

## Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species Half Year Report Form

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa</b>
<b>Country</b>	Africa
<b>Organisation</b>	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/10/019
<b>Report date</b>	April 2003-September 2003

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

0. The project management structure including all project staff is in place and functioning well. The National Species Action Plan format and process has been finalized, 5 national and 2 international species action plans have been produced during this reporting period. Institutional capacity in species conservation in Africa is being built and the Africa Species Working Group led the process of producing the BirdLife Africa Species Conservation Strategy 2004-2008 during this reporting period which is currently being finalised.

1. A priority Bird species list in Africa for which a Species Action Plan (SAP) approach would enhance their conservation has been agreed but it is being updated periodically as new information becomes available.

2. A priority list of countries that the Council of the African Partnership should endeavour to recruit into the partnership based on their importance to the conservation of globally threatened birds has been produced and the information is currently being used in the Partnership to inform and prioritise efforts to recruit new partners.

3. Training Program for BirdLife Africa Partnership, other conservation NGOs and government representatives in species conservation endeavours has been ongoing and the species approach is being appreciated. National Species Action Plan Coordinators (NSAPCs) have received further training in workshop facilitation. Using the skills gained in organizing and facilitating SAP workshops, the trained stakeholders have adopted the SAP format and process developed by this project, and these stakeholders in conjunction with relevant government departments, are producing priority species action plans for their respective countries. Our SAP format and process has for instance been used to produce National Action Plans for the Chimpanzee and Mountain Gorilla for Uganda and Rwanda respectively.

4. One Species Interest Group, the Spotted Ground Thrush Interest Group was inaugurated during this reporting period and is functioning. People interested in the conservation of Lappet-faced Vulture are still consulting whether they should form an Interest Group for the species or incorporate the species' conservation activities into the already existing Vulture Working Groups.

5. Two International Species Action Plan workshops (Spotted Ground Thrush and Lappet-faced Vulture) involving 30 people from 12 African countries were held and draft plans produced during this reporting period. 5 National Species Action Plan workshops (Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia) involving more than 100 people were held and draft plans produced during this reporting period. Following the decision of the Project Steering Committee that convened on 28 April 2003, the Africa Species Working Group Coordinator (Eric Sande) and/or the Project Advisor (Steven Evans) have been co-facilitating the national workshops with a NSAPC from a neighbouring country.

6. The process for securing funding for action plan implementation has been initiated. A follow-up project "Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa" was submitted to Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species during this reporting period. The follow-up will further develop the ability of the partnership through the Species Interest Groups and NSAPCs, enhance their

advocacy and communication and develop a training programme for species action plan delivery.

Most Species Interest Groups are still at the stage of organising their roles, finalising draft plans and identifying potential donors. An application is being submitted to BP Conservation Awards for work on Grauer's Rush Warbler. Stage 1 funding application to Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species to implement some aspects of the Blue Swallow International SAP was prepared during this reporting period. National working groups in South Africa and Zambia have already received funding for implementation of some national plan activities. Nature Kenya have received funds for research work into the Spotted Ground Thrush.

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

The only change was the involvement of the Africa Species Working Group Coordinator or the Project Advisor in all the national workshops and for different workshop, inviting the NSAPC from a neighbouring country to co-facilitate. This change had an implication on the original budget since we had not previously included international travels in the national workshops budgets. Our original plan was that the NSAPC in country would single handedly organize and facilitate the national workshop for his country. Fortunately, the RSPB is covering the extra costs that were brought about by this change.

**3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures.**

No

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield