



In partnership with



CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN *for Wattled & Grey Crowned Cranes in Zimbabwe* with a particular focus on the Driefontein Grasslands

22 -23 July 2010

Mukuvisi Woodland Wildlife and Environment Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe



Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum* and Wattled Cranes *Bugeranus carunculatus*



Driefontein Grasslands

PRINCE BERNHARD FUND FOR NATURE
DOHMEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

**CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN
FOR WATTLED AND GREY CROWNED CRANES
IN ZIMBABWE
(WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE DRIEFONTEIN GRASSLANDS)**

Mukuvisi Woodland Wildlife and Environment Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe

22-23 July 2010

WORKSHOP REPORT

Hosted by:

BIRDLIFE ZIMBABWE

Facilitated by:

INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION / ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST PARTNERSHIP'S

AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Sponsored by:

PRINCE BERNHARD FUND FOR NATURE

and

DOHMEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Morrison, K., Chirara, C., Fakarayi, T. and Mabhachi, O (editors). 2010. Conservation Action Plan for Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes in Zimbabwe - with a particular focus on the Driefontein Grasslands. ICF/EWT Partnership.

The photographs on the front page are of a Grey Crowned Crane (left), supplied by Glenn Ramke, Wattled Cranes (right), supplied by Gunther Nowald, and of the Driefontein area, supplied by Kerryn Morrison.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A workshop to develop a Conservation Action Plan for Wattled *Bugeranus carunculatus* and Grey Crowned *Balearica regulorum* Cranes in Zimbabwe was held on 22 and 23 July at the Mukuvisi Woodland Wildlife and Environmental Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe. Thirty participants representing local communities, government, universities and NGO's attended the workshop.

Four Working Groups were established for the workshop, each focussing on a key issue for crane conservation. These were: habitat loss and land use; captive breeding, policy and enforcement; awareness; and threats and research. Within each, solutions and conservation actions were developed that addressed the key threats, concerns and issues raised at the workshop.

It was generally agreed by the participants that both Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes in Zimbabwe were showing signs of changing distribution and decline in numbers. However, to fully understand the situation, it was agreed that a nationwide survey was required. In addition, participants felt that an improved understanding of all threats to the species was required, including specifically collisions with power lines, persecution as a result of crop depredation, poisoning and disturbance at nesting sites.

There were a number of captive facilities involved in the captive breeding of Wattled Cranes in Zimbabwe. There was however, a lack of collaboration between projects and hence minimal support. The establishment of a working group to develop a captive breeding protocol would direct the activities of and garner support for a captive breeding project, as well as facilitate collaboration among breeders and interested stakeholders. This would also assist in reducing the illegal removal of chicks from the wild, but only if done in collaboration with improved law enforcement by Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.

The cultivation of wetlands and uncontrolled fires has contributed to the loss of wetlands, degradation of grasslands and increased human disturbance at key crane areas. This has resulted in cranes either abandoning sites or productivity at sites decreasing. To reduce the loss of wetlands, communities should be trained in their sustainable use, and encouraged to adopt appropriate integrated farming practices, to plant drought tolerant crops and to diversify their livelihood options. Sensitizing and educating the community on fire and its management, making a concerted effort to reduce the incidences of uncontrolled fires and developing a fire management plan for the area, will address the threat that the current uncontrolled fires pose. Finally, increasing awareness, increasing the level of community participation in the conservation of cranes, finding ways to protect all known key sites for cranes and controlling access to crane breeding sites in the breeding season, will hopefully reduce the disturbance at sites and improve site fidelity and productivity. Ultimately, the formation of a community based conservancy would also assist in conserving cranes.

With crane sites distributed across the landscape and no national policies and guidelines for crane and wetland conservation, there is a lack of law enforcement in key crane areas. An MoU between the relevant stakeholders will allow for the formulation of by-laws that will add value to the conservation of cranes and wetlands. In the interim though, Parks and Wildlife Management Authority will be encouraged to enforce current legislation around specially protected species in the Driefontein Grasslands. Cross cutting both of these solutions though will be the involvement of communities in the development of a management plan to protect key breeding and foraging sites.

Section 1

WORKSHOP PROCESS

BirdLife Zimbabwe developed a National Crane and Habitat Action Plan in 2002. Eight years on and with the many changes in the country in terms of land use and conservation, a workshop was held to develop a Conservation Action Plan for Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes in Zimbabwe. There was a particular focus on the Driefontein Grasslands in the workshop, as this area was the stronghold for Wattled Cranes *Bugeranus carunculatus* and also had a good population of Grey Crowned Cranes *Balearica regulorum*.

The workshop was held on 22 and 23 July 2010 at the Mukuvisi Woodland Wildlife and Environment Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe. There were 30 participants representing the local communities around the Driefontein Grasslands, local district offices, universities, BirdLife Zimbabwe, NGO's and government departments. The workshop was hosted by BirdLife Zimbabwe and facilitated by Ms Kerry Morrison and Mr Osiman Mabhachi of the African Crane Conservation Programme – an International Crane Foundation (ICF) / Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Partnership.

The workshop was opened by Mrs Wakeling, BirdLife Zimbabwe's President, and was followed by a series of presentations aimed at increasing awareness of the progress made since the 2002 workshop.

The workshop started with all participants contributing their ideas to the issues facing cranes in Zimbabwe. This was done through the use of cards that were handed out to each of the participants. They were asked to make note of one issue, threat or concern per card and each of these were placed on a wall in front of the participants. Once all ideas had been exhausted, the participants assisted with grouping cards that shared a similar theme. Four main themes were eventually agreed upon, namely: habitat loss and land use; captive breeding, policy and enforcement; awareness; and threats and research. The participants were then asked to choose a Working Group in which they would be able to contribute the most. As plenary sessions were held periodically throughout the workshop, it was stressed that everyone would have the opportunity to comment and provide input into each of the other Working Group as well. .

Breaking up into the four Working Groups, the participants were tasked with grouping the issues further, and ensuring that all issues and concerns had been included. Within each of these sub-groupings, the question of why this was of concern was explored by asking the question WHY between two and five times. From this, problem statements were developed for each sub-grouping explored within the Working Group. These were then broadly prioritised. A plenary session was held to ensure that all issues had been captured within problem statements and that the cause of each had been determined.

The participants moved back into Working Groups to capture the comments made in plenary and then to develop solutions and actions to each problem statement. For each problem statement, solutions to resolve the problem and key goals to these were developed. These were then developed further into actions, each of which included an outline of the action, the responsible person or organisation, time line and whether there was budget available for the action or not. The

Working Groups were encouraged to keep the SMART principles in mind when developing this session further, i.e. that goals were Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely.

A final plenary was held to go through the solutions, goals and actions developed by each Working Group. Again, all comments were captured in the Working Group reports before completing the Working Group report.

A final plenary session on fundraising options and opportunities was held. The aim of this was to determine options for fulfilling the action plan developed. Several good ideas were provided and will be followed up by BirdLife Zimbabwe.

The workshop was closed by BirdLife Zimbabwe.

