae) in or near the thrush-babbler assemblage. . Recent DNA analysis of cytochrome b sequences (Thompson, 1997) suggests that *Picathartes* is closer to members of the thrush-babbler assemblage (Passerida) that includes the flycatchers, starlings, tits, warblers and babblers, than corvine taxa (Parvorder Corvida) such as crows, jays and birds of paradise. This is somewhat at variance with Sibley and Monroe's (1990) classification of *Picathartes* (from DNA hybridisation) in the Parvorder *incertae sedis* in the boundary between the Corvida and Passerida.

Because of the uncertain taxonomic position of *Picathartes*, several genera have been postulated as its nearest relative, most recently, the South African Rockjumper *Chaetops* (Sibley and Munroe, 1990). The problem is still unresolved.

*The taxonomic position of Picathartes has implications for its conservation. The potential extinction of a whole family of birds would have huge implications for awareness- raising, fundraising and the speed with which conservationists may be willing to act.*

### **Distribution and population status**

Global distribution of White-necked Picathartes is restricted to the forest belt from Guinea to Ghana. It occurs in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

The primary habitat of Picathartes (forest) is disappearing rapidly in West Africa. All known White-necked Picathartes populations are small, isolated and close to the minimum for long –term viability. Global population in the Upper Guinea forest is almost certainly much less than 10,000 mature individuals (threshold for vulnerable status).

In Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, a high proportion of individuals occur in protected areas whilst in Ghana and Liberia, existing populations occur almost wholly in unprotected areas (Annex 1). In Liberia, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Liberian Government to significantly increase the size of the Protected Area System in Liberia.

**Table 1. Population, distribution and seasonal occurrence of White-necked Picathartes (see Annex 1 for distribution within countries) (Quality code according to the World Bird Database; A = reliable, B = incomplete; C = poor; U = unknown)**

Country	Population (plus quality code)	Distribution	Population trend (plus quality code)	Seasonal occurrence	Notes
Sierra Leone	1000 - 1500 ( Density estimate = 0.365 birds per sq. km)(Thompson, 1997) (B)	Fragmented, patchy and localized: Rare but widespread throughout the country except in North	Stable, or, decreasing slowly	Resident	Picathartes has lowest population density of all threatened species for which records available in the country; largest population in Gola forest
Liberia	500 to 1000 sites so minimum of 1000 – 2000 (Gatter, 1997) (B)	Rare to not uncommon; Nos increase from the coast; most records in northern highlands	Not known but probably declining	Resident	Liberia probably holds largest population in Upper Guinea
Guinea	Unknown (Information not available) (U)	Rare to common and widespread in the South, from SW to SE; unrecorded from North.	Not known but probably declining	Resident	The species is almost certainly under severe pressure
Ghana	400-600 (King 1979, using 1965 data) (C)	Uncommon and very localised; records confined to southern third of country	Probably has declined rapidly in the last 30 years	Ditto	Picathartes has not been seen in Ghana since the late 1960s
Côte d'Ivoire	Minimum population size for known sites: 500-1000 individuals. Best guesstimate: 1500 individuals in the whole country (Hugo Rainey, pers comm.) (B) .	Localised but not uncommon; mainly occurs in the west and south	Unknown but likely to be declining as forest is lost (see notes)	Ditto	Côte d'Ivoire has experienced the highest rate of deforestation in the world (Fishpool & Evans, 2001)

*Insert map of distribution of White-necked Picathartes in West Africa*

**Movements:**

Previously thought to stay close to breeding sites/ roosts all year round. Newly emerging evidence suggest movement over a wide area and regular use of non-forested habitat (Siaka, 1998). Adults and juveniles may use nests for roosting in period after end of breeding season

**Protection status**

White-necked Picathartes is classified as vulnerable under IUCN/BirdLife threat criteria (A1c, d; A2c, d; C1; C2a). In general, the species is considered to have suffered or likely to suffer a 20% population decline in 10 years or three generations. This is thought mainly to be due to decline in the extent of occurrence, area of occurrence and/or quality of habitat and this decline is likely in the future (A1c,d; A2c,d). More specifically, the total population is thought to be less than 10,000 individuals and that there is likely to be continuing decline of more than 10% of numbers of mature individuals in 10 years or three generations

Picathartes is listed in Appendix 1 of CITES

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

Country	National legislation	CITES	CBD	UNESCO: Man & Biosphere	Africa Convention	World Heritage Convention
Sierra Leone	Protected: Hunting & trapping prohibited; Wildlife Act 1972; currently being updated	√	√	√	√	√
Ghana	Protected: Wild Animals Preservation Act No 43 of 1961	√	√	√	√	√
Guinea	Unprotected	√	√	√		√
Liberia	Unprotected?	√	Signed but not yet ratified	?	√	In prep
Côte d'Ivoire	Unprotected	√	√	√	√	√

**Relationship with other SAPs and biodiversity strategies**

Relevant biodiversity strategies are National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAPs) , National Environment Action Plans, NIBACs (National IBA Conservation Strategies) and for Liberia, the National Environmental Commission in Liberia

### **Habitat requirements of the species**

Typical habitat is rocky hilly terrain (presence of inselbergs makes occurrence more likely but not essential) in lowland forest (up to 800m) with proximity to flowing streams/rivers (wet mud is essential for building nests); although some sites are known in montane forest in Sierra Leone and Liberia. A forested area large enough to host army ant swarms is more likely to contain *Picathartes*. Rocks, caves, or cliffs are essential for nesting; forest litter and undergrowth for foraging. Recently, birds have been recorded in disturbed sub-habitats as forest clearings, farmbush and secondary growth and also in areas quite close to human activity e.g. less than 50m from a charcoal production pit in the WAPF in Sierra Leone. This suggests fairly high tolerance to disturbance and birds can continue to exist in degraded habitat.

There seem to be stringent requirements for the birds nesting on particular rocks. Factors that contribute to making a rock surface suitable for nesting are:

- a) Rock area (height and width). Minimum distance above ground at which a nest has been found is 1.04m (n = 79) and minimum internest distance is 1.5m (n = 34). Height above ground is important for protection from predators. Rock area would determine the number of nest that would fit on a single surface.
- b) Angle of slope of the rock face from the perpendicular. This is important to protect nests from rain and water run-off. All nesting rocks found so far slope forward by at least 10 – 20 degrees or have been built below an overhang or rock pelmet (Thompson, 1997).

