

Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa

International Spotted Ground Thrush, *Zoothera guttata*, Action Plan
Turtle Bay Beach, Watamu, Kenya, 5-9 May 2003

Stakeholder Workshop Report



International Species Co-ordinator for Spotted Ground Thrush

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Summary

A workshop to draw up the international species action plan for the conservation of the Spotted Ground Thrush, *Zoothera guttata*, a globally threatened bird species, was held in Turtle Bay Beach, Watamu, Kenya, from 5th to 9th May 2003. The workshop brought together species experts, various national environmental NGO representatives and government officials from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania.

This was the fifth of 7 international stakeholder workshops aimed at compiling international species action plans for globally threatened birds in the 3 year BirdLife International Species Action Plan Project. The project is being implemented by 17 BirdLife Africa partner organisations and the RSPB. Funding for the project is provided by the RSPB and the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) under the Darwin Initiative. The format and process used in the preparation of this plan has contributed significantly to raising awareness of the species amongst a broad range of stakeholders and building the capacity of participants to undertake species conservation in a structured approach.

The long-term vision of the International Spotted Ground Thrush Action Plan is to ensure the long-term survival of a viable population; such that the Spotted Ground Thrush is ultimately removed from the IUCN Red Data list. The aim is to improve knowledge on the distribution, conservation biology and status of the species and the population stabilised. The objectives of the plan include assessing the natural population dynamics of the species, and, determining and conserving the breeding, non-breeding and stop-over sites of the species throughout its range

Successful implementation of this action plan requires a concerted effort and cooperation from all the different stakeholders. In his opening remarks, Mr Tito Mbuvi, Director, Centre of Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Gede, and Secretary for the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Management Team emphasized the importance of involving local communities and other stakeholders adjacent to Spotted Ground Thrush sites, if conservation actions are to succeed in the long term.

1. General introduction

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

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 stakeholders from all range states and has been accepted as the standard for BirdLife International in Africa.

Spotted Ground Thrush, *Zoothera guttata*, is among the 7 globally threatened bird species in Africa that has been chosen for the development of an international species action plan under the SAP project. It is an intra-African migrant classified as Endangered because it has very small and severely fragmented area of occupancy, throughout which its woodland habitat continues to be degraded and destroyed.

2. Workshop

2.1 Introduction

The workshop was organised by the BirdLife African Species Working Group and hosted by Nature Kenya. Participants included NGO representative (National Species Action Plan Coordinators or contact persons) and their government counterparts from each of the Spotted Ground Thrush range - states, Scientific experts and representatives from research institutions. The workshop was facilitated by Eric Sande of Nature Uganda, Steven Evans of BirdLife South Africa and Kariuki Nding'ang'a of Nature Kenya/National Museums of Kenya.

2.2 Workshop Programme and Implementation

The workshop process followed the species action plan format developed as a component of completing this project (Annex 1). Sessions included limited presentations and primarily 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 consensus achieved before proceeding with the next section. Each day commenced with the facilitator summarising the previous day and ended with a simple evaluation exercise. The workshop programme is shown in Annex 2 and below is a summary of major sessions.

Day One-5th May

2.2.1 Introduction

The workshop was opened by Mr Tito Mbuvi, Director, Centre of Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Gede and Secretary for the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Management Team. Mr Mbuvi emphasized the importance of involving local communities and other stakeholders adjacent to Spotted Ground Thrush sites if conservation actions are to succeed in the long term. Using cards, participants then introduced themselves, outlined their names, organisation, position, where they are based, experience in species conservation and their expectations from the workshop. Participants' details and expectations are shown in Annex 3 and Annex 4 respectively. A general overview of the African Species Working Group, the SAP project and its progress (Annex 5) were presented. Participants were then introduced to the rules for brainstorming onto cards and flip charts during workshops (Annex 6) to acquaint them with workshop these techniques and ensure efficiency and productivity.

2.2.2 Background information about the Spotted Ground Thrush

The Spotted Ground Thrush background material, that had been circulated to the participants ahead of the workshop, was presented. Participants had another opportunity of providing new information where appropriate and make corrections where necessary. The participants formed country groups and filled in the gaps in the background material on a country by country basis. This included new country specific information on population status, distribution and seasonal occurrence, local distribution, numbers, protected area status of the species, national legislation and signatories to international conservation treaties and on-going in country projects that may benefit the Spotted Ground Thrush. Participants then brainstormed factors affecting successful implementation of the action plan (risks and opportunities).

Day two-6th May

2.2.3 Press Release and Stakeholder Analysis

After a short presentation on preparing a good press release and why it is needed in the development of an action plan, a small group was appointed to prepare one, for inclusion in the report. Participants from each range state were asked to identify the major stakeholders of their respective country, the stakeholders' interests, activities, impact of activities on the Spotted Ground Thrush (positive or negative), intensity of the impact (low, medium, high, critical) and proposed activities that may be included in the action plan.

2.2.4 Identification of main threats for Spotted Ground Thrush

This was done using a card based approach for collecting the ideas. The Spotted Ground Thrush is classified as Endangered because it has a low population estimate (<10,000 birds), which is caused mainly by unnatural low productivity and a continuing decline of mature individuals. Considerations are that the species may have a naturally low population and that there is very limited data on population size and distribution over much of its range. Participants brainstormed the direct causes which included: low food availability, disease, predation, nest destruction, limited breeding and non-breeding sites, limited suitable nest sites, nest abandonment, infertility and unbalanced sex ratios.

2.2.5 Problem tree

Participants were divided into three groups that analysed the following threats/issues:

- **Group 1:** -
 - Low productivity
 - Disease
 - Predation
 - Nest destruction
- **Group 2:**
 - Infertility
 - Unbalanced sex ratios
 - Nest abandonment
- **Group 3:**
 - High adult/juvenile mortality
 - Limited breeding and non-breeding sites
 - Limited suitable nest sites

Each group analysed the direct causes of the threats/issues to develop the cause-effect relationships of the branches of the problem tree, and the ultimate threats to the Spotted Ground Thrush.

Day Three-7th May

2.2.6 Field visit

Participants had a chance to visit Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserve, a key site for the species in Kenya, to see and appreciate the specialised habitat of Spotted Ground Thrush. Figure 1 shows the some of the participants while in the Spotted Ground Thrush habitat in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Figure 1: Showing some of participants in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest ringing birds guided by Collin Jackson and Kariuki Ndang'ang'a



Day Four-8 May

2.2.7 Prioritisation of main threats

Through a facilitated discussion in a plenary session, participants agreed on the cause and effect relationship of all the threats to the Spotted Ground Thrush and prioritised all the threats and their causes in the problem tree by assigning the following threat levels: low (◆), medium (◆◆), high (◆◆◆) and critical (◆◆◆◆). Participants then agreed on a standard press release that will be modified and published to fit the different country conditions.

2.2.8 Vision, aim and objectives of the Action Plan

Participants agreed that the plan should have a life span of 5 years. In plenary and based on the issues/threats in the problem tree, participants identified the aim, vision and 4 objectives of the Spotted Ground Thrush action plan. Participants prioritised all the objectives according to low (◆), medium (◆◆), high (◆◆◆) and critical (◆◆◆◆) in as far as the conservation of the species is concerned .

2.2.9 Formulation of project concepts and indicators for the objectives

Participants were divided into 4 groups according to the 4 objectives. Each group was asked to develop projects that will achieve the objective and develop indicators for the objective. The projects

were then presented to the plenary, discussed and agreed. Participants then reviewed suggested activities in the stakeholder analysis and the problem tree to check that all the issues were included in the designed projects and refined the projects accordingly.

Day Five-9 May

2.2.10 Completion of the projects' Table

In the same groups as section 2.2.10, participants completed the projects table using the heading Policy and legislation, Species and habitat, Monitoring and research, Public awareness and training and Community involvement. The following were highlighted: the project's overall priority (low, medium, high and critical), agencies responsible, time scale, cost (low=<US\$ 10,000, medium =US\$ 10,000–US\$ 50,000, high =US\$ >50,000), indicators and risks and opportunities specific to each project. Each group presented in the plenary for consensus. The factors affecting the implementation of the action plan were then reviewed to assess whether the risks and the opportunities that may hinder or enhance the implementation of the plan were noted and considered.

2.2.11 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan

Participants agreed that it is important to monitor the implementation of the Spotted Ground Thrush action plan and that the projects table (sect. 2.2.10) should be used in the M & E reporting format by adding one column for completion date and another for remarks. With help from the network of experts and SIG members, the national SIGs should compile annual workplans and reports by 1st June channel them through the International Spotted Ground Thrush Coordinator to the African Species Working Group to ensure concerted and coordinated action.

2.2.12 Species Interest Groups

In the plenary, participants were given a presentation on how the BirdLife International African Species Working Group and SIGs fit in the overall BirdLife International structure, the SIGs already in place, those that are being developed and the tools that are currently in place developed by the BirdLife International African Species Working Group to support species conservation work in Africa. Participants agreed to form an International Spotted Ground Thrush Interest Group.

2.2.13 Next steps

Activity	Timeline	Responsible
Workshop Report	Last week of May 2003	ES/SE
Draft 1 to sent to everyone	1st week June 2003	Kariuki
Draft 1: Reviewed & back to KN	4 th week of June 2003	Editors
Draft 2: comments included	3 rd week of July 2003	KN
Draft 2 reviewed	3 rd week of August 2003	ASWG
Printed and distributed	2 nd week of Sept 2003	RSPB
Implementation		SGT Working Group

ES=Eric Sande, SE=Steve Evans, KN=Kariuki Ndan'ang'a, SGT=Spotted Ground Thrush

3. Results

With 16 participants from 5/7 range states (Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania) representing NGOs, governments, research institutions and species experts, the workshop was well attended. Unfortunately, Mozambique and Sudan were not represented. The results of the workshop were incorporated in the first draft of species action plan presented in Annex 7.

In the draft plan, the gaps and new information on the population status, local distribution and national legislation for different countries are presented as tables 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The stakeholders for the Spotted Ground Thrush and how they impact on the species are shown in Table 4. The cause-effect relationship of the issues/threats affecting the Spotted Ground Thrush and their relative importance to the conservation of the species (i.e. priority issues/threats) are shown in the Problem Tree (Figure 3). The vision, aim and objectives of the plan are indicated in Table 5. The projects/activities, their relative importance to each project for conserving the species, agencies responsible for implementing the project, time scale and cost are summarised in Table 6. The factors affecting the implementation of the plan and the on-going projects that may benefit the species are shown in Tables 7 and 8 respectively. The press release, which the participants should modify and publish in their countries, is shown in Annex 8.

The participants decided to create an International Spotted Ground Thrush Interest Group that will ensure a coordinated implementation of the plan across the species range. The inaugural meeting was held and agreed terms of reference, elected the office bearers, follow-up of Action plan workshop, national action plans, communication/networking, and monitoring and evaluation. The minutes of the meeting are presented in Annex 9.

4. Evaluation

At the end of each day, participants were asked to fill in a simple form to evaluate the mood of the group. As shown in Annex 10, participants were extremely positive about the workshop, in most of the daily evaluations and the overall evaluation most of the participants indicated that they were very happy.

Annexes

Annex 1: BirdLife Africa Species Action Plan Process and Format

Process:

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

Format:

Presentation:

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

A) Front Cover

- Logos
- Picture of species
- Date
- Title
- Subtitle
- National Emblem²

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
- National plan to refer to International plan

0. Executive summary

- *No more than 1 page.*
- *Multilingual, if appropriate*
 - status

¹ *Italics: notes*

² underlined: national action plans only

- 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
A) Policy and legislation							
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) Species and habitat							
1.5 Name of project							
C) Monitoring and research							
Etc.							
D) Public awareness and training							
E) Community involvement							
F) International							
Etc.							

- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Appendices

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

Annex 2 Workshop Program
Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa
International Species Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop, Spotted Ground Thrush, *Zoothera guttata*,
Turtle Bay Beach, Watamu, Kenya, 5-9 May 2003
Workshop Programme

	Monday 5	Tuesday 6	Wed 7	Thursday 8	Friday 9
830-1300	<p>Opening (NK) Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self introductions (SE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expectations. ASWG & SAP project (ES) Workshop Program (ES) Workshop techniques (SE) <p>Tea/Coffee break</p> <p>Presentation Background information (KN) Plenary session Gaps in knowledge with regards to document presented (KN)</p>	<p>Recap of day 1 (SE)</p> <p>Appoint group to prepare press release (ES) Group work Stakeholder Analysis (SE) Report back (SE)</p> <p>Tea/Coffee break</p> <p>Plenary: Problem tree (SE) Identify main threats Group work (ES) Identify causes of main threats building up of Problem tree branches</p>	Excursion to Arabuko-Soko Forest Reserve	<p>Recap of day 2 (SE) Agreement of Press Release (ES)</p> <p>Plenary session Agree vision, aim and objectives (ES)</p> <p>Coffee/Tea break</p> <p>Group work (ES) Formulate project concepts and develop indicators for the objective(s)</p>	<p>Recap of day 3 (SE) Group work Complete Projects Table (ES) Report back on Projects Table , incl. developing indicators for aim (ES) Tea/Coffee break Plenary session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors affecting implementation (SE) M&E Plan (SE) Adopt plan (KN) Creation of Species Interest Group's (ES) Next steps (SE) Wrap up (NK) Evaluation (SE)
	Lunch break			Lunch break	
1400-1700	<p>Group work: gaps in knowledge specific issues (ES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population status Local distribution National legislation On-going Projects <p><i>Report back on each of the above (ES)</i></p> <p>Tea/Coffee break Plenary session Factors influencing implementation SE) Evaluation (SE)</p>	<p>Identify causes of main threats cont. Report back on causes of main threats and complete Problem tree (ES)</p> <p>Tea/Coffee break</p> <p>Plenary Prioritise all threats in problem tree (SE)</p> <p>Evaluation (SE)</p>		<p>Report back and agree on project concepts & indicators (ES) Tea/Coffee break Plenary session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review stakeholders analysis (SE) Review issues in Problem tree (SE) <p>Evaluation (ES)</p>	<p>First Meeting of Spotted Ground Thrush Interest Group (KN).</p>

NK=Nature Kenya, SE=Steven Evans, ES=Eric Sande, KN=Kariuki Ndang'ang'a

The Workshop is organised by NatureKenya, the BirdLife International Partner in Kenya and the international coordinator of Spotted Ground Thrush conservation. It is jointly hosted by NatureKenya and the National Museums of Kenya. The species action plans project is co-ordinated, on behalf of the BirdLife International African Species Working Group, by NatureUganda, BirdLife South Africa and the RSPB (the BirdLife Partners in Uganda, South Africa 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.

Annex 3: Workshop Participants details and their contacts

NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	WHERE BASED	EXPERIENCE IN SPECIES CONSERVATION	Postal address	e-mail
Kariuki Ndang'ang'a	National Museums of Kenya Ornithology Dept./Nature Kenya	Research Scientist	Nairobi	-ASWG -Research on Sharpe's Loongclaw, Fischers Turaco & Taita Thrush	Dept. of Ornithology N.M.K, P.O. Box 40658, 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel: +254 - 2 - 3742161 ext 243 / +254 2 3746090, Fax: +254 - 25741049	kbirds@africaonline.co.ke
Robert Byamana Kizungu	Organization of Information about Biodiversity and Conservation in Congo Kinshasa (NGO) (OBICOK)	Chairman & Ornithology Researcher	MUIENR Kampala Uganda & CRSN - Lwiro, BUKAVU, DRC	-Blue Swallow Action plan -Albertine Rift Action Plan -Grauer's-Rush Warbler Action Plan	B.P. 02, Cyangugu, Rwanda Tel: 250 - 8414937 (DRC) 256 - 77573778 (Uganda)	kbyamana@yahoo.com
Charles Musyoki	Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)	Research Scientist	Aberdare/Mt. Kenya Region	-Trained in SAP -Blue Swallow international plan	P.O Box 494 Nyeri	kwsnyeri@africaonline.co.ke
Mathew R. Kiondo	Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI)	Research Scientist	Arusha/DSM	-little experience in Species Conservation Work -Training in Species Action Plan Involved in Blue Swallow Action Planning	P.O Box 661, Arusha, Tanzania Cell phone: 255- 0748-347093 Fax: 255 - 22 - 2508240	: mmgosi@yahoo.com , tawiri@habari.co.tz
Potiphar Kaliba	National Museums of Malawi	Senior Ornithologist	Blantyre, Southern Part of Malawi	-Participated in the development of International Blue Swallow SAP -Conservation work on Wattled Cranes and Blue Swallow in Malawi	P.o Box 30360, Blantyre 3 Malawi Tel: 265 1 639025, Fax: 265 1 620128	cilic@malawi.net , pmkaliba@yahoo.com
Muchai Muchane	National Museums of Kenya Ornithology Dept	Senior Research Scientist	Nairobi	Grassland Birds conservation especially on Sharpe's Longclaw & Yellow-breasted Pipit	Dept. of Ornithology P O Box 40658, Nairobi, 001000 Tel: +25423742161 ext 243 Fax: 25423741049	kbirds@africaonline.co.ke
Douglas Harebottle	Avian Demography unit (ADU)	Project Co-ordinator	University Of Capetown C.T, South Africa	-Fairly good experience on Red Data Book Accounts - Waterbird Conservation and Population estimates and PAs - MSc research work on SG Thrush	ADU, University of Cape own, Rondebosch, 7701, Tel: +27 - 21 - 6503434, Fax: +27 21 6502330	doug@adu.uct.ac.za

Anastacia Mwaura	Nature Kenya	Ecotourism Promotion Intern	Arabuko-Sokoke Forest & Mida Creek at Gede, Kenya	-Promotion of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest & Mida Creek -Community involvement & Awareness on conservation of these sites and their endangered species	Nature Kenya, P.O Box 38380202 Watamu Kenya	crownedc@yahoo.com
Craig Mulqueeny	Government Representative KZN Wildlife	Regional Ecologist (Coast)	Mkuzi Game Reserve Regional Office in Durban South Africa	Large herbivores such as Black Rhino & Elephant - - CWAC & BIRP - Rare plant recovery plans	Ezemuelo KZN Wildlife, Coast Region office Private Bag X3, Congella, Durban, 4013 Tel: +27 - 31 - 741150 Fax: +27 - 312051547	craigm@kznwildlife.com
Charles Kahindo	Higher Education & Research (Government Institute)	Lecturer & Field Researcher	Makerere University Kampala Uganda & Bukavu Congo	-International Blue Swallow AP -National & International GRW Action Plan	MUIENR, P.o Box7298 Kampala Tel: 256 77473414 Fax: 25641530134	ckahindo@yahoo.com
Elias Mungaya	Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST)	Ag. BirdLife Officer	Dar Es Salaam	-Waterbird Census -IBA Conservation Program -GRWarbler national plan for Uganda -FRA ZYB Breeding Biology of Birds	WCST, P.o Box 70919 Dar Es Salaam Tel: 255 - 22 - 2112518/255 74475384	wcst@africaonline.co.tz
Ian Barber	Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)	Voluntary chairman of the Lilongwe Branch of WESM	Lilongwe, Malawi	-Previously worked as Conservation Officer for RSPB, UK -International SAPfor Blue Swallow	c/o FCO (Lilongwe)King Charles Street London, SWIA 2AH Tel/Fax: +265 - 1 - 794504	aitkanbarber@sdpn.org.mw
Anthony Kiragu	Nature Kenya	Conservation Programme Officer	Nairobi, Kenya	-Implementation of Community Conservation Action on Important Bird Areas Programme in Kenya	Nature Kenya, P.O Box 44486, 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 254 - 2 -3749986/57 or 3746090; Fax: 254 - 2 - 341049	office@naturekenya.org
Collin Jackson	A ROCHA Kenya and national Museums of Kenya (NMK)	Director AROCHA and Research Associate NMK	Watamu, Kenya	-3 years Portugal -4 years IBA work, NMK -Years in Watamu in Aruboko-Sokoke and other IBAs	A Rocha Kenya P.o Box 383 80202 Watamu Kenya, Tel: 254 - 042 - 32023	colin.jackson@arocha.org

Steven Evans	Birdlife South Africa	Species & Sites Conservation Unit Manager	Johannesburg South Africa	-EWT - Blue Swallow Working Group -International SAPs SHWs 3. -National SAPs SHWs -Research on Blue Swallow - Surveys of BS in Uganda	PO Box 515, Randburg South Africa, 2125 89 Republic Road, Ferndale, Randburg Tel: (011) 789 1122 or 787 0899 Fax + 27 (0) 11 789 5188	iba@birdlife.org.za
Eric Sande	Nature Uganda	African Species Working Group Coordinator	Kampala Uganda	-Research on Nahan's Francolin -SAPs for WN Picathartes, GN Picathartes, Blue Swallow & GR Warbler	P.O.Box 27034 Kampala Uganda	eric.sande@natureuganda.org , nature@natureuganda.org

Annex 4: Participants' workshop expectations

- Spotted Ground Thrush Action Plan developed
- Enhanced knowledge in SAP
- Contribute to Development of Spotted Ground Thrush SAP
- Share the Knowledge on Integrated Conservation Approaches
- Come up with a good plan to save Spotted Ground Thrush
- Learn about the conservation status of the Spotted Ground Thrush through sharing information with key stakeholders
- Further knowledge in the development of SAPs
- To know the networking partners in Spotted Ground Thrush conservation in Africa
- Find out more about the species and what conservation organizations can do
- Get a wider view on the status of Spotted Ground Thrush
- Learn and share experiences on Spotted Ground Thrush research with other participants
- Learn the ecology of the Spotted Ground Thrush
- Understand how to develop an International Species Action plan
- Develop and Polish Skills in Species Action Plan development
- Get ideas for protecting Spotted Ground Thrush in Malawi
- Develop a realistic and fair SAP
- Network and share experience with BirdLife partners
- Learn about conservation activities in other countries
- To see the Spotted Ground Thrush in the Wild
- Come up with the way Forward for the monitoring and conservation of the Spotted Ground Thrush
- Better understanding Spotted Ground Thrush outside of South Africa
- Identify potential stakeholders for the conservation of the of Spotted Ground Thrush
- Improve conservation skills, networking theory and practice
- Develop practical, workable solutions for conserving of Spotted Ground Thrush in Africa and effective implementation
- Compile an agreed and realistic conservation plan for the Spotted Ground Thrush
- Form a Spotted Ground Thrush Interest Group
- See the Sokoke Scops Owl and other species
- Develop the ability to teach others the skills needed to facilitate Species Action plan Stakeholder Workshops

Annex 5: BirdLife African Species Working Group (ASWG) and the Species Action Plans Project

- ASWG was formed in 1998 by BirdLife International African Partnership
- BirdLife International is global a partnership of non-governmental conservation organisations with a special emphasis on birds
- Overall aim of ASWG is to spearhead species conservation initiatives in Africa on behalf BirdLife International Africa Partnership
- BirdLife International Africa Regional Programme has components on **species, sites, habitats and people**
- ASWG is mandated to spearhead the activities under **species** in order to achieve the set targets
- ASWG at present is has a Chair, a Co-ordinator, National Co-ordinator in each of the 17 African BirdLife Partner countries
- One of the roles of ASWG is to fundraise and facilitate the production and implementation of Species Action Plans in Africa
- ASWG with help from the RSPB secured funding in 2001 to implement the Species Action Plans Project (SAP) in Africa

THE SPECIES ACTION PLAN (SAP) PROJECT

- In April 2001, ASWG with help from RSPB started a 3 year SAP Project with the main aim of **building capacity** in species action planning in Africa
- SAP Project is building the capacity through the production of International and national Action Plans for in priority Species in Africa
- A Species Action Plan 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” .