Section 2

PRESENTATIONS



Wattled Cranes in the Driefontein Grasslands (photo by Kerry Morrison)

Opening and Welcome Remarks

Mrs D. Wakeling, BirdLife Zimbabwe President

Thank you, Dr Chirara, and your dynamic conservation team, for inviting me to open this extraordinary meeting of Driefontein community members, government officials, teachers and specialists, BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) Councillors, and visitors from the International Crane Foundation (ICF)/ Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Partnership, Kerry Morrison and Osiman Mabhachi. It is great honour and privilege for me to welcome you all to this workshop on the development of an action plan for the conservation of Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes in the Driefontein Grasslands which has been made possible by funding from Prince Bernhard Fund, Netherlands. I do this on behalf of BLZ Council and Membership .

BLZ, previously the Ornithological Association of Zimbabwe (OAZ), members have been observing and researching Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes for more than 60 years. Wattled Cranes were found in recent times in and around Harare and up at Juliasdale, Nyanga, but are gone now, due to habitat loss. In the late 90's OAZ was fortunate to have had a visit from George Archibald, who set up ICF. Much of these crane data accumulated by members have been published in BLZ renowned journal, Honeyguide, so providing one of the baseline tools BLZ staff use in their conservation decision making. Many of you here are more familiar with our staff, than our membership – the latter forms the basis of the organization, numbering over 400 at this time. The Office is a relatively recent addition to overall BLZ. It came about in 1998 when BLZ joined ranks with BirdLife International, becoming a full partner in 2002. One of the requirements of partnership with BirdLife International is the conservation of globally endangered and threatened bird species that occur in ones country – and as you know, the first National Crane and Habitat Action Plan was formulated at this time – 2002, to address the survival of the endangered nationally protected Wattled Crane. Eight years on much work has already taken place in this regard and Dr Chirara will be reporting on this at this meeting.

These majestic, wistful and mystical creatures, these cranes, have been woven into the fabric of the folklore of many cultures around the world for thousands of years – including Zimbabwean culture – and this has contributed to their protection. Cranes are now endangered worldwide as their fragile wetland grassland habitats have been all but annihilated due to the impacts of human population growth. We all know this and this is why we are here today – to continue planning how people and cranes can co-exist on the fast disappearing grassland wetland ecosystem of the Driefontein area. We are bound together by well considered policies written on pages, for example –that of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management which states that each one of us is responsible for the well being of the environment, BirdLife International talks about climate change and its impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. The practical part is the implementation –the networking of EWT, BLZ, Parks, the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Agritex and others to support communities and site groups. All of you here represent one or another of these organizations – confirming that preservation and conservation cannot be achieved by one group alone. However, the most important amongst us today are those of you from Driefontein who live amongst the cranes – you are the hands on custodians who carry the heavy weight of the survival of these extraordinary birds on your shoulders against all odds, particularly with the surging pressure on the land and climate change. Some of you have learnt to live alongside these birds and have much to teach us. We all know deep down that if these birds go, we will go too, as they indicate the

necessity of the pristine state of these wetlands to provide water and immeasurable ecosystems services upon which all beings are dependant.

So we here we are - part of the planetary ecological emergency. We have been doing something about this emergency locally. We can continue to change our habits, manage our agricultural practices differently by spreading awareness and with support from this network we can continue to influence locally, nationally, even internationally. There is no doubt this takes courage and confidence – but this abounds when faced with the alternative – devastation. I speak with experience as the project coordinator of a BLZ Site Support Group successfully conserving an important and now protected wetland in our capital, and fully appreciate the challenges faced by those on the ground, so to speak! At an international water conference held two weeks ago some felt the provision of water is a human right. Others felt that it is human responsibility to ensure conditions are in order for water to be available.

I wish you well with your deliberations over the next two days– with the vision of a flourishing crane population living alongside concerned people on a pristine grassland wetland, as focus.

Crane and Wetland Conservation in Driefontein Grasslands

Dr Chipangura Chirara and Togarasei Fakarayi (BirdLife Zimbabwe)

The Driefontein Grasslands is an Important Bird Area of the central plateau of the Chivhu, Mvuma and Felixburg areas, and is an important habitat for Zimbabwe's two crane species, the Wattled Crane (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) and the Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*). The soils are sandy and fast-draining except where water runs into shallow clay-lined depressions called vleis which support dense reed beds. The cranes are highly dependent on the wetland habitat for foraging and breeding. Wetlands in the Driefontein Grasslands are in the form of dams, pans, marshes and seasonally wet grasslands. The area is located outside protected area system of Zimbabwe and therefore the survival of cranes largely depends on people who live in the area and share wetlands with cranes.

Wetlands in the Driefontein Grasslands are being used by local subsistence farmers for growing crops during the dry season, water for livestock and water for domestic use from shallow wells that they dig. Waterbirds like the Wattled Cranes forage and breed in the wetland habitat. Because of the multiple benefits that are derived by both wildlife and humans from the wetlands, it is important for this resource to be used in a wise and sustainable manner.

Crane Conservation

Over the past ten years, BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) has been working with the local people to conserve cranes and wetlands in the Driefontein Grasslands IBA. The aim of the BLZ's conservation project in the Driefontein Grasslands is to promote conservation of wetlands for the benefit of cranes and people. In 2004, two Site Support Groups were established at Shashe and Daviot to help with the conservation of cranes and wetlands in their respective areas. In an effort to improve the livelihood status of these communities, BLZ established two community gardens in 2004 and these are still functional. Two more Site Support Groups were also set up at Chipisa and Chinyaure Villages in August 2009. The Site Support Groups have been playing a pivotal role in spreading education and awareness messages on crane and habitat conservation to other community members. BLZ has also

involved the Site Support Groups in crane monitoring. BLZ is working with 15 local schools in the Driefontein Grasslands under its Bird Awareness Programme (BAP). Work done in schools include education and awareness raising on crane conservation, setting up of environmental clubs, greening of school grounds, promoting information exchange with other schools outside the Driefontein area through the Bird Awareness Programme (BAP) Newsletter and establishing herbal gardens.

Each year BLZ conducts two surveys in the Driefontein Grasslands, one in summer and the other in winter, to determine the distribution and population status of cranes. These surveys are undertaken in conjunction with the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. There is also great support from the local communities who are helpful in pointed out wetlands where cranes are observed regularly. In a survey conducted in June 2010, 37 Wattled Cranes and 76 Grey Crowned Cranes were recorded. A floater of 14 Wattled Cranes was recorded for the first time at a site about 20km from the old Driefontein Dam and the new Driefontein Mission Dam where big flocks have normally been recorded. This site is located in the area being used by farmers who hold large pieces of land, suggesting that cranes are probably moving to less congested areas. A roosting site of Grey Crowned cranes was discovered at Shashe Dam about 300m from the Shashe community garden. Local communities have complained about crop depredation by cranes and the presence of this roosting site so close to the community requires that measures are taken to reduce crop damage by cranes in a way that does not harm the birds.

Conservation status

Both Grey Crowned and Wattled Cranes are 'Specially Protected' species under the Parks and Wildlife Act of 1975. These two crane species are categorised as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List, meaning they are globally threatened species.

Threats

The cranes in the Driefontein Grasslands are threatened by uncontrolled veld fires, habitat loss due to increased wetland cultivation, stream bank cultivation, illegal egg collection, and direct persecution by humans through poisoning and snaring. Uncontrolled veld fires are a serious threat that needs urgent attention. Wetland and stream bank cultivation is an issue of great concern as it affects the distribution of cranes in the area.

