

SOUTHERN AFRICAN RAPTOR CONSERVATION

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP REPORT

23 – 25 March 2004
Gariiep Dam, Free State, South Africa



Hosted by:

**THE RAPTOR CONSERVATION GROUP OF THE
ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST**

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The Raptor Conservation Group wishes to thank Eskom and SA Eagle Insurance company for the sponsorship of this publication and the workshop.

Evans, S.W., Jenkins, A., Anderson, M., van Zyl, A., le Roux, J., Oertel, T., Grafton, S., Bernitz Z., Whittington-Jones, C. and Friedmann Y. (editors). 2004. Southern African Raptor Conservation Strategic Plan. Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (SSC / IUCN). Endangered Wildlife Trust.

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The CBSG, SSC and IUCN encourage the convening of workshops and other fora for the consideration and analysis of issues related to conservation, and believe that reports of these meetings are most useful when broadly disseminated. The opinions and recommendations expressed in this report reflect the issues discussed and ideas expressed by the participants during the Southern African Raptor Conservation Strategic Planning Workshop and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the CBSG, SSC, or IUCN.

Cover photograph courtesy of Albert Froneman

CBSG Southern Africa gratefully acknowledges the support of:

Vodacom
Lomas Wildlife Trust
Davies Foundation
CBSG SSC/IUCN (USA)

Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Trust
BP South Africa
Impala Platinum

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SECTION 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

The Raptor Conservation Group (RCG) is a Working Group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) – one of the largest field-based conservation NGOs in southern Africa. The RCG coordinates and implements many raptor conservation programmes throughout South Africa and operates via a large network of volunteers and supporters (see appendices 3 and 4 for more).

In order to ensure that the RCG continues to address the most critical raptor conservation issues and remains effective and relevant in light of the most pressing threats facing raptors in the region, it was deemed necessary that a strategic planning workshop be convened. The workshop needed to be inclusive and open to all stakeholders and the aims of the workshop were to determine the priorities for raptor conservation, identify the biggest threats facing raptors and highlight the gaps in current raptor conservation programmes which need addressing. With this background information at hand, it would then be possible to determine what role the RCG and other conservation groups need to play in order to be effective and deliver meaningful results.

The workshop was organised by the EWT's Raptor Conservation Group, sponsored by SA Eagle Insurance Company and attended by 38 people from a variety of stakeholder groups and organisations. The workshop ran over three days with the first day and a half being dedicated to presentations dealing with critical raptor issues and updates on various projects (see section 3 - Presentations). The second section (a day and a half) was used to run a strategic planning workshop for raptor conservation in southern Africa, and was facilitated by CBSG Southern Africa, a regional network of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Species Survival Commission.

The second section of the workshop, after formal presentations, began with a group brainstorming session to determine the main issues facing raptor conservation in the region. These issues were then themed resulting in the formation of five Working Groups namely:

- Data Obsessive Scientists (DOS)
- Legislation and Policy Enforcement
- Education and Awareness
- Habitat Loss / Change
- Immediate Threats

Participants chose the working group in which they wished to work, according to the level of input they could provide and the contribution they could make. Working groups were given a set of tasks to work through which included formulating problem statements, developing possible solutions and, time permitting, developing recommendations and action steps for implementation. All problems and solutions were prioritised and filtered through a set of "checks" in order to ensure that solutions and recommendations were practical, realistic and appropriate.

Between intensive working group sessions, open plenary sessions were held whereby working groups presented their discussions and conclusions to the entire group, openly discussed them and made adaptations where necessary in order to ensure that the reports and outcomes were as inclusive and representative as possible.

The following summarises the outcomes of the Working Group reports.

DATA OBSESSIVE SCIENTISTS (DOS)

This group dealt with the issue facing the need for relevant, accessible scientific information to guide conservation actions. The group felt that there is insufficient information on the biology and

conservation status of raptors, the relative importance of threats and therefore, the effectiveness of conservation actions. Studies on the biology of many raptor species are lacking and need to be encouraged. There is insufficient collaboration and no coordinated plan to accumulate these data. Data gathering protocols (especially for monitoring and incident recording) are not currently available or nationally accepted. Existing and new information is not computerised and integrated, with no regular outputs or information dissemination. There is a strong birding and conservation community in southern Africa, who could provide the data if their efforts were coordinated. Thus, solutions suggested by this group included the development of a national raptor roadcount to monitor the populations of raptors and crows in the region and a review of existing databases and literature on southern African raptors with the objective of identifying important gaps in conservation-related topics. The establishment of a scientific advisory group was recommended to advise on project selection, design and execution and to review the suite of data collection protocols that exist, to consolidate and refine these and to develop additional protocols if necessary.

The group also stressed the need to regularly update the conservation status of raptors according to the IUCN Red List Criteria and to monitor the productivity, mortality and dispersal of species selected using this system. The need for integrated databases and well-coordinated data collection methods was stressed time and again. Finally, the need to disseminate information (see group dealing with education and awareness) was emphasised.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY ENFORCEMENT

The participants in this group dealt with issues pertaining to the lack of uniform legislation throughout the region and the lack of a national policy on raptor conservation, the lack of capacity (funding and personnel) to implement existing legislation and the lack of commitment from government structures. Within the legal framework, wildlife cases are not given a high enough priority and there is also a lack of cooperation between relevant role-players and departments. The group also recommended the establishment of a Focus Group, comprising all relevant stakeholders, which could evaluate existing legislation and policies, identify key areas requiring policy development and law reform and make recommendations to Working Group 1 of the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, to improve uniformity and implementation. This Focus Group could also identify international conventions to which South Africa is a signatory and bring those that require increased compliance to the attention of government. It was further recommended that public prosecutors, magistrates and the South African Police Services must be exposed to the importance of successful prosecution of wildlife cases and that these sectors be provided with appropriate training in wildlife and environmental case management. The Focus Group was also identified as being able to address the lack of communication and cooperation between organisations.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

This group highlighted issues such as the poor communication between scientists, the raptor conservation community, educators and the public and the fact that there is a shortage of human capacity and the lack of transformation within the environmental education arena. Minimum, uniform standards for education dealing with raptors and their threats were also identified as a priority and the need to ensure that environmental education programmes are relevant to identified conservation priorities was stressed. Possible solutions include establishing links with existing environmental education curricula and working more closely with government and educational departments, as well as education organisations such as zoos. Increased communications through e-mail, networks and newsletters was also stressed. Identifying target groups and developing target-specific educational material, as well as supporting educators through capacity building workshops was considered important. Links between educators and conservation authorities were deemed essential to retain the relevance of the information being disseminated. Above all, there is a need for transformation of the raptor conservation community and a move towards including

more previously marginalised individuals and other stakeholder groups, and building the capacity of up-and-coming raptor conservationists.

HABITAT LOSS / CHANGE

Habitat change is recognised as occurring continually and impacting on raptors through a reduction in resources (reduced quality and extent of foraging and breeding habitat) and changes in communities resulting in changes in the influences of competition (e.g. Crows) and predation. We do however, only have a limited understanding of the nature, extent and impact of these changes on raptor populations. Therefore, this group identified the dire need to qualify and quantify the habitat changes taking place and the impact on the conservation status of our raptors through increased and more focussed research. The results of this research need to be used to determine priority actions to reduce, eliminate and reverse the negative effects of habitat change on raptor populations, both in terms of the wholesale destruction of habitat (by processes such as deforestation), and the more gradual, degradation of habitat (by processes such as overgrazing). The use of raptors as indicators of habitat change was therefore considered vital. Many of this group's recommendations dealt with the use of modelling studies using GIS coverage and raptor distribution data to determine the extent of various land use changes and their relative impacts on raptor habitats. The results of these studies could then be used to review the conservation status of raptors in relation to land-use changes, to feed this information into Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and related processes and to identify priority species and areas deemed threatened by land-use changes. The need to identify flagship species as habitat-health indicators was also discussed.

It was noted that changes to habitat do not always have negative impacts on all raptor populations. Modifications to natural or human-made habitats that impact positively on populations of threatened or potentially threatened raptor species should be cautiously encouraged (e.g. stands of exotic trees providing a substitute habitat for raptors where forests have been destroyed).

IMMEDIATE THREATS

This group dealt with the threats facing raptors in the short-term that result in immediate mortalities of birds. These include powerline strikes (electrocution and direct collisions), road kills, collision with fences, poisoning (direct and secondary poisoning), direct persecution, drowning in farm reservoirs, the muthi trade and impacts resulting in the loss of progeny. Many of this group's solutions included improved collaboration and partnershiping with other established projects and organisations such as the EWT's Poison Working Group and Eskom-EWT Partnership. This will ensure a wider roll-out of programmes already established to address these threats and a broader spread of their activities without duplicating efforts. Much emphasis was placed on working with farmers, farm workers and landowners to support and educate them on the consequences of their actions on the land and for the species that share it. Increased support for law enforcement agencies was considered vital in order to reduce the extent of intentional persecution of raptors and destruction of their habitat. Unsustainable use of raptors and their body parts for collections and the muthi trade was also discussed, and measures to reduce the loss of raptor prey base were also considered. Human impacts, through habitat transformation and direct disturbance were considered among the most important threats while disease issues were considered less important.

RAPTOR CONSERVATION GROUP DISCUSSION

After the second section of the workshop was wrapped up, the entire group convened for the last few hours to discuss the most appropriate and effective structures that would be necessary to implement this strategic framework, the role of the RCG and the possible restructuring of the RCG and its advisory committee in order to meet these objectives. The results of this plenary session can be found in section 5, entitled "Raptor Conservation Group Discussion".

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SECTION 2

THE CBSG STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The CBSG Strategic Planning Process

Strategic or Action Planning Workshops bring together conservationists, biologists and other stakeholders with relevant expertise and interest, in a collaborative effort to assess the conservation status of, and risks posed to threatened species and ecosystems in order to develop better management strategies for more effective conservation. The Strategic or Action Planning process developed by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG- IUCN/SSC) results in the formulation of an effective management plan which details strategies that have been developed by local conservation officials and stakeholders, and which allow for practical and expedient implementation.