### **Biology and ecology**

White-necked *Picathartes* build cup-shaped mud nests on rocks, cliffs or cave roofs, or occasionally tree trunks. Nesting sites can comprise as many as 15 – 20 nests but more usually hold only one or two. There are reports of wasps nests occurring in between *Picathartes* nests and speculation that the wasp nests often serve as the nucleus for construction of *Picathartes* nests

Contrary to early suggestions of co-operative breeding, it now seems that *Picathartes* are monogamous. Breeding pairs defend their nests from conspecifics and vicious fights occur. However, outside the breeding season, 6-12 birds sometimes gather at roosting sites and engage in group displays involving “chases” and “bows”. Two eggs are usually laid, mostly in the wet season, and both parents incubate in turns for 20 days (median). Nestlings hatch blind and naked and are fed for 25 – 26 days. They fledge whilst still 30% smaller than adult size.

Recent studies indicate low nesting success levels (e.g. 23% in Sierra Leone in the 1990s down from 71% in Ghana in the 1960s) where nesting success is defined as the probability of eggs laid surviving both the incubation and nestling stages. The Sierra Leone data indicated that only 0.44 chicks fledged per nesting pair. A theoretical predictive life-table model constructed from this data indicates that populations in Sierra Leone could be declining slowly as a result of natural causes alone. An alternative scenario is that White-necked *Picathartes* is very long-lived (adult survival >90%), and that there is strong competition for nest sites so that populations are self-sustaining as long as adult mortality remains low (Thompson, 1997).

Breeding dates: Breeding generally coincides with the wet season

Cote d'Ivoire: Not known?

Ghana: March – June; September – November (Grimes and Darku, 1968)

Guinea - breeding season, July – Jan; (Halleux 1994);

Liberia: laying dates: September, October – December (mainly October), March, July (and female had recently laid in May) (Gatter 1997 in Fry et al, 2000) (*note that apparent dry season laying may be explained by location e.g. high altitude locations like Mt Nimba*)

Sierra Leone – eggs laid from June – December (peak numbers in October); Chicks in the nest from August – January with highest numbers in November (Thompson, 1997).

Known causes of nest losses (eggs and nestlings) are predation (e.g. raptors, snakes, squirrels, monkeys and humans);infanticide and competition from intruding conspecifics and infertile eggs.

White-necked Picathartes is usually encountered in primary and secondary forest, usually singly or in pairs but occasionally in small groups of three to four birds. The birds forage on the forest floor and on low vegetation not more than one metre in height. They rarely make sustained flights and typically progress in bounding hops, through the undergrowth. Picathartes feed mainly on forest floor invertebrates primarily insects, earthworms and spiders (usually singly or in pairs). Beetles, termites, ants and grasshoppers are most frequently taken and the birds frequently follow columns of army ants to capture flushed prey. The birds also eat vertebrates - frogs and lizards - and these constitute most of the food biomass of prey fed to nestlings.

