BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
Africa Partnership

Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa

Stakeholders Workshop to agree on the Grauer's Rush Warbler National Species Action Plan for Rwanda

15-16 October 2003, Kinigi Guest House, Ruhengeri, Rwanda

Workshop Report

NatureUganda BirdLife SOUTH AFRICA RSPB DARWIN INITIATIVE

National Species Action Plan Co-ordinator
Fidele Ruzigandekwe, Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR)

Facilitators:

Theoneste Rutagengwa (**ACNR**), Eric Sande (**Nature Uganda**), Serge Nsengimana (**ACNR**), Charles Ntaganda (**ACNR**), Eric Giti (Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Oiseaux) (**ABO**).

Report:

Eric Sande (**Nature Uganda**)
Theoneste Rutagengwa (**ACNR**)

Summary
A workshop to draw up the national species conservation action plan for the conservation of the Grauer's Rush Warbler *Bradypterus graueri*, for Rwanda was held on 15-16 October 2003, at Kinigi Guest House, Ruhengeri in Rwanda. The workshop brought together Rwandan stakeholders representing different conservation NGOs, government departments, Research and Higher Education Institutions and two international stakeholders. Facilitators include National Species Action plan Coordinators from Rwanda and Burundi, the African Species Working Group Coordinator and two members of the Association Pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR) Executive Committee.

This workshop followed the agreed format and process of translating an international action plan into the national context. The plan is one of the 15 national species action plans being prepared in the 3-year Project *Action Plans for the conservation of globally threatened birds in Africa* which 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 (DEFRA) under the Darwin Initiative.

The long-term vision of this action plan is "*To Conserve Viable Populations of the Grauer's Rush Warbler*", while the aim of the 5 year plan is "*To Improve the Conservation Status of the Grauer's Rush Warbler in Rwanda*". In order to achieve this aim, five objectives and projects were defined. The species action plan will be published in January 2004.

The workshop was officially opened and closed by the Mayor Kinigi District, Mr. Ntirenganya Ignace, who indicated full commitment to the implementation of the action plan.

1. Introduction

Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa is a 3-year project (SAP Project), which aims to build the capacity for species action planning and conservation in Africa. 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 International Partners in Uganda, South Africa and UK respectively). It is implemented by BirdLife partner organisations in 17 African countries with co-funding that was secured from the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) under the Darwin Initiative.

BirdLife International African partnership defined a Species Action Plan as a scientifically authoritative, strategic document that defines specific, measurable objectives and actions for conserving priority species. The plan should be achievable, time-bound and its production should involve all appropriate stakeholders. The African Partnership with assistance from the RSPB developed an international species action plan format (Annex 1) and process (Annex 2) that were approved by the Council of African Partnership as models for BirdLife International in Africa. The format for translating international action plans into the national context has also been developed (Annex 3) and is being used.

Grauer's Rush Warbler *Bradypterus graueri* is among the 7 globally threatened bird species in Africa for which international and national species action plans are being developed under the SAP project. The species is classified as globally Endangered and is known to occur in the wild only in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda.

In Rwanda, the species is only found in Nyungwe National Park, Virunga National Park and Rugezi swamp (Figure 1) with a total population estimated of 3000-4000 individuals. The population of the species continue to decline due to habitat destruction and alteration, which indirectly cause low productivity and possibly high adult mortality.

2. Workshop

The workshop was organised by the Association Pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR), the BirdLife International Affiliate in Rwanda and the BirdLife International Africa Species Working Group (ASWG). Participants included members of ACNR and other Conservation NGOs operating in Rwanda, two stakeholders from other Africa BirdLife partner organisations, representatives of Rwanda government departments including Research and Higher Education Institutions. The workshop was facilitated by Theoneste Rutagengwa (ACNR), Eric Sande (ASWG), Serge Nsengimana (ACNR), Charles Ntaganda (ACNR), Eric Giti (Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Oiseaux) (ABO).

The workshop objective was to participatively produce a Grauer's Rush Warbler national action plan for Rwanda, a range state with almost 50% of the global population of the species.

The two-day workshop was based on the steps (Annex 3b) and the process (Annex 4) developed to translate an international species action plan into a national context. Sessions included some presentations, but mainly facilitated discussions, both in plenary and group work using brainstorming on flip charts and cards. The result of each group work session was subsequently presented to the plenary, discussed and agreed. The workshop programme is shown in Annex 5 and below is a summary of major sessions:

Day One-15th October

2.2.1 Introduction

Mr. Serge Joram Nsengimana (Chairman ACNR) and Dr. Eric Sande (BirdLife International African Species Working Group Coordinator welcomed the participants on behalf of the host organisation (ACNR) and ASWG respectively. The Mayor Kinigi District, Mr Ignace Ntirenganya, officially opened the workshop and emphasised the importance of such a workshop as an important step in the conservation of threatened biodiversity in his district.

He promised his unreserved support to the implementation of the action plan and wished all participants a good stay and a fruitful discussion.

Using a card exercise, participants then introduced themselves, outlining their position, where they are based and their experience in species conservation work. The participants' details are shown Annex 6. Participants were then taken through workshop techniques while using cards and flip chart. The rules of using cards and flip chart during brainstorming are shown in Annex 7. Using a card exercise, participants then listed their expectations from the workshop that are summarised in Annex 8. Using flipcharts, participants brainstormed what a species action plan is in their own understanding and the results of the brainstorm on the SAP definition and the model developed by the BirdLife International Africa Partnership are shown in Annex 9.

2.2.2 Background information about the Grauer's Rush Warbler

The background material on the Grauer's Rush Warbler was presented to the participants to allow those who did not attend the international workshop understand the sort of information that exists about the species and had an opportunity to add new information. The material was by and large specific to Rwanda. Participants then identified the gaps in the general information on the species and then brainstormed on-going & potential projects that may benefit the species, the risks and opportunities that may affect or enhance the implementation of the action plan and Grauer's Rush Warbler important stakeholders in the context of Rwanda.

Figure 1: Section of Rugezi Swamp showing areas that have been drained for Agriculture

2.2.3 Problem analysis, prioritisation of threats and review the objectives from the International Species Action Plan

Participants were introduced to the problem tree/analysis and how the problem tree in the Grauer's Rush Warbler International Plan (ISAP) was constructed. The problem tree as it appears in the ISAP was presented so that the participants understand the cause-effect relationship of issues affecting the Grauer's Rush Warbler globally. Participants agreed on the relevance of the cards on the upper level of the problem tree to Rwanda and were then divided into two groups to review the branches of the problem tree and make them as relevant to Rwanda as possible.

Day two-16th October

In the plenary, participants agreed on the new problem tree for Rwanda, prioritised all issues that impact on species in the problem tree as low, medium, high and critical with ♦, ♦♦, ♦♦♦ and ♦♦♦♦ respectively and then reviewed the objectives in the ISAP vis-à-vis the new problem tree.

2.2.4 Project concepts, vision and aim of the plan

In the same groups that reviewed the branches of the problem tree, participants reviewed the project concepts against those in the ISAP. They retained, removed or developed new project concepts/activities where appropriate. In the plenary, participants agreed on the new projects, vision and aim of the action plan for Rwanda.

In same groups that reviewed the branches of the problem tree and designed the projects, participants completed the Projects Table to make the projects SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound). Each project was placed under one of the following heading: *Policy and legislation, Species and habitat, Monitoring and research, Public awareness and training and Community involvement*. In addition, the following were highlighted for each project: the project's overall priority to the conservation of the species in Rwanda (♦=low, ♦♦=medium, ♦♦♦=high and ♦♦♦♦=critical), agencies responsible and those taking a lead in the implementation of the project, the required time scale, the cost estimate (♦=<US$ 10,000, ♦♦=US$ 10,000–US$ 50,000, ♦♦♦=US$ >50,000) and risks and opportunities specific to each project. In the plenary, consensus was generated on the specifics of the projects. There was not enough time to discuss the indicators for each project.

2.2.5 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan

Also because of time constraints, participants did not discuss the M&E plan for this action plan. However, M&E plan for a species action plan requires a regular species assessment report that may easily be generated from the ProjectsTable with 2 extra columns added; one for **completion date** and another for **remarks**. Using this table, information regarding the progress of the various projects can be recorded from which any required report can then be generated. Monitoring and evaluation should be done at aim, objective and project levels.