The CBSG Workshop Toolkit

CBSG workshops focus on small group dynamics, which step through a series of tasks allowing for explicit problem restatement, divergent thinking sessions, identification of the history and chronology of the problem, causal flow diagramming, matrix methods for qualitative data and expert judgements, paired and weighted ranking for making comparisons between sites, criteria, and options, utility analysis, stochastic simulation modelling for single populations and metapopulation and deterministic and stochastic modelling of local human populations. Several computer packages are used to assist collection and analysis of information with these tools.

The CBSG Action Planning process is based upon biological and sociological science. Effective conservation action is best built upon a synthesis of available biological information, but is dependent on actions of humans living within the range of the threatened species as well as established national and international interests. There are characteristic patterns of human behaviour that are cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural which affect the processes of communication, problem-solving, and collaboration: 1) in the acquisition, sharing, and analysis of information; 2) in the perception and characterisation of risk; 3) in the development of trust among individuals; and, 4) in 'territoriality' (personal, institutional, local, national). Each of these has strong emotional components that shape our interactions. Recognition of these patterns has been essential in the development of processes to assist people in working groups to reach agreement on needed conservation actions, collaboration needed, and to establish new working relationships.

Frequently, local management agencies, external consultants and local experts have identified management actions. However, an isolated narrow professional approach which focuses primarily on the perceived biological problems has little effect on the needed political and social changes for collaboration, effective management and conservation of habitat or protected areas and their species components. CBSG workshops bring together the full range of groups with a strong interest in conserving and managing species in their habitats or the consequences of such management. One goal in all workshops is to reach a common understanding of the state of scientific knowledge available and its possible application to the decision-making process and management actions. The decision-making driven workshop process with intensive deliberation among stakeholders is a powerful tool for extracting, assembling, and exploring information. This process encourages developing a shared understanding across wide boundaries of training and expertise. These tools also support building of working agreements and instil local ownership of the problems, the decisions required and their management during the workshop process. As participants appreciate the complexity of the problems as a group, they take ownership of the process as well as the ultimate recommendations made to achieve workable solutions. This is essential if the management recommendations generated by the workshops are to succeed.

Workshop Processes and Multiple Stakeholders

CBSG workshop processes provide an objective environment, expert knowledge and a neutral facilitation process that supports sharing available information across institutions and stakeholder groups, reaching agreement on the issues and available information, and then making useful and practical management recommendations for the taxon and habitat system under consideration. The process has been successful in unearthing and integrating previously unpublished information for the decision-making process.

Their proven heuristic value and constant refinement and expansion have made the CBSG CAMP and PHVA / Action Planning processes two of the most imaginative and productive organising forces for species conservation today (Conway, 1995).

CBSG participants have learned a host of lessons in more than 150 workshop experiences in 40 countries. Traditional approaches to threatened species problems have tended to emphasise our lack of information and the need for additional research. This has been coupled with a hesitancy to make explicit risk assessments of species status and a reluctance to make immediate or non-traditional management recommendations. The result has been long delays in preparing action plans, loss of momentum, dependency on crisis-driven actions or broad recommendations that do not provide useful guidance to the managers.

CBSG's interactive and participatory workshop approach produces positive effects on management decision-making and in generating political and social support for conservation actions by local people. CBSG participants recognise that the present science is imperfect and that management policies and actions need to be designed as part of a biological and social learning process. The CBSG Workshop process essentially provides a means for designing management decisions and programmes on the basis of sound science while allowing new information and unexpected events to be used for learning and to adjust management practices.

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SECTION 3

PRESENTATIONS

RAPTOR CONSERVATION IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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The semi-arid Northern Cape is the largest and most sparsely populated province in South Africa. Many different habitat types provide for the requirements of a number of raptor species. These include the Asbestos and Langberg mountains, the Kalahari, the Nama-Karoo and the Orange River and its associated habitats.

Fifty-one different raptor species have been recorded, of which 35 are resident, 21 are common, and eight species are listed in *The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland* (Barnes 2000). In general, habitat degradation is limited to the areas immediately adjacent to the perennial rivers, and raptors are therefore still commonly encountered in many areas.

One of the main economic activities is sheep farming, and the properties are generally very large (>5000 ha). Conflict with small-stock farming, however, results in some birds being inadvertently or directly persecuted each year. Some raptors are killed by poisons and gin-traps, where the target species is usually the black-backed jackal. Two farmer questionnaire postal surveys (1976 and 1992) indicated a decrease in range and abundance of certain scavenging species, such as the Tawny Eagle. The most recent survey also indicated that most stock mortalities occurred in the mountainous areas, with the Verreaux's Eagle being the apparent culprit.

In the Northern Cape there are both possible and negative anthropogenic effects on raptors. For example, 14 species have been recorded breeding on man-made structures, while 18 species have drowned in farm reservoirs.

Through the activities of the Raptor Conservation Group (RCG), the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment & Conservation, and the Northern Cape Raptor Conservation Forum, the most important threats to raptors are being addressed. Two RCG projects are making an important contribution to raptor conservation in the Northern Cape. Francois Taljaard coordinates the Platberg-Karoo Raptor Project and Abrie Maritz coordinates the Kalahari Raptor Project. Ronelle Visagie undertakes raptor research and conservation in the Strydenburg area.

Raptor conservation activities include: monitoring of raptor breeding populations, road censuses, farmer extension, establishment of raptor conservancies, rehabilitation of injured raptors, issuing of certificates to landowners who have breeding raptors on their properties, presentation of the annual Gariiep Raptor Conservationist Award, Kalahari Raptor Route, production and distribution of raptor pamphlets and booklets, modification of farm reservoirs to prevent raptor drownings, modification of powerlines to prevent electrocutions, and establishment of 'vulture restaurants'. Eskom deserves special mention for its efforts to modify raptor-unfriendly powerlines to prevent electrocutions. Vodacom has procedures and policies in place to ensure that raptors breeding on its structures are not disturbed.

Through all of these efforts, the status of many raptor species is improving and species such as the Tawny Eagle, Bateleur and Lappet-faced Vulture are becoming increasingly common.

THE STATUS AND CONSERVATION OF RAPTORS IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

BD Colahan

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The Status of Raptors in the Free State

Fifty-three species of diurnal and nocturnal raptors have been recorded in the Free State over the past 21 years (1983-2003; 1983 is when the four-year Free State Bird Atlas project began (Earlé & Grobler 1987)). However, several of these are uncommon here, or occur only as vagrants and, if one looks more closely at the data for the Free State "atlas region" (which covered most of the Province) of the South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP (Harrison *et al* 1997)) only six diurnal raptors were recorded on more than 1% of the 7 039 field lists in that region's database (1983-1992), with the ubiquitous Black-shouldered Kite topping the list (Table 1).

TABLE 1. *Diurnal raptors occurring on >1% of the SABAP lists for the Free State atlas region (1983-1992).*

Species	% of lists
Black-shouldered Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> .	60
Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	34*
Steppe Buzzard <i>Buteo vulpinus</i>	30*
Rock Kestrel <i>Falco [tinnunculus] rupicolis</i>	22
Secretarybird <i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	18
Jackal Buzzard <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	1.4

* Of October-April field lists only (n = 4 130)

If one lowers this arbitrary threshold to 0.5% for the nocturnal raptors, three species of owl qualify (Table 2).

TABLE 2. *Owls occurring on >0.5% of the SABAP lists for the Free State atlas region (1983-1992).*

Species	% of lists
Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	1.0
Marsh Owl <i>Asio capensis</i>	0.8
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	0.6

Eleven of the raptors in the latest South African Red Data Book for Birds (Barnes 2000) have been recorded in this Province (Table 3), nine of which occur, or used to occur, in significant numbers.

TABLE 3. *South African Red Data raptor species recorded in the Free State from 1983.*

Species	SA Red Data Book status*	Presence of conservation significance?
Tawny Eagle <i>Aquila rapax</i>	Vulnerable	Yes
Martial Eagle <i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	Vulnerable	Yes
Bateleur <i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	Vulnerable	No
African Marsh Harrier <i>Circus ranivorus</i>	Vulnerable	Yes
Lesser Kestrel	Vulnerable	Yes
Grass Owl <i>Tyto capensis</i>	Vulnerable	Yes
Secretarybird	Near-threatened	Yes

Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	Near-threatened	Yes
Black Harrier <i>Circus maurus</i>	Near-threatened	Yes
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Near-threatened	No
Lanner Falcon <i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Near-threatened	Yes

* (Barnes, 2000)

Thus, while the Free State may not be teaming with large eagles, there is certainly still a role for this province in the conservation of southern African raptors.

Known Threats

A large raptor in the Free State can probably fall victim to any of the following: poisoning (accidental, or deliberate), shooting, trapping (accidental, or deliberate), electrocution, collision with a vehicle, or drowning in a reservoir, but I am unable to provide any statistics for these.

Nature Conservation Regulations

All raptors are protected species in the Free State, by Ordinance 8 of 1969; this is presently being revised by the law enforcement section of the Free State Department of Tourism, Environment & Economic Affairs (DTEEA) and will incorporate any innovations already introduced by other provinces in their revised regulations.

Permits for Falconry and Rehabilitation

A resident in this Province is allowed to fly certain raptors for falconry only as a member of the Free State Falconry Club. The club has been given the authority by DTEEA to issue permits for the keeping and transport of falconry raptors in the possession of club members, with DTEEA being informed of these permits, and provided with an annual report. DTEEA issues permits to certain individuals who are recognised as being competent raptor rehabilitators.

The advice of the Raptor Conservation Group (RCG) concerning permit applications, has occasionally been sought.

Illegal Collection of / Trade in Raptors

DTEEA is unaware of any collection or trade involving raptors in the Free State.

Protected Areas Suitable for Raptors

There are 14 formally protected areas in the Free State with a total land area of 116 450 ha, which is <1% of the total area of this, the third largest province in South Africa. The areas of these reserves range from 162 ha to 22 000 ha (mean = 8 318, SD = 7 175). Private conservancies on commercial farmland cover c.850 000 ha, and, with a section in DTEEA specifically dealing with these, there is a steady expansion of this area.

Of the resident Red Data species, Martial Eagles have occasionally nested in four of the 12 Provincial nature reserves over the past 10 years; unfortunately, because of the small size of these reserves, they must form only part of the territories of the respective pairs. In three of these reserves bluegum trees *Eucalyptus* spp. (remnants from the days when the reserves were commercial farmland) were used; this includes Sandveld Nature Reserve, where the nest tree is on the edge of a fairly extensive stand of mature Camel Thorns *Acacia erioloba*.