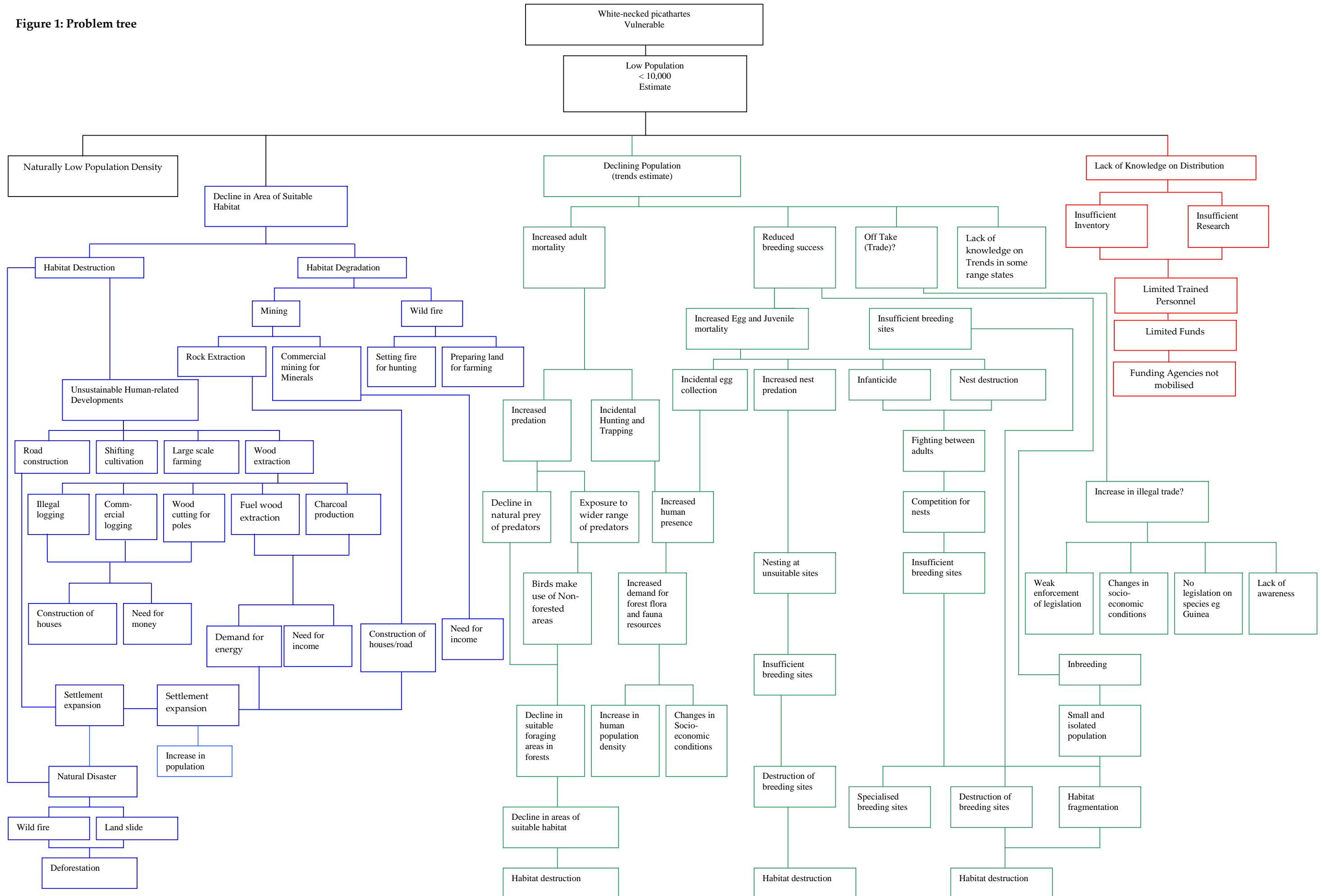
### **Threats and potential threats**

1. Hunting and trapping for museums, zoos and the bird trade ◆: This stemmed from the striking appearance of the bird and the fact that it was rare and hard to see. Trade flourished from 1950s to 1970s. Has now died down because of stricter national and international controls (CITES) . Illegal trade may be continuing at a very low level. Sensitization of custom officials and local people is essential.
2. Local hunting and trapping with snares and torches ◆: this is probably a low-level opportunistic activity and/or side effect of hunting trips and traps set for other species. Best counteracted by local awareness-raising campaigns
3. Forest clearance: This mainly arises from the following:
  - a. Large –scale industrial logging operations ◆◆◆: High potential threats in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Cote d’Ivoire, the threat to the more montane forest reserves has increased as the more accessible timber resources become more and more degraded.
  - b. Smaller-scale chain-saw activity ◆◆◆◆: difficult to monitor or control; known to be especially critical in Sierra Leone
  - c. Clearance for subsistence agriculture◆◆: most important habitats usually fairly inaccessible and not therefore suitable for cultivation. However, this is becoming increasingly important as rural populations expand. Also, in Côte d’Ivoire, clearance for subsistence agriculture is a great threat to forest on mountain slopes. Fire set to clear land for agriculture is also a great problem as it often escapes the area to be cleared and can burn substantial areas.
4. Habitat degradation and conversion as a result mainly of the following:
  - B) Mining ◆◆◆: Gold, manganese and bauxite mining is known to be a serious threat in Ghana (BirdLife International 2000). Mining is also a potential critical threat in Mt Nimba (Guinea, Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire)
  - C) Small-scale wood-cutting for poles, fuelwood etc ◆◆: becomes important when carried out close to breeding sites. This is a high level threat in forests close to urban centres e.g. WAPF adjacent to Freetown in Sierra Leone
5. Specialized habitat requirements ◆◆◆: these are naturally fairly stringent and in some populations lack of suitable nesting sites may be leading to competition for nests and mates. This may in turn be causing infanticidal behavior, which in conjunction with predation may be leading to low breeding success and small populations (Thompson, in press).

The problem tree is presented overleaf.



Figure 1: Problem tree



**Table 3: Stakeholder Analysis**

The analysis of the most important stakeholders for each country are presented below

Stakeholder	Interest	Activities	Impact	Intensity	Proposed SAP Activities
<i>International</i>					
BirdLife International	Bird and habitat conservation	Development of SAP Co-ordination of SIG Research Site-based work Capacity building	+	◆◆◆◆	Produce and promote SAP and raise funds for SAP implementation and co-ordination Exchange of experience Site-based work Promotion and co-ordination of SIG
Multi-national logging and mining companies	Extraction of timber and minerals for profit	Deforestation Habitat degradation Job creation	-	◆◆◆◆	Lobby for protection of key sites Potential for funding
Development agencies	Capacity building and human development, poverty alleviation	Medium and large scale human development projects possibly leading to habitat loss or sustainable development	- +	◆◆ ◆◆	Lobby for sustainable development Lobby for protection of key sites
International conservation NGOs	Wildlife and habitat conservation	As BirdLife but without SAP and SIG element Non-bird conservation work	+	◆◆◆	Site-based protection Potential collaboration and funding
International conventions (CBD, CITES etc.)	Promoting sustainable use of natural resources	Some protective legislation Some funding opportunities Obligation on Governments	+	◆◆	Lobby for better enforcement Potential funding opportunities (GEF)
<i>Sierra Leone</i>					
CSSL	Conservation of species and awareness	Information Monitoring Research Awareness-raising IBA surveys Education SSGs	+	◆◆◆◆	Formalise and strengthen SIG Implement SAP

Forestry and Environment Ministry	Management of protected areas	Law enforcement and patrols	+	◆◆	Increase effectiveness of patrols Law enforcement Implement SAP
Local communities	Resource use	Farming Logging NTFP Hunting Site protection	+ -	◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆	Formation of SSG Site monitors Involvement in SAP implementation
Loggers (chain saws)	Timber harvest	Tree-felling and logging	-	◆◆◆◆	Promote sustainable logging
International NGOs	Conservation and protection of species and protected areas	Expert knowledge Funding	+	◆◆◆	Promote sustainable development
<b><i>Liberia</i></b>					
Loggers	Income from logs	Extraction of logs Road construction	-	◆◆◆◆	Advocacy regarding sustainable development
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Protection of forest and wildlife (esp. endangered species) Law enforcement	Formulation of forest and wildlife laws and regulations	+	◆◆◆◆	Capacity building
Society for Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL)	Conservation of nature	Advocacy Awareness raising	+	◆◆◆◆	Capacity building
Conservation International (CI)	Conservation of nature	Funding conservation programmes	+	◆◆◆	Collaboration and co-ordination
Fauna and Flora International (FFI)	Conservation of nature	Re-assessment of forests	+	◆◆◆	Collaboration and co-ordination
BirdLife International	Conservation of biodiversity, especially birds	Funding IBA Programme	+	◆◆◆	Collaboration and co-ordination
Farmers	Food production Income	Clearance of forest (shifting cultivation)	-	◆◆	Awareness raising Sustainable agriculture
<b><i>Ghana</i></b>					
Government agencies (Wildlife Division)	Protection and management of Protected Areas	Research Monitoring Public awareness	+	◆◆◆	Enhance conservation of protected areas through technical assistance and resource mobilisation
Forest Service Division	Protection and	Research	+	◆	Technical assistance for research