Crane Conservation in Zimbabwe and the Regional Implications

Osiman Mabhachi, ICF/EWT Partnership Community Projects Coordinator

Zimbabwe is one of the countries that contain appreciable populations of Grey Crowned and Wattled Cranes in Southern Africa. This explains why it is imperative that the country joins other African countries in ensuring the survival and viability of wild populations of the two crane species by participating in the regional crane conservation programme. To understand how the country can contribute to ongoing efforts to save these wetland-dependent species, it is critical to brainstorm on the project implementation approaches that should be used, geographical areas where conservation efforts should be directed, stakeholders that should be involved, specific activities that should be undertaken and the frequency at which conservation activities should be monitored and evaluated.

The sub-populations of the Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes in Zimbabwe are geographically detached from other regional sub-populations with the main populations being concentrated in the

central interior. It can generally be said that if no efforts are made to protect the species, the sub-population will be at the risk of extinction. The two species are classified as Vulnerable on the ICUN Red Data List and they are protected by law in Zimbabwe as they fall into the category of Specially Protected Species under the Parks and Wildlife Act of 1975 as amended in 1996. The fact that some of the key threats to the birds can only be addressed if there is high-level international cooperation means that Zimbabwe has a role to play. Illegal crane trade is a typical problem that calls for close collaboration among conservationists and law enforcement agencies across international boundaries whereas the problem of crop depredation by cranes requires that conservationists and researchers collaborate and share experiences. The level of awareness on the plight of cranes is still very low and a lot still needs to be done to ensure that stakeholders appreciate the status of cranes flagship species that can be used to highlight the need for sustainable wetland utilisation. In terms of numbers, Zimbabwe supports approximately 40% of the Southern African sub-species of the Grey Crowned Crane and therefore a decline in the Zimbabwe population will have negative repercussions on the overall regional population status. Direct and indirect threats to the cranes have also escalated in the last decade due to the socio-political situation in the country.

One phenomenon that Zimbabwe shares with the rest of the African countries is the fact that the threats that are causing the decline in crane numbers and decimating their habitats have social, economic, ecological, climatic, hydrologic and agricultural dimensions. This implies that in order to come up with viable solutions to the problems, an inter-disciplinary approach should be adopted. The other challenge that makes crane conservation efforts tricky is the fact that the distribution of crane populations coincides with communal areas under common pool resource management systems where there are no specific regulations on wetland utilisation. There are a lot of unknowns and gaps in knowledge in terms of the ecology and distribution of cranes in Zimbabwe as it is in other crane range states in the region. This calls for research activities to collect information that could ultimately be fed into the global crane information database. The role of the government in crane conservation action planning, policy formulation and enforcement cannot be overemphasised.

Already some areas like the Driefontein Grasslands have been noted to be key crane strongholds but there is still a need to ascertain whether there are other strongholds elsewhere that require protection. The process of identifying critical crane areas in Zimbabwe brings to the fore the need for regular national and regional exercises to update distribution maps of the two crane species which would help paint a clearer of the global scenario. Zimbabwe is one of the few African countries where there are coordinated efforts to conserve cranes in the wild and already the community-based conservation approach adopted by BirdLife Zimbabwe is paying dividends but there are questions as to whether the approach will be sustainable in the long run and whether the same approach would work in other areas that are currently not included in the conservation programme. Since model projects on how to protect critical crane sites currently do not exist, the approach adopted in Zimbabwe has the potential to provide lessons that address this gap on how to secure sites for long-term survival of cranes. The African Crane Conservation Programme (an International Crane Foundation / Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership), through its partnership with in-country organisations, provides a platform for networking and sharing of lessons and experiences. BirdLife Zimbabwe is already actively involved in the partnership and therefore there is potential for other organisations learning from the conservation efforts in Zimbabwe.

As a new action plan is developed for Zimbabwe there are a number of expected positive spinoffs. The workshop is expected to highlight the need for Zimbabwe to join other African countries in

fulfilling its international obligations in the area of biodiversity and wetland conservation. Ratifying the Ramsar Convention is long overdue and should this become a reality, cranes in Driefontein will benefit as the Driefontein Grasslands *Important Bird Area* is listed as a potential Ramsar site. Deliberations at the workshop should highlight the relevance of wetland inventories summarising locations, values, status and land use patterns in Zimbabwe as starting point for a more integrated and national approach to address wetland management issues. If done, the plight of cranes will be prioritised and data from the wetland inventories will be fed into the regional inventories of wetlands and crane habitats. The workshop should stimulate debate on the need for species- and habitat-specific policies in Zimbabwe. There have been concerns that the absence of these policies has been a contributing factor to the wanton degradation of wetlands and lack of protection mechanisms for cranes and biodiversity in general. The successes and lessons from the work that BirdLife Zimbabwe has done in Driefontein highlight the need for more practical action and less rhetoric on integrated conservation and development.

Establishing an Ex-situ Breeding programme in Zimbabwe

Darren Lança, SEBOA Trust

Introduction

- To recognise the need to establish an Ex-situ Breeding program in Zimbabwe.
- Based on work carried out at the ICF as well as South African Crane working group, such a program is feasible and achievable.

What are our options ?

- Captive breeding through the use of captive bred or reared birds
- Collection of eggs from wild populations

Facts

- A small number of Wattled Cranes presently held in captivity in Southern Africa
- With such low numbers genetic diversity for a future breeding group is difficult
- South African cranes genetically distinct from Zimbabwean birds

Egg collections from wild birds are therefore our only viable option.

- Such collections are to be carried out legally, professionally and ethically

By harvesting the second egg, there is the opportunity to double the number of chicks raised per pair in a season

Egg collecting

- Standard protocols for collection, handling and incubation to be followed.

Rearing process

- Standard protocols to be strictly adhered to ensure optimum growth and suitability for chicks as future breeding stock. These protocols include but are not limited to the following, complete human voice silence, use of puppets for rearing, accurate records of feeding, and behavior etc.

Pair formations

Wattled Cranes are recorded at reaching maturity between 5- 7 years. DNA sampling is done to confirm the sex of the birds. Strong pair formations are essential for breeding, as incompatible birds will not breed.

Captive Breeding requirements

To achieve successful breeding results, correct husbandry is important. The birds are housed in pairs in a suitably natural environment. Diet plays a major role in fertility and as such is an important consideration for captive birds.

Fertility Issues in Captive Cranes

Captive cranes continue to encounter fertility issues. Artificial insemination has proven to produce positive results. The benefits of AI are that a single sire is able to cover several hens, thus assisting with genetic issues.

Conclusion

- As evidenced by the rapid decline in number of Wattled Cranes in the Zimbabwe drastic measures need to be implemented
- Criminal elements operating need to be halted and prosecuted
- Joint co-ordinated effort by all parties concerned.

The Establishment of the Saving Endangered Birds of Africa Trust (SEBOA)

The SEBOA Trust has recently been established in Zimbabwe to identify and work with endangered species of birds throughout Africa.

The Trust will ensure the long term sustainability of projects and assist in other conservation projects throughout Africa.