A pair of Tawny Eagles used to nest in Tussen-die-Riviere Nature Reserve, but they moved out when the dead nest-tree collapsed.

Secretarybirds are regularly seen in most of our reserves and there could be as many as 15 pairs nesting in the Provincial nature reserves.

Although not a threatened species, of some concern is the disappearance of Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* from Sandveld Nature Reserve; according to S.J. Els (pers comm), he

used to regularly see four pairs in the reserve up until c.1998/99, after which they all disappeared within a short period - the Sociable Weaver *Philetairus socius* nests they frequented are still active.

Education Programmes

DTEEA's education section deals only with school children; raptors feature strongly in the courses presented.

Attitudes of Private Landowners

There are a few landowners in the Free State who are protective of the raptors on their land, while most are probably at least tolerant of any bird of prey they happen to notice. However, there must still be a significant percentage of small-stock farmers who are intolerant of any large raptors on their land, and act accordingly. Complaints to DTEEA of stock taken by raptors are usually from the more tolerant farmers and are referred to the RCG.

Other

In 2003 the Bloemfontein office of Telkom SA contacted DTEEA about the removal of poles (mostly adjacent to roads), made redundant by improved technology. A farmer's wife in the Cocolan district had objected to the removal of defunct poles and lines near their farm (because of their use by raptors and other birds), and the matter was referred to me; I in turn requested the RCG's views on this. Their recommendation that all such poles be removed, so as to reduce the number of raptors catching prey on roads, and hence of raptor roadkills, was forwarded to Telkom.

The Free State harbours a significant proportion of the Lesser Kestrels that overwinter in South Africa (Colahan 1993), so it is not surprising that DTEEA is regularly contacted with complaints of the mess caused by droppings and pellets that accumulate beneath roosts in urban areas; we are fortunately able to refer such complaints to Hein Pienaar, coordinator of the Migrating Kestrel Project of the RCG.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to staff members in most of the DTEEA's reserves who were able to supply additional information on their raptors.

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RAPTOR CONSERVATION: LIMPOPO

Kobus Pienaar

*Department of Finance & Economic Development
Environmental Affairs, Biomonitoring – Birds*

Thank you for the invitation to attend this workshop and to present to you a summary on raptor conservation in the Limpopo. Raptor conservation as a separate issue has not received specific attention in the past from Limpopo Environmental Affairs - but recently some processes was put in place, which will address this.

Collaboration

We are in a process of drafting new policies, regulations, standards and guidelines for rehabilitation and falconry in the Province. This is an open process where we have involved stakeholders and are making use of available existing guidelines such as a “policy” drafted by the Rehab council of the Limpopo and also rehabilitation standards obtained from SABS and other institutions.

Currently there are three rehabilitation centres involved with raptor rehabilitation and one falconry club with about 15 active members keeping 13 birds.

With regard to falconry policy and regulations, the Department and steering committee of the Limpopo Falconers Club (LFC) are continuously involved in discussions and drafting of these and a final document will hopefully be available very soon.

Though it's been a slow process, the Department finally has a new Act on the table, which includes changes to the protective status of a number of species. For the first time raptors are included on the list of **specialty protected wild animals** and this includes the following:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Barred Owl	<i>Glaucidium capens</i>
Bat hawk	<i>Macheirhamphus alcinus</i>
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Eagle- Tawny	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Falcon, Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Falcon, Taita	<i>Falco fasciinucha</i>
Grass Owl	<i>Tyto capensis</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Martial eagle	<i>Polemaëtus bellicosus</i>
Pel's fishing owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>
Vulture- African White-backed	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Vulture- Cape	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Vulture- Egyptian	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Vulture- Hooded	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
Vulture- Lappet-faced	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
Vulture- White-headed	<i>Trionoceps occipitalis</i>

Raptor species not mentioned above are all automatically covered as **protected wild animals**.

Evaluation of Populations

In this area the Department has embarked on a comprehensive Biobase or database including all relevant information on all species indigenous to the Limpopo. This database is continuously updated with new information, which is made available to the Regulatory component as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment component.

Attention will also be focussed on important habitats and in this regard information contained in the Important Bird Areas of Southern Africa – publication by BirdLife SA and the ADU - will play a vital role in conservation efforts of important habitats.

Known Threats

Poisoning, habitat loss and removal from the wild are seen as the major threats. From time to time illegal hunting is also reported but we believe that the new Act (The Limpopo Environmental Management Act, 2003) will address these threats from a legislative perspective.

Education and Awareness Programmes

As stated, no specific formal raptor conservation plan or programme exists, but as the abovementioned processes develop, this will eventually follow as part of a broader biodiversity protection strategy. However some private initiatives like raptor conservancies are playing a very important role in this field.

THE STATUS OF RAPTOR CONSERVATION IN GAUTENG

C.A. Whittington-Jones

Gauteng Directorate of Nature Conservation

Introduction

Gauteng falls within both the grassland and savannah biomes and regularly supports 36 raptors species, approximately 44% of the total raptor species for southern Africa. Of these, five are listed as vulnerable and two are near-threatened (Barnes 2000). A further 30% of the regions raptors have been recorded either as erratic visitors or vagrants to the province (Tarboton 1997).

This report aims to consolidate all relevant information on the utilisation and conservation of raptors in the province and to provide a basis from which future conservation needs and priorities can be determined.

Threats

Habitat loss and transformation

This is probably the single most important factor contributing to the decline of raptor populations in the province. Landcover data and associated verification exercises indicate that urban development and roads cover approximately 14% of the province, while agriculture, mining and other land uses account for a further 56% of the total area (Landcover 2000; Surveyor General 2003). As little as 30% of the original untransformed, natural habitat may therefore remain and this is fragmented (M. Pfab, pers comm.).

Alien Vegetation

Exotic plants have invaded 1.2% of the province (Landcover 2000) and while plantations have probably allowed certain species (e.g. Black Sparrowhawk (*Accipter melanoleucus*)) to expand their range into the grassland biome, grassland dependant species are likely to have suffered as a result of habitat loss.

Powerlines

There have been two reports to the Directorate of powerline-associated mortality/injuries to raptors in the province within the last year, though this is likely to be an underestimate. The first involved a Cape Vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*) near a vulture restaurant in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site and the second, a Secretarybird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) on the Marievale Bird Sanctuary. Both incidents were reported to the Eskom-EWT partnership and negotiations are underway with Eskom to get these lines marked.

Poisoning

Impaired productivity linked to pesticide contamination and/or direct mortality caused by poisons intended to control pests is believed to have contributed to the decline of the Lanner Falcon population in the province (Kemp 1993; Jenkins 1997; Barnes & Jenkins 2000). Other raptor populations may have been similarly affected, but there are insufficient data to draw reliable conclusions. Irresponsible use of rodent poison has been linked to the death of one owl. Given the large human population of the province, other similar incidents are likely to have occurred, but were either not reported, or were reported directly to the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Poison Working Group.

Road Mortalities

The EWT - Nashua Central Owl project recorded 296 dead owls on the N17 and R 550 between October 2001 and September 2002. This collision-related mortality is likely to have a severe impact at least on local populations of the affected raptor species.

Collisions with Fences

Several incidents have been observed and on all occasions, owls were the group affected.

Human Persecution

The extent of deliberate human persecution of raptors in the province is unknown.

Provincial Policies and Legislation

Provincial Ordinance

The Gauteng Nature Conservation Ordinance number 12 of 1983 lists all raptors as protected species and as such permits are required to hunt, catch, keep, possess, sell, donate, receive as a donation, convey, import or export these species.

Draft policy

A draft provincial policy on the keeping of birds of prey in captivity was developed in 2000. Based largely on the policy developed for the Northern Cape Province, the draft policy covers falconry, research, rehabilitation, display/exhibition and captive breeding. Although not formally adopted, aspects of the policy are being used to guide decision-making and it is currently being worked into the Directorate's revised Ordinance.

Permits

Rehabilitation

There are currently eleven organisations in Gauteng that have permits to undertake raptor rehabilitation work. A recently developed provincial rehabilitation policy is currently under review and is intended to streamline and improve the standard of rehabilitation in the province.

Education and Public Displays

The use of live raptors for education and educational displays is subject to acquisition of the appropriate permit from the Directorate of Nature Conservation. Very few of these permits (approximately 5) have been issued and they are subject to the applicant demonstrating appropriate knowledge and competence. Clear guidelines as to what constitutes appropriate knowledge and competence are, however, lacking.

Breeding of Raptors

The draft policy on the keeping of birds of prey in captivity recognises that captive breeding is a legitimate and desirable way for falconry clubs to produce birds for hunting. Captive breeding is also the normal means by which zoological gardens produce stock for exhibit purposes and in conservation it can play a role in the propagation of rare species. In each of these three cases, however, there is a defined purpose to the breeding and a plan for the offspring being produced, and only in these cases will the issuing of permits be considered.

One rehabilitation centre was granted a permit for breeding raptors five years ago and this is due for renewal/review in 2004. The species involved, the purpose of the captive breeding and the reason why a permit was issued is unclear at this stage and will be investigated.

Falconry

The Transvaal Falconry Club (TFC) is the only recognised falconry club active in Gauteng and it currently has 46 members. Permits for falconry are issued on the recommendation of the TFC and the active membership comprises 11 A-grade falconers, 15 B-grade falconers and 10 C-grade falconers. Numbers of A and B grade falconers have remained fairly constant over recent years.

Since 1999, the TFC has been issued with a wild-take quota by Gauteng Nature Conservation to remove 108 wild raptors (various species) for falconry purposes. Only 28% of the birds on quota were eventually caught and of these, half were either released or lost while being hunted. Thus, over a four-year period, only 15 raptors were effectively “lost” to the wild, through falconry.

To reduce the dependence of members on wild-caught raptors, the TFC has initiated various breeding projects and to date has successfully bred African Goshawks (*Accipiter tachiro*), Gabar Goshawks (*Micronisus gabar*), Black Sparrowhawks, Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), Lanner Falcons (*Falco biarmicus*) and Rednecked Falcons (*Falco chicquera*).