	management of Forest Reserves	Timber production	-	◆◆◆◆	Input for review of timber extraction procedures (MOPs) towards species conservation
Ministries of Environment and Lands & Forestry	Conservation of environment and natural resources	Formulation of policies and legislation	+	◆◆◆	Strengthen, review (by input) and enhance existing policies and legislation
National NGOs	Conservation of renewable natural resources and biodiversity	Research Education Advocacy Community-based natural resources projects	+	◆◆◆	Enhance research Enhance education Improve advocacy Provide basis for resource mobilisation
International NGOs	Conservation and sustainable development	Funding for conservation and development projects Provide technical assistance for local NGOs	+	◆◆◆	Identify sources of support towards implementation from the INGOs
Fringe communities	Food security Livelihood support	Land cultivation Cutting poles for firewood Setting wildfires	- - -	◆◆◆◆ ◆◆ ◆◆◆◆	Strategy to collaborate to minimize impact Benefits flow and livelihood improvement Public awareness
Quarrying and mining	Business Stones for infrastructure development (roads etc.)	Stone quarrying or stone cracking	-	◆◆◆◆	Advocacy strategy Strategy to minimize impact Means of mobilizing support for site acquisition
Traditional authorities	Welfare of local people Reducing poverty Safe housing	Leasing of land for development projects	+ or -	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆	Strategy to collaborate for conservation Provision of benefits flow Alternative livelihood
District assemblies	Local administration and governance	Formulation of bye-laws to assist conservation Land use management	+ or -	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆	Strategy to collaborate for conservation Opinion leaders for advocacy Opinion leaders for benefit flow and livelihood improvement
Researchers and SIG	Conservation of the species	Research Education	+	◆◆◆◆	Fill information gaps for species management Input for further research on the biology and ecology of the species
<i>Guinea</i>					
Guinée Ecologie	Protection and conservation of threatened species	Information Sensitisation Education on the environment	+	◆◆◆	Sensitise the local population Production of relevant documentation on the species

		Research Computer information			
National Water and Forest Management	Restoration, conservation and protection of water, fauna and flora	Tree planting Rehabilitation and management	+	◆◆◆◆	Location of species Distribution and documentation of findings Collection for research purposes
Ministry of Mines and Environment	Protection of ecosystem	Law application Respect for conventions signed and ratified by Government	+	◆◆◆	Production of relevant penal code documents
Community forest inhabitants	Biodiversity conservation	Rational management of forest Detection of defaulters	+	◆◆◆◆	Reinforcement of law on forestry regulations
CERE (University)	Impact research on environment	Elaboration of documents for posterity	+	◆◆◆	Propagation of elaborated document to all interest groups
<b><i>Côte d'Ivoire</i></b>					
SODEFOR (Forest Department)	Income from timber production	Granting timber concessions Controlling forest clearance	- +	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	Aid implementation of management plan Capacity building
Farmers	Food production	Land clearance and setting of fires	-	◆◆◆◆	Awareness raising Extension programmes
Loggers	Timber extraction	Road construction Tree felling	-	◆◆◆	Advocacy regarding sustainable logging (see SODEFOR) Capacity building
Département pour la Protection de la Nature (DPN)	National park management	Controlling forest clearance and poaching	+	◆◆◆	Capacity building
BirdLife International	Conservation of biodiversity, especially birds	IBA programme	+	◆◆◆	Collaboration and capacity building
Afrique Nature International	Conservation of nature	Supporting conservation programmes	+	◆◆	Collaboration and implementation of projects
Conservation International	Conservation of nature	Implementation of conservation programmes	+	◆◆	Co-ordination of management programmes
SCNCI	Conservation of nature	Survey and training staff	+	◆◆	Collaboration and training

## **Factors influencing success of Action Plan Implementaion**

### Socio-cultural effects

The species has had totemic value in parts of its range. In the south and east of Sierra Leone for example, the imposing and sometimes bizarre-looking rock formations on which Picathartes nest were once thought to house ancestral spirits and the birds themselves were considered guardians of these ancestral homes. Though these practices are now largely extinct, a residual fascination with the birds has persisted, and people are often reluctant to molest them or destroy their breeding sites. Enlisting local support for protection of Picathartes sites has therefore often proved an easy task. This is a strong base on which to build conservation action for the birds.

### Strengths and weaknesses of current conservation measures

#### *Strengths:*

A Picathartes Working Group is already in existence so individuals interested in conserving Picathartes are already communicating, project proposals are being formulated and some site protection is already being undertaken.

In Sierra Leone, the IBA programme is ongoing in Protected Areas where Picathartes occurs. This means that monitoring, research and community awareness activities targeted at Picathartes are already ongoing in these areas. Similarly in Ghana, an IBA Programme is in place although not specifically targeted at Picathartes. Some site protection involving Site Support Groups is already occurring in both Sierra Leone and Ghana. Liberia and Guinea are in the process of starting up an IBA programme

In Sierra Leone and Ghana, a link has been made between the NBSAPs in these countries and IBAs (which may contain Picathartes). BirdLife Partners in these countries (CSSL and GWS) contributed to these NBSAPs. In Liberia, GEF funding for development of a NBSAP has been approved.

In Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, there are ongoing specific projects which could be used as vehicles to further the conservation of Picathartes. In Ghana, GWS has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the national Government for the management of Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs). The GSBA programme could update information on the status of Picathartes in Ghana. In Liberia there is an ongoing bio-monitoring programme in Sapo National Park (contains Picathartes) and an ongoing Forestry Assessment Programme (with Fauna and Flora International) will provide information on forest cover. An independent but similar study is due to start in Sierra Leone in 2002. A long-term project for the conservation of the Gola Forest in Sierra Leone (a major stronghold for Picathartes) is being re-activated with the end of civil conflict in the country.

National law in Sierra Leone and Ghana protects the species.

#### *Weaknesses*

Weaknesses are similar throughout the range states

- Protective legislation enforcement is nominal due to lack of resources
- There is a lack of local community awareness at most sites
- There is a general lack of resources for Protected Area Management and other conservation measures
- Attempts to establish stable captive breeding programmes have failed although the species has bred in captivity a few times.
- Any existing populations in Ghana and Liberia occur almost wholly in unprotected areas
- The species has not been seen in Ghana for more than 30 years.

### Appeal of species

Because of its striking appearance, strange habits and elusiveness, Picathartes appeals to birdwatchers, tourists and scientific researchers. Since the 1990s, it has become an iconic symbol and flagship species for conservation and eco-tourism in West Africa.

In Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire, a high proportion of individuals occurs in protected areas (see Appendix 1).

### Local Expertise and Interest

Local expertise and interest exists in West African ornithologists, game rangers and forest guards (e.g. Gondho Man of Cote d'Ivoire) and local community workers ( e.g Augustine Macfoy in the Gola forest). A Species Interest Group for Picathartes is functioning.