The 7 priority species for the SAP project:

Species	Distribution	Coordination	W/Shop date
Blue Swallow <i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>	DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	BLSA	done
White-necked Picathartes <i>P. gymnocephalus</i>	Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone	CSSL	done
Grey-necked Picathartes <i>Picathartes oreas</i>	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria	CBCS	done
Grauer’s Rush Warbler <i>Bradypterus graueri</i>	Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda, Uganda	NU	done
Spotted Ground Thrush <i>Zoothera guttata</i>	DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania	NK	May 03
Lappet-faced Vulture <i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, S. Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda Zambia, Zimbabwe	EWNHS	Jun 03
Houbara Bustard <i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia	AAO	Dec 03

- Cross-border Species were chosen to maximize training across the region eg SG Thrush if found in 6 countries while the Lappet-faced Vulture, 33 countries
- SAP Project has produced (among other tools) a SAP Format and SAP Process accepted by BirdLife International African Partnership and is now being used
- SAP Project has provided Training in species conservation in Africa BirdLife Partnership
- SAP Project is providing more training on job to NGOs, Govt reps, specialists in the production of 7 International and 15 National Species Action Plans
- Participants of International SAPs will work hand in hand with ASWG to translate them into National Plans
- SAP Project is funded by UK Darwin Initiative and RSPB with co-funding from African BirdLife Partners and Governments
- Nature Uganda, BirdLife South Africa and the RSPB are co-ordinating the implementation of the SAP Project in Africa on behalf of ASWG

Annex 6: Rules for the use of cards and flipcharts during brainstorming

(a) Cards

- Only one idea/concept per card
- Aim for a maximum of 3 lines of text per card
- Write in upper and lower case letters
- Use the card in landscape format; do not use the cards in portrait format
- No discussions until all the cards have been collected and displayed
- Spelling does not matter

(b) Flipchart

- Each person has an opportunity to present his/her idea(s)
- All ideas are recorded onto the flip chart
- All ideas are captured during which time there is no discussion at this stage
- Once all the ideas have been captured, discussion follows

Annex 7: Draft Species Action Plan

Spotted Ground Thrush *Zoothera guttata* Background Information

1.0 Introduction

Spotted Ground Thrush *Zoothera guttata* is an endemic resident and intra-African migrant. It is generally rare but fairly common at very few localities. The species is classified as endangered since it has very small and severely fragmented area of occupancy, throughout which its woodland habitat continues to be degraded and destroyed (BirdLife International 2000). Its population is inferred to be undergoing a continuous decline and has been classed as rare in IUCN/ICBP Red Data Book (Collar and Stuart 1985). It is mainly threatened by destruction of its forest habitat, and in South Africa also by low breeding success, mortality during migration and to a lesser extent by availability of food.

According to Dean *et al.* 1992, Spotted Ground Thrush is a brown thrush with spotted underparts and diagnostic white wing-spots and underwing bar of *Zoothera*. Brown plumage blends perfectly with leaf-litter, and this combined with habit of standing still for long periods makes it extremely hard to find. It is confined to forest and might be confused with Orange Ground Thrush *Zoothera gurneyi* or Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*, but the latter have underparts partly or wholly orange with smudgy brown spots or bars, rather than pure white or buff with large black spots, and immature Olive Thrush lacks white wing-spots.

2.0 Background information

2.1 Taxonomy

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Turdidae

Genus: *Zoothera*

Species: *guttata*

The classification of *Zoothera guttata* and related African thrushes, has been a controversial issue for many years, and has been discussed in detail by Harebottle (1994). In the latest taxonomic revision of the birds of the world by Sibley and Monroe (1990), *Z. guttata* is among the 37 thrushes included in the genus *Zoothera*, of which nine are African.

Five races of *Zoothera guttata* are described, all existing in isolated patches of moist evergreen forest (Dean *et al.*, 1992). Two are migratory coastal races, one (*Z. g. fischeri*) in Kenya and Tanzania, and the other (*Z. g. guttata*) in South Africa. An assessment of morphological and plumage characters done by Harebottle *et al.* (1997) did not support a recent proposal suggesting the existence of two subspecies of the Spotted Ground Thrush in South Africa. A resident race (*belcheri*) is found in Malawi, and two other races are known from single specimens in Sudan (*maxis*) and Democratic Republic of Congo (*lippensi*). The separation of the five races is based on morphological differences only.

Z. g. lippensi is named after L. Lippens in tribute to his extraordinary contribution to the conservation of the environment and especially birds. After re-examining the specimen initially collected by H. Wille in 1973, Prigogine and Loutte (1984) found it to differ enough from other races to deserve a separate name. The type of *lippensi* differed from all the other specimens examined (*guttata*, *fischeri*, and *belcheri*) in being decidedly olive-greyish in colour dorsally, whereas the other races are more brownish-rufous. The longest under-tail coverts have an orange-buff colour, as in *maxis*, they are pure white in the other races.

Z. g. belcheri is named after the collector, Sir Charles Belcher. Benson (1950) described and proposed the naming of *belcheri* as a new race after noting striking differences between it and South African specimens. He described it as similar to *natalicus*, but differing in having the abdomen and flanks more intensely white, without any buffy tinge, and the spotting thereon more intensely black. Also the upper mandible and the tip of the lower mandible are black, rather than horn-brown; perhaps also somewhat smaller.

Z. g. maxis differs from other races in its darker and browner upperparts (Nikolaus 1982).

2.2 Distribution and population status

Spotted Ground Thrush has a wide but discontinuous distribution (Bennun 1992) (Figure 2). The approximate number of individuals of the species in range states is shown in Table 1. The number of individuals in different sites is shown in Table 2. *Z. g. maxis* and *Z. g. lippensi* are known only from a single specimen each and thus have their distributions restricted to their type localities. *Z. g. maxis* is only known from Imatong mountains of Sudan, south-east of Juba on the Ugandan border. *Z. g. lippensi* is known only from the Upemba National Park where it is certainly a rare bird, perhaps only a visitor, confined to the montane forest (Prigogine and Loutte 1984). The specimen collected from DRC was a female adult sighted at Lusinga Island at 1750 m above sea level.

Z. g. guttata is an altitudinal and coastal migrant endemic to South Africa, and is limited to the eastern coastal forest belt ranging from the Buffalo River at East London in the south to Lake St Lucia in the North (Barnes 2000). It has also recently been recorded in southern Mozambique (J. Curverwell). Density of *Z. g. guttata* in Dlinza Forest, a breeding locality in northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, ranges from 3.4-4.1 birds/ha (H. Chittenden in litt).

Z. g. fischeri is an endemic resident and intra-African migrant, non-breeding visitor to coastal Kenya and north-eastern Tanzania from Lamu to Pugu Hills (Baker and Baker 1992; Dean *et al.*, 1992). The breeding ground of this population occurs in some of the Tanzanian coastal forests and probably northern Mozambique. Bennun (1985) described it as generally rare but locally fairly common at very few localities e.g. Gede, Kenya, where population density was estimated 2.9 birds per ha, a total of 113 individuals in the 39 ha forest area. Density in Arabuko Sokoke forest is probably much lower. It is confined to the coastal forests. In Kenya it has been recorded north to Lamu, but with most records from the Gedi and Arabuko-Sokoke Forests. It is present at very low densities throughout the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest; but occurs at higher densities in the few tiny patches of thick coastal forest such as Diani, Jadini, Shimoni and Gede; a few records have been made elsewhere: Kaya Gandini, Kaya Waa, Mrima Hill Forest, Mkongani, Shimba Hills. In Tanzania, the Rondo Plateau and Litipo Forests reserves (among the coastal forests of Lindi District) are the breeding sites for the East African population of the species., and the bird is a regular passage migrant through the coastal forests of Pande and Dondwe (on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam), and those of Kisarawe District (Pugu hills, Kazimzumbwi and Ruvu Forest Reserves). Though not recorded, the species can be expected to occur on passage from Zaraninge forest in Bagamoyo District or other coastal forests in Rufiji, Handeni, Kilwa and Pangani Districts .

Z. g. belcheri is found in montane forests of southern Malawi where it occurs as a small isolated population. Initially it was only known from Soche Mt and considered possibly extinct when first described (Benson 1950). No later than 1951, the species was collected at the Thyolo Mt (Benson 1952), and further work confirmed that *belcheri* was not extinct. During extensive fieldwork done in the 1980s, in addition to Soche and Thyolo Mts where the bird was still seen, it was discovered at two more localities in 1983, i.e. Mount Mulanje Forest Reserve in the southern region and Lisau Saddle (Dowsett-Lemaire 1989). Sightings then suggested that the total numbers in Malawi to be very low, possibly in the order of 30-40 pairs. Soche Mountain Forest Reserve (on the edge of the city of Blantyre) is important for the occurrence of the species. Though not recorded, *belcheri* could occur in the mid-altitude forest on Chikala, which is part of Liwonde Hills Forest Reserve as it is known from similar habitat and altitude elsewhere in southern Malawi. Based on habitat requirements of the species, it should also be expected on mountains in Mozambique adjacent to Malawi, especially Chipirone and Namuli (F. Dowsett-Lemaire, pers comm.)

In the past, when patches of coastal forest were larger, more numerous, and near-continuous, Spotted Ground Thrushes must have been more abundant than at present (Barnes 2000). Forest degradation and alteration has undoubtedly led to the reduced habitat availability and a subsequent decline in the population size. Limited data from irregular and infrequent records have prevented an accurate population estimate from being made. The global population is estimated at 2000-4000 individuals (Collar and Stuart 1985). Both *fischeri* and *belcheri* (estimated at 50-100 individuals by Collar and Stuart (1985) have significantly larger populations than both *maxis* and *lippensi* together. However, *fischeri* may be more numerous than past records indicate. Estimated at 400-800 pairs (Harebottle 1994), *Z. g. guttata* has the largest known population of the five races – about 40% of the species in South Africa. Given the general lack of information about the species, there is need for prospecting potential areas of occupancy, e.g. northern Uganda and north-eastern DRC.

Table 1: Population, distribution and seasonal occurrence of Spotted Ground Thrush (Quality code according to the World Bird Database; A = reliable, B = incomplete; C = poor; U =unkown)

Country	Race	Population*	Distribution	Population trend*	Breeding/non breeding range	Seasonal occurrence	Notes
South Africa	<i>guttata</i>	400 - 800 pairs					
			Eastern Cape Breeding; Non-Breeding	Overall? Dlinza	Breeding & non-breeding	Migratory	Extrapolation from Harebottle 1994
			Kwa-Zulu Natal Breeding; Non-Breeding	Stable (?)	Breeding & non-breeding		
Mozambique	<i>fischeri</i>						
Malawi	<i>belcheri</i>	30-40 pairs					
			.Soche Mountain (MW 017)	Decreasing (B)	Breeding	Resident (Migration to KZN Coast ??)	Renewed deforestation 2002
			.Mulanje Mountain (MW 018)				Encroachment, deforestation, Bush fires & Spread of exotics
			Thyolo Tea Estate (MW 019)				Pressure to release land to local people
			Thyolo Mountain (MW 020)				Deforestation by local people
			Uwonde Hills (MW 015)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly intact Little information is known about individual sites therefore further research is required
Tanzania	<i>fischeri</i>	+200 pairs (C)					There are more similar habitats to be studied
			Rondo Plateau	Decreasing (C)	Breeding & non-breeding	Resident	
			Litipo Forest (R)	Decreasing (C)	Breeding & non-breeding	Resident Non-Resident	There are more similar habitats to be studied
			-Kisarawe forests	Decreasing (C)	Breeding & non-breeding	Resident Non-Resident	There are more similar habitats to be studied
			Pande & Dondwe GR	Decreasing (B)	Non-breeding	Non-Resident	
			Zaraninge FR	Decreasing (C)	Non-breeding	Non-resident	
DRC	<i>Lippensi (Prigogine & Louie, 1984)</i>	>1	Upemba National Park	Stable?	Unknown	Visitor? Captured in October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> very little information about population, distribution, breeding and Movements more surveys needed in neighbouring montane forests (> 1500 m)
Kenya	<i>fischeri</i>	±175 Pairs (B)	Coastal forests	Decreasing (A)	Non-breeding	Visitors Movement Pattern?	Conservation of Arabuko-Sokoke FR set to improve due to stakeholder involvement
Sudan	<i>maxis</i>						

*= Quality code

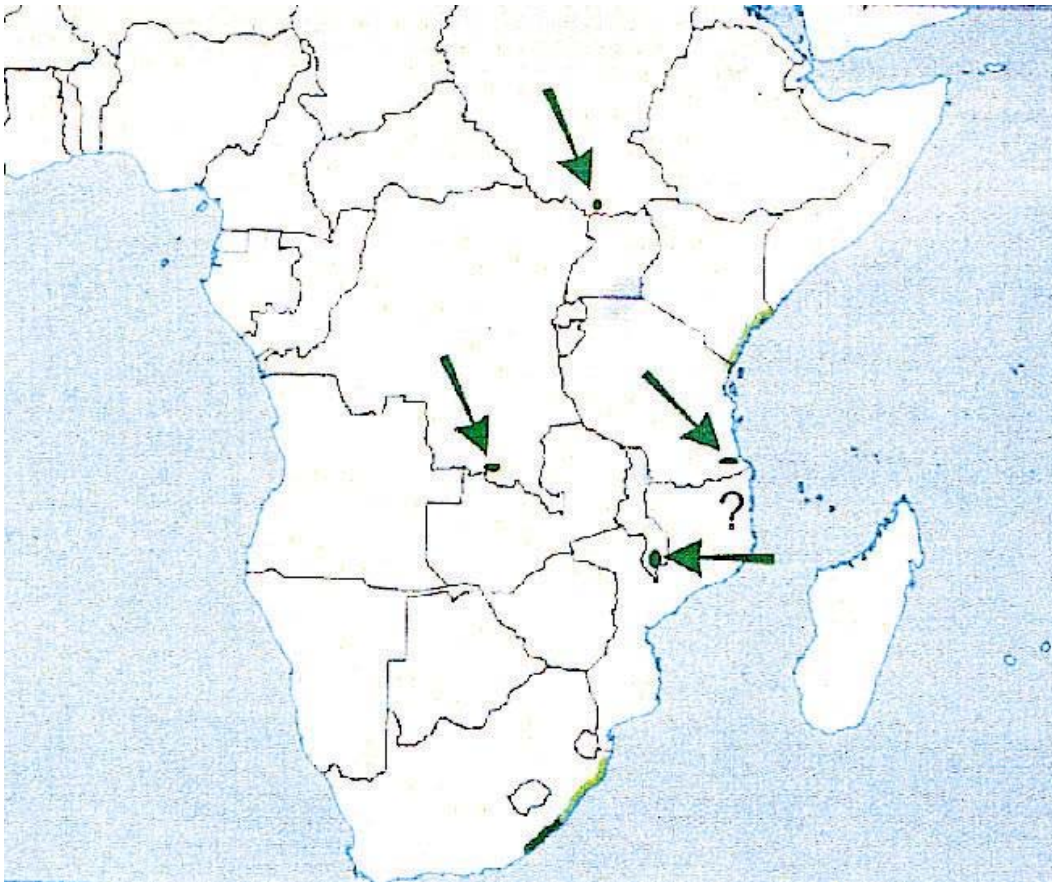
Table 2: Local distribution, numbers & protected area status of Spotted Ground Thrush sites within range states: K=Known, P=Potential sites
 Key;; NP = National Park; WHS = World Heritage Site, NR = National Reserve, GR= Game Reserve, FR=Forest Reserve

Country	Region /Province	Site (IBA site no. if applicable)	PA status	No. of Sites	No. of pairs	References	Notes
DRC	South East Katanga Region		Protected National Park	IK Lusinga	(P) Montane Forests Eastern DRC	1. Lippens L. & Willie H, 1976 2. Prigogine, A. 1985 3. Verheyen 1953 4. Loutte & Demey 2001	
				NE Garamba NP (P)			
				NW Uganda (P)			
South Africa	Eastern Cape	Mkambati NR (SA 087)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	At least 2	Harebottle, 1994 Barnes, 2000	
		Dwesa NR (SA 089)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	At least 5	Harebottle, 1994 Barnes, 2000	
		Cwebe NR (SA 089)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	At least 5	Harebottle, 1994 Barnes, 2000	
		Egossa Forest	State forest (DWAF)	1 (K)	Minimum 1?	Harebottle, 1994 Barnes, 2000	
		Mtambalala forest	State forest (DWAF)	1 (K)	Minimum 1?	Harebottle, 1994 Barnes, 2000	
		Manubi forest	State forest (DWAF)	1 (K)	Minimum 1?	Harebottle, 1994 Barnes, 2000	
		Wave crest	Private	1 (K)	Minimum 1?	Harebottle, 1994 Barnes, 2000	
	KwaZulu Natal (KZN)	Umtamvuna NR (SA 086)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	< 5 indiv.	Harebottle, 1994 Barnes, 2000	No evidence of breeding
		Oribi Gorge (SA 085)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	~ 2 pairs	Harebottle, 1994	Breeding?
		Umdoni Park	Municipal ?	1 (K)	4 - 5 Indiv.	Harebottle, 1994 Bird net information	No - Br
	KwaZulu Natal	Vernon Crookes NR	Provincial NR	1 (K)	1 - 2 Indiv.	Harebottle, 1994	No - Br
		Kenneth Stainbank NR	Provincial NR	1 (K)	4 - 5 Indiv.	Harebottle, 1994	No - Br
		Pigeon Valley	Municipal	1 (K)	4 -5 Indiv.	Harebottle, 1994	No - Br
		Umhlanga Lagoon	Provincial NR	1 (K)	4 -5 Indiv.	Harebottle, 1994 Birdnet	No - Br
Umhlanga Conservancy		Private	1 (K)	1 -2 Indiv.	Birdnet	No - Br	
Zinkwazi Resort		Private	1 (K)	4 -6 Indiv.	Harebottle 1994 & Birdnet	No - Br	

KwaZulu - Natal	Umlalazi NR (SA 063)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	4 - 5 Indiv	Harebottle 1994 & Birdnet	No - Br	
	Umvoti Estuary (SA 073)	Private NHS	1 (K)	2- 3 Indiv.	Barnes, 2000	No - Br	
	Mapelane NR	Provincial NR (WHS)	1 (K)	2 -3 Indiv.	Harebottle 1994 SWBC in Litt.	GSLWP	
	Eastern Shores Lake St. Lucia (SA 058)	Provincial NR (WHS)	1 (K)	2 -3 Indiv.	Harebottle 1994	GSLWP	
	Sodwana state forest	Provincial NR (WHS)	1 (P)	?		GSLWP	
	Dukuduku State Forest	State forest (DWAF)	1 (P)	Minimum 1	Harebottle 1994		
	KwaZulu - Natal	Ngoye Forest (SA 065)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	70 - 100 Breeding pairs?	Barnes, 2000	
		Dlinza Forest NR (SA 067)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	20 -25 pairs	H. Chittenden in Litt.	
		Entumeni NR (SA 066)	Provincial NR	1 (K)	20 - 30 pairs	H. Chittenden in Litt. & Barnes, 2000	
Kenya	KE 011	Gede Ruins	NM	1 (K)	25 (1 Bird seen in the last five years)	Bennun 1985/1992	
	KE 007	Arabuko-Sokoke Forest	Forest NR & NP	1 (K)	100	Bennun 1985/1992	
	KE 009	Diani	NM	1 (K)	10	Bennun 1985/1992	
		Jadini	Private	P	5	Bennun 1985/1992	
		Shimoni	Private	P	5	Bennun 1985/1992	
		Kaya Gandini	NM	1 (K)	10	Bennun 1985/1992	
		Kaya Waa	NM	1 (K)	5	Bennun 1985/1992	
		Mrima Hills Forest	FR/National Monument	1 (K)	5	Bennun 1985/1992	
	Shimba Hills	NR/Community sanctuary	1 (K)	10			
Tanzania	Lindi, Coast Region & Dar-es Salaam	Rondo plateau & Litipo Forest Reserve	FR	3 K	80	Neil & Liz Baker, 2002 (Pers. Comm.)	Limited information on studies done
		Kisarawe Forests	FR	3 K	40	Neil & Liz Baker, 2002 (Pers. Comm.)	
		Pande & Dondwe GR	Game Reserve	2 K	30	Game Division	
		Zaraninge FR	Forest reserve	1 K	10	Game Division	

Malawi	Southern	Soche mountain	FR	1 K	30-40 pairs (?)	Dowsett - Lemaire (1989)	NB: Although forest Reserve status, is difficult to protect due to close proximity to urban areas
		Mulanje mountain	FR & WHS	1 K	30-40 pairs (?)	Dowsett - Lemaire (1989)	Although forest Reserve status, is difficult to protect due to close proximity to urban areas
		Thyolo Tea Estate	Private	1 k	30-40 pairs (?)	Dowsett - Lemaire (1989)	
		Thyolo mountain	Forest reserve	1 K	30-40 pairs (?)	Dowsett - Lemaire (1989)	Although forest Reserve status, is difficult to protect due to close proximity to urban areas
		Liwonde Hills	Forest reserve	1 Potential site	??	Dowsett - Lemaire (Personal Communication)	Not recorded but could occur as habitat and altitude similar

Figure 2 Map showing distribution of *Z. guttata* (BirdLife International 2000)



2.3 Movements

Only two races of the species, both of them coastal, are migratory. One is *Z. g. fischeri* in Kenya, Tanzania, and probably Mozambique, and the other (*Z. g. guttata*) in South Africa.

