



Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Annual Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Ref. Number	<i>162/10/019 follow up project</i>
Project Title	<i>Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa (Follow-Up Project)</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Africa, particularly: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe</i>
UK Contractor	<i>The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)</i>
Partner Organisation(s)	<i>BirdLife Africa Partnership in 18 countries, Endangered Wildlife Trust.</i>
Darwin Grant Value	
Start/End dates	<i>1 April 2004 - 31 March 2006</i>
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and report number (1,2,3..)	<i>1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005</i>
Project website	<i>http://www.birdlife.net/action/science/species/african_sap/index.html</i>
Author(s), date	<i>Paul Buckley, Paul Kariuki Ndang'ang'a April 2005</i>

2. Project Background

This is a follow-up project of the original Phase 1 project "Actions for the Conservation of Globally-threatened Birds in Africa" which ran from April 2001 to March 2004. The original project developed from the realisation that species work within the BirdLife Africa Partnership was limited, there was no mechanism for agreeing regional priorities and very little species funding available for partners. The project was to promote participative action planning for globally threatened birds in Africa, and was implemented by 17 mainland BirdLife Africa Partners to train African conservationists in principles and methods of species conservation. Following the development of an African format and process for producing Species Action Plans (SAPs), 7 International and 15 National SAPs for 7 priority globally threatened species were prepared through participative stakeholder workshops.

Like the original project, this follow-up project was conceived and developed by the BirdLife Africa Partnership, led by its Africa Species working Group, with support from the Africa Secretariat and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the BirdLife Partner in the UK and is being implemented in 18 BirdLife Africa partner countries. It will allow for consolidation of the achievements of the first phase and particularly to support the development of the Species Interests Groups (SIGs) established in Phase 1 to coordinate implementation of the SAPs produced. As such,

further support is required for individuals involved in coordinating SIGs, in order for these groups to function effectively. Specific training needs for these people had to be identified and a training programme developed. Many of the same individuals from the BirdLife partners, who participated in the original project would undertake a training course and then train other members of SIGs.

3. Project Purpose and Outputs

The project purpose is: 'Sustainable mechanisms and capacity established that together are delivering priority actions for globally threatened bird species in Africa'.

This project purpose takes the action plan process from plan production (as the key outcome of the original project) to implementation, through two years of enabling activities that will help ensure long-term sustainability for the Species Interest Groups and the underlying concept of participatory action.

The project has the following seven outputs:

1. Species Action Plan delivery training programme developed and produced
2. capacity of trainers enhanced to deliver Species Action Plan training programmes
3. project planning, fundraising and project management capacity of Species Interest Groups enhanced
4. advocacy and communication capacity of Species Interest Groups enhanced
5. research and monitoring capacity of Species Interest Groups enhanced
6. Species Action Plan implementation by Species Interest Groups initiated in a range of countries
7. Species Action Plan development and implementation process secured within national conservation strategies.

The first five of these outputs create the capacity to deliver Species Action Plans, primarily through training with extensive input from RSPB and BirdLife personnel. The sixth result promotes a baseline of action by the Species Interest Groups. The final result ensures that sustainable mechanisms are put in place.

The outputs have not been modified over the last year.

4. Progress

Progress to date

This is a follow-up project of the original Phase 1 project that has been briefly described in section 2 above. Phase 1 project developed an African format and process for producing Species Action Plans (SAPs) and produced 7 International and 15 National SAPs for 7 priority globally threatened bird species. Basically, this follow-up project moves from the stage of producing SAPs to their implementation, and building the capacity of and enabling Species Interest Groups to drive the SAP implementation process is a major component of the project.