There is comprehensive, up to date information on the species in Sierra Leone. One Ph.D and several masters' degrees have been completed on the species in Sierra Leone

### Biology of the Species

The species is very long-lived and has bred in captivity, but stringent habitat requirements and low breeding success in some parts of its range may mean that the species is naturally rare. This will hamper any recovery programme

### 3. Action Programme

#### *Vision Aim and Objectives*

<i>Vision (10 years)</i>	<i>Description and justification</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<b>White-necked Picathartes down graded from vulnerable to near-threatened.</b>		

<i>Aim (5 years)</i>	<i>Description and justification</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<b>The populations of White-necked Picathartes are stable or increasing at “all” strongholds of the species in all range states</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007 count of individuals at all sites with &gt;1% of the total population (estimate) of White-necked Picathartes should not be less than 5% of baseline count.</li> <li>• Baseline count not later than 2004</li> </ul>

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Description and Justification</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1. Level of off-take across range states determined and these levels reduced by 10-20% in 5 years (♦ - ♦♦) <sup>3</sup>		
2. A realistic estimate of population size, distribution trends in all range states and data used to identify strongholds (♦♦♦♦)		
3. Breeding success at selected strongholds of the species determined and baseline levels increased by 10-20% (♦♦ - ♦♦♦)		
4. An enabling environment for White-necked Picathartes conservation by raising awareness among all stakeholders (especially local communities) (♦♦♦♦ - ♦♦♦♦♦)		
5. Management plans for white-necked Picathartes strongholds developed and implemented (♦♦♦)		
6. Unsustainable human-related development and activities at main White-necked Picathartes sites reduced by 50-75% in all range states (♦♦♦♦)		
7. White-necked Picathartes SAP incorporated in national conservation strategies (♦♦ - ♦♦♦)		

<sup>3</sup> Priority: ♦ low      ♦♦ medium      ♦♦♦ high      ♦♦♦♦ critical



## Projects

### *Objective 1: Level of off-take across range states determined and these levels reduced by 10-20% in 5 years*

1. National and international Surveys to determine off-take levels (field surveys, Zoos, bird parks and markets, CITES, TRAFFIC) using questionnaires, information exchange, interviews, assess demand, literature reviews (including Internet), market surveys, prices and direct observations.
2. Review existing laws (Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia?), strengthen and standardize among range states/facilitate enactment and enforcement of White-necked Picathartes conservation laws and CITES using literature review, lobbying, workshops, advocacy and publicity materials.
3. Training seminars and awareness raising campaigns to promote identification and publicize protected status: local communities, law enforcement officers, tourism operators, Zoos, bird trappers/exporters, custom officials, local NGOs, legislators.

### *Objective 2: A realistic estimate of population size, distribution trends in all range states and data used to identify strongholds*

1. Field surveys to determine estimate of population size and distribution in all range states (geological maps, data analysis to determine strongholds). Habitat assessment (including remote sensing).
2. Conduct regular field surveys to monitor selected strongholds during the breeding season at specific time periods. Habitat monitoring

### *Objective 3: Breeding success at selected strongholds of the species determined and baseline levels increased by 10-20%*

1. Undertake scientific study of breeding success and its determinants at selected strongholds in all range states (review in Sierra Leone). Monitoring of breeding success levels (review literature). Monitor environmental factors (food, weather conditions, vegetation, predation)
2. Institute and maintain wardening system at key sites (use local people, SSG?)

### *Objective 4: An enabling environment for White-necked Picathartes conservation by raising awareness among all stakeholders (especially local communities)*

1. Design, implement and monitor national and international advocacy and publicity programs including a standardized sensitization document: literature reviews, lobbying, workshops, advocacy and publicity materials.
2. Elaborate international and national training and capacity building program for all stakeholders (including experience exchange and visitors): emphasizing SSGs, local ornithologists and bird guides, local communities and representatives, local government officials, NGOs (communication personnel).
3. Establish and ensure functioning of SSGs at selected strongholds: promote income generating activities through livelihood programmes.
4. Ensure functioning of SIGs across all range states: produce and implement fundraising plans, information exchange between range states.

### *Objective 5: Management plans for white-necked Picathartes strongholds developed and implemented*

1. Identification of strongholds through surveys: finance, carry out surveys of sites, training staff to carry out surveys, estimate population size of Picathartes, fundraising and training personnel, use topography maps to select main areas for surveys and use local knowledge to select sites.
2. Produce and agree participative management plan and fundraising for implementation: assess and incorporate community knowledge and needs into management plan, assess and grade threats to individual strongholds.

***Objective 6: Unsustainable human-related development and activities at main white-necked Picathartes sites reduced by 50-75% in all range states***

1. Sensitization programme for local people to reduce threats from land clearance and fire and the importance of Picathartes for biodiversity conservation: sensitize local people, conduct workshop in local areas, funds, public address system.
2. Identify, develop and promote alternatives to unsustainable human activities: develop new activities and promote to local people, introduce improved methods of farming, introduce animal raising programme, alternatives to human activities, involvement of agricultural extension services in developing alternatives and also using local knowledge, funds, training personnel.
3. Monitor and assess the impact of human-related activities on the species and sites: socio-economic surveys, training personnel, necessary logistics (vehicles), funds, involve local people in monitoring human activities.
4. Assess legal status of human-related activities threatening sites and enforce law where appropriate
5. Determine the area around a site to ensure white-necked Picathartes survival at the site and lobby for its legal protection: use local knowledge to select potential white-necked Picathartes habitat for inclusion within protected areas, prohibit all agricultural activities around white-necked picathartes sites, define and protect white-necked Picathartes site.
6. Review legal aspects of landuse and status of enforcement; make recommendations for improvement and lobby for adoption of these improvements in national laws (e.g. mandatory EIAs): lobby forest authorities to ensure better monitoring of logging, encroachment and poaching

***Objective 7: White-necked Picathartes SAP incorporated in national conservation strategies***

1. Produce, agree and promote national SAP: distribution to receive comments from relevant stakeholders on viability, lobby for inclusion of SAP objectives in national conservation and development strategies, circulate and promote international action plan