Following a comprehensive impact assessment, senior members of the TFC have been permitted to import and fly exotic and hybrid raptors. According to the draft policy, these raptors must be captive-bred and human-imprinted and may only be flown with telemetry equipment. Any falconer who loses an exotic or hybrid raptor will not be permitted to keep such birds in future and problems or expenses arising from the escape are entirely the responsibility of the permit holder.

There have been several enquiries from foreign embassies and their agents about the legalities of hunting bustards and korhaans in the province using imported raptors. Hunting with raptors for commercial purposes is not considered to be sustainable and is therefore not supported.

Illegal Trade and Collection

Falconry

Escaped falconry birds that do not belong to members of the TFC have been reported on occasions and this suggests that there are falconers operating illegally within the province. In the absence of specific information that can be investigated, no progress has been made in resolving this matter.

Taxidermy

The collection of raptor carcasses for taxidermy is a disturbing new development that could lead to healthy raptors being killed to supply a market for mounted displays. Provincial authorities need develop a unified approach to tackling this issue before it has a significant impact on raptor populations.

Muthi

A preliminary survey of the animals used by traditional healers at the Faraday Market in Johannesburg (Crump 2001), revealed that various bird species were being sold. Raptor parts included the skins of two Eagle Owls and the talons of a large unidentified raptor.

According to TRAFFIC, various raptors including the Spotted Eagle Owl (*Bubo africanus*), Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), African Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) and the threatened Grass Owl (*Tyto capensis*), Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*), Cape Vulture and White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*) are used by “traditional healers” to make “protective charms”. While there is continuity of species used by traditional healers, this is also a dynamic cultural practice that allows substitute species to be used when certain elements become increasingly hard to obtain (Crump 2001). Unfortunately, the dynamic nature of this practice also allows charms to be developed to meet new demands e.g. vulture parts are reportedly used to prepare good luck charms for participants in the National Lottery (S. Taylor, pers comm.).

Protected Areas Suitable for Raptor Populations

The Avian Demography Unit of the University of Cape Town has been contracted to analyse all Birds in Reserves Project (BIRP) data collected for protected areas in Gauteng. This analysis will include all data collected up until December 2003 and will provide a better assessment of the

extent to which our current reserve network protects raptor species than the existing reserve checklists. Until this data is available, however, historical bird records for reserves provide the only indication of the occurrence of raptors in protected areas.

Gauteng has six provincial reserves (four in the grassland biome and two in the savannah biome) and a scattering of municipal and private reserves. The reserve network is the product of a range of historical factors rather than systematic conservation planning and consequently does not adequately represent the biodiversity of the province. Nevertheless, the grassland reserves include two Important Bird Areas (IBAs) (i.e. Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve and the Blesbokspruit Ramsar Site), while the Leeuwfontein Collaborative Nature Reserve, a savannah reserve in the north east of the province, will eventually be incorporated into the proposed 100 000 ha Dinokeng Game Reserve.

Of the 36 raptors that are either resident or regular visitors to Gauteng, all but 6 appear on the bird list of at least one provincial reserve. While this appears encouraging, it is well known that presence does not equate to effective protection. Appropriate management of protected areas and private land holds the key to raptor conservation in this province.

Attitude of Private Landowners

The Directorate of Nature Conservation has not received any complaints about livestock losses to raptors, and this may be attributed to the relative scarcity of large raptors in the province. A small number of landowners in the more rural areas of Gauteng have been questioned about the presence of threatened raptors in their area and in general, these individuals appeared proud to have raptors on their properties and were concerned about their conservation.

Pigeon racers/fanciers do occasionally complain of heavy losses to raptors in urban/peri-urban areas. These individuals are usually referred to the National Problem Bird Forum of the Poison Working Group for assistance.

Conservation Planning

As part of a broader conservation planning process currently underway in the province, preliminary spatial and population conservation targets have been proposed for all threatened raptor species that are either resident in or regular visitors to Gauteng i.e. Cape Vulture, Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Grass Owl, African Marsh Harrier (*Circus ranivorus*), Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*), Secretarybird and Lanner Falcon. Proposed targets need to be realistic and have been circulated to a diversity of raptor experts for their input. The steps required to achieve these targets have not yet been specified, but the overall objective is to maintain or improve the conservation status of target species through mitigation of threats and appropriate habitat management throughout their range in the province.

Province-wide biodiversity surveys are being conducted and special attention is being given to locating and mapping populations of threatened bird species. Preliminary data have been incorporated into the first Gauteng Conservation Plan (version 1) and all new data will be used to revise subsequent versions. The Gauteng Conservation Plan already serves as a vital decision support tool for development planning in the province and is ultimately intended to serve as the blueprint for the establishment of a comprehensive and viable network of public and private open spaces needed for the conservation of biodiversity.

Research: Universities

The only true raptor-related research currently underway in the province is being conducted by Tahla Ansara of the Rand Afrikaans University in collaboration with Paul Jooste of the EWT-

Nashua Owl Project. Her recently submitted M.Sc. dissertation is entitled: Determining the ecological status and possible anthropogenic impacts on the Grass Owl (*Tyto capensis*) population in the East Rand Highveld, Gauteng. This work is intended in part to establish the causes of high owl mortalities in the study area and to develop workable solutions.

Research into the habitat and spatial requirements of threatened raptors in the province is considered an urgent priority.

Monitoring

Long-term raptor monitoring projects underway in the province include the Migrating Kestrel Project, the Black Eagle Monitoring Project (Roodekrans) and the EWT-Nashua Owl Project.

The first Coordinated Avifaunal Road Count (CAR) route for Gauteng was established in 2004 and it is hoped to expand this project over the next few years. The Secretarybird is the only raptor species monitored through CAR and a similar national monitoring project dedicated to raptors, as proposed by the EWT and ADU, is essential if raptor population trends are to be monitored in a coordinated and meaningful way.

Conclusions

Gauteng has a significant role to play in raptor conservation in South Africa, but given its small size and intense development pressure, the need for increased conservation action is immediate and urgent. Some progress has been made, but a national raptor monitoring project, conservation focussed research and greater cooperation between provinces with regard to conservation planning and the development of uniform policies and legislation are considered crucial for the long-term success of raptor conservation efforts. The Raptor Conservation Group has a key role to play in coordinating these various conservation initiatives locally, nationally and regionally.

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EZEMVELO KWAZULU NATAL WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES TOWARDS CONSERVING BIRDS OF PREY IN KWAZULU NATAL

Bill Howells

Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife

KZN is blessed with a large number of raptors both resident and migrant. Due to habitat changes, susceptibility to poisoning etc, some species have expanded their ranges whilst other may be on the threshold of disaster.

It is hoped that the Raptor Conservation Workshop at Gariiep Dam will focus raptor conservation efforts by exposure to additional incentives and practical ways of minimising the negative impacts on birds of prey as a long-term strategy to provide relief to this group of birds.

Cape Griffons and Bearded Vultures

In 1999 we became alarmed at the incidences of Cape Griffon poisonings in the province, especially along the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park periphery, and the perceived loss in numbers of the Bearded Vulture in the uDP.

Aerial and ground surveys of vulture nesting and roosting sites have been carried out annually for the last 4 years in the uDP and this year a concentrated ground count will take place in August.

Initially analysis suggests a reduction in numbers for both species but proportionally, the Bearded Vulture appears to be worst affected. We are actively encouraging vulture feeding sites on 'safe' land along the full length of the uDP and at the same time investigating the possibility of more feeding sites inside PA's where practical.

There are over 100 vulture feeding sites in KZN and the majority are peripheral to the uDP.

Whiteback Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, White-headed Vulture and Bateleur

Because of the increased direct threat on the above species through poisoning for the muthi trade it has been proposed that raptor surveys carried out in the early 1960's by Hitchens, 1980's by Whatley and Howells, need to be redone to determine status and trends in the Zululand area.

The survey is planned to commence Aug 2004 for the vultures and Feb 2005 for the bateleurs. Budget for fixed wing flying time still needs to be approved.

It is hoped to expand the scope of this survey to include known nesting sites in Mkhuze GR and a more recently located breeding population of Whitebacked Vultures reported from Pongola N.R.

Collaboration with Natal Falconry Club

KZNV has a policy on falconry and supports the practice. There is a KZNV appointed liaison representative for the NFC.

An annual permit is granted to the NFC following the submission of an annual report covering the clubs' activities for the past year. The annual permit provides for a number of 'wild take' stock. However, the need for 'wild take' stock continues to decline as the NFC forges closer ties with the Rehab Centres where 'injured Hawks' are taken on by falconers for falconry or hack back.

The NFC has recently agreed to supply data for the Sensitive Site Atlas and the first 3 sites have already been received. The NFC also forms an important part of the network which handles the 'rogue hawk' issues for KZNV as well as being the conduit for getting injured/poisoned hawks to appropriate medical attention.

The committee has also provided serious comment on the KZNW draft guidelines for the management of birds of prey in captivity which now needs to run the public participation process.

NB: These draft guidelines were originally based on the sterling work done by Craig Whittington-Jones of Gauteng NC and we acknowledge their efforts on this traditionally thorny issue in 2001.

Collaboration with the EWT's Vulture Study Group

In an ongoing attempt to pool resources and avoid duplication of effort, KZNW has had fruitful meetings with the VSG.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties has been drawn up and it is envisaged this will be ratified within the next few months. Our first major workshop with the VSG takes place in April 2004.

Liaison with Traditional Healers Association

Traditional Healers have a big part to play in the regulated use of raptors for the muthi trade and we are setting up Liaison Committees (one is already in place in the Coast Region) to facilitate an understanding of the needs for the user group and the conservation authorities.

It is early days yet, however we are confident the relationship will provide some additional respite against the indiscriminate and sometimes wanton decimation of raptors for the muthi trade.

Sensitive Site Atlas

This programme has been a slow mover. It was originally put into place in 1995 to facilitate the transfer of information from field based operations on land OUTSIDE protected areas, to the corporate GIS data base. It covers all communal roosting sites and nesting sites of most raptors and includes other species such as a woolly neck stork, black storks and ground hornbills.

The need for this information has arisen from our participation in the screening process for land use change and the inclusion of this data into the GIS provides us with early 'red flagging' of the area in question.