3.0 Results

The workshop was well attended by 19 participants (Annex 6). Of these, 5 were government officials and 7 were representatives of Research and Higher Education Institutions in Rwanda while 7 were representatives of Conservation NGOs. Most of the planned activities in the workshop program (Annex 5) were achieved. A small group was appointed to produce a Press Release that will be published in the local media. The results of the workshop were used to draft a national Grauer's Rush Warbler Action Plan for Rwanda (Annex 10).

In the draft plan, the gaps on the global population status and local distribution are presented in Tables 1 and 2 respectively and the national and international legislations that may benefit the species in Rwanda are presented in Tables 3. The stakeholders for the Grauer's Rush Warbler and how they impact on the species in Rwanda are shown in Table 4. The cause-effect relationship of all the issues/threats affecting the Grauer's Rush Warbler conservation and their relative importance to the Rwandan situation are shown in the Problem Tree (Figure 2). The vision, aim and objectives of the plan are presented in Table 5. The projects/activities, the relative importance of each project for conserving the species, agencies responsible for implementing the project including the ones taking the lead, time scale and cost are summarised in Table 6. The on-going and potential projects that may benefit the species and the factors affecting the implementation of the plan (risks and opportunities) in Rwanda are shown in Tables 7 and 8 respectively. The Press Release highlighting the key outputs of the plan for urgent action is shown in Annex 11.

4.0 Next steps

The workshop participants formed a Rwanda Grauer's Rush Warbler Interest Group (SIG) comprising of the National Species Action Plan Co-ordinator (NSAPC), Dr. Charles Ntaganda (National University of Rwanda), Dr. Katie Fawcett (Karisoke Research Centre), one member from WCS, Uwingeri Prosper (ORTPN) and one member from MINITERE. The participants agreed that the SIG led by the NSAPC will follow up the lead responsible agencies to ensure that the respective projects in the action plan are being implemented. Regarding the next steps, participants agreed on the activities, responsible people and timelines as shown in the table below:

Activities	**By whom**	**By when**
Produce Workshop report	ES/TR	25 Oct 2003
Circulate Workshop report	RSPB	1 Nov 2003
Produce Draft action plan	NSAPC/ES	30 Nov 2003
Circulate Draft action plan	NSAPC/ES	30 Nov 2003
Produce Final plan and distribute	NSAPC/ES	1 Jan 2004
Launch the Plan	ACNR	2 Feb 2004

ES=Eric Sande, **TR**= Theoneste Rutagengwa, **NSAPC**= National Species Action Plan Co-ordinator, **ACNR**=*Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda,* **RSPB**=Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

5.0 Evaluation

At the end of each of the two days, participants were asked to fill in a simple form to evaluate the mood of the group. As indicated in Annex 12, participants were extremely positive about the workshop.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: BirdLife International African Species Action Plan 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 Emblem[2]

B) Inside Front cover

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

Foreword

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

Table of content

- *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
  - 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

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[1] *Italics: notes*

[2] underlined: national action plans only

- global, (*present as summary table*)
- local (*present as summary table*)

Population and distribution

Country	Population (plus quality code)	distribution	Population trend (plus quality code)	Seasonal occurrence
	Estimate of total number	*Widespread, local*	*Stable, increasing, decreasing*	*Resident or months*

- 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 criteria, 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 (see Table)**
  - *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

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, other

Annex 2: BirdLife International Africa Partnership International SAP detailed Workshop Process

Day	Activity	Description	Techniques and aids	Lead person
1	**Opening**	●Official opening and welcome of the participants to the workshop ●A few remarks by the organizers	Presentation	VIP, Host NGO, ASWGC, CASWG
	Introductions	●Self introductions, expectations	●Presentation of flip charts, a participant introduces his/her colleague and vice versa (position, experience on species conservation and expectations)	●All participants as facilitator captures the expectations on flip chart
		● Objectives of workshop	●A few obvious ones may be presented, discussed on flip chart and more added through brain storm ●The objectives may all be derived from expectation	●Facilitator
		●SAP project, what a species action plan actually is	●Presentation on Overheads/Flip chart	●ASWG
		●Workshop Program	●Quick overview of the entire workshop program of overheads	●Facilitator
	Background information on species	●Background document previously circulated to participants is presented and discussed	●Presentation on Overheads	●ISAPC with help from species experts
		●Group (according to countries) and plenary discussions • Making obvious comments/corrections/additions on the document	●Comments on overheads and flip chat	●ISAPC
		• Gaps in knowledge with respect to the species: i. Population status	●Groups fill in the country's species population status table	●One person from group presents to plenary for discussion
		ii. Local distribution	●Groups fill in the country's national legislation table with respect to the species	●One person from group presents to plenary for discussion
		iii. National legislation	●Groups fill in the table and map for local distribution, numbers and potential areas for the species for their respective countries	●One person from group presents to plenary for discussion
		• On-going projects with respect to	●Groups fill in the table of the on going projects	●One person from group presents to

		the species • Factors affecting the success of action plan	for their respective countries ●Brain storming on flip chat the risks and opportunities under the headings: Resources, Ecology & Biology and Appeal of the species	plenary for discussion ●Facilitator
	Evaluation	●Feel of the day 1	●Participants indicate whether they are unhappy, happy or very happy on a moodometer	●All participants
2	**Recap of day 1** **Stakeholders Analysis**	●Brief highlights of the day 1 sessions ●What are Stakeholders ●Country Stakeholders analysis	●Indicating on overheads what has been covered and where we are ●Presentations on flip charts ●Groups according to countries fill in the table with headings: Stakeholder Group, interests, activities, impact, intensity and how these will be addressed by SAP	●Facilitator: ask the participants to give suggestions on flip chat ●Facilitator: ask the participants to give suggestions on flip chat ●One person from each group presents to plenary for discussion
	Main threats **Evaluation**	●Identification of the main threats ●Using the reasons why species is threatened (GTB2000), brainstorming onto cards to build the Problem tree ●Prioritize the threats and causes of threats ●Feel of the day 2	●All participants brain storm on cards which are then sorted appropriately ●Participants divide into groups of about 5 and each group analyses the root causes using a cause-effect relationship in the problem tree of a threatened species ●Agreeing as a group and indicating on the cards whether the threat/cause of threat is critical (◆◆◆◆), high (◆◆◆), medium (◆◆), low (◆) or unknown (?) ●Participants indicate whether they are unhappy, happy or very happy on a moodometer	●Discussions lead by the Facilitator ● One person from each group presents to plenary for discussion ● Discussions lead by the Facilitator ●All participants
3	**Recap of day 2**	●Brief highlights of the day 1 &2 sessions	●Indicating on overheads what has been covered and where we are	●Facilitator: ask the participants to give suggestions on flip chat
	Preparation of press release	●Appoint a group to prepare a press release	●Press release presented on overheads to the plenary for discussion ●Participants from country groups can give it a "country flavor" and adopt it for their country	●Facilitator ●Country participants
	Vision, aim and objectives	●Agree on the life span of AP which has a	●Brainstorm on flip chats	●Facilitator

		bearing on the aim ●Agree on Vision of action plan; usually downgrading the species (threat status) ●Agree on aim ●Groups develop objectives which can be set derived from the priority threats/causes at any level in the Problem Tree ●Plenary to discuss and agree on the objectives	●Brain storm on cards and flip chat ●List the priority threats from Problem Tree	●Facilitator ●Facilitator
	Formulation of Project Concepts	●Project concepts formulated to address achievement of each objective	●Group work where a group develops project concepts for 1 or 2 objectives: ●Project concepts presented with headings: o Policy and legislation o Species and habitat o Monitoring and research o Public awareness and training o Community involvement	●One person from each group presents to plenary for discussion
	Review Stakeholder analysis (SHA)	●To assess whether SAP activities proposed for SH in the SHA have all been included in the SAP	●All the participants go through the column SAP activities to address impact in SHA tables and reconsider the activities not catered for in the project concepts	●Facilitator Compare SH SAP activities column in SHA with SAP activities and make sure all are incorporated into the SAP
	Evaluation	●Feel of the day 3	●Participants indicate whether they are unhappy, happy or very happy on a moodometer	●All participants
4	**Recap of day 3**	●Brief highlights of the day 1,2 &3 sessions	●Indicating on overheads what has been covered and where we are	●Facilitator
	Completion of projects table	●Project concepts entered into table clearly indicating the details on how the project will be executed	●Group work where the groups fill the table indicating the project, countries overall priority, Agencies responsible, time scale, cost, indicators, risks & opportunities. Projects entered under the headings: Policy and legislation, Species and habitat, Monitoring and research, Public awareness and training and Community involvement	●One person from each group presents to plenary for discussion
	M&E Plan	●Participants consider WHO & HOW will the AP be monitored and evaluated both at National and International levels	●Brain storming on flip chats	●Facilitator
	Adopt plan	●Participants review the entire plan	●Identify and fill any obvious gaps	●Facilitator