**Table 4: Project table**

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Countries</b>	<b>Overall Priority</b>	<b>Agencies responsible</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Risks and opportunities</b>
	<b>A) Policy and Legislation</b>							
1.2	Review, strengthen & standardize laws (CITES)	All range states	◆◆ <sup>4</sup>	Implementing NGO & National Governments	2003-2005	◆◆ <sup>5</sup>	Review completed and publicized Existing legislation amended and publicized	Governments might not be interested in changing laws. Laws already in place in most range state
6.4	Assess legal status of human-related activities threatening sites and enforce law	All range states	◆◆◆	BirdLife partner or implementing NGO. In Liberia (FDA/SCNL).	SL – 2003. GU, LI, CI, GH – 2004		Legislation and activity assessed at all sites	
6.5	Determine an area around a site to ensure the survival of the white-necked Picathartes at the site and lobby for its legal protection	All range states	◆◆◆- ◆◆◆◆	BirdLife partner or implementing NGO plus forest dept. In Liberia FDA. In Cote d'Ivoire DPN.	2004			
7.1	Produce, agree and promote national SAP	All range state	◆◆◆	BirdLife partner or implementing NGO plus Forest Dept. In Liberia FDA.	In Sierra Leone 2004. All other range states 2003			
	<b>B) Species &amp; Habitat</b>							
3.2	Wardening at key sites	All range states	◆◆◆	Implementing NGO, SSG, Government staff	2003-2007	◆◆		Disturbance. Sustainable.
6.2	Identify, develop and promote alternatives to unsustainable human activities	All range states	◆◆◆- ◆◆◆◆	In Liberia FDA/SCNL. In Sierra Leone Forestry Division/CSSL. BirdLife partners and implementing NGOs	2005			
	<b>C) Monitoring &amp; Research</b>							
2.1	Field surveys for population distribution & habitat	All range state	◆◆◆◆	Implementing  NGOs, International NGOs,	2003-2007	◆◆◆		Some areas not accessible. Lack of trained personnel.

<sup>4</sup> Priority: ◆ low      ◆◆ medium      ◆◆◆ high      ◆◆◆◆ critical

<sup>5</sup> ◆ < US\$ 10,000      ◆◆ US\$ 10,000 – US\$ 50,000      ◆◆◆ US\$ >50,000

				Governments and SIG				Some existing expertise. Already some baseline information.
2.2	Monitoring populations and habitats	All range states	◆◆◆◆	Implementing NGO, International NGO, Governments, SIG, SSGs	2003-2007	◆◆◆		Some areas not accessible. Lack of trained personnel. Some existing expertise. Already some baseline information.
3.1	Study of breeding success at strongholds	All range states	◆◆◆	SIG, implementing NGO, Universities	2003-2007	◆◆◆		Some areas not accessible. Lack of trained personnel. Some existing expertise. Already some baseline information. Existing ringed population in Sierra Leone
5.1	Identification of strongholds through surveys	All range states	◆◆◆- ◆◆◆◆	In Liberia FDA/SCNL. In Sierra Leone Forestry Division/CSSL. Birdlife partners or implementing NGOs and Forest Depts.	2004			Security situation in some range states.
6.3	Monitor and assess the impact of human-related activities on the species and sites	All range states	◆◆◆	In Liberia FDA/SCNL. In Sierra Leone Forestry Division/CSSL. Birdlife partners or implementing NGOs and Forest Depts.	2003-2007			
	<b>D) Public awareness and Training</b>							
4.1	Advocacy and publicity programmes	All range states	◆◆◆	Implementing NGO and SIG	2003-2007	◆◆		May be seen as irrelevant. Charismatic species. May have cultural significance.
4.2	Training and capacity building for all stakeholders	All range states	◆◆◆◆	Local and International NGOs	2003-2006	◆◆◆		May be seen as irrelevant. General training incentive.
4.3	SSGs at strongholds	All range states	◆◆◆◆	Implementing NGO, other NGOs and local communities	2004-2007	◆◆		Might be seen as low priority. Cultural significance. Ecotourism.

								Community groups might already exist.
1.3	Training relating to offtake	All range states	◆	Implementing NGO and government	2006-2007	◆◆		Might not be interested. Captive breeding. Legally protected.
5.2	Produce and agree participative management plan and fundraise for implementation	All range state	◆◆◆	In Liberia FDA/SCNL. In Sierra Leone Forestry Division/CSSL. Birdlife partners or implementing NGOs and Forest Depts.	2004-2005			
6.1	Sensitization programme for local people to reduce threats from land clearance and fire and the importance of Picathartes for biodiversity conservation	All range states	◆◆◆- ◆◆◆◆	In Liberia FDA/SCNL. In Sierra Leone Forestry Division/CSSL. Birdlife partners or implementing NGOs and Forest Depts.	2005-2006			

### **Monitoring and evaluation (to be completed)**

Two columns indicating “date of achievement” and “remarks” will be added to the projects’ table and used as an M&E plan. The three major components in M&E were identified as:

1. Who? National Focal Points (including NGO and Government department) and International NGO should be involved in the M&E process

What? Progress on the implementation of the projects and impact

How? At the national level, participants agreed to conduct M&E every 6 months, and at the international level, annually. As part of the M&E, participants agreed that in 2007, the final report on the species should be used to update the SAP.

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**Appendix 1: Local distribution, numbers & protected area status of White-necked Picathartes colonies within range states**

Country	Region/Province	Site (IBA site no. if applicable)	PA status	No. of known colonies	No. of nests	References
Sierra Leone	Western Area	WAPF (SI007)	NhFR	8	18	Thompson (1997)
	Southern & Eastern provinces	Gola Forest (SL010)	FR	47	204	Allport, et al, (1989), Thompson (1997)
	Eastern Province	Kambui Hills (SL009)	FR	6	51	Thompson (1997)
		Kangari Hills (SL006)	NhFR	11	35	Ditto
		Dodo Hills	None	9	25	Ditto
	Northern Province	Loma Mountains (SL003)	NhFR	9	23	Ditto <i>Unconfirmed/ unpublished reports from Tama –Tonkoli (Woolfs, 1996; 300 nests) and Tingi Hills. May also possibly occur in Nimini Hills. Known not to occur in Dodo Hills</i>
Liberia	Lofa (Northwest)	Wologizi mountains (LR001)	None	Total of 116 colonies reported in all of Liberia	Not known	Gatter (1997); Fishpool & Evans (2001). <i>Gatter may have census figures</i>
	Lofa (Northwest)	Wonegizi mountains (LR002)	None	?	?	
	Lofa/Grand Cape mount (West)	Lofa-Mano (LR003)	None	?	?	
	Nimba (North)	Mt Nimba (LR004)	None	?	?	
	Grand Gedeh (North East)	Zwedru (LR006)	None	?	?	
	Sinoe	Sapo (LR008)	NP	?	?	
Guinea		Kounounkan (GN014)	FR	2 (rare)	14 (12 + 2)	Hayman (1995); High encounter rate – 3 birds seen in 10 days
		Massif du Ziama (GN016)	FR & BR	9	?	Halleux (1994 )
		Mont Nimba (GN017)	SNR, FR, BR, WHS	?	?	Fishpool & Evans, 2001
		Diecke (GN018)	FR	?	?	Fishpool & Evans, 2001
Ghana	Central region	Fumso	None?	?	?	McArdle (1958)
	Eastern region	Kwahu-Tafo	None?	?	?	Grimes and Darku (1968)
		Mpraeso	None	8	?	Grimes and Darku (1968)
	Ashanti region	Abetifi, Bekwai, Kumasi (to NW)	None?	?	?	Grimes and Darku (1968)