Raptor ID courses have been run for staff, Honorary Officers and the occasional bird club to assist with general awareness and information gathering for the Sensitive Site Atlas Programme.

Predator Simulation Programme

In the mid 90's a predator simulation programme was put into place at Ithala GR. The vulture population responded by showing clear indications that they were able to stay over and have become almost resident.

However, 10 years later we have still not had confirmation that any of the 4 vulture species are breeding in the reserve (39,000ha) despite the habitats appearing suitable. Vulture numbers appear stable.

Legislation

Our new KZN Nature Conservation Management Amendments Act (Act 5/1999) schedules all birds of prey as Specially Protected (few) or Protected (majority).

The regulations still need to be finalised but it would appear that the necessary legal protection for this group is there – we just need adequate resources to implement the requirements of the Act.

PROFILING THE WESTERN CAPE RAPTOR RESEARCH PROGRAMME

[Extended abstract of a presentation to be delivered at the RCG Workshop on the future conservation of raptors in southern Africa, at Gariep Dam, March 23 2004]

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The Western Cape Raptor Research Programme (WCRRP) is based at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, and currently comprises seven research projects focused on the biology and ecology of local raptor populations. These projects are aligned with a two-part mission, namely to identify, investigate and address the conservation needs of the region's birds of prey, and to exploit overlaps and synergies between efforts to meet these needs and broader, ecosystem-based conservation initiatives.

Three projects involve long-term monitoring of raptor populations on the Cape Peninsula, aimed at understanding the life history constraints and dynamics of these populations. A study of the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* population enters its 16th year in 2004. Over 240 pair-years of breeding data have been accumulated in that time, and nearly three-hundred birds (nestlings and adults) have been ringed, of which >200 (mostly nestlings but including about half of the adult population of 25-30 pairs) have been banded with unique colour-ring combinations. Colour-ringing has allowed us to measure longevity, adult and juvenile survival, dispersal, recruitment and lifetime reproductive success in a growing sample of individual birds. We have done similar survey and monitoring work on Rock Kestrels *F. (tinnunculus) rupicolus* (over the last 10 years, >200 pair-years, >200 nestlings ringed), and Black Sparrowhawks *Accipiter melanoleucus* (over the last four years, >50 pair-years, >20 adults ringed and colour-ringed).

The Black Harrier Project, set in the West Coast/Swartland and Overberg regions, started as an attempt to learn more about the biology of this little-known endemic. With the support of the US-based Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund it has now escalated into a much broader initiative, aimed at establishing the Black Harrier *Circus maurus* as an icon for lowland Fynbos conservation, and clarifying the links between harrier distribution and the distribution of threatened Fynbos and Renosterveld habitat fragments. Since 2000 we've located about 50 Black Harrier nests, monitored >120 breeding attempts, and ringed >130 birds (mostly nestlings).

The Eskom Electric Eagle Project is a collaboration between the WCRRP, the EWT and Eskom, with the dual aims of (i) managing and reducing line fault problems associated with large eagle nests on Eskom transmission pylon lines in the Karoo, and (ii) investigating correlations between the density and success of these large eagle nests and the quality of Karoo veld (as influenced by livestock types, stocking rates and the nature and intensity of grazing regimes). The project includes annual surveys of about 1400 km of transmission line, and monitoring of breeding activities at over 85 large eagle territories (mostly Martial Eagles *Polemaetus bellicosus*, but also Tawny Eagles *Aquila rapax* and Verreaux's Eagles *A. verreauxii*) in the central and southern Karoo.

The Goudini Fish Eagle project was started in 2002, and is sponsored by the Goudini Wine Cellar. The project aims to (i) survey and monitor the Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* and Black Sparrowhawk populations of the entire length of the Breede River Valley, and (ii) collect blood samples from these birds for analysis to determine the extent to which they are contaminated by agrochemicals. Results will evaluate the utility of these two species as indicators of chemical pollution by modern agriculture, and will potentially yield a systemic pesticide contamination profile for an entire catchment that is subject to intensive fruit and grain farming. In 2003, a stretch of

about 80 km of the river was surveyed, 10 Fish Eagle and 20 Black Sparrowhawk nests were located, and blood samples were taken from small numbers of adults or nestlings of both species.

The Barn Owl Bio-control Project was initiated in 2003 and assesses the efficacy of the Barn Owl *Tyto alba* as an eco-friendly pest control agent in SA agriculture. Grain farmers in the Swartland sustain significant crop losses annually to Cape Gerbils that proliferate in cultivated lands. Generally these rodents are controlled using expensive, environmentally damaging poisons. Owl populations in farming areas can be artificially inflated by establishing a network of suitable nest-boxes, and result in a dramatic and controlling increase in predation pressure on nocturnal rodents. This idea has not been rigorously tested under South African conditions. In the first season of our study the diet and breeding performance of 20 pairs of owls was monitored on a farm with over 80 nest-boxes available, and the impact of these birds on the local gerbil population was roughly estimated. Ultimately the project aims to demonstrate the financial and environmental benefits of owls as pest control agents, and design an optimal, broadly applicable owl rodent control scheme.

Peripheral activities of the WCRRP have included: facilitating the formation of the Western Cape Raptor Rehabilitation Forum, that is working to bring all local, permitted raptor rehabilitation centres under one, formal constitution, and complying with a common protocol for handling sick or injured birds of prey; assisting the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (WCNCB) with their annual Cape Vulture colour-ringing scheme at De Hoop Nature Reserve; and assisting the Cape Town Unicity and South African National Parks with monitoring and managing human disturbance at raptor nests in conservation areas on the Cape Peninsula.

The projects currently within the WCRRP contribute variously to the monitoring, understanding, practical management and conservation of the region's raptor populations. Thirteen species of threatened or endemic raptors occur in the Western Cape region. Four of these species are already the subjects of WCRRP research projects, and three others are being monitored by the WCNCB. Some priority species and/or conservation issues for future attention are (i) African Marsh Harrier *C. ranivorus* (population surveys and monitoring, habitat requirements, interaction with the Black Harrier), (ii) Lesser Kestrel *F. naumanni* (monitoring of numbers and collection and analysis of pellets at roosts, as part of a coordinated, national research effort), (iii) Forest Buzzard *B. oreophilus* (taxonomy, movements and habitat requirements), and (iv) tree-nesting raptors and Working for Water (draw up and support a raptor-friendly protocol for alien tree clearing operations, and research the ecological effects of losing raptors from previously forested or highly modified environments with the removal of alien trees).

BIRD MONITORING - THE ADU's APPROACH

James Harrison

Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town

The ADU's approach is to:

- Monitor bird populations so that we can:
 - ❑ know the trends in populations
 - ❑ focus on causative factors
 - ❑ recommend conservation actions
 - ❑ assess effectiveness of actions

and thereby help to conserve species.

- SANCCOB is the only effectively audited conservation effort that we know of.
 - ❑ How do we know that we are succeeding unless we monitor?
 - ❑ How can we motivate support unless we can demonstrate that we are succeeding?

The ADU's approach IS NOT to:

- produce statistics that are scientifically meaningless,
- speculate about trends on the basis of anecdotes and personal opinion,
- make categorical statements in the media based on shaky data,
- because we believe that the cause of conservation is not served by unscientific thinking and methods.

The ADU's approach (2)

- We involve volunteers because:
 - ❑ It is cost effective;
 - ❑ There is no other way to get the job done;
 - ❑ It has spin-off benefits: volunteers get to:
 - learn about the birds;
 - learn about the scientific method;
 - become involved in conservation.
- Using volunteers requires expert coordination, but there is a big payoff.

What monitoring projects does the ADU have?

- Birds in Reserves Project (BIRP)
- Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC)
- Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts (CAR)
- Bird ringing (SAFRING)
- African Penguin Monitoring Programme

Birds in Reserves Project (BIRP)

- Checklists, as for the atlas.
- A generalized method, suitable for all species, including raptors.
- No counting - presence/absence only.
- Repeat visits produces reporting rates.
- Reporting rates measure relative abundance/density.

- Reporting rates relatively insensitive to small changes.

Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC)

- Waterbirds only, i.e., specialized method.
- Six-monthly counts at registered wetlands.
- Ongoing monitoring to detect trends.
- Birds counted, therefore absolute abundance is measured for the site.
- Statistics sensitive to small changes.
- Long-term series needed to verify trends, as opposed to random variation.

Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts (CAR)

- Large terrestrial birds only – specialized method.
- Six-monthly counts, to detect seasonality.
- Fixed routes, for comparability of results.
- Ongoing monitoring to detect trends.
- Birds counted, therefore actual species abundance is measured for a route, BUT, the statistic is an index of relative abundance, e.g., birds per 100 km.
- The index is sensitive to small changes. It has validity because the method is standardized.
- Long-term series are needed to verify trends, as opposed to random variation.

??A RAPTOR ROADCOUNT??

- Raptors occur in relatively low numbers, but are fairly conspicuous, therefore counting is feasible and appropriate.
- Objectives:
 - Use the index to monitor population trends
 - Use the trends to detect environmental problems/solutions
 - Produce an annual population index, per species
 - Provide a scientific basis for conservation action.

RAPTOR ROADCOUNT (2)

- Make use of a standardized method with:
 - synchronous annual counts
 - along fixed routes (CAR routes available for starters)
 - and along ad hoc routes.
- Produce species indices for ecoregions and basic land-use types, e.g., protected, rural and urban areas.
- Publish results on the web (at least).
- Maintain the counts over the long term.

RAPTOR ROADCOUNT (3)

- Monitoring results initially of little value, but with every additional year the value increases because trends become increasingly clear.
- Once a baseline is established (roughly five years of data), changes in indices begin to serve as an early-warning system, alerting conservationists to environmental change.
- Raptors are top-predators, therefore they are sensitive environmental indicators that serve as surrogates for many aspects of environmental change.

RAPTOR ROADCOUNT (4)

- The project should be planned as a long-term sustainable undertaking.
- The project would require
 - expert coordination
 - expert IT input
- therefore, it would need adequate funding to employ professional staff.

BENEFITS?

- Provide a fun activity for raptorphiles.
- Put long-term raptor monitoring onto a secure, scientific footing.
- Raise awareness of raptors and raptor conservation in the community at large.
- Make an important contribution to raptor conservation by means of:
 - defensible data
 - hypotheses on causative factors
 - prioritization of species, habitats and areas.