See annex 1 for summary of progress over the last year against the agreed baseline timetable. There was no major difference or problem in following the baseline timetable during this reporting period. However, the project team spent some time finalising the publications for the original project (Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally threatened Birds in Africa), which were not completed during period of that project, as these are an essential precursor to successful capacity building of Species Interest Groups (who were also involved in the finalisation process). This did not affect the outputs of the Follow-Up Project in any way, but led to some delay in

holding the first workshop. To give the project staff enough time to prepare for this workshop, which had been planned for October 2004, and to avoid a busy period for many of the participants, the timing for the workshop was changed from October 2004 to February/March 2005. The other training workshop is however on schedule.

Achievements

1. Training

Training has been the main component of the project in the last year. The major training activities were carried out:

- The Project Coordinator and Adviser attended a 'training for trainers' course in the UK in June 2004 which was delivered by the RSPB training experts. The Species Action Plan delivery training programme and training modules were put together by the project adviser and coordinator in June 2004. The training modules that were developed included: (a) project planning, (b) fundraising, (c) project management, (d) advocacy, (e) communication, and (f) research and monitoring.
- The first three of these modules were delivered in the first training workshop that was held in South Africa for two weeks in February-March 2005. The workshop was facilitated by two RSPB experts and the Project adviser. The Project leader from RSPB also attended and helped with facilitation and outlined the project workplan as well as deriving some insights on the impact of the project on the SIG representatives. It was attended by 14 SIG representatives from 13 BirdLife Africa partner countries. The incoming Project Coordinator was in attendance then as an SIG representative. A workshop report that serves as the training manual for the modules delivered will be distributed to all partner countries. The participants were able to identify further training needs, and the next training workshop will cover them.

2. Planning

The first training workshop also enabled the representatives from the various host countries to plan/prioritise activities for their respective countries as relates to implementation of the project and further development of SAPs.

3. Plan implementation

Several organisations have made good progress with securing resources for and/or implementing species action plans. For example Blue Swallow work has begun or continued in Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Uganda. Work on White necked Picathartes has increased substantially in Ghana (research) and Sierra Leone (site conservation). Grauers Rush Warbler projects are underway in Rwanda and Uganda. Work on Spotted Ground Thrush continues in Kenya and on Houbara Bustard in Tunisia. A number of other partners have produced proposals to work on these and other species which have not yet been funded.

Difficulties

The main project co-ordinator who was the BirdLife Africa Species Working Group Co-ordinator based in Nature Uganda (Dr Eric Sande) secured a new role with Makerere University. Another coordinator (Mr Paul K. Ndong'ang'a), now based in the BirdLife International Africa Regional Office in Nairobi has now been recruited and will continue with the work. He was previously the Kenya National Species Coordinator so is already well versed in the project. Steven Evans, the Project Adviser, also moved on from his employment with BirdLife South Africa in August 2004. However agreement was secured with his new employers the Endangered Wildlife Trust, that he continue to be involved to implement the training component of

the project. Finally Paul Buckley replaced Dieter Hoffmann as Project Leader for the RSPB.

None of these changes have caused difficulties as such but have contributed to a slowdown in project progress as people learn their new roles. The departure of the previous coordinator did mean that we made more use of RSPB trainers for the workshop than had originally been intended.

Some countries were not able to be represented at the first workshop due to problems with clashing dates, visa refusal and airline cancellations. The five focal persons who were missing will be handed copies of the workshop report and fully briefed on a 1:1 basis by project staff or RSPB/BirdLife Country programme Officers. The original application envisaged between 20 and 25 trainees so as to incorporate international plan leaders and national focal points – in the event we were able to invite all of these with a lower total number, since a number of individuals fulfil both roles.

Species conservation in Africa continues to suffer from under resourcing. This is both in terms of personnel since almost all of the participants in this project are undertaking species coordination roles in addition to much other work and in terms of availability of project funds. In particular species conservation is proving hard to raise funds for, since outside the Darwin Initiative, so few funds are available for programmes which focus primarily on species protection, rather than livelihoods led site work. This has slowed the pace of and ability of the partners to progress action plan implementation. We hope that after the training programmes the pace of this will pick up but unquestionably the problem will remain.

The design of the project has not changed.