			●AP adopted by participants	
	Creation of Species Interest Groups (SIGs)	●Participants given some insights on what SIGs are, what they do and how they fit into the structure of BirdLife International Africa Partnership	●Presentation on overheads/flip chat	ASWG
	Next Steps	●Participants agree on what happens next, who does what and the dead lines	●Brain storming on flip chat	●ISAPC
	Evaluation	●Synthesis of the work done in the four days	●Participants indicate whether they are unhappy, happy or very happy on a moodometer for the 4th day and for all the 4 days.	●Facilitator ●All Participants
	Wrap up	●Official closure of workshop	●A few speeches, vote of thanks, etc	●Facilitator, ISAPC, ASWG
	Business meeting of SIG	●Chart out the way forward towards spearheading the conservation initiatives for the species ●Discuss production of national SAP	●Elect office bearers if appropriate ●Secretary takes minutes of meeting	●ISAPC
5	**Field excursion**			

AP= Action Plan, **ASWG**= Africa Species Working Group, **ASWGC**= Africa Species Working Group Coordinator, **CASWG**= Chair African Species working Group, **SAP**=Species Action Plan, **SHA**= Stakeholder Analysis, **SIG**=Species Interest Group, **ISAPC**= International Species Action Plan Coordinator, **VIP**=Very Important Person.

Annex 3: Steps taken in translating an international species action plan into a National plan

(a) WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE WORKSHOP

Background Document

- Redraft for national workshop making it more relevant to the country in question
- To the introduction, explain why SAP is important and highlight:
    - Context of national plan and international plan
    - Who is BirdLife International/African Partnership/Africa Species Working
- Adopt ISAP document, remove international component not relevant to the national situation
- Take care not to pre-empt threats/problems to the species
    - Include issues of the upper level of problem tree not the entire tree from ISAP workshop
    - Provide food for thought and contribute
- Document prepared for a wide range of stakeholders, some of whom know very little about the species and some know much about the species
    - The document is however targeted more at people who know little about the species
- The less we know about a species, the more the information will change
- Include as Annexes:
    - The Problem Tree of the ISAP
    - The table with Vision, Aim and Objectives contained in the ISAP
    - The list of Projects under their respective Objectives

The following changes were suggested on specific sections to the background document:
Fact File

- Local names of the species should be added
- Distribution in country
- Population estimate for country
- National conservation status where available
- National protection status where available
- Species name

Distribution and population status

- Include more detailed national distribution
- Model species distribution for country can be use to identify other potentials sites
- Reduce information on distribution in other countries

Potential habitat

Same as in ISAP document

Potential Habitat

- List sites for country and population per site
- Include the table on local distribution, protected area status, number of individuals/colonies, number of nests and references (as ISAP document) about the country in question.
- Include known and potential sites

Protection status/legal protection

- More details on national and local laws to species
- Include informal/traditional laws
- Retain international protection
- Provide exhaustive list of all relevant laws to the species

- Have country signed, acceded or ratified the convention?. Provide more detail for country for which national plan is being developed

Relationship with SAPs and other biodiversity strategies
Include links to national AP documents e.g. National Biodiversity SAPs and other strategies

Habitat and nest sites, biology and ecology
- Include country specific information especially when different from other countries
- Include all information including unusual records or "out of range" records

Threats and Potential Threats
- Include only upper level threats/issues of the problem tree in the ISAP
- Put the entire problem tree of ISAP as an Annex.

Factors influencing success of the action plan implementation (Risks and opportunities)
Edit table from ISAP, add relevant and remove irrelevant aspects

Stakeholders' Analysis
A proper Stakeholder Analysis (SHA) needs to be done before the workshop:
- Consider the distribution of the species in the country to ensure even representation
- If the workshop organiser/species coordinator knows of stakeholders that might be assigned responsibility, s/he should ensure that they are invited to the workshop
- In the background document, a section of a detailed SHA for the particular country as done during the international SAP workshop should be included
- When the document is circulated, the stakeholders should be requested to review the analysis

Stakeholders analysis helps to:
- Identify people to invite to the workshop including those who must attend
- Invite key/relevant people from government institutions (people who can make decision and accept responsibility on behalf of their organisation)
- Identify target audience for the campaign
- Identify partners that have an impact on species (positive/negative) due to their activities
- Identify people/individuals who have an interest in the species
- Better understanding of the roles and interest of stakeholders and their responsibilities
- Identify potential collaborators

(b) WHAT SHOULD BE DONE DURING THE WORKSHOP
Introduction
Why it is necessary for the participants to introduce themselves during the workshop?
Self introduction of the participants giving their details and background helps:
- the facilitator to know the background of each participant
- the facilitator to establish whether all the stakeholders invited have turned up or not
- the facilitator to organise group work for discussion by ensuring that when appropriate, people from different backgrounds are not always in the same discussion group
- the participants to get to know each other
- to release tension amongst participants (Ice-breaking)
- the facilitator to assess that the targeted people have turned up. If the targeted people have not come, the facilitator has to think of the necessary adjustments in the facilitation methods (if appropriate) to achieve the objectives of the workshop
- to stimulate relationships/networking

The introduction session should give the participant the opportunity to present details of themselves focussing on: the name of the participant, organization, position, where based and experience in species conservation

Participants' expectations

The participants outlining their expectations of the workshop helps:
- The facilitator to assess the participants' ideas about the workshop
- Set a baseline for evaluation
- The facilitator to ensure that participants' expectations are met
- To fine tune the objectives of the workshop
- The facilitator to identify expectations outside the scope of the workshop. In such a case, the facilitator discusses the particular expectation with the participant so that the later sees that s/he is not ignored

Background Document
Presentation of background document
The background document should be presented to the participants during the workshop because:
- Not everyone read the document previously circulated
- It enable sorting out differences in interpretation of sections
- It brings everyone to the same minimum level of understanding
- A presentation ensures that emphasis is put on very relevant sections
- It helps to identify knowledge gaps and facilitates filling some of the gaps
- It helps to improve knowledge of the species which assists in developing appropriate strategies to mitigate the threats

Assessment of the on-going projects helps to:
- Avoid duplication
- Provides opportunities for collaboration
- Provides additional country specific information updates
- Updates information in the ISAP document

Risks in the implementation of the plan
Risks should be identified during the workshop because:
- The risks at national level may be different from those identified at international level
- It helps to identify areas to target
- It helps to design projects to address problems posed by a risk
- It helps to refine the list of partners to involve in Project implementation
- It helps to note some risks that may not be changed
- It helps to prioritise projects based on risks

Opportunities
Opportunities should be identified during the workshop because:
- It assists to identify potential sources to funding
- It helps to identify potential collaborators
- It helps to take advantage of favourable situations
- It is an important information and education value from the workshop

Stakeholders Analysis
The stakeholders analysis done before the workshop should be presented to the workshop participants to generate consensus

Problem Analysis
Participants agreed that to properly present the threat analysis from the ISAP, it is important to:
- Explain how the problem tree grew
- Present the problem tree as contained in the ISAP.
- Agree in the plenary (add/subtract) any changes to the upper level of the problem tree

- Divide the participants into working groups based on groups within the Problem Tree
  - Review the branches to assess the relevance to the country.
  - Make the relevant changes to make it relevant to the country.
- In the plenary
  - Each group presents
  - Discussion and consensus reached on final problem tree for the NSAP.
  - Prioritisation of each card according to each cards impact on the species: low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦) and critical (♦♦♦♦).
- If no change are made to the levels in the ISAP at which objectives were set:
  - Retain objectives from the ISAP in the NSAP.
  - Divide into working groups:
    (a) Design projects that address the achievement of each objective
    (b) Review project concepts from ISAP specified for the country.
    (c) Review changes to Problem Tree and projects.
  - Plenary: present and get consensus on projects.
- If changes are made to the levels in the ISAP at which objectives were set:
  If additions are made:
  - Consider whether the changes are catered for by the existing objectives from the ISAP. If yes, go to (b) above.
  - If changes are not addressed in the existing objectives from the ISAP, formulate new objectives in plenary and go to (b) above.