RAPTOR RINGING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Presented by Mark Anderson on behalf of H Dieter Oschadleus

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Introduction

The first ringing event in southern Africa occurred in 1948 and involved the ringing of Cape Vultures, and to date over 38000 raptors have been ringed. Here an overview is provided of raptor ringing in southern Africa, focusing on recovery data, computerization of ringing data, ringing of rehabilitated raptors, and research directions. Data were extracted from the database of SAFRING (the South African Bird Ringing Unit) in early March 2004. Data are divided into species and within three broad groups: vultures, hawks (all raptors other than vultures and owls, including eagles, hawks, kites, etc), and owls. All raptor species that have been ringed with SAFRING rings are covered (Table 1), including Mauritius Kestrel *Falco punctatus*, although this does not affect the statistics for southern African raptors.

Raptor Ring Recoveries

Interesting raptor ring recoveries have been reported in annual ringing recovery reports, first in Ostrich, then in Safring News and Afring News. In 1998 all records were collated for the first time and published in a 64 page book (Oatley *et al.* 1998). This book summarizes results from the ringing of birds of prey (raptors Falconiformes, and owls Strigiformes) in southern Africa. It was compiled from data recorded during the first 50 years of operation of SAFRING. The book covers 41 species with text, maps, tables and graphics, as appropriate for the volume of data available for each species.

Updated numbers of recoveries are presented in this paper (Table 1). The species with the largest numbers of recoveries are the Cape Vulture (n=694), Pale Chanting Goshawk (241), Spotted Eagle Owl (145), Steppe Buzzard (106), Jackal Buzzard (100), Barn Owl (96). Recovery rates vary widely (Table 1). The highest rate is for Gymnogene (72.7%), but this based on 11 birds ringed and should thus be considered an unreliable rate. The next is Peregrine Falcon with a recovery rate of 20.4% and 339 birds ringed. This high rate can be taken to be reliable and is due to a large number being ringed in urban areas in the Western Cape. Recovery rates where over 1000 raptors have been ringed lie between 2 and 10%: Blackshouldered Kite (2.6%), Greater Kestrel (2.8), Whitebacked Vulture (3.0), Rock Kestrel (3.4), Steppe Buzzard (3.8), Barn Owl (5.4), Pale Chanting Goshawk (6.0), Jackal Buzzard (8.5), Cape Vulture (9.4), and Spotted Eagle Owl (9.5).

While several raptor species are long distance migrants, substantial recovery data exists only for Steppe Buzzard, with the greatest distance being 12224 km (ring 65703702). Other species, with single long distance recoveries, are Black Kite (ring C360341), Lesser Spotted Eagle (ring 52600727), Lesser Kestrel (ring 588252, Anon. 1997). There are also two foreign recoveries of Lesser Kestrel in southern Africa. While no Ospreys have been ringed in southern Africa, there are several foreign recoveries in southern Africa (Saurola 1994).

The greatest elapsed time for a raptor is 25y 10m 5d for a Jackal Buzzard (ring 821953), closely followed by a Pale Chanting Goshawk (ring 738248, Oschadleus 2000) of 24y 7m 4d.

The major causes of death or ringed raptors (Table 2) in decreasing order are collisions, sick or injured birds, shot for various reasons, drowned, electrocuted, and poisoned. Collisions include colliding with powerlines, cars, windows (Oschadleus 1999), etc. Raptors drowning in farm reservoirs are more likely to be reported if the bird is ringed (Anderson *et al.* 1999).

Raptor Ringing Records

In 2002 SAFRING began a project to computerize historical ringing data. With 2 million records, the project has a long way to go, but the first large group to be completed was the vulture data, which is now c. 99% completed. The ringing records are summarized by species on the Avian Demography Unit's webpage, and are regularly updated. Most raptors and owls have summary pages, although for many species there are still large gaps of uncomputerised data.

National ringing data can be used to analyse biometric data (mass and wing) and primary moult, although the latter may not be easily studied in the case of raptors. Potentially the data could also be used to look at historical distributional changes, time of arrival and departure of migrants, and survival. The 12 raptors with the most ringing records are Cape Vulture, Whitebacked Vulture, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Lappetfaced Vulture, Barn Owl, Steppe Buzzard, Spotted Eagle Owl, Blackshouldered Kite, Pygmy Falcon, Jackal Buzzard, Mauritius Kestrel, and Rock Kestrel (see Table 1). The vultures were ringed mainly as nestlings, and the owls have a high proportion of rehabilitated birds. The remaining species could possibly have enough mass data to analyse geographical and temporal variation in adults (although the Mauritius Kestrel has a limited distribution).

Ringing of Rehabilitated Raptors

5.7% Of all ringed raptors have been recovered (Table 1). It is not possible to calculate this rate for rehabilitated raptors, as not all ringing data has been computerized yet. It seems, however, that a higher percentage of rehabilitated raptors have been recovered. This may encourage more ringing of rehabilitated raptors as there is a high chance of it being reported after release. Rehabilitation centres motivate ringing requests with wanting to know that their techniques are successful. To my knowledge none of them have ever analysed raptor recovery data, however, to follow up on their motivation. A large number of released raptors ((14%) forage on road-kills, an easy source of food and are killed.

The SAFRING Steering Committee passed a resolution that rehabilitation centres be charged a surcharge on rings due to creating additional administration to SAFRING in two ways. Firstly, there are more recoveries of rehabilitated birds, and secondly the fact that ringing data has to be repeatedly requested from these centres. Thus SAFRING will not encourage, but will allow, continued ringing of rehabilitated birds but at this higher rate. Alternatively rehabilitation centres may request nearby qualified ringers to ring their raptors.

Past and Future Research

311 ringers have been involved in raptor ringing, either targeted or incidentally, over the last 25 years (Appendix). The top raptor ringers for this period are Vulture Study Group (2732), Mr A Maritz (2233), Mr JE Robson (2156), Mr MB Schmitt (1309), Mr JJ Herholdt (1306). Raptor ringers who think their totals are too low, should check that they have submitted all their ringing data to SAFRING.

Some raptor studies that have made major use of ringing raptors are: Steven Piper's work on demography (survival and movements) in Cape Vultures (e.g. Piper 1994); Andrew Jenkins on Peregrines (e.g. Jenkins 1995); Valerie Gargett on Black Eagles (e.g. Gargett 1975); Gerard Malan on Pale Chanting Goshawks; and Rob Simmons on Black Harriers.

At a workshop on vulture research and conservation in southern Africa, held in 1997, a report on vulture ringing was given. Piper & Mundy (1998) suggested that there was currently no specific need to continue ringing vultures (unless a student project arises). Birds coming to hand, however, could be ringed; and rehabilitated birds should be ringed before release into the wild. The reason for stopping general ringing was that the larger vulture colonies were being disturbed, and there had already been a large amount of ringing. So, while the intensity of vulture ringing could be reduced, this does not apply to raptor ringing in general. Of course, if ringing is causing problems in a specific species, ringing of that species should be stopped until the problem is solved. In the

future, SAFRING encourages as many raptors to be ringed as possible, although specific studies using ringing are preferred.

Satellite transmitters are being used on some European raptors, especially Ospreys (UK to West Africa) and Lesser Spotted Eagles (Germany to East and southern Africa), to study migration in more detail. Satellite transmitters are probably too expensive to be used routinely as a research tool in southern Africa.

Acknowledgements

Michael Brooks extracted the summary data for this paper. Thanks to all ringers who have gone to great efforts to ring raptors (and submit the data!).

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THE RAPTOR CONSERVATION GROUP OF THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

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Introduction

The Mission of the Raptor Conservation Group, as stated in the Prospectus (June 2003) is:

“The Raptor Conservation Group is committed to the conservation of the natural populations of diurnal and nocturnal raptors in southern Africa by the initiation and support of research, conservation and education programmes based on sound scientific and conservation principles”.

Our Goal is to ensure an environment in which healthy populations of raptors will be able to live in harmony with mankind in a sustainable manner. To achieve our goal we have set up a number of projects in South Africa with the help of very interested and dedicated volunteers, who coordinate the various projects. The primary function of the volunteers is to reach the private landowners in their areas, in whose hands 80% of our biodiversity lies. This is done through personally visiting farmers that experience problems with raptors, giving talks and handing out booklets at farmers meetings and visiting schools in the area. Some of the coordinators also monitor nests in their areas, ring raptors and rehabilitate raptors brought to them and some coordinators also work in collaboration with conservation agencies or research institutes.

Raptor Conservation Group Structure

At present the Raptor Conservation Group consists of a manager (Jenny le Roux), who is assisted by an advisory committee, which is chaired by Prof Gerhard Verdoorn. The other committee members are: Brendan Ryan (journalist and raptor photographer), Ulrich Oberprieler (raptor educationist), Lorna Stanton (raptor rehabilitator), Collins Zwane (businessman with raptor interests), Pieter Kruger (businessman with raptor interests), Craig Whittington-Jones (Ornithologist for Gauteng Nature Conservation) and Steven Evans (BirdLife SA).

The Raptor Conservation Group newsletter *Talon Talk* is published 4 times per year and is edited by the group's manager and copied by Nashua Central. The journal *GABAR* (Growth and Biology of African Raptors) saw its reintroduction during 2003, and is edited by Dr Erica van Wyk.

There are 15 operational projects scattered around South Africa. The projects were established in areas in which an individual was motivated to conserve raptors in the area. There are thus many gaps, and possibly important areas needing attention. The projects are very different, with the volunteers concentrating on aspects of raptor conservation that suite their interests, since the work is done primarily in their private time, and as a hobby. A full-time Raptor Conservation Group employee coordinates the Algoa Raptor Project.

All funding comes from private companies and individuals, with the membership base paying only for the publication of the journal at this stage.

Project overviews

SA Eagle Kalahari Raptor Project

Abrie Maritz has been with the Raptor Conservation Group the longest, and coordinates the SA Eagle Kalahari Raptor Project in the Northern Cape. He is a farmer himself, and is thus well-suited to deal with very difficult farmers. He has done amazing work in the area, working on from Pygmy Falcons *Polihierax semitorquatus* to vultures, and has miraculously changed the attitudes of the

farmers in the area (when he started the project in 1993 Bateleurs were rare, and in September 2003 he saw 9 Bateleurs *Terathopius ecaudatus* at a water-hole near Vanzylsrus!).