Mr Ben Matika (SEBOA TRUST) and Mr Jack Amoni (Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife) at a Wattled Crane nest site (Photo by Darren Lança)

Section 3

WORKING GROUP REPORTS



Grey Crowned Cranes in the Driefontein Grasslands (Photo by Kerryn Morrison)

WORKING GROUP 1: HABITAT LOSS AND LAND USE

WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS:

Dorothy Wakeling – President, BirdLife Zimbabwe
Kanisios Mukwashi- IBA Project Manager, BirdLife Zimbabwe
Member Mushongahande- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management
Proud Mazambara-Environmental Management Agency (EMA)
Gwinyai Mashavira- Shashe Site Support Group
Lawrence Gutuza- Agricultural Technical and Extension (AGRITEX)

OVERALL SUMMARY

The group focussed on habitat loss and land use. Four issues were identified and these were developed into the four problem statements: Loss of wetland habitat due to cultivation leads to the disturbance of crane breeding cycles; Human induced veld fires are altering crane breeding sites and degrading grasslands; Disturbance of crane breeding sites causes crane migration; and Climate change is causing people to cultivate wetlands leading to the destruction of crane habitats. For each of these problem statements, solutions, key goals and actions were outlined.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The cards received following the group's plenary brainstorming session were grouped together and four themes, each covering several issues, were agreed upon:

1. Land use
2. Habitat loss
3. Fire management
4. Climate change

1. Land Use

Why is land use an issue?

- There is disturbance due to competition for land between farmers and cranes
- Change of land from commercial ranching to subsistence farming
- Issue of human population increase
- Wetland cultivation is causing the drying out of wetlands and habitat loss

After the land reform programme there was an increase in the human population in the area and a change from commercial ranching to subsistence farming. This has led to habitat disturbance and fragmentation, with many people resorting to wetland cultivation. As a result, a continuous decrease in the crane population has been documented and the breeding cycle has been affected.

Problem Statement:

There is loss of wetland habitat for the cranes due to wetland cultivation. People are cultivating wetlands because they are fertile lands and wetlands are an assurance against drought. The major drive for wetland cultivation could be poverty.

2. Habitat Loss

Why is habitat loss an issue?

- There is a shrinking of wetland habitat
- Cranes are migrating from the area to other areas
- Livestock are trampling sensitive areas
- Habitat loss is affecting breeding and foraging of cranes
- Biodiversity loss
- Effect on wetland function has implications on people

Problem Statement:

The loss of wetland habitat due to cultivation and livestock is affecting breeding cycle of cranes, resulted in biodiversity loss and loss of wetland functions. This also has implications of people.

3. Veld Fires

Why are veld fires an issue?

- Fires result in a loss of habitat quality
- Fires destroy breeding sites of cranes
- Fires destroy eggs and chicks
- Fires destroy other biodiversity

Problem Statement:

Human induced fires are destructive and spread fast in windy conditions as there are no fire breaks to stop them spreading further and the amount of moribund material intensifies the fires.

4. Climate Change

Why is climate change an issue?

- Frequent droughts cause people to cultivate the wetlands
- Concentration of livestock on the wetland
- Flooding may increase siltation of rivers
- Excessively high temperatures may also dry out wetlands
- May cause crane movement/migration
- Crane movements are linked to climate change

Problem statement:

Climate change has caused people to cultivate wetlands leading to the destruction of crane habitats

PROBLEM STATEMENTS

1. Loss of wetland habitat due to wetland cultivation leads to disturbance of breeding cycles of cranes
2. Human induced fires are a problem in the area due to lack of fire management which affects the crane breeding and degradation of grassland condition
3. Cranes are leaving sites due to increased disturbance
4. Climate change has caused people to cultivate wetlands leading to the destruction of crane habitats

HABITAT LOSS AND LAND USE ACTION PLAN

PROBLEM STATEMENT 1:

Loss of wetland habitat due to cultivation leading to disturbance of crane breeding cycles.

Solutions:

- Fence off sensitive crane breeding sites.

It was agreed in plenary that this should be done only after it has been tested and closely monitored, as a concern around chicks being caught in the barbed wire fencing was raised.

- Influence organized agriculture and sustainable wetland utilisation.

Goals 1: Protect all known sensitive areas to promote survival of cranes.

Action	Responsibility	Time	Budget
1. Map & demarcate all known sensitive areas	BLZ , Communities, Forestry Commission, EMA, AGRITEX, Parks	4 months	Required
2. Fence off all sensitive crane breeding sites.	Communities, BLZ , RDC, EMA, Forestry Commission, AGRITEX, Parks	4 years	Required
3. Project scoping (Involve Communities in problem identification & possible solutions).	BLZ , Community Leadership, AGRITEX, EMA, Parks	1 month	Required

Goal 2: Adopt appropriate integrated farming practices.

Actions	Responsibility	Time	Budget
1. Identify and establish Nutrition gardens.	Communities, AGRITEX , BLZ, EMA	1 year	Required
2. Provision of water	BLZ	5 years	Required

PROBLEM STATEMENT 2:

Human induced veld fires are altering crane breeding sites and degrading grasslands.
(REFER ALSO TO GROUP LOOKING AT RESEARCH AND THREATS)

Solutions

- Fire awareness campaigns.
- Develop fire management plans for the area.

Goal 1: Sensitize and educate the community on fire protection.

Action	Responsibility	Time	Budget
Carry out fire awareness campaigns before, during and after the fire season (3).	EMA , Forestry Commission, BLZ , RDC, AGRITEX, Community, Parks	May, August, November	Required

Goal 2: Reduce incidences of uncontrolled veld fires.

Action	Responsibility	Time	Budget
Establish and train fire fighting teams for each village and acquire fire fighting equipment.	Communities, EMA, FC, BLZ , RDC, RDC, AGRITEX, Parks	1 month	Required
Construction of fire guards around all sensitive areas and controlled burning.	Communities, BLZ, EMA , RDC, AGRITEX, FC, Parks	May to June	Required
Run fire competitions every fire season	Communities, BLZ , EMA, RDC, AGRITEX, FC, Parks	November	Required

PROBLEM STATEMENT 3:

Disturbance of crane breeding sites is causing crane migration.

Solutions:

- Controlled access to crane breeding sites.

Goal 1: Reduce crane migration to new areas through controlling access to crane breeding sites.

Actions	Responsibility	Time	Budget
Assist Communities to craft bylaws that would control access to crane breeding sites.	RDC , EMA, Parks, AGRITEX, FC, Communities,	4 Months	Required

PROBLEM STATEMENT 4:

Climate change has caused people to cultivate wetlands leading to the destruction of crane habitats.

Solutions

- Come up with adaptive measures to reduce effects of climate change.
- Diversify livelihood options.

(REFER ALSO TO THE GROUP- AWARENESS- CONSERVATION FARMING MENTIONED

Goal 1: Encourage the cultivation of drought tolerant crop varieties (small grains).

Actions	Responsibility	Time	Budget
Carry out soil analysis, together with temperature and rainfall data, to determine crops most suited for the area. The list of crops should be explored with particular reference to drought resistant maize varieties	BLZ , UZ, AGRITEX	1 month	Required
Provision of inputs	BLZ ,	May - October	Required
Growing of appropriate drought tolerant crops	AGRITEX , BLZ, Communities	Growing season	Not required

Goal 2: Reduce pressure on wetlands through diversification of livelihood options.