  If some subtractions are made, assess whether all the objectives are still relevant.
- After agreeing on the objectives and projects, review:
  - Project concepts against risks and opportunities in the implementation of plan.
  - Project concepts against national problem tree.
  - Vision and agree changes if any.
  - Aim and agree changes if any, add 'in country'
- Working groups:
  - Complete the Projects Table
  - One working group is formed to work on indicators for the aim and objectives
  - Table is filled in using headings Policy and legislation, Species and habitat, Monitoring and research, Public awareness and training, Community involvement and International
  - Use ISAP as a reference.
- Plenary presentations
  - Sections of projects table completed
  - Indicators for aim and objectives
  - Discussions and consensus on Project Table and indicators for aim and objective
- Press Release using **Why/When/How/Who** approach (including sponsors and funders)
- M & E plan-What, Who, Why?
- Determine whether there is any part of the plan that anyone has a problem with or objects to.
- Adopt the plan.
- Determine the Next Steps.

Assigning roles and responsibilities during the production and subsequent implementation of the national plan

- During the workshop, it is important to allow people to choose a group where they can contribute most
- Assigning responsibility depends on how you are collaborating with stakeholders

- A properly completed stakeholders analysis ensures that people from governments/institutions who can make decision and accept responsibility on behalf of their organisation are invited, and thus relevant responsibilities are assigned to them
- Assigning responsibilities is easier when the people/groups are present at the workshop because they will give you the information as to whether the responsibility is within their mandate or not
- There is a need to be very specific as to who is taking the lead in the implementation of a specific activity
- In some cases, some roles are already being undertaken (ongoing projects)
- There is a need to address the problem of accessing resources
- In the event that the government agency identified to take a lead in implementing an activity does not have the required resources then it can work hand in hand with the NGO that has the resources to implement the respective activity
- Many stakeholders taking a lead on a number of responsibilities shows that the action plan is owned by all stakeholders rather than being assumed to be a BirdLife document

Annex 4: National Stakeholders Workshop Process

Date & Time.	Time (min)	Activity	Description	Person responsible
Day 1.				
	15	Welcome and opening	Plenary. Brief welcome to everyone by host NGO Official opening by VIP	
	30	Introductions	Plenary – Cards. Name, Organisation, Position, Where based, Species. conservation experience. - Put cards with headings up on the wall.	
	15	Explanation of workshop techniques	Plenary – Cards. Explain rational behind: - Brainstorm first; only then open discussion. - Use of Cards & flipchart.	
	60	Expectations.	Plenary – Cards. 3 cards to each participant, Put cards on wall & group. Use expectations to refine the workshop objectives.	
10:30 – 11:00	**30**	**Tea/Coffee Break**		
	15	What is a Species Action Plan?	Plenary - Flipchart. Brainstorm & short discussion.	
	15	Workshop programme.	Plenary – Overhead. Brief overview of the entire workshop programme.	
	60	Presentation of background information.	Plenary – Overheads. Presentation of the information contained in the background document prepared for the workshop.	
	30	Discussion of background information.	**Q1**: Gaps in knowledge on species Plenary – discussion, captured on flipchart.	
13:00 – 14:00	**60**	**LUNCH**		
	60	Discussion of background information cont.	**Q2:** On-going & potential projects in country Plenary – brainstorm & discussion onto flipchart. **Q3**: Risk & opportunities affecting implementation of the national action plan in country Plenary – brainstorm onto cards, group & discussion. Not done for threats. This will be covered by the problem tree analyses. **Q4:** Review of the Stakeholders analysis	
	60	Introduction to the ISAP Problem Tree.	Plenary – Cards. Explanation: How the species problem tree was constructed. Presentation of the species problem tree as contained in the ISAP. Questions & answers.	
16:00 – 16:30	**30**	**Tea/Coffee Break**		
	30	Restructuring the upper level of the Problem Tree making it relevant to country	Plenary – Agree relevance to country. Discussion & stay the same or removing and/or adding cards at the upper level. Includes filling any gaps at the upper level.	
	60	Review branches of the problem tree and make relevant to country	Groups – Cards. Divide people into groups. The group removes a branch or tow, reconstructs the branch(es)	

	60	Group presentations on reconstructed problem tree branches.	Plenary – Cards. Each group presents their Problem Tree. Discussion refinement and consensus.	
	5	Evaluation.	Happy, medium, sad face.	
19:00 -		**DINNER**		
Day 2.				
	15	Recap of day 1.	Plenary – Overheads / Flipchart / Cards.	
	60	Prioritisation of issues by on impact on species	Plenary – Cards. low (♦), medium (♦♦), high (♦♦♦) and critical (♦♦♦♦).	
	15	Review the Objectives from the ISAP.	Plenary – Cards / Flipchart. Link between the Objectives and Problem Tree. (use newly constructed national Problem Tree).	
10:00 – 10:30	**30**	**Tea/Coffee Break**		
	60	Design project concepts.	Groups – Cards / Flipchart. Divide people into groups based on Objectives. Review project concepts against those in the ISAP. Retain, remove and/or develop new project concepts.	
	60	Group presentations on project concepts.	Plenary – Cards/ Flipchart. Each group presents their project concepts. Discussion refinement and consensus.	
	30	Review the Vision & Aim.	Plenary – Flipchart. Changes, the same, add "in country"	
13:00 – 14:00	**60**	**LUNCH**		
	60	Completion of projects table.	Groups – Cards/Flipchart. Same Groups as for Objectives and designing Project Concepts. One from each group to form a further group to look at indictors for the Aim and Objectives.	
	90	Group presentations on completed Projects Tables. Group presents indicators for the Aim & Objectives.	Plenary – Cards/Flipchart. Group present project table and indicators for Aim & Objectives. Discussion refinement and consensus.	
16:30 – 17:00	**30**	**Teal/Coffee**		
	60	Monitoring & Evaluation Plan.	Plenary – Overheads.	
	60	Adoption of the plan.	Plenary: Any objections to any part/component of the plan? Can we adopt the plan? YES. Review expectations Next steps	
	15	Workshop close.	Vote of thanks.	
		Final Evaluation.	Happy, medium, sad face.	
19:00 -		**DINNER**		

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Annex 5: Grauer's Rush Warbler National Stakeholders workshop

Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally Threatened Birds in Africa
Workshop Program for the Rwandan Grauer's Rush Warbler Action Plan
15-16 October 2003, Kinigi Guest House, Ruhengeri

	15 October	16 October
8:00 – 13:00	Welcome **(SN)** Opening **(NI)** Introductions **(TR)** Explanation of workshop techniques **(ES)** Expectations **(EG)** **Tea/Coffee break (ALL)** What is a Species Action Plan? (**EG**) Overview of the workshop programme (**ES**) Presentation of background information (**CN**)	Recap of day 1 **(ES)** Prioritisation of issues based on impact on GrW **(EG)** Review the Objectives from the I GrW AP **(EG**) **Tea/Coffee break (ALL)** Design project concepts **(TR)** Group presentations on project concepts **(TR)** Review the Vision & Aim **(TR)** Completion of projects table **(ES**)
13:00 – 14:00	**LUNCH**	
14:00 – 18:00	Discussion of background information cont. (**CN**) Introduction to the International GrW problem tree (**ES**) **Tea/Coffee break (ALL)** Restructuring the upper level of the problem tree making it relevant to Rwanda (**ES**) Review branches of the problem tree & make relevant to Rwanda (**ES**) Group presentations on reconstructed problem tree branches **(ES)** Evaluation (**ES**)	Group presentations on completed Projects Tables **(ES)** Press Release **(ES/TR/SN)** **Tea/Coffee break (ALL)** Monitoring & Evaluation Plan **(ES)** Adoption of the plan (**SN/TR)** Workshop close (**NI**) Final Evaluation (**ES**)

SN= Serge Nsengimana, **TR**=Theoneste Rutagengwa, **EG**=Eric Giti, **CN**=Charles Ntaganda, **ES** = Eric Sande, NI=Ntirenganya Ignace

The Workshop was organised by ACNR, the BirdLife International Affiliate in Rwanda. The SAP project is co-ordinated, on behalf of the BirdLife International Africa 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.