Country	Region/Province	Site (IBA site no. if applicable)	PA status	No. of known colonies	No. of nests	References
		Akwapim Hills	None?	?	?	Grimes (1987)
						<i>Last actual sightings date from 1960s. Main stronghold then southern scarp of Volta basin – Mampong Ashanti to Akwapim Hills. Not found during IBA surveys in 1990s</i>
Cote d'Ivoire	Man, Odiene (West)	Mont Sangbe	NP	2	5	Fishpool & Evans, 2001; Rainey (pers comm.)
	Man (West)	NP - CI002	SNR	1	6	Bruenel and Thiollay, 1969
		Mont Nimba CI003	FR	?	?	Fishpool & Evans, 2001
		Gieoule, Mont Glo, Mont Momi and Sangouine CI 004	NP FR	? 1	?	
	Abidjan (West)	Mont Peko NP – CI005	BR	2	34	<i>See Hilaire Yaokokore (1997); also Hugo Rainey, Guy Rondeau</i>
	Sassandra/Man (Southwest)	Lamto – CI009	NP, FnR, BR, WHS	6	6	Salewski et al, 2000
		Tai – CI011 (Mt Nieneokoue)	NP, FnR, BR, WHS			Gartshore et al, 1995; Gartshore, 1989)
						<i>Potential habitat in Cavally and Goin-Debe Forest reserves (CI008</i>

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.

## **Annex 7: Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the White-necked Picathartes Interest Group**

### **Lakka, Sierra Leone**

#### **Introduction:**

An inaugural meeting of the White-necked Picathartes Interest Group was held immediately after the end of Species Action Plan stakeholders workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2002 organised by the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, the BirdLife International Partner in Sierra Leone.

The Chairman of the meeting was Mr. Alhaji Siaka who happens to be the International Species Coordinator for White-necked Picathartes.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman thanked all members for their active participation in the development of the Action Plan. Their participation helped to update our knowledge of Picathartes in the range states which was very useful in developing this Action Plan. The task to take the Action Plan further lies in the hand of the SIG, as they will be involved in the implementation of the activities outlined in the action plan. They will also ensure that the Action Plan is being included into national biodiversity priorities.

The Chairman also expressed regret at the absence of our Ghanaian colleague in this meeting who left earlier for home because of flight arrangements. We recognized their presence though in absentia, he concluded.

#### **Participants List**

The following are members present and organisation or institution they represent:

	<u><b>Name</b></u>		<u><b>Organisation/Institution</b></u>
1.	Hazell Thompson	-	BirdLife International
2.	Alhaji Siaka	-	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
3.	Mohamed Mansaray	-	Wildlife Conservation, Forestry Division, Sierra Leone
4.	Evangeline Swope	-	Forestry Development Authority, Liberia
5.	Moses Massah	-	SCNL, Liberia
6.	Ibrahim Sory Conté	-	ONG – Guinee-Ecologie, Guinea
7.	Namory Keita	-	Direction Nationale des Eaux et forêts, Guinea
8.	Hugo Rainey	-	University of St. Andrews and CÔte D'Ivoire
9.	Aiah Lebbie	-	Njala University College, University of Sierra Leone
10.	Gilbert Koker-		Forestry Division, Sierra Leone

Absent were

1	Ishmael Dodoo	-	GWS-Ghana
2	Mike Adu-Nsiah	-	Wildlife Division –Ghana
3	Hilaire Beibro	-	Cote d'Ivoire

#### **Proposed Agenda Items**

The following were the proposed agenda items for adoption:

1. TORS
2. Election of Officer
3. Follow-up of International Species Action Plan Workshop
4. Country Report/Plan
5. Development of National Action Plans
6. Fundraising strategies
7. Communication link
8. Monitoring and evaluation
9. Next meeting
10. A.O.B.

The chairman together with members went through the above agenda items, which was agreed upon and later adopted for discussion.

## **Deliberations**

**Agenda 1:** Develop a Term of Reference (TOR) for White-necked Picathartes interest Group.

According to the chairman, the TOR stipulates what should be the function of the Species Interest Group or rather simply, how the group is expected to function in the protection and conservation of White-necked Picathartes across the Range states.

After some brainstorming among members for a TOR, Hazell gave a run down of the TOR for ASWG.

A term of reference was formulated by modifying the ASWG TOR but with emphasis on the White-necked Picathartes conservation.

The adopted TOR for White-necked Picathartes read as follows:

- Promote the conservation of White-necked Picathartes in its Range States.
- Ensure information exchange on White-necked Picathartes between member groups and individuals in all Range States
- Develop strategies for conservation of White-necked Picathartes in all Range States.
- Implement strategies and Plans through fundraising efforts.
- Exchange link with the African BirdLife Partnership through the ASWG.

**Agenda II:** Nomination and Election of Officers for White-necked Picathartes Interest Group.

This was democratically done by the members present through the process of nominations and election by casting of votes.

Three official positions were identified for election together with a deputy capacity.

The outcome of the election for officers of the White-necked Picathartes interest group is stated as follows:

- Species Interest Group Coordinator – Alhaji Siaka, Sierra Leone, unanimously elected unopposed.
- Deputy Coordinator – Monsieur Namory Keita – Guinea, also duly elected unopposed.
- Secretary for SIG – Mohamed Mansaray, Sierra Leone duly elected on a split ballot after a tie vote.
- Deputy Secretary, Evangeline Swope, Liberia.
- Fundraising Officer – Ishmael Doodoo, Ghana -nominated in absentia and was unanimously elected unopposed.