Actions	Responsibility	Time	Budget
Train Communities on viable livelihood options e.g Bee keeping, Mushroom,	AGRITEX, BLZ	1 year	Required
Adoption of viable livelihood options by the Communities.	Communities , AGRITEX, BLZ	2 years	Required

WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Darren Lança- SEBOA Trust

Osiman Mabhachi- EWT

Mr Machando – Daviot Site Support Group

Mrs Tendai Wachi – Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

Mr Masinire – Daviot Site Support Group

Mr Mutembwa – Gutu Rural District Council

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The cards received following the group's plenary brainstorming session were grouped together and four focal themes, each covering several issues, were agreed upon:

1. Captive Breeding
 - Protocol for captive Breeding
2. Integrated Management – cranes & farming activities
 - Wise use of wetland
 - Legislative support
 - Wetland policy
3. National Parks aid towards bird conservation
 - Law enforcement
 - Protect animals
4. Protecting Breeding territories
 - Protect Breeding sites
 - Long- term protection of sites
 - Lack of legal protection
 - Conservancy option

1. Captive Breeding

- Enables collection of information on crane biology and behaviour
- Establish a population to mitigate possibility of complete loss in the wild
- Proven conservation method
- Securing national heritage
- Possibility of possible future re-introductions into the wild
- Captive breeding is in its early stages in Zimbabwe
- There is a lack of inter-party collaboration . It is a known solution to depletion of population of cranes in the wild.
- There is need for a governing body to regulate a captive breeding programme. There is potential to utilise knowledge and lessons from similar programs to enhance the success of the programme in Zimbabwe.

2. Policy and Legislation

- Currently there are no guidelines on crane and wetland conservation for Zimbabwe
- Policy and legislation is required for sustainability of crane and wetland conservation

- No sustainability = Extinction of cranes
- Currently there is no wetland policy in Zimbabwe and there is need to implement existing policies and legislation . The policies are not captured in local bylaws

3. Enforcement

- Prevent lawlessness
- Enforcement mechanisms not effective
- Lack of capacity / Knowledge
- Lack of resources
- Enforcement mechanisms to protect wildlife exist but are not being taken seriously.
- Local communities do not have powers to enforce policies at local level.
- There is no knowledge and appreciation of cranes and wetlands among law enforcement agencies i.e. police officers.
- There is lack of capacity / resources to enforce conservation policies on the part of conservation officers (local authority)

4. Protection of Sites in the Driefontein

- Unique habitat for cranes
- Provides a suitable breeding and foraging environment for cranes – proven
- It is the only area in Zimbabwe where cranes are breeding presently
- Protection (Long term) of population of cranes that are known to be breeding
- Currently the crane breeding and foraging sites are not legally protected.
- There is no physical protection / barriers to prevent predation and human disturbance.
- There are no fire management systems in the area.
- The responsible authority for land allocation and demarcation is the Ministry of lands and resettlement.
- The rural district can lobby for designation of conservancy status for sites.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS

1. There is a lack of understanding, support from stakeholders and national protocol on captive breeding in Zimbabwe.
2. There is a lack of specific national policies and guidelines on crane and wetland conservation.
3. There is a lack of knowledge (on cranes and wetlands) capacity (resources, manpower) of enforcement agencies.
4. The crane breeding and foraging sites are scattered making it difficult to erect physical barriers around nesting sites and key areas and no there is a lack of physical presence of enforcement agencies (Parks & RDC monitors) in the area.

CAPTIVE BREEDING, POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION PLAN

PROBLEM STATEMENT 1:

There is a lack of understanding, support from stakeholders and national protocol on captive breeding in Zimbabwe.

Solution

Establish a regulatory body (working group) to spearhead the formulation of a captive breeding protocol and facilitate collaboration among breeders and interested stakeholders.

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Time frame	Budget
1. Appoint a convener to facilitate a working group on captive breeding	D. Lança	Done	No need for a budget
2. Organise meeting of interested stakeholders	D. Lança / BLZ	End of Oct 2010	Not required
3. Develop protocol clarifying role of members and rules and regulations	Chairperson of steering committee	End of March 2011	Not required
4. Facilitate annual review meetings for working group members	Chairperson of steering committee	Every November	Required

PROBLEM STATEMENT 2:

There is a lack of specific national policies and guidelines on crane and wetland conservation.

Solution

Formulate a memorandum of understanding on crane and wetland conservation in the Driefontein Grasslands including Parks, RDCs (Gutu, Chirumanzu and Chivhu) and formulate by-laws to enforce the MOU.

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Time Frame	Budget
1. Nominate an organisation to facilitate the formulation of an MoU	BLZ	6 months (BLZ)	Not required
2. Circulate the MoU to heads of Parks & RDCs for ratification	BLZ	3 months	Not required
3. Formulate by-laws on cranes & wetlands through community consultations	RDC and Driefontein community, Parks	6 months	Not required
4. Provide feedback on by-laws to communities and interested stakeholders	RDC's	3 months	Required
5. Enforcement	RDC and Parks	Ongoing	Required

PROBLEM STATEMENT 3:

There is a lack of knowledge (on cranes and wetlands) capacity (resources, manpower) of enforcement agencies.

Solution

In the short term lobbying of National Parks to play an active role in enforcing regulations on specially protected species in the Driefontein grasslands

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Budget
1. Lobby the head of Parks and Wild life Management Authority	BLZ	Meeting by end of Sept 2010	Not required
2. Establishment of a parks camp in the Driefontein Grasslands and deployment of parks staff especially during the breeding season	Parks and Wildlife Management Authority	Camp in place by 30 March 2011 to enable deployment before 2011 Season	Need for Budget for Parks Staff

PROBLEM STATEMENT 4:

The crane breeding and foraging sites are scattered making it difficult to erect physical barriers around nesting sites and key areas and no there is a lack of physical presence of enforcement agencies (Parks & RDC monitors) in the area.

Solution

Promote community based management and ensure greater involvement of community members in the protection of specific breeding and foraging sites (pilot exercise of working with A2 farmers with large plots)

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Budget
1. Identify farmers that are utilising wetlands close to sites that need protection	Community leaders and site support groups (Mr Masinire)	End of Oct 2010	Not required
2. Identify volunteers willing to assist in monitoring sites and prevent disturbances	Site Support Groups	End of Oct 2010	Not required
3. Facilitate networking, data collection (informal) and annual reporting by volunteers	Site Support Group leaders & BLZ	1.Quarterly meetings 2.Visit to sites every month 3.Yearly reports (every October)	Not required

Comments from plenary

- There is an initiative already in the process with National Parks and Wildlife Management, but the opportunity still exists to amend the MoU.
- The issue of ownership needs to be looked at and must be recorded.

- Should Zimbabwe be encouraged to sign up as a signatory to Ramsar, and the Driefontein Grasslands proposed as a Ramsar Site?
 - The captive breeding project could possibly include PAAZAB.
 - Interest in African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) is in the early stages in Zimbabwe.
 - The law as it stands allows for partial ownership of animals such as in ostriches and crocodiles, even though they are protected species.
-

WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS:

Mr Nzembe – Agricultural Technical and Extension (AGRITEX)

Mrs Mukharo- Chipisa Site Support Group

Mrs Mutanda – Teacher, Chivake Primary School

Mrs Mapfumo – Teacher, Taigara Primary School

Mr Rueben Njolomole- BirdLife Zimbabwe

Mr. Togarasei Fakarayi- BirdLife Zimbabwe

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. Media

Posters

Press conference on wetland and crane conservation

Interviews on Radio and TV on crane conservation

Press release on crane conservation

Invite media to project area

Problem statement: There has been a dramatic decline of cranes in the area due to disturbances.