Abrie spends a lot of time monitoring nests in the area, and also holds the record for ringing the most raptors in South Africa. He is well-known for giving talks at farmers meetings, as well as at schools in the area, and also initiated a new system for rewarding farm workers in the area for finding and guarding raptor nests. The financing of his project is done with the help of SA Eagle Insurance Company, and the Mazda Wildlife Fund, which sponsor the Mazda 4x4 that he drives. Abrie works very closely with Mark Anderson from Northern Cape Nature Conservation, and is an active member of the Northern Cape Raptor Forum.

Platberg-Karoo Raptor Project

Francois Taljaard, who is the coordinator of the Platberg Karoo Raptor Project is situated in De Aar, where he is the Town Planner. He has been working on raptors in the area for almost as long as Abrie, and also has an impressive record. He has been monitoring the Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni* in De Aar with Hein Pienaar for many years, has also done a lot of work with Prof Gerard Malan on Pale Chanting Goshawks *Melierax canorus*, and also monitors Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* nests on the pylons in the area. He also works very closely with farmers in the area, and has recently started an environmental centre for the children of the area near De Aar with the assistance of international funding. Francois is also a member of the Northern Cape Raptor Forum, working closely with Mark Anderson. The Platberg-Karoo Raptor Project is funded by the Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust.

South Western Cape Raptor Project

Koos de Goede coordinates the South Western Cape Raptor Project (often referred to as the Martial Eagle Project), and as a retired Eskom employee, has done much to promote the conservation of the mainly Martial Eagles *Polemaetus bellicosus*, that use electricity pylons as nesting sites. He is currently monitoring approximately 120 Martial Eagle nests, on about 2000 km of pylon line. While monitoring these nests he takes the opportunity to talk to the landowners, and has had positive feedback regarding an information pamphlet that he distributes to the farmers that he visits. Koos has also done a lot to conserve the Peregrine Falcons *Falco peregrinus minor* breeding in the Tygerfalls area, and liaises constantly during the breeding season with the developers regarding nest disturbance. The Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust also funds the South Western Cape Raptor Project. Koos works very closely with Dr Andrew Jenkins.

Little Karoo Raptor Project

Andrew Schofield coordinates the Little Karoo Raptor Project, and apart from spending time giving talks to farmers and bird clubs in the Montague area, he is presently monitoring the nests of 3 pairs of Pale Chanting Goshawks *Melierax canorus*, and studying not only breeding success, but also nesting behaviour. His work as a game warden is advantageous, and gives him many opportunities to study the birds well.

Stormberg Raptor Project

Kate Webster coordinates the Stormberg Raptor Project as well as the Redbilled Oxpecker Project, apart from being the headmistress of a finishing school in the Queenstown area. She spends time interacting with the eastern Cape farmers (mainly dealing with conflict situations between small-stock farmers and Black Eagles *Aquila verreauxii*) and has recently started rehabilitating raptors in the area, and has had a large measure of success.

Kumba Resources Raptor Project

Eugene Marais coordinates the Kumba Resources Bushveld Raptor Project, as well as being the full-time project coordinator for the very successful Oxpecker Project of the Poison Working Group and is based in the Thabazimbi area, but is responsible for a large part of the Limpopo Province. Eugene captures, breeds and relocates Redbilled Oxpeckers in South Africa, and his work on this project is well-suited to creating awareness for raptors in the area as well. He monitors raptor nests

in the western part of the Limpopo Province, as well as ringing raptors. He also gives talks at the local schools and at farmers days. His vehicle running expenses are funded by Kumba Resources.

Thabazimbi Raptor Project

Riaan Nagel is also situated in Thabazimbi, and is the coordinator of the Thabazimbi Raptor Project, which focuses on the rehabilitation of raptors in the area. Farmers bring injured or poisoned raptors from far as Riaan has developed a very good name in the area. He is a busy pharmacist, but his passion for raptors drives him to spend a lot of his leisure time nursing sick raptors back to health. Van der Venter, Mojapelo Inc. funds the Thabazimbi Raptor Project.

Hoogland Raptor Project

Dr Pieter Koornhof, coordinator of the Hoogland Raptor Project also rehabilitates raptors, and has a very detailed record system of all the raptors treated. He is a Medical Doctor and is situated in Bethlehem in the Free State Province. During 2003 he treated 25 raptors, the majority being Barn Owls *Tyto alba*. He gives talks to the residents of Bethlehem, and was also involved in a special conservation youth camp, where he gave a presentation on raptors and demonstrated the ringing and release process. He is very involved with the vulture restaurant at Golden Gate. Van der Venter, Mojapelo Inc. also funds the Hoogland Raptor Project.

Free State Raptor Project

Alma van Staden, coordinator of the Free State Raptor Project works for a veterinarian in Bloemfontein, and is thus well situated to deal with the rehabilitation of raptors in the area. She is assisted by Melanie Adams, and together they rehabilitated 16 raptors during 2003. Alma also rings White-back Vulture *Gyps africanus* chicks every year at Susanna and Benfontein, as well as at Sandveld Nature Reserve. Brian Colahan from Free State Nature Conservation is sometimes involved with this project. The project is funded by the Charles van der Merwe Trust.

Eastern Cape Raptor Project

Dr Johan Joubert coordinates the Eastern Cape Raptor Project, and has done much to promote raptor awareness in the area. As a veterinarian at the world-famous Shamwari Game Reserve, he is well situated to promote raptor conservation to foreign visitors as well. The reserve hosts many school visits per year, and Johan speaks to many farmers as part of his work. He has successfully rehabilitated many raptors over the years. The project is funded by Van der Venter, Mojapelo Inc.

Algoa Raptor Project

Adri Barkhuysen is an employee of the Raptor Conservation Group and coordinates the Algoa Raptor Project, based in Port Elizabeth. Adri obtained an MSc from the University of Port Elizabeth while doing research on raptors and is currently collecting and collating data on the nest localities of various raptor species. The raptor species upon which most of his work is focussed is however, the Black Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* as this species is at the heart of the majority of conflict between farmers and raptors. Adri's work therefore focusses on dealing with these conflict situations. The Algoa Raptor Project is funded by Philagro, the Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust, the Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust, and the vehicle he drives is a sponsored Mitsubishi Colt.

Migrating Kestrel Project

Hein Pienaar coordinates the Migrating Kestrel Project, which has also been operational for a long time, and has already collected some very valuable data regarding the movements of primarily Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni*, but also Amur Falcons *Falco amurensis* and Redfooted Kestrels *Falco verspertinis* in South Africa. He is assisted by a large group of volunteers, which he coordinates to count kestrels every summer. During 2002 Hein delivered a paper on the Migrating Kestrel Project in Spain, and there became part of an international initiative to study the global movements of Lesser Kestrels. Hein works for the Gauteng Directorate of Nature Conservation.

Nashua Central Owl Project

Paul Jooste coordinates one of the newest and most dynamic raptor projects, the Nashua Central Owl Project. Tahla Ansara, an MSc Student from Rand Afrikaans University, and a committee of dedicated volunteers, assist him. The project was initiated after Paul became aware of large numbers of owls being killed on the N17 between Springs and Devon. The Automobile Association organized and funded the erection of owl warning signs on a section of the road, but a study undertaken by Paul and Tahla showed that the signs had little effect on the mortalities. After two years of research it appears that the cause for these high mortalities is a combination of the ideal owl habitat on this section of road, combined with spillage of grain on the road, which attract rodents to the road, and in turn owls. The species most affected are Marsh Owls *Asio capensis* and the threatened Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*. This project is sponsored by Nashua Central.

Zululand Raptor Project

Johan Esterhuizen is the coordinator of this, the newest approved raptor project. He is situated at the Hellsgate Tsetse Research Station in northern KwaZulu Natal, where he is presently busy with his PhD on tsetse flies. Being a scientist, he is aware of the value of long-term monitoring data, and has already submitted data regarding the raptor populations in the area. The Raptor Conservation Group has not studied the northern KwaZulu Natal area in the past, and his presence there is very important. He has also addressed 3 farmers meetings in the first month of operation.

Natal Midlands Raptor Project (Poison Working Group)

Tim Snow is a full-time project coordinator for the Poison Working Group, and although he does not do any formal Raptor Conservation Group work (nest monitoring, ringing etc.) he reports to the group on important poisoning issues, and is thus very much part of the communication network. He also assists many of the project coordinators by giving talks on the control of problem animals at farmers days, which is very popular with these farmers (see report on poisons and the Poison Working Group by Prof Gerhard Verdoorn).

Eskom/EWT Strategic Partnership

Chris van Rooyen, who manages this project, also works closely with the Raptor Conservation Group coordinators, with most of them reporting powerline incidents to him (see full report from Chris van Rooyen).

Vulture Study Group

The majority of Raptor Conservation Group coordinators are members the EWT's Vulture Study Group. The coordinators also do a lot of work for the Vulture Study Group, thus vulture species are included in their fields of operation (see report on the Vulture Study Group by Mark Anderson).

Conclusion

The RCG is entering a new era of collaboration and participation. Many of the RCG project coordinators have already developed partnerships with other important institutions (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology) or conservation agencies involved in raptor conservation, and it is hoped that these examples will be followed, and the partnerships expanded. It is also important for work not to be duplicated. By working together the ultimate goals for raptor conservation will be reached much sooner, and this should therefore be encouraged without delay.

The RCG is not a scientific institution, and to fulfil our mission of initiating and supporting research, conservation and education programmes based on sound scientific and conservation principles, we need the participation of scientists, conservation authorities and rehabilitators. Education and awareness for the value of, and threats against raptors, can further be aided with the assistance of falconers and those involved in raptor education. By working together for raptor conservation, we will ensure an environment in which healthy populations of raptors will live in harmony with mankind in a sustainable manner.

THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST'S VULTURE STUDY GROUP

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The Vulture Study Group (VSG) was established in 1973 and is the oldest of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's working groups. Nine species of vultures have been recorded in southern Africa, of which seven are listed in The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland (Barnes 2000). The focus of the VSG's research, monitoring and conservation efforts has been on southern Africa's endemic vulture, the Cape Griffon. More recently, other species have been included in the VSG's monitoring and research programme, specifically the Lappet-faced Vulture and African White-backed Vulture.