NatureUganda BirdLife SOUTH AFRICA DARWIN INITIATIVE RSPB

Annex 6: List of participants and their contact details

No	Name	Organization	Position	Postal address	Email	Experience in species conservation
1	Theoneste Rutagengwa	ACNR	Member	POB 4290 Kigali	ipcnvtheo@avu.org	Participated in International SAP workshop in Kabale
2	Dr Charles Ntaganda	NUR	Lecturer	POB 117 Butare	ntagach@yahoo.fr	Participated in International SAP workshop in Kabale
3	Eric Giti	ABO Burundi	Vice-Chairman	POB 7069 Bujumbura	aboburundi@yahoo.fr	Participated in the ISAP for GR Warbler and Lappet-faced Vulture
4	Theogene Ngaboyamahina	KRC	Researcher	POB 105 Ruhengeri	ngt@mail.rw	None
5	Kayijamahe Eugene	NUR/KRC	Researcher	POB 105 Ruhengeri	ekayijamahe@yahoo.com	None
6	Uwingeri Prosper	ORTPN (Rwanda Wildlife Agency)	Warden, Research, Planning and monitoring	POB 905 Kigali	uprolic@yahoo.fr	None
7	Tuyisingize Deogratias	NUR/KRC	Researcher	POB 105 Ruhengeri	tuyideo@yahoo.fr	None
8	Nsanzurwimo Aimable	NUR/PNV	Researcher	POB 105 Ruhengeri	nsanzaim@yahoo.fr	None
9	Augustin Muramira	ACNR	Treasurer	POB 4290 Kigali		None
10	Mwambarangwe Claudine	NUR	Researcher	POB 105 Ruhengeri	mwaclaudine@yahoo.fr	None
11	Emmanuel Namurinda	Min. of Lands and Environmental protection	Inspection & Monitoring Officer	POB 3502 Kigali	onarinda@yahoo.com	A little from school
12	Serge Joram Nsengimana	ACNR/KRC	Chairman and Education Coordinator	POB 4290 Kigali or 105 Ruhengeri	sergensenga@yahoo.fr	A little
13	Dr. Eric Sande	ASWG/Nature Uganda	Coordinator	Kampala	eric.sande@natureuganda.org	Participated in 6 international and 2 national SAP workshops
14	Dusabimana Audace	DAEF/PGERB	Coordinator	POB 102 Ruhengeri		None
15	Ntirenganya Ignace	Kinigi District	Mayor	POB 1 Ruhengeri		None
16	Bugingo Aimable	Kinigi District	In charge of Agriculture	POB 1 Ruhengeri		None
17	Ntahumwe Thomas	ACNR/NUR	Researcher Wetlands Inyange SSG	POB 117 Butare	ntathom@yahoo.fr	None
18	Bazimaziki Frederic	Kinigi District	Forester	POB 1 Ruhengeri		None
19	Katie Fawcett	DFGI-KRC	Director	POB 105 Ruhengeri	karisoke@rwanda1.com	Gorillas and chimpanzee research

Annex 7: Workshop techniques

Rules for the use of cards during brainstorming
- 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

Rules for the use of flipchart during brainstorming
- 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 8: Participants expectations
- Create a Species Conservation Center as for Mountain Gorillas;
- Create a trust fund like Grauer's Rush Warbler Fund for example;
- To set up a National Action Plan for the species;
- Implement all strategies for the conservation/protection of the species;
- To set up a realistic National Action Plan;
- A good Grauer's National Action Plan;
- To see the National Species Action Plan set up and implemented;
- Gain more information about Grauer's Rush Warbler;
- To know more about the importance of the species;
- To improve knowledge about the conservation of the species;
- To improve knowledge about the conservation of this bird;
- Get familiar with Bird Conservation Action;
- Learn how to set up a species plan especially the Grauer's Rush Warbler one and make sure it is applicable also on other bird species;
- To set up a Grauer's Rush Warbler Species Interest Group.

Annex 9: Definition of a Species Action Plan

(a) Results from the brainstorm

- Strategic measures for the conservation of species
- A plan which includes biology, threats and strategies of the species
- A plan with activities limited in time and space
- A plan taking into account all the potential stakeholders in conservation
- A document of high value provided by experts
- A plan with specific actions for the species

(b) BirdLife International African Partnership definition

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.**

i) Scientifically authoritative

- Review and document all data available
- Involve all relevant experts
- Check data in workshop

ii) Strategic document that defines specific, measurable objectives and actions

- Strategy: Where are we, where do we want to be and how do we get there?
- Specific
- Measurable

iii) Achievable, time-bound

- SMART Objectives

iv) Involve all appropriate stakeholders

Annex 10: Draft Grauer's Rush Warbler (*Bradypterus graueri*) Action Plan for Rwanda

Background Information

Fact file

Family: Muscicapidae

Distribution: Grauer's Rush Warbler is restricted to highland swamps in the mountains around Lake Kivu and Edward in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, South -Western Uganda, Rwanda and Northern Burundi.

Size: wing, ♂(n=7) 56-60.5 (58.0),♀(n=5) 56-58.8 (57.5), tail,♂(n=7) 71-75(72.9),♀(n=5) 65.7-68.8 (67.4), bill to skull, ♂(n=7) 15-16.4 (15.7),♀(n=5) 14.5-15.3 (14.9); tarsus,♀(n=1) 23.5; weight (Uganda, mar)♂(n=9) 16-19 (17.3),♀ (n=6) 15-18 (16.7).

Immature:♂ similar to adult but spots on breast are narrower, the lower breast and under parts are mainly white with pale yellow wash, flank feathers cinnamon brown.

Plumage: medium sized dark brown, with white super cilium, with heavy spotting on throat and upper breast, with smaller spots on breast. Tail long and steeply graduated, but often looks frayed and worn.

Voice: song is a rapid trill, preceded by 1-2 loud guttural notes, 'tchew' or 'chew', and occasionally followed by similar notes, 'tchew-tchew-trrrrrrrrr'or at times ends with another 'tchew'. In display, calls are repeated without pause 'chup-chup-chup-trrr'.

Diet: small beetles, caterpillars, spiders and small seeds.

Population Size: Possibly greater than 10,000 but less than 20,000 mature individuals (10,000-20000). The group that worked out the International Action Plan worked out figures for all the range states and concluded that the total number for the species is probably less than 10,000

Area of occupancy: - the range covers about 15,000 km² while the area of occupancy is probably c. 200-250 km²

Introduction

Grauer's Rush Warbler *Bradypterus graueri* is an endangered species (Bird life International 2000) restricted to highland swamps in the Mountains around Lakes Kivu and Edward, in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), south-western Uganda, Rwanda and Northern Burundi. The species is endemic to the Albertine Rift and can be identified by its medium sized dark brown plumage with white spots. Its outstanding trill for a song cannot be missed in its swamp habitat. Little is known about its population size, feeding behaviour, breeding behaviour, nest and eggs. Although there is scanty information on breeding biology, some observations were made in Rwanda (Urban *et al* 1997) and a newly completed nest was observed for four days and six hours on each occasion in Mubwindi Swamp in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) before the birds abandon the nest (Mwambu 2001) although no details on the observations were provided. However there are a few breeding indications across the range. In Eastern DRC, female with a brood observed in mid-march and immatures in end February and early October while in Uganda nesting observed in February in Mubwindi swamp (Mwambu 2001).

Taxonomic notes.

Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes
Sub-order: Sylvanae
Family: Muscicapidae
Species: *Bradypterus graueri*
Common name: Grauer's Rush Warbler
Trench name: Fauvette de Grauer

Distribution and population status

The species is an endemic resident, probably sedentary. Locally common in highland swamps in Eastern DRC, south-western Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

- **Eastern DRC**: west of lake Edward near Lubero and in northern Alimbongo, western Kivu volcanoes, west of lake Kivu at Mumba and Nyawaronga in mountains above Kalehe and in Kahuzi swamp, in Kahuzi-Biega National Park.
- **South-western Uganda**: Mubwindi and Ruhizha swamps in BINP, Rugezi swamp in Mgahinga National Park and Muchuya swamp in Echuya Forest Reserve.
- **Rwanda**: in north in Tshava, Kitabi and Rwasenkoko in Rugezi swamp, western Kivu volcanoes below mount Sabinyo in marshes between Virunga volcanoes, and in south western at Kamiranzovu and Mukohore swamps in Nyungwe (Rugege) forest.