2. Training and capacity building

Training Farmers

Farming versus conservation

Capacity building on crane conservation

Understanding wetlands

Why: There is unsustainable use of wetlands

- Farmers have limited knowledge on conservation farming
- Farmers lack knowledge on crane breeding and foraging habitats
- Farmers and cranes compete for the same wetland for survival

Problem statement: There are high levels of wetland degradation

3. Community based crane conservation

Churches

Site Support Groups and volunteers

Support groups training and incentive

Winning support in favour of conservation

Little boys must go to school

Value attached to cranes and the general wildlife

Why: Cranes are found most often outside of protected areas within land used by communities

- Communities have information on cranes

- To win support in favour of conservation

Problem statement: There is lack of community participation in the conservation of cranes.

Question: Communities should also derive benefits from crane conservation, and these should be shared between them and RDC.- How can this be done?

4. Theme: Education and awareness

- Crane awareness at national level
- Mobilisation
- Awareness campaigns
- School campaign as part of education and awareness
- Education to supporters
- Community outreach programme
- Education and awareness in conservation of cranes
- Education and awareness

Why: There are high levels of human disturbance to cranes.

- Community members lack knowledge on the value and conservation status of cranes

Problem statement: There has been a dramatic decline in the crane population in the area due to disturbances.

AWARENESS ACTION PLAN

PROBLEM STATEMENT 1:

There has been a dramatic decline of cranes in the area due to disturbances.

Solutions

- Educate local communities on wetland ecosystems
- Raise awareness on the conservation status of cranes; population, protected
- Raise awareness on the ecology of cranes
 - Habitat requirements
 - Feeding
 - Value of cranes
 - Distribution

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Budget
1. Stakeholder analysis in the Driefontein Grasslands (farmers, school children, churches, local authorities) (Some of the workshops planned could be linked together dependent on their	BLZ	End 2010	Resources: stationery, 1 field trip, transport, communication. Budget required

focus)			
2. Conduct 12 workshops with all stakeholders by 2013	BLZ , AGRITEX, SSGS, EMA	End 2011	Resources: Transport, stationery, promotional materials, posters and food Budget required

PROBLEM STATEMENT 2:

There are high levels of wetland degradation
[Another group dealt with this point]

Solutions

- Train farmers on the sustainable use of wetlands.
- Increase awareness amongst farmers on crane breeding and foraging habitats.
- Educate school children on sustainable use of wetlands.
- Train farmers to increase agricultural yields through sustainable and intensive farming techniques on existing plots.

All people need to understand wetland ecosystems and their extent. People need to be discouraged from using sensitive wetlands. However, training on the wise use of wetlands will help farmers increase their level of production in the wetland fields they have, to avoid disturbing virgin lands.

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Budget
1. Conduct 10 workshops with farmers and 2 workshops with school children by 2013	BLZ , AGRITEX, SSGs, school teachers	End 2013	Resources: Transport, stationery, food, posters, promotional materials Budget required

PROBLEM STATEMENT 3:

Lack of community participation in the conservation of cranes

Solutions

- Increase the level of community participation in the conservation of cranes by 80 % by 2014
- Empower local communities in crane conservation through the provision of different forms of incentives

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Budget
1. Pay at least 2 visits to SSGs per year	BLZ, AGRITEX, Schools, SSGs, EMA	Annually	Required

2. Establish at least 2 more SSGs by 2014 (Dekete area North of Driefontein, and Gawa west of Constantia Estates)	<u>BLZ, AGRITEX, Schools, SSGs, EMA</u>	2014	Required
3. Establish at least 3 livelihood projects by 2014 (poultry, piggery, herbal gardens etc). [Livelihoods options have been dealt with by another group also]	<u>BLZ, SSGs, RDC, AGRITEX</u>	2014	Required
4. Influence the community to formulate local by-laws on crane and natural resources conservation by 2014	<u>SSGs, BLZ, RDC, EMA, Traditional Leadership</u>	2014	Required
5. Have at least 5 voluntary resource monitors in key crane breeding areas by 2013	<u>BLZ, SSGs, RDC, EMA</u>	2013	Required
6. Hold football and netball competitions with schools and communities (one for each) per year until 2014	<u>BLZ, Schools, SSGs, RDC, EMA</u>	Annually	Required
7. Show at least 2 videos on crane and natural resources management in schools and communities	<u>BLZ, EMA</u>	2014	Required
8. Have at least 2 community outreach programmes on crane conservation by 2014	<u>BLZ, EMA</u>	2014	Required
9. Hold 2 competitions with schools per year	<u>BLZ, Schools</u>	Annual	Required
10. Have at least one breeding site protected by the community by 2014	<u>SSGs, BLZ,</u>	2014	Required

WORKING GROUP 4 : RESEARCH AND THREATS

WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS:

- C. Chirara – BirdLife Zimbabwe
- F. Matsvimbo- BirdLife Zimbabwe
- P. Mundy- National University of Science and Technology (NUST)
- W. Nduku- Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe (WEZ)
- I. Magunje- BirdLife Zimbabwe

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The group dealt with issues to do with research and threats mainly in the Driefontein area. Although current knowledge is mainly available for the Driefontein area, some activities need to be thought of in the national context.

1. **Detailed Research** – to understand the biology of the birds, to help in conservation
 - Movement patterns – *To understand the movements/migration, do they stick to one breeding sites, where do juveniles go?*
 - Behaviour (foraging and roosting)- *What do they eat (maize etc), Do Wattled Cranes roost, where do they roost.*
 - Breeding success – *We want to know if they are recruiting*
 - Jackal population – *To understand predation of eggs, chicks and adult birds.*
 - Status of other wild birds – *to understand the if other birds are causing crop damage*
2. **National Monitoring**
 - National population status of Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes – To know distribution and abundance, the two species are vulnerable
3. **Threats**
 - Human population increase
 - Trade in cranes
 - Illegal egg collection
 - Treated as pests
 - Stress
 - Collision with overhead power lines
 - Fire
 - Control of dogs
 - Hunting (snaring)
 - Poisoning
 - Disturbance by cattle, dogs and people

PROBLEM STATEMENTS

1. There is evidence that several threats have an impact on crane numbers
2. There is evidence of very low recruitment of youngsters into the population
3. There is evidence of declining distributions and abundances
4. There is evidence of increasing human population and therefore disturbance
5. There is evidence of illegal trade with cranes (eggs)

RESEARCH AND THREATS ACTION PLAN

Solutions

1. There is evidence that several threats have an impact on crane numbers
 - Fire – develop fire management plan for grassland areas
 - Treated as pests – use of bird repellent mechanisms
 - Collision with power lines – identify problem line and protect it
 - Poisoning – Carry out awareness campaigns
 - Disturbance by cattle, dogs and people, Hunting – target young teenagers as crane guardians

2. There is evidence of very low recruitment of youngsters
 - Protect the chicks until it can fly

3. There is evidence of declining distributions and abundances
 - Nationwide survey for potential crane areas

4. There is evidence of increasing human population and therefore disturbance
 - Form a community-based conservancy

5. There is evidence of illegal trade with cranes (eggs)
 - Parks and Wildlife Management Authority should regain authority over cranes