Movements of *Z. g. guttata* are described by Berruti *et al* (1994) and Barnes (2000). In summer *Z. g. guttata* breeds in Eastern Cape and southern KwaZulu-Natal, with smaller breeding populations in northern KwaZulu-Natal. The extent and direction of winter migration in the northern populations of Spotted Ground Thrush breeding in Zululand are still poorly understood. However, there is evidence of altitudinal migration for these populations, with some birds spending the winter at coastal forests along the KwaZulu-Natal north coast. Not all birds move altitudinally to the coast with some birds remaining at the breeding grounds. This wintering population is probably wholly contained within KwaZulu-Natal. A large proportion of the southern breeding populations undertake a littoral migration northwards and spend the non-breeding season in central coastal KwaZulu-Natal. Past and new evidence clearly shows an influx of Spotted Ground Thrushes into KwaZulu-Natal during winter, suggesting that birds move in from their southern breeding grounds for the non-breeding season. A mixing of southern and northern breeding birds presumably takes place at coastal localities in KwaZulu-Natal during winter. However, generally, all these movements are yet to be fully understood.

Movements of *Z. g. fischeri* are not well understood. It shows an altitudinal winter migration to the coast. In Kenya the birds are present only from around late March to November, and there is no evidence that they breed in that country. Until recently their breeding grounds were unknown, but birds with brood patches have been caught recently in forest on the Rondo Plateau in the extreme southern Tanzania. There may be other breeding populations in northern Mozambique, where there has been little ornithological exploration (Bennun 1992).

It is argued that in the evolutionary past, the bird was more widely distributed under more favourable environmental conditions, and the species showed more extensive migrations (Berruti *et al.* 1997). *Z. g. guttata* has suffered evolutionary range contraction, and does not migrate further north than KwaZulu-Natal because of its presently restricted population and range. However, there is no evidence to suggest that it might not migrate, and perhaps the southern Mozambique records represent migratory birds from South Africa (D. Harebottle pers. com).

Some altitudinal movements have been indicated for *belcheri* (Dowsett-Lemaire 1989) due to some sightings of the birds in August at the foot of Mt Mulanje.

There is a likelihood that *Z. guttata* moves in response to temperature or climate.

2.4 Protection status and relationship with other Species Action Plans and biodiversity strategies

Most of the range countries of *Z. guttata* are party to a number of international conventions and agreements whose implementation are to the advantage of the conservation of the species (Table 3). In fact the species is listed in Appendix II of CMS. In KwaZulu Natal (South Africa), 22 provincial nature and forest reserves include suitable habitat, but funding is being reduced and many are no longer patrolled. In Malawi, all sites are Forest Reserves, but this confers little protection.

Table 3: National legislation and signatories to international conservation treaties relevant to Spotted Ground Thrush in range states

Country	National legislation	UNESCO (MAB)	AC	WHC	CBD	CMS	Others (Specify)
South Africa	1. Environmental Conservation Act: Protected=Trapping, - Hunting, Transporting 2. World Heritage Act (ASLWP) 3.KZN Nature Conservation Act/Ordinance 4. Protected Areas Bill - Act	X	X	X	X	X	1. One Non-protected IBAs 2. 9 protected IBAs
Mozambique							
Malawi	1. National Forestry policy 2. National parks and wildlife policy 3. Genetic resources and biotechnology policy (Transfer and use)	?	X	X	?	?	
Tanzania	1. National Wildlife Policy 2. Forestry & Bee keeping policy 3. Constitution of the URT - Wildlife Act	X	X	X	X	X	CITES
Kenya	1. Wildlife Act 2. Environmental Management and Coordination Act 3. Forest Act	X	X	X	X	X	
DRC	Wildlife protected in general	X	?	X	X	X	Ramsar
Sudan							

MAB=Man and Bioshere, AF=African Union, WHC=World Heritage Site, CBD=Convention of Biological Diversity, CMS=Convention of Migratory Species

In Kenya, a there is project is aiming to conserve wintering habitat at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest through sustainable use, but not in other forests where the species is found. The forest is also protected by the Forests Act and there is currently an MoU between KWS and Forest Dept on management of several forests in Kenya.

The two breeding sites in Tanzania (Litipo and Rondo Plateau Forest Reserves) are part of a coastal forest conservation programme. All the sites where the species is found are now recognised as Important Bird Areas (Table 2) and some of them are likely to benefit from site-based conservation actions. There has been a very speedy deforestation of the coastal forests around Dar es salaam and coastal regions. However there are some underway mitigation efforts. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and CERE Norway are financing conservation projects in coastal forests.

2.5 Habitat requirements of species

Z. guttata inhabits forests of various types (Dean *et al.* 1992). It occurs in deep shade in a variety of forest-types with deep leaf litter, from dry *Cynometra* thicket in the Arabuko-Sokoke at sea-level (non-breeding birds) to moist evergreen forest at 1200-1700 m in Malawi (BirdLife International 2000).

In East Africa, *Z. g. fischeri* it inhabits low altitude moist evergreen forest with nearly complete canopy cover, deep shade, extensive moist, thick leaf litter and sparse undergrowth. It likes areas of low coral vegetation with dead wood and vine tangles for cover when threatened. In Arabuko Sokoke forest it occurs in *Azelia* forest and dry *Cynometra* thicket.

Migratory populations may use moist bush and thicket especially *guttata*, which may also winter in coastal dune forest. Otherwise they winter in tall forests at the coast, which for *fischeri*, are preferentially on coral rag. The coral rag forests of Kenya (Gede, Diani and Shimoni) have no thick diverse undergrowth layers characteristic of lowland rainforests of coastal Kenya. This is perhaps why they have high densities of this bird. In Gede they prefer deeply shaded areas with thicker leaf litter and more open understory, but also utilise adjacent denser undergrowth refuges.

In South Africa *Z. g. guttata* is known to breed in large (>100 ha) patches of mature coastal forest or coastal scarp and valley forests with closed canopy and relatively lower strata (Harebottle 1994). In the non-breeding season, it can be found in mature coastal and lowland forest, coastal scarp forest, dune forest, secondary growth and occasionally in suburban gardens (Barnes 2000). The latter are used as stop-over points during migration.

2.6 Biology and ecology

Food and feeding: Frequents forest floor and lower branches of leafy trees. Foraging is done in typical thrush fashion, scratching up the leaves and stabbing at discovered prey with the bill. Searches for food on rotting logs and scratches among leaves on ground in deep shade. Digs in the soil with its heavy bill, flying off to low tree branches when disturbed (Zimmerman 1996). Food includes seeds, fruits, insects and their larvae including termites and ants, worms, large (up to 8 cm) and small millipedes especially *Prionopetalum* and land molluscs. Mainly solitary feeding. Avoids bird parties. Acrimonious behaviour has been observed especially towards other birds while feeding at least in Diani forest.

Harebottle (1994) found food availability to affect the thrush in two ways:

- Earthworms were an important dietary requirement for the nestlings and thus an adequate supply during the breeding season is an important resource for breeding pairs. Earthworm availability may also determine to some degree nest-site selection, more so than structural aspects, as was evidenced by greater numbers of nests occurring in areas of greater earthworm abundance. However, this is preliminary and needs to be tested further. Earthworm abundance is positively correlated with rainfall, suggesting that breeding areas must occur within regions of high summer rainfall.
- The forest-floor litter macrofauna contained greater numbers of individuals/m² than the soil macrofauna, the latter having higher biomass/ m². Although invertebrate abundance declined from summer to winter, abundance levels were high enough to sustain the birds during the dry winter months, the litter containing greater abundance than the soil during this period. The thrush is predominantly a litter forager and since feeding is an important survival tool, the litter layer is an important habitat component for it.

General ecology: Avoids disturbance prone areas. Solitary or in pairs, sometimes in small parties on migration. Can be fairly tame. Site fidelity is marked on wintering grounds of *Z. g. fischeri* at Gede, Kenya, where birds appeared to have homeranges (Bennun 1985, 1987). Has a homerange of at least 0.14 ha (BirdLife International 2000).

A home-range study done in a South African forest (Harebottle 1994) showed that the birds move away from their nesting sites and occupy relatively small areas (4000 m²) for long periods of time. These areas are used solely for foraging. The establishment of winter territories may be influenced by declines in food availability. Therefore, it seems likely that the birds in that forest 'divide' it into small areas in winter to maximise foraging and in doing so do not limit the population size to any large extent.

Breeding: Monogamous and territorial.

Nest: (*guttata*) heavy bowl of mud, small twigs, leaves, roots, grasses and moss, lined with feathers, fine plant fibres and leaves of creepers, placed 2-3 m above ground in low forest tree; in Ngoye Forest (South Africa) favours *Garcinia gerrardii*; also among lianas, or in bush festooned with creepers; (*belcheri*) bulky oval cup of dark tendrils, on base of thick tendrils, roots and dead leaves.

Eggs: 2-3; oval; greenish blue, heavily blotched with dark red-brown and greenish brown.

Laying dates: Malawi, Nov; South Africa, Sep-Mar.

Nesting sites and breeding success: Breeding areas are confined to purely larger forests specifically narrow strips on either side of small streams at valley bottoms and base of steep adjoining slopes which are densely shaded with the thickest and dampest leaf litter and with only sparse undergrowth. Breeding success is low and limits any potentially rapid increases in the population size (Barnes 2000). Nest predation, especially of eggs, contributes nearly 50% of this poor breeding success; snakes (e.g. Boomslang *Dispholidus typus*), raptors (e.g. *Gymnogene Polyboroides typus*) and domestic cats *Felis catus* are the main predators. Spotted Ground Thrush nests are one of the most conspicuous forest bird nests and, coupled with the greenish-blue eggs, afford minimal camouflage. Nestlings are fed mostly earthworms and this dietary preference suggests that breeding habitat may be limited to forests with high summer rainfall (Harebottle 1994).

2.6 Threats of the Spotted Ground Thrush

The critical threats/issues of the Spotted Ground Thrush identified through a cause-effect relationship of a problem tree included: **low productivity, limited data on distribution/population size, naturally low population, high adult/juvenile mortality, habitat degradation, infrastructural development, limited awareness and economic interest** of some stakeholders. All the threats/issues, their relative impact on the conservation of the species (low, medium, high, or critical), their causes in the a cause-effect relationship that ultimately lead to the low global population of the Spotted Ground Thrush are shown in the Problem Tree (Figure 3).

2.7 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders that were identified impacting on the species positively or negatively include: government ministries/departments, conservation NGOs, local communities and donors. The detailed analysis on the stakeholders' interests and how their activities impact on the species is shown in Table 4.

Figure 3: The problem tree (to be inserted)

Table 4: Stakeholders analysis

Country	Stakeholder	Interest	Activities	Imp.	Int.	Proposed Activities	
Malawi	1 Forestry Department	Forest management	Proactive management	+	◆◆◆◆	Provide information on location and ecology of SGT	
		Revenue generation	Clearing native trees for exotics	-	◆◆◆		
		Biodiversity conservation	Research	+	◆◆◆		
		CBNRM	Resource management	+	◆◆	Provide advice on management	
		Policy	Policy formulation	+	◆◆◆	Advice on conservation	
	2. Local Communities	Forest resources	Collection of firewood,		-	◆◆	Provide alternatives for firewood like woodlots for alternative energy sources
			Charcoal burning/forest fires		-	◆◆	Civic education in conservation
			Encroachment for agricultural land		-	◆◆◆	
	3 Private Estates	Tea growing	management of Forest patches		+	◆◆◆	Encourage estates to continue protection and management of forest patches
			Releasing land to farm workers to grow crops		-	◆◆◆	Encourage estates to continue protection and management of forest patches
	4 Tour operators	Income from tourism	Guided tours		-	◆	Provide information on location to avoid disturbance
	5 MMCT	Conservation	Development projects		+	◆◆◆	
		Tourism	Awareness		+	◆◆◆	
		Research	Research		+	◆◆	Information on SGT, awareness, CBNRM
			Coordination with other stakeholders like forest department, Estates, Tour operators, Local communities		+	◆◆◆	
6 Timber companies	Income	Timber sawing		+	◆◆◆	Provide information on location to avoid disturbance	
7 Mining companies	Income	Exportation of Bauxite		+	◆◆	If proposals materialise, give advice on location of SGT and ecology	
8 Wildlife and Environmental Society (WESM)	Biodiversity conservation	Environmental education and natural resource management (CBNRM)		+	◆◆◆	- Liaise with other stakeholders in conservation - Provide advice on CBNRM and IGAs - Environmental education through wildlife clubs	
9 National Museums of Malawi	Biodiversity conservation	Research		+	◆◆◆	Gathering information on bird location	
10 Birdwatchers	Watching birds	locating bird species		+	◆◆	- Coordination of efforts with other stakeholders - Gathering data	
11 International Donors such as World Bank	Development and Biodiversity conservation	funding project		+/-	◆◆◆/◆◆	- seeking funding for projects - Advice on location and ecology of SGT	

Country	Stakeholder	Interest	Activities	Imp.	Int.	Proposed Activities
	12 International Tour Operators	Income	Bird watching through guided tours	+/-	◆◆◆/◆ ◆◆	- Liaising to give and receive information on SGT
DRC	1 Ministry of Environment (Park Authority)	Sustainable management of National Reserves	Planning	+	◆◆	- Awareness
			Law enforcement	+	◆◆	-Financial support
			Policy	+	◆◆	- lobbying for political stability
			Legislation	+	◆◆	- Networking
	2 Ministry of Education and Research	Capacity building Scientific information for decision makers	Training	+	◆◆◆	- Reform (Curricula)
			Data management	+	◆◆	- Integrated training
			Scientific Results and information dissemination	+	◆◆	- Awareness - Support (Equipment) - Network
	3 Donors	Sustainable management Development	Funding	+	◆	- fundraising
			Technical assistance	+	◆	- Awareness
	4 Local communities	Income Welfare	Agriculture	-	◆◆◆	- Alternative sources of income
Mining			-	◆◆	- Awareness	
Hunting			-	◆		
5 NGOs (OBICOK, etc)	Conservation Development	Public awareness	+	◆	- Capacity building	
		Consultancy	+	◆	- Funding	
		Implementation of development of projects	+	◆	- Species awareness	
6 Mining, Logging companies	Income	Prospection	-	◆◆	- Awareness	
		Mining & logging	-	◆◆	- Environmental Impact Assessment	
7 International NGOs						
	ICF (SCWG)	conservatgion (Grus carunculatus)	Surveys	+ ?	◆?	- Network with OBICOK, ASWG - Coordination, harmonization ship
		Research				
	MIKE	Protection of the Elephant	Monitoring	+	◆◆	- Partnership
	Nouvelles Approaches	Conservation Development	Environmental education	+	◆◆	- Partnership
			Development projects	+	◆◆	- Partnership
			IGAs	+	◆◆	- Increased funding - Fundraising
Tanzania	1 Forest department	Biodiversity conservation	Management of Forest reserves	+	◆◆◆◆	- Reinforcement of legislations
		Revenue collection	Tax collection from Timber	+	◆◆	- Retention scheme for conservation activities
	2 Wildlife department	Biodiversity conservation	Management of GR	+	◆◆◆◆	- Retention scheme for conservation activities
		Revenue collection	Tax collection from Hunting	+	◆◆	- Retention scheme for conservation activities

Country	Stakeholder	Interest	Activities	Imp.	Int.	Proposed Activities
	3 TANAPA	Biodiversity conservation	Strict protection	+	◆◆◆◆	- Conservation awareness of SGT
		Revenue collection	Tourism	-	◆	- Fundraising for conservation activities
	4 TAWIRI & TAFORI	Conservation	Research	+		- Disseminate reliable information
	5 Local communities - Forest resources exploitation		Agriculture	-	◆◆◆◆	- Awareness - Provision of more land
			Fuel wood collection	-	◆◆◆	- Alternative source of power - Use of improved stove - Establishment of village woodlots
			Pit sawing	-	◆◆	- provision of alternative sources of income - woodlots
			Building materials	-	◆◆◆	- woodlots - use of alternative building materials such as baked bricks
			Collection of medicinal plants	-	◆	- Controlled and sustainable use of medicinal plants
	6 WAHEPUKA & WAWAKI Community organization	conservation	- create awareness - forest protection	+	◆◆◆	- Awareness focusing on SGT - Involve economic activities in their conservation programs
	7 DANIDA	Conservation of biodiversity	- Support of small income generating projects (IGP) at Masanganya forest - Funding of biodiversity surveys in Coastal forests	+	◆◆◆	- funding of the SGT survey and avifauna
	8 SSNC	Conservation of biodiversity	- Funding conservation awareness projects in coastal forests	+	◆◆◆	- Funding awareness projects focussing on the SGT
	9 CARE Tanzania	Conservation	- support of environmentally friendly income generating activities for the communities around Pugu & Kazi Mzumbwi Coastal Forests - Conservation Awareness	+	◆◆◆	- Funding of the SGT survey in these forests (Pugu & Kazimzumbwi)
	10 Birdlife International	Conservation of biodiversity	Conservation of IBAs	+	◆◆◆	- Monitoring of SGT
	11 NINA (Norwegian Institute for Nature)	Conservation of biodiversity	Funding of human Wildlife interaction projects (Fuel woodlots at communities around Zaraninge forest-reserve)	+	◆◆◆	- Forest conservation

Country	Stakeholder	Interest	Activities	Imp.	Int.	Proposed Activities	
South Africa	1 KZN Wildlife	Biodiversity Conservation	PA management	+	◆◆◆◆	-Increased awareness (KZW, Community, Landowner)	
			Research and Monitoring	+	◆◆	- Increased research & monitoring on species & habitat	
			Extension work	+	◆◆◆	Implementation plan	
			Environmental. Management	+	◆◆◆		
			Eco-tourism				
			IGA	+	◆◆		
			Disturbance	-			
			Legislation (Permits, Law Enforcement.)	+	◆◆◆◆	- Include in aslup rare species project	
	2 Eastern Cape Conservation	Biodiversity Conservation	Legislation (Permits, La	+	◆◆◆◆	- Include in aslup rare species project	
	3 KZN Tourism	IGA & Service Provision	Tourism promotion (Culture & national heritage)	+	◆◆	- Increased awareness & promotion of SGT	
	4 Eastern cape Tourism	IGA & Service Provision	Tourism promotion (Culture & national heritage)	+	◆◆	- Increased awareness & promotion of SGT	
	5 DWAF (National & Regional)	Indigenous forest & water conservation	Sustainable use programme	+	◆◆?	Increased awareness	
		Forest policy	Formulated & enforce legislation	+	◆◆◆◆		
	6 Private forestry (Mondi, Sappi & Safcol)	Community forestry	? (Policy implementation)				
			Plantations	-	◆?		
	7 Local communities - Subsistence			Firewood collection	-	◆◆	- Promotion of sustainable use & alternatives, awareness of SGT
				Slash & burn agriculture	-	◆◆◆	- Promotion of sustainable use & alternatives, awareness of SGT
				Medicinal plants,	-	◆	- Promotion of sustainable use & alternatives, awareness of SGT
				Building materials	-	◆◆	- Promotion of sustainable use & alternatives, awareness of SGT
				Wood carving	-	◆	- Promotion of sustainable use & alternatives, awareness of SGT
	8 Community sugar farmers	IGA	Cane farming	-	◆◆◆	Awareness& enforcement of agriculture & environmental laws	
	9 DBN Natural Science Museum	- Research & Education	Talks & Displays	+	◆◆	Further awareness	
			Archives	+	◆◆◆◆	Media release(public Relations)	
			Publications	+	◆◆	Increased monitoring	

Country	Stakeholder	Interest	Activities	Imp.	Int.	Proposed Activities
	10 Tour operators	IGA	Guiding			
			Awareness	+	♦♦	Restrict access to breeding areas
			Disturbance	-	♦	
	11 Universities	- Education & Research	Scientific research project	+	♦♦♦	Focus more on SGT research (postgraduate degrees)
	12 RBM Other mining companies	- IGA	Prospecting & Mining	+	♦♦♦♦	- More emphasis on rehabilitation & restoration of forest habitats
	13 WESSA	- Environmental protection	'Watchdogs'	+	♦♦♦♦	- maintenance of programmes
	14 BirdLife South Africa (branches)	- Bird conservation	Bird guide training	+	♦♦	Increased awareness
			IBA & Species conservation	+	♦♦♦♦	
			Environmental Education	+	♦♦♦	
			Promoting birding	+	♦♦♦	
	15 Local municipalities	-Town management	MOSS	+	♦♦	Raising awareness
			Maintaining green areas	+	♦♦	Promote indigenous gardening
	16 Bird Clubs (Independed)	- Birding	Outings	+	♦♦	Increased awareness amongst bird clubs
			Talks	+	♦♦♦	
			Newsletters	+	♦♦♦	
Kenya	1Kenya Wildlife Services	- Biodiversity conservation	Protection	+/-	♦♦♦♦/♦♦	- Focused protection for SGT & its habitat
			Tourism development	+/-	♦♦/♦	-Site appropriate eco-tourism
			Partnership	+	♦♦♦	Strengthen partnerships
			Environmental awareness	+	♦♦♦	Raise profile of SGT & plan
			Research & Monitoring	+	♦♦	Generate more ecological information on SGT
			Fundraising for SGT	+	♦	Fundraise for plan implementation
	2 Forest Department	Forest management	Protection	+	♦♦♦♦	Intensify protection of indigenous forest
			Commercial exploitation	-	♦	Enforce ban on logging of indigenous trees
			Partnerships	+/-	♦♦	Proper management of partnerships
			Tree planting	+/-	♦♦	Promote enrichment planting
	3 National Museums of Kenya	Preserve National heritage	Preservation & protection of sites	+	♦♦♦♦	Enforce protection of lower profiled sites
		Research	Applied conservation research of biodiversity	+	♦♦♦	More research & monitoring
		Education & awareness	Information dissemination	+	♦	Promote awareness of SGT & plan
	Tourism	Promotion of visitors to sites	+/-	♦/♦	Promote awareness of SGT & plan & minimize disturbance to habitat	
4 Community including FADA, ASFGA & Kipepeo	Utilization & Protection	firewood collection	-	♦♦	- Promote sustainable use practices & implementation of plan	
		grazing	-	♦♦		
		Poles	-	♦♦		

Country	Stakeholder	Interest	Activities	Imp.	Int.	Proposed Activities
			Honey	-	◆/◆◆◆	
			Medicine	+/-	◆◆	
			Cultural practises	+	◆◆◆◆	
			Conservation (Tree planting)	+	◆◆	
			Awareness	+	◆◆	
			Agriculture	-	◆	
			Butterfly farming	+	◆◆◆	
	5 International NGOs BirdLife International, BCP, NABU, KNH, Darwin Initiative, RSPB	- Biodiversity conservation - Development	Fundraising, Ecotourism, Social development projects, Advocacy, Training			

Imp.=Impact of activities =positive or negative,

Int=Intensity of the impact; ◆= Low, ◆◆=Medium, ◆◆◆= High, ◆◆◆◆=Critical

3. Action Programme

This includes the vision, aim, objectives and projects/activities of the action plan. The vision, aim, objectives and specific objectives are indicated in Table 5.

Table 5: Vision Aim and Objectives

Vision	Description and justification	Indicators
Ensure the long-term survival of a viable population such that it is ultimately removed from the IUCN Red Data List		
Aim (5 years)	Description and justification	Indicators
Knowledge on the distribution, conservation biology and status of SGT improved and population stabilised		
Objectives	Description and justification	Indicators
1. Conservation status of breeding and non-breeding and stop-over sites improved (◆◆◆)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community based natural resources committees formed /bird clubs/SSG(one at SGT key sites) • Increase in number of SGT sightings by 25% • 80% of the already existing Protected Area SGT key sites accorded effective protection • Increased population of SGT by 10% • 60% of the unprotected SGT sites accorded legal protection
2. Natural population dynamics of SGT determined (◆◆)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual mortality rates and causes known at 5 sites • Breeding success known at 5 sites • Population structure known at 5 sites • Viability of populations assessed at 5 sites
3. Important breeding, non-breeding and stop-over sites along migration routes determined (◆◆◆)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of confirmed, breeding, non-breeding and Stopover sites published in International Journal • Ringing programmes initiated in at least one site for each of the range states • Quarterly presentations of migration studies in major media channels (TV, radio, newspapers) in all range states • Significant increase in recovered ringed birds • Detailed indigenous knowledge surveys carried out and analysed for 50% of known sites
4. An effective international network for conservation of SGT established (◆◆)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International SGT Working Group established by 9/5/03 at the latest • All relevant stakeholders in at least five countries have input to coordinated national or local actions • Action plan implemented in range states • Productive contact and information flow maintained • Annual progress reports produced • A web-based discussion forum in place

SGT= Spotted Ground Thrush

Projects

Objective 1: Conservation status of breeding and non-breeding and stop-over sites improved

1. Conservation awareness of Spotted Ground Thrush status and habitat requirements to stakeholder raised (Environmental Education)
2. Development and implementation of sustainable management plan for key Spotted Ground Thrush sites (Include income generating activities + alternative land for local communities, disturbance i.e. tourism, training, predation, tax raising for conservation, woodlots, alternative energy + building sources)
3. Research and monitoring of Spotted Ground Thrush and its habitat requirements
4. Identify the legislation gaps and lobby for appropriate amendments and enforcement with regard to species and habitat (include habitat fragmentation)
5. Reduce illegal activities by 20% in Spotted Ground Thrush key sites

Objective 2: Natural population dynamics of Spotted Ground Thrush determined

1. Determine and monitor population size at breeding and non-breeding sites
2. Determine breeding success and mortality rates in relation to forest habitat types (coastal vs. scarp/disturbed/undisturbed)
3. Improve knowledge on and natural history of Spotted Ground Thrush.
4. Assess the impacts of ecological factors (e.g. tools, rainfall, predators etc.) on population dynamics at breeding and non-breeding sites
5. Determine adult and juvenile survival rates

Objective 3: Important breeding, non-breeding and stop-over sites along migration routes determined

1. Identify all potential sites both known and unknown for breeding, non-breeding and stop-over
2. Carry out detailed studies of all potential sites to determine population size, status and productivity
3. Conduct appropriate research to determine routes followed during migration
4. Evaluate local indigenous attitudes and knowledge regarding Spotted Ground Thrush for population adjacent to breeding, non-breeding, stop-over sites.
5. Conduct awareness campaign about Spotted Ground Thrush studies to achieve big recovery rate of ringed birds
6. Determine and rank importance of sites (non-breeding and Stopover sites) based on population size and productivity

Objective 4: An effective international network for conservation of Spotted Ground Thrush established

International Level

1. Establish an international working group for the Spotted Ground Thrush involving all relevant countries to coordinate actions

National Level

2. Establish a appropriate country specific system of involving all relevant countries to coordinate actions
3. Increase awareness and publicity for the conservation of the Spotted Ground Thrush among stakeholders

Table 6 shows the details of how the specific project will be implemented i.e., its priority as far as the conservation of the species is concerned, agencies that will take a lead to implement the project, time scale, cost, risks and opportunities that one has to bear in mind.

Table 6: Project table

	Project	Overall Priority	Agencies responsible	Time scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks and opportunities
A	Policy and Legislation						
1.4	Identify the legislation gaps and lobby for appropriate amendments and enforcement with regard to species and habitat	◆◆◆	SG Thrush Working Group, BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2008	◆◆	-Legislation gaps identified in 5/7 countries and amendments in 3/5 countries	-Lack of political buy-in/goodwill (R) -Willing donors to fund projects (R) -Involving government officials in SGT workshop (O)
1.5	Reduce illegal activities by 20% in SG Thrush key sites	◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2006	◆◆		-Govts may not cooperate with other SGT stakeholders (R)
B	Species & Habitat						
1.2	Development and implementation of sustainable management plan for key SGT sites	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-5 (designing) 2005-8 (implementation)	◆◆◆	-Plan developed in 2 years for key sites -Local conservation committees formed -Improved habitat status for 80% key sites with plan	-Lack of expertise (R) -Lack of adequate funding (R)
2.3	Improve knowledge on and natural history of SGT	◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2007	◆◆	-Population structure known -breeding biology known -Local community attitudes known General ecology known	-Existing cooperation between managers and scientists (O) -Security problem (Sudan) (R) -Limited expertise (R)
C	Monitoring & Research						
1.3	Research and monitoring of SGT and its habitat requirements	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2008	◆◆◆	-Baseline data provided in 5/7 SGT states in 2 years -Habitat requirements for SGT known in 3 years -Monitoring of SGT implemented in 5/7 range states within year one and on-going	-Political instability in some range states (R) -Lack of adequate expertise (R)
2.1	Determine and monitor population size at breeding and non-breeding sites	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2007	◆◆◆	-Population estimate known for 50% of the sites in 5/7 countries -Effective standard monitoring system in place	-Hostile habitats (Sudan) (R) -On-going monitoring programmes and systems (O) -Existing SSGs, etc (O) - Limited expertise (R)
2.2	Determine breeding success and mortality rates in relation to forest habitat types	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2007	◆◆◆	Breeding success and mortality rates known at sites	-Difficulties in finding nests (R) -Limited expertise (R)
2.4	Assess the impacts of ecological factors on population dynamics at breeding and non-breeding sites	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners and other conservation NGOs	2003-2007	◆◆◆	List and impact of major factors known	-Limited expertise (R)

	Project	Overall Priority	Agencies responsible	Time scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks and opportunities
2.5	Determine adult and juvenile survival rates	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2007	◆◆◆	Adult and juvenile survival rates known	-Existing SSGs/Bird ringing groups for training (O) -Existing SSGs are lacking in some countries (R)
3.1	Identify all potential sites both known and unknown for breeding, non-breeding and stop-over	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners and other conservation NGOs	2003-2004	◆◆	-Distribution map categorising sites (breeding, non-breeding, Stop over and level of knowledge	-Remote sensing data analysis (O) -Literature available for review -Expertise available (O) -Overlooking smaller sites (R)
3.2	Carry out detailed studies of all potential sites to determine population size, status and productivity	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners and other conservation NGOs	2004-2006	◆◆◆	-Map of each site using population data sets -Population size per site -Population status per site including seasonality -Population productivity	-Students/ field workers available (O) -Inaccessibility of sites -Government support (O) -Difficult and time consuming (R)
3.3	Conduct appropriate research to determine routes followed during migration	◆◆	BirdLife Partners and other conservation NGOs	2003-2006	◆◆◆	-Map of migration routes -20% of the population ringed per site from 1 site per country in at least 5 countries	-Low recovery rates (R) -Long time scale required to get significant results (R) -Expertise available for training (O) -Low number of qualified ringers (R)
3.4	Evaluate local indigenous attitudes and knowledge regarding SGT for population adjacent to breeding, non-breeding, stop-over sites.	◆◆		2003-2004	◆◆	Data gathered from 50% of sites	-Lack of familiarity of species (R) -Accessibility (R) -Misleading information (R) -Lack of cooperation (R) -Expertise available (O)
3.6	Determine and rank importance of sites based on population size and productivity	◆◆◆		2006 end	◆	Sites ranked with supporting data	-Expertise available (O) -Difficulties in data gathering c.f to 3.2
D	Public awareness and Training						
1.1	Conservation awareness of SGT status and habitat requirements to stakeholder raised	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2008	◆◆	-Govt representation in launching of management plans in 5/7 countries -At least one conservation or interest action group formed at SGT key site -At least 2 press releases issued in 5/7 range states per year -Govt support for SGT plan in 5/7 range states	-On-going conservation projects to contribute (O)
3.5	Conduct awareness campaign about SGT studies to achieve big recovery rate of ringed birds	◆◆		2003-2008	◆◆	-Significant increase in ring recoveries -Quarterly media presentations running in 3-4/7 countries	-Lack of interest from media to accept presentations (R) -Often interest to publicise this kind of information (O)

	Project	Overall Priority	Agencies responsible	Time scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks and opportunities
4.1	International SPT working group formed	◆◆◆◆	ASWG, Nature Kenya	2003-2008	◆◆	-International SGT working group established by 9/5/03 at the latest -Productive contact and information flow maintained at least 6 times a year -Annual progress reports produced A web-based discussion forum in place	-Potential for MoU between SGT range states (O) -Building on existing network (O) -Use the forum as a foundation for future plans for other species (O) -Too much talk, too little action (R) -Collaboration among partners increases funding opportunities (O) -Different languages in range states (R)
4.2	Establish a appropriate country specific system of involving all relevant countries to coordinate actions	◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2004-2008	◆	-At least 50% of stakeholders in at least 5 countries involved in coordinated national/local actions -Productive contact and information flow maintained at least 2 times a year SGT action plan implemented in at least 5 countries	-Building on existing network (O) -Use the forum as a foundation for future plans for other species (O) -Too much talk, too little action (R) -Collaboration among partners increases funding opportunities (O) -Not all stakeholders have the same interest and priorities (R)
4.3	Increase awareness and publicity for the conservation of the SGT among stakeholders	◆◆◆◆	BirdLife Partners/ other conservation NGOs	2003-2008	◆◆◆	--At least 50% of stakeholders in at least 5 countries involved in coordinated national/local actions -At least 2 exposures per year in the media for at least 5/7 countries -Environmental education programme initiated with at least 1 stakeholder group in at least 5/7 countries -Funds raised to initiate at least one country relevant project in each country	-Not all stakeholders have the same interest and priorities (R) -Raise awareness relating to wider habitats or ecosystems, not only single species (O) Linking with existing network/projects with partners/stakeholders (O)

There are a number of factors that may affect the implementation of the action plan. The on-going projects in countries (Table 7) may enhance the implementation on the plan in one way or another. Taking into account the regional differences, the risks and opportunities in the implementation of the plan are shown in Table 8.