The following TOR were however highlighted for the SIG coordinator -responsibilities and relationships:

- That the White-necked Picathartes SIG Coordinator liaise with all National Species Coordinator members
- To look for opportunities where many people are present by bringing SIG members together in a meeting.
- The Coordinator and Fundraising Officer should work together in an effort to fundraise for SIG.

**Agenda III** Follow-up of the International Species Action Plan Workshop:

Dr. Hazell Thompson reminded members to start thinking of how to get the SAP implemented in their respective countries. He however advised that members should wait until SAP is communicated to member country for endorsement.

While waiting participants agreed to make it as a point of duty to report to their respective country's government and NGOs a summary of workshop activities. Also as part of a national information and awareness raising efforts, members were asked immediately on return home to put up a press release of the just concluded workshop. The agreed press release developed during the workshop should be modified to meet local needs of member countries.

Again member whilst back home should identify and make list of interested individuals/groups and also organisation that will like to promote the SAP.

As part of a follow-up it was suggested that members could make use of their websites to pass information on the SAP for White-necked Picathartes to individuals or organisation interested in Bird conservation. Also contributions can be made to scientific journals/magazines in promoting the interest of conservation of the species and also give support to the SIG.

Members should give report on the species status to the BSAP of their respective country for an input into a National SAP framework. As a commitment on their part, BirdLife International Africa and Guinea Ecologie promised to promote the SIG interest in their respective websites. Again together with coordinator they promised to further do searches for websites interested in bird information and establish link through e-mail with Africa Birding.

#### **Agenda IV Country Report and Plan:**

Members on the development of a country report/plan made series of suggestions and it was generally agreed in principle:

- Prepare brief country report/plan on White-necked Picathartes – this should be done for individual member country and further distributed among range members.
- Members should encourage interested local nationals as well as foreign-based nationals and create contacts.
- Members should organise and hold national workshop meetings and reports of such meetings be communicated to range members.

#### **Agenda V: Development of National Action Plan**

Following suggestions put forward by Messers Thompson, Koker and Keita, it was generally agreed that members wait until the International Action Plan comes out before a National Action Plan can be formulated. However, members should start thinking about their national action plan, identify and encourage interested individuals, funding organisation and establish contacts with them. As an interim measure members should try to create local interest group for White-necked Picathartes and also promote a national conservation and protection drive for survival of the species.

#### **Agenda VI: Funding Strategies**

Dr Thompson informed members that there exists a fundraising catalogue at BirdLife International, which can be of some importance by forwarding small concept proposal to be included among other lists of projects. The Fundraising Officer and Coordinator can both with concerted efforts develop a concept paper for the SIG for inclusion into the BirdLife project Catalogue.

As a complimentary effort Monsieur Keita and Conte from Guinea both promised to inform Coordinator of possible funding sources that can be contacted.

Other SIG members also pledged to inform of any area of possible funding that can be traced.

#### **Agenda VII: Communications**

This was considered the most vital in establishing information link and each member or organisation should be on an e-mail that is known to all other members.

Members were advised to establish regular and immediate response to e-mail messages, however short. The International Coordinator has to get hold of all e-mail of SIG members for ease of communication.

Members were also expected to write an interim country report on development made after the workshop. This progress report should be communicated to the coordinator by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002. Hugo Rainey representative from Cote d'Ivoire at present based in the UK was asked to make contact with Hiliare and give brief report on the international workshop. Also the coordinator must communicate the workshop report to Hiliare and the minute of the SIG meeting.

### **Agenda VIII: Monitoring and Evaluation**

This was deferred with regards to formulation and implementation of a National Species Action Plan on White-necked Picathartes by member range states and also with a proper functioning of the SIG.

### **Agenda IX: Next meeting**

The possibility of holding a next meeting of the White-necked Picathartes Interest Group is to be made known by the Coordinator to all members.

The Coordinator should look out for opportunity where a good number of the SIG members will be present or represented, and one such gathering is the African BirdLife Partnership meetings that provide such forum.

### **Agenda X: Any Other Business (AOB)**

Several issues were discussed among members by sharing useful country experiences on practical conservation measures and interests.

The focal point for White-necked Picathartes is obviously the National Coordinator of the species and a list was drawn up for each range member states.

	<b>Name</b>		<b>National Focal Point</b>
1.	Namory Keita	-	Direction Nationale des Eaux et forets, Guinea
2.	Moses Mensah Liberia	-	Society for Conservation of Nature Liberia (SCNL),
3.	Hugo/Hilaire -		University of St. Andrews and Côte D'Ivoire
4.	Ishmeal Dodo	-	Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS)
5.	Alhaji Siaka	-	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL)

**Report Submitted by;**  
Mohamed Mansaray  
Secretary

**Endorsed by;**  
Alhaji Siaka  
Coordinator

## PRESS RELEASE

Embargo-18<sup>th</sup> July 2002

### The survival of a globally threatened bird species assured

An International Action Plan to ensure survival of a bird species threatened with extinction in West Africa-The White-necked Picathartes was drawn up at an international workshop, hosted by the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone on behalf of the BirdLife International African Species Working Group at Lakka, Sierra Leone from 14-17 July 2002. This species is found only in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Guinea and has a population of less than 10,000 individuals in the world. Its population is low because of destruction of its forest habitat and low breeding success.

This five-day workshop brought together species experts, government officials, local environmental NGOs, members from the five White-necked Picathartes range states in West Africa and resource persons from Birdlife Partnership.

The project is coordinated by Nature Uganda and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (the BirdLife Partners in Uganda and UK respectively) and is funded by the UK Government under the Darwin Initiative for the survival of species.

The Minister of Land Country Planning Forestry and the Environment officially opened this workshop and pledged Sierra Leone Government full commitment to ensure the successful implementation of the outcome of this workshop.

For further information and photographs contact:

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Conservation Society of Sierra Leone,  
4 Sanders Street, Freetown.

Tel: 229716

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2) Mohamed Mansaray

WildLife Branch

Forestry Division




Youyi Building

Brookefields

Freetown



Annex 9: Daily Evaluation/ Moodometer

			
Day 1	●		●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
Day 2			●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
Day 3		●●●●●	●●●●●●●
Day 4			●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
Day 5			●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
Overall			●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●