Actions

Solution	Action	Responsibility	Time	Budget
1.a. Develop fire management plan for grassland areas	Develop planned fire break systems	Community through the RDC	June 2011	Required
	Establish fire fighting teams	BLZ, SSGs	August 2011	Required
	Fire awareness campaigns	BLZ, RDC, EMA	Ongoing	Required
1.b. Use of bird repellent mechanisms	Singing tape (Experimental)	BLZ	Nov/Dec planting season 2011	Required
	Scaring	Community/Plot holders	Nov/Dec planting season 2010	Required
	Use of Border Collies	Community representative through BLZ	Dec 2012	Required
1.c. Identify problem with power lines	Search the power lines	BLZ	End of 2010	Required
	Protect sections of the power lines	BLZ	End 2011	Required
1.d. Poisoning - Carry out awareness campaigns	Carry out awareness campaigns	AGRITEX and BLZ	Ongoing	Required
1.e. Disturbance - Target young teenagers as crane guardians	Work through schools to get the teenagers /youth brigades	BLZ	Ongoing	Required

	Work with youth groups to promote conservation	BLZ	Ongoing	Required
2. Protect the chicks until it can fly	Inspect the area periodically during the peak breeding season	BLZ	Annually June – November	Required
3. Nationwide survey for potential crane areas	Carry out ground and aerial surveys	BLZ	December 2011	Required
	Study crane behaviour including roosting and movements patterns	BLZ	December 2012	Required
4. Form a community-based conservancy	Form a community-based conservancy	RDC, Parks, Community, BLZ	December 2014	Required
5. PWMA should regain authority over cranes	BLZ and Parks control and coordinate the collection of second eggs from the wild	BLZ, Parks	May 2011	Required
	Develop a mechanism for coordinating collection of eggs in collaboration with breeders.	BLZ, Parks	April 2011	Required

Plenary discussion

- Control and coordination of second egg collections
 - Possibility of two scenarios
 1. Breeders go with Parks and BLZ
 2. BLZ and Parks collect eggs and pass on to breeders
- Power line Collisions
 - Continuous monitoring to establish problem areas, about every 3 months.
- Fires
 - Communities need training to fight fires
 - Forestry commission has experience with training

Section 4

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS



Plenary discussions (Photo by Kerry Morrison)

FUNDRAISING OPTIONS FOR CRANE CONSERVATION IN ZIMBABWE

The following list of funding opportunities was developed during a brainstorming session prior to the closure of the Crane Conservation Action Planning Workshop. The opportunities are not presented in order of priority.


1. International Crane Foundation – Kerry explained that ICF is not a funding agency though the organisation could help in raising funds for crane and wetland conservation projects.
2. Econet Wireless and other cellular phone companies were mentioned as potential sponsors.
3. Delta Beverages was suggested because they use a lot of water in their day-to-day business and therefore they may fund water/wetland projects as part of their social responsibility. Professor Peter Mundy added that companies that draw water from rivers/catchments and are engaged in similar production activities could also be approached. Companies falling into this category include Coca-Cola, Nestle and Schweppes.
4. African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement – Zimbabwe is currently not a member so it is not a possibility at present but this could be an option in future.
5. The possibility of approaching donors that fund livelihood projects was discussed. BirdLife Zimbabwe was tasked to obtain additional information on NGOs working in the Driefontein and Gutu areas for possible collaboration. CARE International and Action Faim were cited as examples of organisations working on water and relief projects.
6. The British Embassy was mentioned as a typical example of an institution that fund projects provided they are approached with comprehensive project proposals. The British Embassy has funded a project on the Ground Hornbill in Matopos and BirdLife Zimbabwe should market the idea of community projects to embassies.
7. Dr Chirara explained that it was important to approach overseas charities and partners – e.g. Jensen Foundation in Denmark.
8. There could be a possibility of partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organisation on human wildlife conflict as there is an ongoing initiative involving CIRAD and that cranes and other birds qualify as damage causing animals.
9. Climate change was noted as an area that is currently attracting a lot of funding and therefore there is need to incorporate climate change issues in proposals. It was noted that some funding for climate change projects is being channelled through governments – e.g. adaptation funds.
10. USAID was suggested as one donor that funds environmental and community development projects similar to what BirdLife Zimbabwe is implementing in the Driefontein Grasslands.
11. SAB Miller – Osiman and the EWT Senior Fundraiser will meet the manager responsible for the company's social corporate responsibility on the 20th of September to explore possibility of funding for water-related projects (alternative livelihoods).
12. Zim Plats had funded the BirdLife Zimbabwe education department in the past but there is a possibility of approaching them for funds for crane surveys in the Great Dyke area.
13. MAZDA Wildlife Fund to be approached for possible vehicle donations.
14. WWF – to be approached for funding and collaboration in the field of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM).
15. A general internet search for international foundations that fund biodiversity and community projects will be undertaken.
16. Zimbabwean organisations are currently not eligible to apply for Ramsar Small Grants as the country has not ratified the Ramsar Convention.







APPENDICES



Driefontein Grasslands (Photo by Osiman Mabhachi)






APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANT LIST


	Name	Title and organisation	Telephone	Email
	Mrs. Y. T. Chingarande	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management	+263913852147	chingarandey@gmail.com
	Dr. C. Chirara	Director, BirdLife Zimbabwe	+2634481496	chip.chirara@blz.co.zw
	Dr. N. Deacon	Vice President, BirdLife Zimbabwe	+263 712 607 538	N/A
	Mr. T. Fakarayi	Projects Officer, BirdLife Zimbabwe	+263 4 481496	toga@blz.co.zw
	Mr. Gutuza	Supervisor, Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services	+263 713 017 412	N/A

	Mr. D. Lanca	Crane Breeder, SEBOA Trust		dapel@mweb.co.zw
	Mrs. Leslee Maasdorp	Council Representative – Education, BirdLife Zimbabwe	+263 883316	zambezi@mweb.co.zw
	Mr. O Mabhachi	Community Projects Coordinator, ICF/EWT Partnership	+27787033169	osimanm@ewt.org.za
	Mr. L. Machando	Chairperson, Daviot Site Support Group	+263 913 142 837	N/A
	Mr. I. Magunje	BirdLife Zimbabwe	+2634481496	intern@blz.co.zw
	Mrs. J. Mapfumo	Teacher, Taigara Primary School	+263 913 686 748	N/A

	Mr. Mashavira	Chairperson, Shashe Site Support Group	+263 913 197 495	N/A
	Mr. E. Masinire	Member, Daviot Site Support Group	+263 913 182 255	N/A
	Mr. A.Z. Matiza	Deputy Director-Environment , Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management	+263 712 233 046	matiza.abraham@gmail.com
	Ms. F. Matsvimbo	BirdLife Zimbabwe	+2634481496	fadzai@blz.co.zw
	Mr. P. Mazambara	Environmental Management Agency	+263 913 032 262	mazambara@gmail.com
	Ms. K. Morrison	Manager ICF/EWT Partnership	+27(0)828775126	kerrynm@ewt.org.za

	Mrs. L. Mukaro	Chairperson, Chipisa Site Support Group	+263 915 768 052	N/A
	Mr. K. Mukwashi	IBA Projects Manager, BirdLife Zimbabwe	+2634481496	kanisios@blz.co.zw
	Prof. P. Mundy	Lecturer, National University of Science and Technology (NUST)	+263 9282842	mundy@gatorzw.co.uk
	Mr. M. Mushongahande	Biodiversity Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management	+263 912 372 660	mmushongahande@yahoo.com
	Mrs. D. Mutanda	Teacher, Chivake Primary School	+263 733 309 391	N/A
	Mr. A. Mutembwa	Agriculture and Natural Resources Officer, Gutu Rural District Council	+263 912 403 548	zanders@cooltoad.com