Table 7. Factors influencing the implementation of the Spotted Ground Thrush action plan

OPPORTUNITIES	RISKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote conservation Education and awareness • Appropriate legislation • Support for legislation • Most areas protected • Conservation organizations recognized and taken seriously by Governments • Influence legislation formulation • Wildlife, forest policies supports conservation of species • Legislation available on conservation of biodiversity • Cooperative governance fund at international level • IGA's relating to forest management • Increase in interested and concerned local people for example Guides • Community involvement • Local community involved at some of the SGT's sites • Birding groups and Ecotourism • Formulation of SGT working groups • Regional networking • Better International and Regional cooperation • Solicit funding for Implementation • Many donors are eager to support conservation • Establishment of SGT conservation • Most SGT's sites in Kenya are IBA's • On-going projects targeting wildlife species (Elephants, Montane forest birds) • Compliment on-going conservation work • Site actions in some IBAs where SGT is found • Promotion of IBA site support groups • Increase in professional conservationists concerned for species conservation • Expertise available, capacity building opportunities • Retrieval of peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of expertise • Lack of reliable data • Fewer specialists on SGT • Species poorly understood • Corruption • Some sites privately owned • Continued habitat loss • Land redistribution program (Land Claims) • Lack of buy-in from government • Lack of commitment • Lack of commitment by governments • Lack of National and local government support for effective implementation • Not completely protected over entire migratory route • Lack of Regional and International cooperation especially for Cross-border species (Case study in Tanzania and Kenya) • Lack of funds • Lack of funding • Lack of funding • Funding • Limited funding and resources • Conflict with existing/on-going programs/plans • Lack of consensus • Do not provide direct tangible benefits to local communities • Opportunity costs maybe high • Poverty where species is found • Inaccessibility due to insecure sites • Lack of awareness

Table 8: On going projects

Country	Projects
South Africa	
Mozambique	
Malawi	Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT) Supported by World Bank
Tanzania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation of Masanganya Forest (Kisarewe) by DANIDA 2. Conservation of Pugu & Kazimzumbwi forests by Swedish society of Nature Conservation (SSNC) 3. CARE - Norway - Mitsu Yetu Project on conservation of Coastal forests 4. Fuelwood lot project for communities around Zaraninge forest (NORAD) 5. Promotion of Jaadani Reserve into a National park
Kenya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kipepeo (Butterfly) farming Project 2. Important Bird Areas monitoring of the East Coast Akalat (Not systematic yet) 3. Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Management Plan is in place for the next 25 years 4. Arabuko-Sokoke Schools and Ecotourism scheme which is a bursary fund carried out by A Rocha Kenya 5. Environmental Education Program by A Rocha Kenya 6. Ecotourism and improved livelihoods project carried out by Nature Kenya, Kindernotif (KNH) and Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU)
DRC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Crane Foundation(ICF) 2. South African Crane Working Group(SCWG) 3. Nouvelles Approches (Belgian N.G.O.) 4. UNEF Potential Site) 5. Peace (End of War) Process 6. MIKE Project
Sudan	

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Annex 8: Press release

A shy bird threatened by forest destruction attracts international attention

With less than 2,500 individuals remaining in the world, the Spotted Ground Thrush *Zoothera guttata* is one of Africa's most endangered birds and amongst the most sought after by birdwatchers. Some populations of this fast disappearing thrush migrate between certain African countries. It would be futile to protect the bird in one country only for it to die for lack of suitable habitat in another. Five races of this striking ground-dwelling thrush are recognised within its range, but existing in what are now only isolated patches of indigenous forest. Two are migratory coastal races, one in Kenya and Tanzania, and the other in South Africa. The three sedentary races are found in small forest fragments in Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Sudan and recent unconfirmed observations also suggest Mozambique.

Under the auspices of the BirdLife Africa Species Working Group, a workshop of international experts was held at Turtle Bay Beach Club, Watamu, Kenya from 5-9th May 2003. It was jointly hosted by NatureKenya and National Museums of Kenya (NMK), facilitated by NatureUganda and BirdLife South Africa and co-funded by the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the UK Darwin Initiative. The aim of developing an International Conservation Action Plan of this enigmatic species was achieved, and an International Spotted Ground Thrush Working Group set up to co-ordinate the implementation of the Plan.

The sixteen NGO and Government participants in the Kenyan workshop were drawn from BirdLife International partners in South Africa, Malawi, DRC, Kenya and Tanzania. The workshop identified appropriate stakeholders, activities and methods to be included in the Action Plan and recommended that urgent and immediate action is needed in order to conserve the species. Major activities recommended included raising awareness, research and monitoring and appropriate and effective management of forest habitats.

In his opening speech, Mr Tito Mbuvi, Centre Director of Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Gede, and also Secretary for the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Management Team, emphasized the importance of involving local communities and other stakeholders adjacent to Spotted Ground Thrush sites if conservation actions are to succeed in the long term.

Colin Jackson, Director of A Rocha Kenya, said that from observations in Arabuko-Sokoke, Spotted Ground Thrushes appear to require good quality forest for their survival and thus could be used as an indicator of healthy forest environment. Furthermore, local communities can benefit as a result of birdwatchers visiting sites such as Arabuko-Sokoke Forest to see the thrush and in so doing contribute to schemes like the already existing bursary fund, *Arabuko-Sokoke Schools & Eco-Tourism Scheme* (www.assets-kenya.org).

Following a presentation about what is known of the species by Kariuki Ndang'ang'a, a Research Scientist at NMK, Doug Harebottle of Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town, who has extensively studied the species in South Africa still recognises that there is much information lacking for its effective conservation.

The workshop concluded that with active support for the Species Action Plan from the governments and conservation bodies in countries where the bird occurs, there is hope for the continued survival of this elusive and remarkable, yet currently threatened bird.

For more information contact Kariuki Ndang'ang'a, NatureKenya, P.O. Box 44486, 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel +254-(0)20-3749986 / 57, Fax +254-(0)20-3741049, email: kbirds@africaonline.co.ke or office@naturekenya.org

I'd rather be birding...

Annex 9: Minutes of the first meeting of the International Spotted Ground Thrush Interest Group (ISGTIG)

Meeting held on 9th May 2003 at the Turtle Bay Beach Club, Watamu, Kenya.

Present: Charles Kahindo (CK), Robert Kizungu (RK), Potiphar Kaliba (PK), Ian Barber (IB), Craig Mulqueeny (CMq), Doug Harebottle (DH), Eric Sande (ES), Mathew Kiondo (MK), Elias Mungaya (EM), Charles Musyoki (CM), Kariuki Ndang'ang'a (KN) - chairing, Muchane Muchai (MM) - minuting), Anthony Kiragu (AK),

Apologies: Colin Jackson (CJ)

Action points have the accompanying initials in **bold**.

1/05/03 Minutes of the previous meeting

No previous meeting since this was the first meeting.

2/05/03 Matters arising

- KN started by inviting everyone who had participated in the International Spotted Ground Thrush Action Plan in the meeting, and asking them if they agreed or disagreed whether an International Spotted Ground Thrush Interest Group (ISGTIG) was needed. All agreed that an ISGTIG was indeed very important. KN then declared the formation of the ISGTIG.
- KN presented an agenda for the meeting, which was adopted by the group members.

3/05/03 Agenda

- Introduction
- Office bearers
- Terms of reference
- Follow up/implementation of plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation plan
- Distribution of Spotted Ground Thrush Species Action Plan.
- AOB.

4/05/03 Office bearers

- Four posts were proposed. These included an International co-ordinator, Assistant International co-ordinator, National Co-ordinators and the Secretary. Office bearers were to be reviewed after every 3 years. The secretary (to take minutes only) was to be appointed every time there was a meeting.
- KN was proposed, seconded and agreed to be the International co-ordinator.
- DH was proposed, seconded and agreed to be the Assistant International co-ordinator.
- EM, CK, KN, DH, and PK were proposed, seconded and agreed to be the National Co-ordinators of Tanzania, DRC, Kenya, South Africa and Malawi respectively.
- MM was proposed, seconded and agreed to be the Secretary for the first meeting.
- Although the above were to be the office bearers KN suggested that there was collective responsibility for all members.
- ES suggested that National co-ordinators were to keep in touch with people in Government (national contact) in order to seek government support to adopt plan.

5/05/03 Terms of Reference (TOR)

KN requested members to suggest and give opinions on what was to be included in the TOR. KN further suggested that a task force of three volunteers to be assigned to draft the TOR. **EM, CM, and CK** volunteered to draft the TOR. The final draft, which will be ready by 20th May 2003, will be sent to **KN** for circulation to

members. ES however, suggested that members to brainstorm on key issues to be included in the TOR. Members brainstormed and the following issues were raised:

- Linkages among stake holders.
- Element of active involvement of all members.
- Spearheading implementation of SGT Plan.
- Feedback system to respective government.
- Popularise Action Plan.
- Mobilise donors.
- International cooperation among range states.
- Inference adoption of plan as part of on-going other management plans and progress.
- Authority for monitoring an evaluation of action plan.
- Development and maintaining SGT information database.
- Code of conduct/ethics.

6/05/03 Follow-up (Implementation of Plan)

AK and CM suggested that development and lobbying of National SGT Action Plans as well as development of annual national work plans were important as the starting point for each country. ES however informed members that not all countries would be able to develop National Action Plans. ES was asked to inform members about which countries have funding (from the SAP project) to carry out National Action Plans. KN suggested that there was need to lobby for funds for the remaining countries. DH suggested that there was need for commitment from each member of the ISGTIG to initiate National Species Interest Groups (i.e. NSGTIG) in each country. Members who volunteered to initiate NSIGs at own countries included: **EM, CK, KN, DH, and PK** for Tanzania, DRC, Kenya, South Africa and Malawi respectively. After the NSIGs are established, AK suggested that they should be the ones to monitor implementation of relevant parts of the International plan for their respective countries. The NSIGs should report to SGT international coordinator and National Species Action Plan Co-ordinators.

7/05/03 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E Plan)

The following was agreed upon:

- The M&E is necessary to monitor and evaluate plan, and will be done by co-ordination of NSIGs for respective countries and feedback to KN who will then report to ES.
- Work plans to be done annually.
- Reporting by 1st June of each year.
- Feedback would be sent to International co-ordinator of the ISGTIG
- KN asked ES if existing format guideline from other M&E plans could be used as template. ES suggested that the project table (i.e. logical frame) could be used.

8/04/03 Networking and communication (chaired by DH)

The following remarks were made:

- ES said that he will invite every member of the ISGTIG to the E-mail discussion groups of ASWG. ES said he will send e-mail to all ISGTIG members, who by default, will be registered once they reply.
- ISGTIG will develop its own E-mail discussion group (SGTWG).
- SGT e-mail discussion group will be at two levels:
 - National (i.e. among national co-ordinators)
 - International (i.e. among all members of the ISGTIG).
- DH was proposed and seconded as the SGT International interim moderator (i.e. the person who will be handling e-mail subscription)

9/04/03 Distribution of SAP

- A question was raised about whom the SAP was to be sent to. It was agreed that copies should be sent to National Coordinators of respective countries and the National Co-ordinator to distribute them via mailing list.
- Every National Co-ordinator to register with KN the number of copies they need for their countries.
- Deadline for the distribution of the SAP is July 2003 latest.

10/04/03 AOB

ES informed members that there was an opportunity to fund workshops for developing National plans from RSPB for other countries other than Kenya and Tanzania (which have already been funded). ES will communicate about this to whole group. Members were encouraged to apply. Meeting ended at 16:34.

Annex 10: Daily Evaluation/ Moodometer

	😊	😐	😞
Day 1	●●●●● ●●●●●	●●●	
Day 2	●●●●●●●● ●●●●●	●	
Day 3	●●	●●●●●● ●●●●●	
Day 4	●●●●● ●●●●●	●●	
Day 5	●●●●●● ●●●●●●		
Overall	●●● ●●●		