Workplan for 2005/2006

The second training workshop that is going to deliver the remaining modules is scheduled for June 2005 and will be held in Uganda. In particular, the following topics will be delivered: Communications and Advocacy, Environmental Policy, Global Conventions, Campaigns, Press releases, Research and Monitoring.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Key milestones</i>
<i>June 05</i>	<i>Advocacy/research and monitoring modules of the training programme delivered</i>
<i>December 05</i>	<i>Species Interest Group annual review meetings completed and project register compiled</i>
<i>December 05</i>	<i>Advocacy and other communication materials prepared by each SIG</i>
<i>March 06</i>	<i>Advocacy and other communication materials published and distributed by each SIG</i>

March 06	<i>Species monitoring programmes initiated by each SIG</i>
March 06	<i>At least one species conservation project underway in each country</i>
March 06	<i>At least 10 governments involved in implementation of 7 international and 10 national Species Action Plans</i>

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

This is the first phase of this follow up project. The final project evaluation made a number of suggestions for refinement to the future programme. In the main these had already been incorporated into the follow up proposal, in particular in relation to more realistic budgeting. There was a feeling that the project was more associated with RSPB/Darwin than was necessarily optimal. We have tried to address this by ensuring the management of the programme is led more heavily by the African partners rather than by the RSPB, although this was slowed by the departure of the Project Coordinator and the Project Adviser. The location of the new coordinator within the BirdLife partnership office in Kenya should help to cement its place in the heart of the African partnership's work programme.

6. Partnerships

The collaboration between Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the UK partner, and the host country partners (BirdLife Africa Partnership) during the project has been cordial and has continued to enable effective delivery the project outputs as planned and described in the original project proposal. The RSPB hosted the Project Coordinator and Adviser during a 'training for trainers' course and the preparation of training modules for the SIG coordinators. The Project Adviser co-facilitated the first training workshop with assistance from two British experts from the RSPB. Further British expertise will be sought in the next (June 2005) training workshop. The project leader based in RSPB continued to oversee smooth operation of the project, especially sourcing the RSPB trainers, discussing insights during the first training workshop and (in collaboration with the Head of BirdLife Africa Secretariat) ensuring a smooth transition between the outgoing and the incoming Project Coordinators. The (ex and current) project leaders represented RSPB in both project steering committees that have been held so far (see Annex 2).

Nature Uganda, the BirdLife International partner in Uganda hosted the outgoing Project Coordinator from the onset of the project. By common agreement between Nature Uganda, the Project Steering Committee and the RSPB, the new Africa Species Working Group Coordinator (Mr. Paul Kariuki Ndang'ang'a) starting 15 April 2005 is now based at the BirdLife Africa Secretariat in Nairobi. Nature Uganda was also represented in both Project steering committee meetings.

The Project Adviser, based at BirdLife South Africa, secured a new role with another South African NGO in October 2004. We have secured agreement with this new employers the Endangered Wildlife Trust that he will continue to be involved in the project training courses, and he also remains very involved with some of the Species Interest Groups. This should not affect the project outputs but may require some structural and timing changes in the next period.

The BirdLife Africa Regional Office in Nairobi continued to be represented on both Project Steering Committee meetings and the BirdLife Africa Species Working Group ASWG by the Head of Africa Division. The office has continued to provide support for continued delivery of the project and from 15 April 2005 started hosting the project coordinator.

Collaboration with a number of other projects and institutions has either continued or been strengthened from the previous project. This includes some regional linkages with for example for the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and with IUCN. There are many more collaborations at national level, for example with the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa, with the International Crane Foundation in Zimbabwe, with Wildlife Conservation Society in Rwanda and with the Ministry of Environment in Egypt. We expect many additional partnerships to be forged during year 2 as the focus moves from training to implementation.

7. Impact and Sustainability

The SIG members who are targeted for training are people who are keen and interested in conservation of particular species and represent all the 18 BirdLife Africa partner countries. By the end of the two training sessions they will have obtained training in fundraising, marketing, SIG management, project management, monitoring and evaluation and species management.