	Ms. Sylvia Muzavazi	Finance and Administration Manager , BirdLife Zimbabwe	+263 912 890 997	sylvia@blz.co.zw
	Dr. W. Nduku	Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe (WEZ)	+263 912 513 474	zimwild@mweb.co.zw
	Mr. R. Njolomole	Education Officer, BirdLife Zimbabwe	+2634481496	education@blz.co.zw
	Mr. L. Nzembe	Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services	+263 713 017 412	N/A
	Dr. R. Rees	Council Representative – Conservation, BirdLife Zimbabwe	+263 712 412 335	chisivet@zol.co.zw
	Mrs. T. Wachi	Ranger, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority	+263 712 516 740	N/A

	Mrs D. Wakeling	President, BirdLife Zimbabwe	+263 912 376 526	piumosso@zol.co.zw
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APPENDIX 2: WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Workshop on the development of an Action Plan for the conservation of Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes in the Driefontein Grasslands

Mukuvisi Woodland Wildlife and Environment Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe

22-23 July 2010

Day 1: Thursday 22 July 2010

08:30 – 12:30 (Tea from 10:30 to 10:50)

Introduction

- Opening and welcome remarks (BirdLife Zimbabwe)
- Self introductions and Expectations (Facilitator)

Background information to the species (Facilitator)

- Zimbabwe National Crane and Habitat Action Plan 2002 (Dr C. Chirara)
- Progress made and conservation programmes in the Driefontein Grasslands (Dr C. Chirara)
- Zimbabwe's role in the conservation of Africa's cranes (Mr O. Mabhachi)
- Captive breeding of cranes (Darren Lanca)

Workshop

- Workshop methods (Facilitator)
- Issues and threat discussion (Facilitator)
- Working group development (Facilitator)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 16:30 (Tea from 15:00 to 15:15)

- Situation overview (working groups)
- Problem statement (working groups)
- Plenary discussion
- Solutions and goals (working groups)

Day 2: Friday 23 July 2010

08:30 – 12:30 (Tea from 10:30 to 10:50)

- Recap of day one (Facilitator)
- Solutions and goals (working groups)
- Plenary
- Formulation of activities (working groups)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 1630 (break 15:00 – 15:15)

- Plenary
- Review priority activities
- Way forward
- Closing (BirdLife Zimbabwe)

APPENDIX 3: EXPECTATIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF PARTICIPANTS

	Expectations	Experience
1	A comprehensive plan to immediately halt the decline in numbers of cranes in Driefontein and allowing a process to find out why crane numbers are declining	Working with communities and other stakeholders in conservation of birds and their habitats
2	A framework for policy on crane conservation in Zimbabwe	Guiding principles on policy development
3	Development of mechanisms/ways to protect the cranes (or I can say to develop a policy regarding the conservation of cranes)	Development of a policy for conservation of cranes
4	Vibrant education and awareness strategies on the conservation of cranes spelt out clearly	Suggestions of how we can effectively raise awareness of environment conservation
5	Timeframe on the establishment of a captive breeding programme and adoption of a policy for this	I can provide knowledge on the biology and husbandry requirements for Wattled Cranes
6	As one of the members who stays in the same environment as the birds, I expect to have improved conditions for the cranes i.e. the protection of their breeding area, educating people on how they should live together with them and conserving the area By the end of the workshop we should actually have a good plan on how to count these birds accurately	
7	Programmes designed to empower farming communities into conservation of Wattled Cranes. I am also expecting to get some allowances to cover expenses incurred travelling to workshop	Relationship between farming activities and habitats of cranes
8	I learnt that the number of cranes is decreasing so farmers should work together with BirdLife Zimbabwe to stop the decline. implementation	Supporting agricultural projects and implementing projects
9	The people who are in the area should be given something to show that they support the BirdLife programme	As a Site Support Group member, I could talk to the villagers how to conserve birds in with support from BirdLife
10	An action plan on the establishment of a crane and possibly wildlife conservancy in collaboration with the Rural District	Community-Based Wildlife and Management experience

	Council and local community in the Driefontein area.	
11	An all-encompassing action plan which is relevant to the current situation at the prime crane habitats in Zimbabwe	Have had experience some ringing experience which would help answer questions on baby cranes movements from areas of natality and general movement dynamics
12	A comprehensive action plan that reflects co-existence of cranes and humans in the Driefontein Grasslands	Linkages between crane conservation and human livelihoods enhancement as well as community-based natural resource management (involving Site Support Groups)
13	I expect to come up with viable ideas on the conservation of cranes and to go and share with colleagues	Wildlife conservation and enforcing policies to curb illegal activities
14	A good action plan for the Wattled Crane so that it survives in Zimbabwe	Historical knowledge and study of the Wattled Crane in Zimbabwe (data left in files in Puma in Bulawayo). University graduates produced annually, one or two of whom could do a higher degree on the species.
15	Security of cranes and the habitat in their home range	Worked with communities, government and other stakeholders. Have legal background of formulating regulations, policies and project plans
16	Action plans to be presented to stakeholders which are practically on the ground	Knowledge on conserving cranes in the affected area and knowledge on growing herbs (as an alternative livelihood project)
17	An action plan that allows us to go out there and try to convince people living with the cranes to like them and protect them	A few hints about herbs
18	To produce a realistic and practical action activities for conservation of cranes in the wild	Knowledge of crane habitats and research skills
19	To come up with an action plan with a wider geographic scope To develop an action plan with plans on how to increase our information base about cranes in Zimbabwe To develop an action plan with climate change issues factored in	Knowledge and experience in species, habitat and site conservation
20	Work towards a conservation area in the Driefontein area where awareness level of conserving Wattled Cranes should be maintained at a satisfactory level, around this protected area	I could bring ideas and themes for educating communities at school and adult levels – awareness programme perhaps on national scale

	As an aside, I would like a national survey to be conducted in Mvurwi and Nyanga to determine how many cranes are still in areas outside Driefontein	
21	Workable action plan that is ownership by all stakeholders and includes supportive legislation for the best outcome on the birds, habitat, custodians and the nation	A model of wetland conservation and protection , communications and knowledge on birds
22	A practical and viable policy to protect and conserve the natural breeding habitat and future generations of cranes in Zimbabwe	Bring to the workshop my expertise as a veterinary surgeon in as far as general health and welfare of both captive bred and wild crane populations
23	A very clearly defined conservation action plan indicating who is responsible for what part of the plan so that accurate and widely accepted future decisions on the future of Wattled Cranes in Zimbabwe can be made	Understanding of biological considerations in the conservation of cranes
24	A practicable action plan that is community-based	Conservation of wetlands and education and awareness with regard to fire outbreaks and enforcement of legislation
25	Interactions that produce an effective and useful plan for the long term survival of cranes	Experience of observing cranes in the field as well as data analysis and interpretation
26	To see a clear and participative action plan for the conservation of two crane species in the Driefontein area	This is a new area to me and will be learning. However I am coming from the forestry sector and would be useful when it comes to issues of vegetation cover, and issues of alternative agricultural methods that can be proposed for the farming area

APPENDIX 4 : ABBREVIATIONS

BLZ	BirdLife Zimbabwe
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
FC	Forestry Commission
ICF	International Crane Foundation
RDC	Rural District Council
SSGs	Site Support Groups
UZ	University of Zimbabwe