- **Northern Burundi**: Rwegura and between Teza and Rwandan border. Common, but total population size probably small due to restricted montane habitat, which is threatened by human pressure. In 1984, population estimated to be c.3000 pairs in Kamiranzovu(c. 900 ha) in Rwanda, but only c. 100 pairs in the whole of Burundi (Vande weghe, 1983 quoted in Collar and Stuart 1985) Table 1 shows the population estimate in all the 4 range states where the species occurs.

Table 1. Population, distribution and seasonal occurrence of Grauer's Rush Warbler in 4 range states

Country	Population (plus quality code)	Distribution	Population trend (plus quality code)	Seasonal occurrence	Notes
Burundi	± 600 individuals (B)	Localised to forests (Kilira + Buruli?)	Decreasing (A)	Resident	Only few foreign ornithologists Other wetlands to be investigated
DRC	> 1000 individuals (U)	Large stable Population especially in Kahuzi-Biega	Stable (A)	Resident	Security concerns outside Pas Mining, illegal activities outside Pas NGO work (LODE)
Rwanda	3,000-4,000 individuals (B)	Locally distributed in Nyungwe, Rugezi, marsh Virunga Volcano	Increasing (U)	Resident	-Gold mining decreasing -Habitat destruction and alteration at Rugezi Swamp
Uganda	<1,700 individuals (B)	Patchy in high altitude swamp marshes	Not known but probably stable	resident	
Total	**<10,000 individuals**				

The type-specimen was collected in Rwanda in 1907 at 2,200m in the lower spurs of Western Kivu Volcanoes below Mount Sabinyo. Other collections and observation have since been made in different sites in Uganda, DRC, Rwanda and Burundi. The species was discovered in Uganda 1967 when 12 birds were collected in the Mubwindi Swamp at 2000m in BINP. A further nine specimens were collected in the Bwindi Swamp and the nearby Ruhizha swamp in 1969. Later the species was discovered in Muchuya swamp (about 4km^2) in Echuya Forest Reserve and in Rugezi swamp in Mgahinga National Park. The local distribution of the species in Rwanda is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Local distribution, numbers & protected area status of Grauer's Rush Warbler sites in Rwanda

Site name	Site (IBA site no. if applicable)	PA status	No. of Sites	No. of pairs	References	Notes
Rugezi	RW001	None	Unknown	-	-	Drained
Virunga	RW002	National Park	1 (Known)	-		
Nyungwe	RW007	National Park	6 (Known)		- Schotederi 1966 -J.V Vande Weghe -WCS report	

Protection status

As a conservation measure taken, the Kahuzi swamp is protected in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Prigogine 1983). Despite political turmoil and wars in DRC since 1996, the Kahuzi swamp is still totally under control by park authority. The Virunga Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda includes several sites for this species, but the conservation of these swamps is by no means secure.

Other measures have been proposed, which are more adequate conservation measures required to safe guard the montane swamp habitat of these species. Although the Rugezi swamp in Rwanda must contain a large proportion of the total population of this species, it is probably not possible to protect it, since human pressure on the land is very great (Vande Weghe 1984). However, the Nyungwe Forest Conservation Project has been established since and it is hoped that this will conserve the Kamiranzovu swamp and many other small swamps where the species occurs (Vande Weghe 1983, 1984). Table 3 shows the national and international legislation that may benefit the Grauer's Rush Warbler in Rwanda.

Table 3: National legislation and signatories to international conservation treaties relevant to Grauer's Rush Warbler in Rwanda

	Legislation/ Convention	Signed/ratified
National	Protected Area Decrees	✔
International	CITES	✔
	CBD	✔
	UMB	✔
	AC	-
	RAMSAR	✔
	WHC	✔

CITES=Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CBD=Conservation of Biological Diversity
UMB=UNESCO Man & Biosphere
WHC= AC=African Convention
WHS=World Heritage Convention

Movements: The bird is resident.

Relationship with other SAPs and biodiversity strategies.

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- National Important Bird Area Strategy (NIBACS**)**

Habitat requirement for the species

The Grauer's Rush Warbler is restricted to montane swamps. The species covers a variety of swamp vegetation types. It is comfortable in short grass swamps, swamps with medium sized sedges and ferns. Grauer's Rush Warbler also lives in swamps with dense scrubby vegetation. The species is likely to be seen in places dominated by sedges rather than shrubs and natural selection towards the latter threats the species (Mwambu pers com). The Grauer's Rush Warbler inhabits most commonly highland swamps. In some sites the bird has been seen in tiny swamps surrounded by forests suggesting that the species can penetrate forest along small watercourses (Mubwindi Swamps in Uganda, Nyungwe Forest in Rwanda). It feeds in the lower strata of the vegetation but sings on higher stems and twigs. In Uganda it is recorded in sedges and shrubby areas where numbers in the sedges was significantly higher than the mean number found in the shrubby areas (Mwambu 2001). There has been some unconfirmed observation in the papyrus mixed swamps around Buhoma and Lake Bunyonyi (1930m asl) in Kabale, Uganda (ref). The species requires montane swamp at an altitude of 1950-2600m.

Biology and ecology

The Grauer's Rush Warbler is a medium sized-dark brown with white supercilium. The male has heavy spotting on the upper breast while the female has smaller spots on the breast. Its tail is long and steeply graduated often skulks but is unusually visible for a *Bradypterus* warbler and will sit on high exposed perch particularly when disturbed or in song.

The Grauer's Rush Warbler is not shy and when disturbed flies low with flattering flight for a few meters giving short rattling trill. It then drops down into cover singing from tops of stems and stems, then makes short display flight with snapping wings low over vegetation. However, according to Mwambu (pers com), the species is shy and difficult to study since it is mostly down the vegetation. The species is very vocal and impossible to miss if present in a swamp. It feeds in the open, near ground and sometimes on floating vegetation, where it uses its tail to balance. Outside breeding season it moves in groups of 10-12 birds. The species feeds mainly on small beetles caterpillars spiders and small seeds (Mwambu 2001).

Breeding of this species is monogamous, territorial, usually territories of isolated pairs (0.1-0.5 ha in extent). In sexual display, the bird perches near the top of sedge, rapidly flutters wings above back and calls constantly. Display may last c. 90s, but stops abruptly when an individual gives chase to probable mate alighting in sedge a few meters away. It is

monogamous and territorial. In Uganda there was some evidence of breeding activity in February-May and it may breed in March in Eastern DRC.

Threats and potential threats
Limited knowledge on the species and human activities are probably the main obstacles in the conservation of the Grauer's Rush Warbler. The species is classified as globally endangered because of low global population estimate (<10,000 birds) that is either due to very limited data on the distribution and population size, naturally low population (*) or due to continuing decline in the number of mature individuals. Habitat destruction and fragmentation cause a multiplicity of issues/threats that ultimately causes low productivity and high adult mortality of Grauer's Rush Warbler in all the range states in general including Rwanda. The problems/threats affecting the conservation of the Grauer's Rush Warbler in Rwanda are shown in Figure 2 (the Problem Tree).

Stakeholders analysis
Stakeholders impact on the species positively or negatively with varying degrees of intensity. The main stakeholders for Rwanda and how they impact on the species shown Table 4.

Conservation action programme
The Grauer's Rush Warbler is globally threatened species. The vision, aim and specific objectives of this action plan are shown in Table 5. Table 6 shows projects numbered according to the corresponding objective under headings Policy and legislation, Species & habitat, Monitoring & research, Public awareness and training and Community involvement. It in addition, Table 6 shows the specifics of the projects in terms of priority as far as the conservation of the species is concerned in Rwanda, agencies that will take a lead to implement the project, time scale, cost, risks and opportunities that may affect or enhance the implementation of the project.