The skills gained are being passed on to others through an established framework of species experts in Africa. This has already started leading to development of new SIGs, beyond those which are the immediate subject of this project for example on Shoebill, Grey Crowned Crane, Seabirds. It is hoped that this will greatly improve the effectiveness of conservation work in Africa. The skills gained are already being used by some of the SIGs to continuously fundraise for conservation of their species of interest with the assistance of ASWG and the RSPB. The SIGs are hoped to act as a novel and effective fundraising vehicle for many new and innovative partnerships of stakeholders.

The existing evidence for increased interest and capacity for biodiversity conservation can be demonstrated by:

- Initiatives to fundraise for implementation of SAPs produced from the original project have already been started by some of the SIG representatives , e.g. Blue Swallow, Spotted Ground Thrush, Grauer's Rush Warbler, White-necked Picathartes.
- During the first training workshop, participants indicated which species of interest they would start projects for, made presentations on species they are already working on, and made a commitment to come up with at least one project idea for their countries by the time the second workshop is delivered.

Rather than an exit strategy per se, effective implementation of these action plans will require continued inputs over a long period of time. RSPB and the BirdLife International partnership is committed to continuing with these projects for as long as is needed. Achieving well funded sustainable conservation action will be a challenge given the paucity of funds for this type of conservation action and the many competing elements of many participants workloads. Much of the work should probably focus at the national level, at least initially. We feel that one of the single most important elements of a sustainable programme will be the identification of one or more individuals in each country with the passion, time and commitment to see an effective conservation programme through. These people may take time to identify but our aim will be to increase the profile and scope of action plan implementation in each country which will make the appearance of such individuals more likely.

8. Post-Project Follow up Activities (max 300 words)

This section is not applicable to our follow up programme.

9. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

So far the outputs have been achieved as initially planned although there was delay in delivery of the first training workshop as explained in section 4. No additional outputs have so far been achieved; however, some of the publications for the original project which were not completed during the period of that project were completed during this project and widely distributed since they were an essential precursor to successful capacity building of SIGs. This has so far not affected the outputs of the follow-up project in any way.

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

Code No.	Quantity	Description
Training		
6A	2	1 Project Coordinator (Ugandan) and 1 Project Adviser (South African) attend training for trainers course in UK in June 2004
6A	14	Representatives from International and national SIGs receive 2 weeks participative training in project planning, fundraising and project management: Nationalities: Burundi (1), South Africa (2), Ethiopia(1), Zimbabwe(1), Kenya(1), Ghana(1), Nigeria(1), Zambia(1), Uganda(1), Seychelles(1), Egypt(1), Tanzania(1) and Rwanda(1) This was less than hoped since some participants were not able to attend the meeting. We will follow up with representatives from the other 5 countries on a 1:1 basis.
7	18	Training manuals in form of workshop reports will be sent to all participating partner countries
Research		
8	6	UK Staff spent one week on project management activities and five weeks on training delivery
Dissemination		
14	1	The findings of the project were presented at the 11 th Pan African Ornithological Conference in November 2004 in Tunisia
17b	6	6 Species Interest/Working Groups were further enhanced
23	£58,532.43	This includes £XXX from RSPB, £XXX from Nature Uganda and £XXX from other BirdLife partners. Other inputs of staff time and volunteer time from other collaborators is not included, nor is funding leveraged for related projects from other donors.

Most of the above outputs are on schedule. There were some delays to project activities and in particular we anticipated spending some funds on advocacy materials for plan implementation. This will now be completed in Year 2. Less participants attended workshop 1 than we hoped but their involvement will be assured in other ways and we hope that more will attend workshop 2.

We were unable to achieve much publicity this year partly due to staff shortages in the periods between coordinators. In addition having been very successful in raising publicity during the development of the plans, we now need to make significant progress on implementation before seeking more. We hope to achieve more on this during Year 2.

10. Project Expenditure

Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April 2004 to 31 March 2005)

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (e.g. postage, telephone)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others			
Salaries (specify)			
Eric Sande (ASWG Co-ordinator)			
Steven Evans (Training Co-ordinator)			
Nick Folkard (Workshop Facilitator)			
Ken Smith (Workshop Facilitator)			
TOTAL			

Over half the annual spend was concentrated on the training workshop which took place in late February / early March in South Africa. Expenditure on the Travel and subsistence budget line has been significantly lower than expected during the year due to lower workshop travel costs partly brought about by to a change in venue, and partly from the unexpected but unavoidable absences of some delegates.

The conference and printing budget lines were largely unspent due to the lack of necessity to hire any workshop venue and the underproduction of advocacy materials caused by delays following the resignation of the project co-ordinator. This resignation also explains why additional staff had to be drafted in to cover his absence at the workshop. Whilst this did mean we had to overspend on salaries, this was below the 10% variance limits.

A formal request to carry over the remaining £4,500 into the 05/06 financial year was made in February 2005. We wait to hear whether that this has been accepted.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

The Darwin Project Steering Committee monitors the progress of this project and approves the work plan. The committee consists of RSPB, BirdLife International Africa Regional Office, Nature Uganda, ASWG Coordination Committee and ASWG Coordinator. The committee uses project progress reports, minutes of project meetings, workshop reports and progress reports to Darwin to periodically assess the progress of the project. Two project steering committee meetings have been held since the onset of this project: (1) In June 2004 in UK and (2) in November 2004 in Tunisia. However, the committee discusses issues as they arise through email communication and opportunistic meetings between members.

The committee measures the indicators of achievements for the project in terms of key training modules and indicators that measure the success of SIGs in terms of projects, funds and wider stakeholder involvement.

A number of lessons have been learned from this year's work that will help to enhance the smooth operation and effectiveness of the project in future.

- A possibly inevitable delay in both finalising production of species action plans in their final versions and in summoning the energy to moving from preparation to implementation. In some cases different individuals were more suited to the two phases of the project and combined with staff changes this delayed things. In the long term this should not be a problem as the momentum has so far been maintained
- Raising funds to implement the plans is proving to be even harder than anticipated. This can sap morale among already overworked individuals and will require redoubled efforts both by project staff and through engaging others in their organisations
- Most effective conservation action results from the inspirational leadership by one or more individuals who have a real passion and commitment for a particular species or place. The species coordinators will sometimes be these people but more often their job is going to be to find them and facilitate their work before moving on to repeat the job for other threatened species. In many cases we still need to identify these individuals. Broadening the awareness of the programme as widely as possible throughout the staff and volunteers of the partner organisation is a critical part of this.
- While the focus of the original project was to a large degree on the international plans, we feel that much of the implementation is likely to occur at the national level. This is where we propose to focus for the remainder of the project. The international plans are enormously valuable as are the international networks that have been created, especially for regional advocacy, fundraising and experience sharing. However it is going to be important to demonstrate impact and achievement at the national level before we can expect to capitalise on the experience gained at the international level.

12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)

■ **I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section**

Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa is

a follow-up project to a successful Darwin programme which was managed by the RSPB and the BirdLife International Africa Partnership between 2001 and 2004. The original project developed an African format and process for producing Species Action Plans (SAPs) and produced 7 International and 15 National SAPs for 7 priority globally threatened bird species. The follow-up project moves from the stage of producing SAPs to their implementation, and building the capacity of and enabling Species Interest Groups to drive the SAP implementation process is a major component of the project.

In the first year of the programme the two major activities have been training and project development. Training modules in project planning, fundraising, and project management were delivered in the first training workshop that was held in South Africa in February 2005. The workshop was facilitated by three RSPB experts and the Project adviser and attended by 14 species coordinators from 13 African partner countries. The incoming Project Coordinator was in attendance then as an SIG representative. The participants were able to identify further training needs, and the next training workshop will cover these, focusing on research and monitoring and advocacy and communications.