Table 4: Stakeholder analysis for Rwanda

Stakeholder	Interest/Mission	Activities	Im	In	Proposed activity
NATIONAL					
Local communities	-Economic benefits	-Agriculture -Mining -Grass cutting	- - -	♦♦♦ ♦ ♦	-Alternative source of income -Environment education -Sustainable use of wetlands
ORTPN	-Conservation and tourism	-Guarding, Housing, Guiding	-	♦♦♦	-Expand activities in other Grauer's habitats
ACNR	-Research -Conservation -education	-Research on Grauer's inventories	+	♦♦♦	-Expand activities in other Grauer's habitats
ELECTROGAZ	-Power supply	-Dam building	-	♦♦♦	-Conduct environment impact studies -Source energy lobbying
Government department	-Environment protection	-Land tenure -Wetland conservation -Soil conservation	+	♦♦	-Policy, legislation on PAs
ACNR	-Environmental education research -Advocacy	-Nature club -Research on wetlands	+	♦♦♦	-Advocacy for the protection of Rugezi -Awareness on SPP
National Research and High Education Institutions	- Research	- Surveys and monitoring, assessment	+	♦♦	- Survey and maintain updated data
INTERNATIONAL					
WCS	-Conserving wildlife and wild lands	-Research survey training	+	♦♦♦	-collaboration "more funding" for getting information out expand activities
International Community	-Money/profit -Buying minerals form locals	-Encouraging exploitation -Fuelling conflicts -Local markets -Govt. intermediary, organizations	- +	 ♦♦♦ ♦	-Lobby for essential sustainable use campaign
Wetlands international	-Wetland conservation	-Identify and high light wetlands of international importance to government	+	♦	-Lobby for more sites -Raise awareness -Getting to know focal point in government
Community Development Agencies	-Poverty alleviation -Sustainable livelihood	-ICDP -Agricultural importance -Micro-credit -Health and education -GTZ in parks	+ - - + + + +	♦♦♦ ♦♦♦♦ ♦♦ ♦♦ ♦ ♦♦♦	-Raise awareness -Monitor positive and negative impacts -Advocacy
Albertine Rift Conservation Society	-Biodiversity conservation	-Information dissemination -Regional networking	+	♦-♦♦	-Work together raise funds -Development net working and advocacy

(ARCOS)		-Coordination of conservation activities			
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI)	Research and Conservation	- Monitoring and research	+	♦	- Incorporating GrW work into their action
GEF (FEM)	Conservation	- Provision of funds	+		-
BirdLife International	Conservation	- Research, monitoring and provision of funds	+	♦	- Help to conduct research, provide expertise

Figure 2: Grauer's Rush Warbler Problem Tree for Rwanda

Table 5: Vision, aim and objectives of the action plan

Vision	**Description and justification**	**Indicators**
Viable populations of Grauer's Rush Warbler conserved		
Aim *(5 years)*	**Description and justification**	**Indicators**
Grauer's Rush Warbler conservation status improved in Rwanda	The species being globally endangered, its conservation status needs to be improved	• Habitat destruction reduced at Rugezi swamp • Estimated populations at 2 key sites stable or recovering
Objectives		
1. Distribution, population size and trends of Grauer's Rush Warbler determined in Rwanda (♦♦♦)	There is not much known about the population size, distribution and trends in in Rwanda	• Population at the 2/3 known sites* determined within two years • The two sites surveyed for the second time within 5 years
2. The ecology of the Grauer's Rush Warbler better understood (♦♦♦)	Very little is known about the ecology of the species at the moment	• Information generated and disseminated on factors that affect mortality and reproductive success within 5 years • Understanding of habitat requirements within 3 years
3. Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat quality maintained and improved at key sites (♦♦♦♦)	Habitat alteration and destruction were the main threats of the species as per the problem tree	• Management actions on ground aimed at maintaining Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat at 2/3 key sites within 5 years • Monitoring programmes in place for the species and its habitat at one key site
4. Impact of human activities at key sites minimised (♦♦♦♦)		Extent and quality of habitat stable at Rugezi Swamp
5. Profile of Grauer's Rush Warbler and its habitat raised in Rwanda (♦♦♦)	Profile of the species low at the moment	At least one site achieves RAMSAR or Biosphere reserve status in 3 years

Project concepts /activities

Objective 1: Distribution, population size and trends of Grauer's Rush Warbler in Rwanda determined

1. Assess the distribution of Grauer's Rush Warbler habitats using GIS and remote sensing
2. Assess the distribution of Grauer's Rush Warbler population size in Nyungwe, Rugezi and Virunga National Park
3. Develop and implement a monitoring method for the species and train survey teams in Rugezi and Virunga National Park

Objective 2: The ecology of the Grauer's Rush Warbler better understood

1. Capacity building to undertake ecological studies
2. Assessment of the ecological factors influencing Grauer's Rush Warbler survival and reproduction (habitat fragmentation, competition, weather conditions, food availability, predation).
3. Assess habitat requirements of Grauer's Rush Warbler so that we know how to manage the habitat

Objective 3: Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat quality maintained and improved at key sites in Rwanda

1. Design and implement a monitoring system for the species, habitat quality and extent of habitat using Ranger-based monitoring

2. Research to understand the internal and external hydrological factors affecting the vegetation at Rugezi and Nyungwe
3. Conservation of Grauer's Rush Warbler incorporated in management plans of Protected Areas
4. Capacity building and training for park staff and rangers in wetland management and monitoring

Objective 4: Impact of human activities at key sites minimised

1. Identify human activities leading to habitat destruction at Nyungwe, Rugezi and PNV
2. Assess ecosystem services of swamps-floods and pollution prevention
3. Review existing laws affecting the conservation of key sites
4. Lobby locally and internationally the protection of key sites and their habitats including government and developing agencies
5. Research on attitudes of local communities visa-avis Grauer's Rush Warbler conservation habitat
6. Develop and implement programmes to involve local leaders and integrate local community livelihoods in Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat conservation
7. Explore and if appropriate implement incentives-based conservation of Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat
8. Promote or lobby Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of developmental projects

Objective 5: Profile of Grauer's Rush Warbler and its habitat raised

1. Develop and implement awareness programmes and communication materials targeting specific audiences such as local communities, school clubs (wildlife clubs), decision makers, tourists, etc
2. Capacity building of key stakeholders such as ORTPN, ACNR, NUR, IRST, ISAE through and provision of equipment and materials
3. Develop partnerships/networks with other agencies to raise the profile of the species e.g. collaboration with international Convention Secretariats, law enforcement agencies, politicians
4. Develop Site Support Groups at key sites
5. Have a functional Rwandan Grauer's Rush Warbler Species Interest Group
6. Encourage government bodies to ratify Conventions (RAMSAR) and list key sites where appropriate

Table 6: Table of projects under the five objectives with headings policy and legislation, species & habitat, monitoring & Research, Public awareness and training and community involvement with agencies responsible, time scale, cost, risks and opportunities

	Project	Overall Priority	Agencies responsible	Time scale	Cost	Indicators	Risks and opportunities
	A) Policy and Legislation						
3.3	Conservation of Grauer's Rush Warbler incorporated in management plans of PAs	♦♦♦	**MINICOM,**WCS,, IGCP, DFGFI	1 Year	$		
4.3	Review existing laws and policies affecting the conservation of key sites especially Rugezi	♦♦♦	**MINITERE**,MINAGRI, MININAFRA, MINICOM, **ACNR**	1 year	$		
4.8	Promote or lobby Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of developmental projects	♦♦	**ACNR,** KRC, UNR, ORTPN, PCFN	1 year	$		
5.6	Encourage government bodies to ratify Conventions (RAMSAR) and list key sites where appropriate	♦	**ORTPN**, ACNR, NUR, IRST, ISAE, PCFN	1 year	$		
	B) Species & Habitat						
2.3	Assess habitat requirements of Grauer's Rush Warbler so that we know how to manage the habitat	♦♦♦	**ACNR,** KRC, WCS, ORTPN	2 years	$$		IBA programme starting soon (**O**)
4.4	Lobby management locally and internationally to protect key habitats	♦♦♦	**ACNR**, PCFN, UNR, ORTPN, KRC	3 years	$		
4.6	Develop and implement programmes to involve local leaders and integrate local community livelihoods in Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat conservation	♦♦♦	**ACNR**, CARE, GrW SIG	5 years	$$		There may be little or no interest from developers
C	**C) Monitoring & Research**						
1.1	Assess the distribution of Grauer's Rush Warbler habitats	♦♦♦	**BirdLife International /ACNR**, DFGFI, NUR, WCS	2 years	$$$		
1.2	Assess the distribution of Grauer's Rush Warbler population size in	♦♦♦	**BirdLife International /ACNR**, KRC/DFGFI,	2 years	$		