Several organisations have made good progress with securing resources for and/or implementing species action plans. For example Blue Swallow conservation work has begun or continued in Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Uganda. Work on White necked Picathartes has increased substantially in Ghana (research) and Sierra Leone (site conservation). Grauers Rush Warbler projects are underway in Rwanda and Uganda. Work on Spotted Ground Thrush continues in Kenya and on Houbara Bustard in Tunisia.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2004/2005

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2004-Mar 2005	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose: Sustainable mechanisms and capacity established that together are delivering priority actions for globally threatened bird species in Africa.</p>	<p>Resourced action initiated in 17 countries on at least 30% of the SAP target actions listed for the relevant time period by the end of 2005, and for at least 50% of the of these actions by the end of 2007</p> <p>SIG annual review meetings continue to be attended by at least 80% of the relevant countries throughout the period between 2005 and 2010</p>	<p>Substantial Species action underway by partners in at least 11 countries</p>	<p>Redouble efforts to secure additional funds and commence new and expand existing programmes</p>
<p>Outputs</p>			
<p>1. SAP delivery training programme developed and produced</p>	<p>Programme produced by July 2004</p>	<p>Two Project Steering Committee meetings were held: (1) in the UK in June 2004, and (2) in Tunisia in November 2004, to plan detailed implementation of the project. In addition, the Project Adviser and Project Coordinator put together the following training modules with help from RSPB specialist staff: (a)</p>	<p>Next steering committee due July 2005. Work programme and training schedule to be refined in the light of experiences in Year 1 and training workshop 1</p>

		project planning, (b) fundraising, (c) project management, (d) advocacy, (e) communication, and (f) research and monitoring	
2. Capacity of trainers enhanced to deliver SAP training programmes	Trainers attend training sessions by July 2004	The Training Coordinator and Project Coordinator undertook a 'Training for Trainers' course in the UK in preparation for delivering the modules described above. They also discussed a wide range of facilitation techniques and lessons learned with RSPB training and technical staff.	Complete refinement of training programme for workshop 2 scheduled for June 2005
3. Project planning, fundraising and project management capacity of SIGs enhanced	20–25 representatives from international and national SIGs receive 2 weeks participative training before October 2004	The first three modules of the training programme (project planning, fundraising and project management) were delivered to the National Species Action Plan/Species Interest Group Coordinators in February/March 2005 in one of the two planned training workshops that was held in South Africa.	Final report of the workshop to be completed. Briefing for those unable to attend.
4. Advocacy and communication capacity of SIGs enhanced	20–25 representatives from international and national SIGs receive 1 week's participative training before July 2005	Training programme developed	These modules are scheduled to be delivered in the second training workshop to be held in June 2005 in Uganda
5. Research and monitoring capacity of SIGs enhanced	20–25 representatives from international and national SIGs receive 1 week's participative training	Training programme developed	These modules are scheduled to be delivered in the second training workshop to be held in June 2005 in

	before July 2005		Uganda
6. Species Action Plan implementation by SIGs initiated in a range of countries	At least one species conservation project underway in each country by March 2006	A number of countries are already embarking on aspects of Species Action Plan implementation. For example, work has started on Grauer's Scrub Warbler in Rwanda, Blue Swallow in Uganda and South Africa, and White-necked Picathartes in Sierra Leone. The Houbara Bustard Species Interest Group is becoming increasingly well organised.	ASWGC to work with individual partners to enhance their species conservation work over the next year
7. Species Action Plan development and implementation process secured within national conservation strategies	At least 10 governments involved in the implementation of 7 international and 10 national SAPs	Government officials are being brought into the above processes wherever possible.	National Species Coordinators to maintain their contact with government officials involved in the earlier plans. Involve them in individual projects as they develop

Annex 2 Notes of steering committee meetings