	Rugezi, Nyungwe and Virunga National Park		NUR, WCS				
1.3	Develop and implement a monitoring method for the species and train survey teams	♦♦	**BirdLife International /ACNR**, DFGFI, NUR, WCS	1 year	$		
2.2	Assessment of the ecological factors influencing Grauer's Rush Warbler survival and reproduction	♦♦♦	**BirdLife International /ACNR**, DFGFI, NUR, WCS	4 years	$$		
3.1	Design and implement a monitoring system for the species, habitat quality and extent of habitat	♦♦♦	**ACNR**, DFGFI, NUR, WCS	2 years	$		
3.2	Research to understand the hydrological factors affecting at Rugezi and Nyungwe	♦	**ACNR**, DFGFI, NUR, WCS	1 year	$		
4.1	Identifying and documenting the impact of human activities at key sites especially Rugezi swamp	♦♦♦	ACNR, PCFN, UNR, ORTPN, KRC, ISAR, IRST, **MINITERE**	1 year	$		
4.2	Assess ecosystem services of swamps-floods and pollution prevention	♦	ACNR, PCFN, UNR, ORTPN, KRC, ISAR, IRST, **MINITERE**	2 years	$		
4.5	Research on attitudes of local communities visa-avis Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat conservation	♦♦	UNR/ORTPN, **ACRN**, PCFN, KRC	1 year	$		
	D) Public awareness and Training						
2.1	Capacity building to undertake ecological studies	♦♦♦	**BirdLife International /ACNR**, DFGFI, NUR, WCS	2 years	$$		
3.4	Capacity building and training for park staff and rangers in wetland management	♦♦♦	MINICOM/ORTPN, IGCP,**ACNR/DFGFI**, MINAGRI	1 year	$$		
5.1	Develop and implement awareness programmes and communication materials targeting specific audiences	♦♦♦	**ORTPN**,ACNR, NUR, IRST, ISAE, PCFN	5 years	$$		
5.2	Capacity building of key stakeholders eg ORTPN, ACNR	♦♦	ORTPN,**ACNR**,NUR, IRST, ISAE, PCFN	5 years	$$		

	through and provision of equipment and/or materials						
5.3	Develop partnerships/networks with other agencies to raise the profile of the species	♦	ORTPN,**ACNR**,NUR, IRST, ISAE, PCFN	2 years	$		
5.5	Have a Rwandan functional Grauer's Rush Warbler SIG	♦♦	ORTPN,**ACNR**, NUR, IRST, ISAE, PCFN	1 year	$		
	E) Community involvement						
4.6	Develop and implement programmes to involve local leaders and integrate local community livelihoods in Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat conservation	♦♦♦	**ACNR**, CARE, Gr. Warbler SIG	5 years	$$		There may be little or no interest from developers
4.7	Explore and if appropriate implement incentives-based conservation of Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat	♦♦	**ACNR,** KRC, UNR, ORTPN, PCFN	3 years	$$		
5.4	Develop and support Site Support Groups at key sites	♦♦	ORTPN,**ACNR**, NUR, IRST, ISAE, PCFN	1 year	$		

PCFN=Nyungwe Forest Conservation Project, **KRC**= Karisoke Research Center, **IGCP**= International Gorillas Conservation Programme, **ORTPN**=Rwanda National Park and Tourism Office, **ACNR**= Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda, **WCS**=Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), **DFGFI**= Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, **MINITERE**= Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Environmental Protection , **UNR**=National University of Rwanda, , **MINICOM=**Ministry of Communication, **SIG**=Species Interest Group, **IRST**= l'Institut de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique, **ISAR**=l'Institut de Recherche Agricole au Rwanda

O=Opportunity, **R**=Risk**, Overall Priority**: ♦=low, ♦♦=medium, ♦♦♦= high, ♦♦♦♦= critical, Cos*t* .= ♦< *US$ 10,000,* ♦♦*=US$ 10,000 – US$ 50,000,* ♦♦♦ *=US$ >50,000).* **Underlined and bold=**Lead agencies

There are a number of on-going and potential projects that may benefit the species (Table 7) as well as factors that may affect or enhance the implementation of the action plan (risks and opportunities) (Table 8).

Table 7: On-going and potential projects that may benefit the conservation of the Grauer's Rush Warbler in Rwanda

On-going Project	**Activities**
Nyungwe Forest Conservation Project (PCNV)	Conservation of the habitat and monitoring of birds including Grauer's rush Warbler
Karisoke Research Center (KRC)	Conservation of the habitat
International Gorillas Conservation Programme (IGCP)	Gorilla Conservation
Rwanda National Park and Tourism Office (ORTPN)	General wildlife conservation
ELECTROGAZ	Regulation of Water use in Rugezi area
Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Environmental Protection (MINITERE) – Integrated Wetlands Management	Studies or assessment on critical ecosystem
Potential Project	**Activities**
CARE	Biodiversity survey and socio-economic studies around Rugezi
Karisoke Research Center (KRC)	Monitoring of birds in Virunga National Park (PNV)
Universities Research Centers	Research on birds (Feeding, Ecology, ethology,…)
Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda	IBAs book, National Species Action Plan
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI), Rwanda National Parks and Tourism Office (ORTPN)	Biodiversity survey in Virunga National Park

Table 8: Risks and opportunities that may affect the implementation of the plan in Rwanda

Risks	**Opportunities**
• Species not very attractive for donors + politicians • The SAP may not given priority by Government implementers • Government initiatives to exploit wetlands do affect negatively the habitat of the species • Lack and/or shortage of Funding opportunities • Ignorance about the existing legislation • No respect/implementation of existing law • Habitat destruction • High human population growth • Species not well assessed/known • General hunting and poaching • Lack of awareness • No enough experts in bird research/conservation • Traditionally people do feel money in Birds as a waste • A lot of predators	• National legislations on Protected areas; • Ratification of international conventions; • Lack/shortage of expertise about the species which can be attractive; • Many NGOs implicated in conservation; • Consideration of its habitat in Protected Areas i.e: Kamiranzovu, PNV; • Classified as endangered; • Law on land tenure; • Darwin initiative and other partners committed to make a follow up.

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Annex: 11: Press Release

National effort to save the Endangered Grauer's Rush Warbler

Rwandan stakeholders in conservation met to compile a conservation plan for the globally Endangered **Grauer's Rush Warbler** at Kinigi Guest House, Ruhengeri from 15-16 October 2003. The workshop was hosted by *Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda* (ACNR), a local BirdLife International partner in Rwanda.

Rwanda has almost 50% (about 3,000 individuals) of the world population of the species yet some of the sites where the species is found continue to undergo human destruction and degradation. The species is known from only three sites in Rwanda: unprotected Rugezi swamp and Virunga National Park (PNV) in the north, and in the Kamiranzovu swamp in Nyungwe National Park in the South. Although Rugezi swamp harbours the highest population of the species in the world, the site does not have any protection status which makes intensive drainage and burning continue to date.

Stakeholders representing local Kinigi District Administration, Educational and Research institutions, ORTPN, MINITERE, conservation NGOs both local and international operating in Rwanda attended the planning workshop which was jointly funded by the UK Darwin Initiative Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Royal Society for the protection of Birds (the BirdLife International partner in the UK) and was facilitated by the BirdLife International Africa Species Working Group and the hosting NGO, ACNR.

The aim of the Rwandan Grauer's Rush Warbler action plan is have the knowledge about the species and its conservation status improved in Rwanda.

Specific recommendations from the workshop that need to be addressed include:

- Conservation of Grauer's Rush Warbler incorporated into national management plans of Protected Areas
- Review existing laws and policies affecting the conservation of key sites especially Rugezi swamp
- Development of capacity to undertake ecological studies for major stakeholders in biodiversity importance and conservation in general
- Assessment of the population, distribution and ecological factors affecting Grauer's Rush Warbler (including human impacts)
- Development and implementation of programmes to involve local leaders and integrate local community livelihoods in Grauer's Rush Warbler habitat conservation.

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Annex 12: Daily Evaluation/ Moodometer

	☹	😑	☺
Day 1		●●●●●	●●●●●●
Day 2		●●	●●●●●●●
Overall		●	●●●●●●