The VSG's regional representatives (based in all southern African countries and most South African provinces) work fairly independently of the Group, but meet annually at a workshop where their activities are reported on and where vulture research and conservation priorities are decided on. The VSG has an advisory committee, which meets 3-4 times per annum and advises the Group's manager on various vulture research and conservation matters.

The focus of the VSG and its regional representatives' activities is to address the threats to southern Africa's vultures. The most important threats are: inadvertent poisoning, declining food availability, powerline electrocutions, reservoir drownings, nest site disturbance and harvesting of birds for traditional medicine purposes. The VSG runs a successful captive unit at the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre, where vultures are rehabilitated. Currently excess birds are being made available to *ex situ* conservation and educational programmes at zoological gardens in South Africa and the USA and a Cape Griffon reintroduction project at the Waterberg in Namibia.

The VSG produces two bi-annual publications, *Vulture News* and *Gyps Snips*. *Vulture News*, the Group's scientific journal, currently has a world-wide distribution and, of the 400 copies that are printed, many find their way onto the shelves of libraries at universities, museums and ornithological organizations in the USA, United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe. The majority of the world's vulture researchers and conservationists are also *Vulture News* subscribers.

The VSG's activities are supported by several sponsors, but especially Sasol, Rand Merchant Bank (RMB), British Airways, Computer Facilities, The Commercial Bank of Namibia and The Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust.

PROFILE OF BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA

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Description and Mission

BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) is an 8000-member, nationwide, conservation and birding non-government organisation with 27 branches and 18 affiliates around South Africa. Founded in 1930 as the Southern African Ornithological Society, the name changed to BirdLife South Africa in 1996.

The mission of BirdLife South Africa is to promote the enjoyment, conservation, study and understanding of wild birds and their habitats. Increasingly, the context of BirdLife South Africa is about taking action for birds through people at all levels of South African society.

History and development

Founded as a scientific society for the study of ornithology, the membership grew in the 1970s and 1980s to include a significant component of recreational birders, organized through local branches. In 1995, the Council of the Society determined a new direction to develop education and conservation action programmes, to be given effect through the appointment of a professional executive. A full-time director was appointed in January 1996. The impetus and funding for action programmes increased with links to the BirdLife International partnership that began in 1996.

The Society has developed rapidly. Since 1996, annual budgets have grown from about R300 000 to over R8 million in 2003, and from 2 part-time staff members in 1995 to the current 36 full-time and part-time staff. Programmes have increased from none to nineteen. The Society now plays a significant role in training, education, conservation, guide training, skills upliftment, job creation and avitourism. The Society owns its own headquarters (the Lewis House, donated by the Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation) in Johannesburg, has the Wakkerstroom guide training and avitourism centre, and programme staff in Cape Town and Richards Bay. In 2004, a field officer will be located in the Eastern Cape.

BirdLife International

BirdLife South Africa is the Partner in South Africa of BirdLife International, which is the world's largest voluntary coalition of nationally based conservation organisations, represented by 2.5 million members in 106 countries. A secretariat based in Cambridge, England, provides the central administration for regional partnerships within BirdLife International. The African Partnership, in which BirdLife South Africa plays a vital role, includes 18 African countries and is supported by a secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.

BirdLife South Africa subscribes to the mission and values of BirdLife International, encapsulated through the themes of "Species, Sites, Habitats and People". BirdLife South Africa is represented by its Director on the African Regional Committee and he represents Africa on the Global Council of BirdLife International. These links allow BLSA to influence international conservation action through the collective strength of the coalition.

BirdLife South Africa takes part in several international programmes, We play a major role in the African Species working group of BirdLife International, and the seabird programme in Cape Town is part of the international programme to reduce seabird mortality as a bycatch of the longlining industry. The Richards Bay Rio Tinto programme is global and coordinated by BirdLife International. International programmes may expand significantly in the future, with four applications under development at present.

The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - the United Kingdom Partner of BirdLife International) has played a vital role with an in-country support programme for BirdLife South Africa, conducted within the context of the BirdLife International Partnership.

Publications and media

BirdLife South Africa publishes its own quarterly, national newsletter for its 8 000 members. This is a well-read, 40-page, word-heavy newsletter with advertising, which updates members on all our activities. Eight pages are published for the Society in each issue of *Africa – Birds & Birding*, which is renowned for its superb photographs and excellent text. It has a current circulation of 19 000 with a readership of about 120 000, and received the PICA award for best magazine in 1999 and 2000. Since 1930, BirdLife South Africa has published *Ostrich*, the premier scientific journal of ornithology in Africa. *Ostrich* has been the medium of choice for the publication of the proceedings of the four-yearly Pan-African Ornithological Congresses.

BirdLife South Africa has a website at www.birdlife.org.za, funded by Sasol, that contains much information about the Society, its activities, birds and birding. The site contains many useful facilities, such as a southern Africa bird finder and links to other complementary websites. It is currently receiving in excess of 1 000 visits a day.

In conjunction with the Avian Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town, we have published the *Atlas of Southern African Birds*, *The Important Bird Areas in Southern Africa* and the *Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*. There have also been a number of other publications such as the *Nature and Value of Birding in South Africa*.

Structure

BirdLife South Africa's constitution defines a governing Council, which meets a minimum of twice annually and includes member representatives and designated members. Certain responsibilities and financial management have been delegated to the Board of Management, which meets six times a year.

Essentially, branches run recreational birding programmes with central elements of outings, indoor meetings and a newsletter. Many branches have conservation and education programmes. The secretariat provides administration for membership and national programmes, fundraising, public relations and management of publications and formal meetings.

Programmes

The Sites and Species Programme: formerly the Important Bird Areas programme funded by the Global Environmental Facility, is funded by multiple sources. The programme centres on the conservation of a network of 121 sites in South Africa that are critical for the long-term survival of threatened species and focuses on threatened birds defined in a global Red list. It is run by Steven Evans.

The Learning for Sustainable Living Programme: was started in 1998 and was funded by the British National Lottery, sourced by and managed in partnership with the RSPB. The programme has created a resource for all South African 9-13 year-olds using the environment to deliver various learning areas in the context of Outcomes-based education. As well as providing workbooks, teachers and subject advisers are trained through participation in workshops to use the resource in schools throughout South Africa. In June 2003, this project won the Green Trust Award for best environmental education programme. From 2004 this programme will be funded by South African sources.

The Wakkerstroom Programme: began in 1998 with a grant of R1 million from Sappi. It is a multi-functional conservation, education and awareness facility situated on a farm adjacent to the Wakkerstroom wetland in Mpumalanga, in the heart of the proposed 1 500 000 hectare Ekangala

Conservation Area. The centre promotes ecotourism and offers accommodation and camping, and is the home of the Guide Training programme. The facility is also available for hire for fully catered training courses, meetings and conferences. BirdLife South Africa has established a permanent bird-ringing site at the facility. David Nkhosi is a world-famous guide operating from these premises. Nigel Anderson manages the programme.

The Guide Training Programme: was initiated through funding from Sasol in 1999 and has since trained 120 persons from previously disadvantaged communities as bird guides. The programme is evolving rapidly in association with the government-driven initiative to regulate the guiding industry in South Africa. Ecotourism, and bird-guiding in particular, is a core focus of sustainable development programmes in South Africa. We are seeking to involve the broader South African community in bird conservation by creating ownership and economic development relating to birds through birding tourism. Andre Botha and John Isom run this programme.

The Seabird Programme: founded in 1997, focuses on the conservation of seabirds by reduction of longlining mortality through the introduction of mitigation measures and awareness in South Africa waters. The programme officer is Samantha Petersen.

The Building on Experience Programme: is funded by the British High Commission and began in 2002. A tried and tested BirdLife International and RSPB framework is used to train selected representatives in governance, administration and management. The programme will run for the second year in 2004, and will eventually provide assistance to 40 conservation NGOs from the previously disadvantaged sectors in organisational development. Andre Botha manages this programme.

The Richards Bay Rio Tinto Programme: Funded by Rio Tinto and Richards Bay Minerals, it began in 2002 and aims to promote the awareness and conservation of birds through avitourism. Through the creation of a partnership with Richards Bay Minerals and a range of local stakeholders, the programme will expand and enhance the operation of the Zululand Birding Route and create a network of birding sites with trained guides from local communities, and market this resource nationally and internationally. The programme aims to ensure the long-term survival of birds in Richards Bay and greater Zululand area through awareness, job creation and input into long-term planning, and thus also promote the value of birds and natural habitats in a far wider area. Duncan Pritchard is the programme coordinator with Sakhamuzi Mhlongo, the development officer / community liaison officer.

The Oppenheimer De Beers Programme: is funded by the Oppenheimer Family and De Beers and began in 2003. It is a broad-based initiative using skills development and will use education, research and monitoring, and development of birding tourism to create an array of opportunities at some of the sites owned by the Oppenheimer Trust and De Beers in southern Africa. This programme is part of the much larger Kopanang initiative led by the Oppenheimer businesses and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The objective is to integrate a range of NGOs and organisations in a synergistic programme to empower communities to create a sustainable environment. It will initially concentrate on the Oppenheimer and De Beers properties and their surrounding communities. Soza Simango is the Programme Manager.

The Braamhoek Programme: is a result of the mitigation process for the building of a new pumped storage scheme on the Drakensberg escarpment. A partnership between Eskom, BirdLife South Africa and Middelpunt Wetland Trust has been established to deliver important bird and habitat conservation results on a regional, national and international scale. Several farms will be consolidated into a single unit, the Bedford Wetland Park, which will be managed for effective conservation. Extensive gully and sheet erosion and damage to the wetland will be rehabilitated.

Northern Cape Birding and Eco-Guide Development Initiative: R 200 000 has been provided by the National Lotteries Board to train bird guides for Important Bird Areas in the Northern Cape.

One component of this project is the establishment of BirdLife's first branch in this Province. The programme builds on a process developed at the Blue Swallow Natural Heritage Site IBA in Kaapschehoop. It is managed by Steven Evans and implemented by Duan Biggs.

Rudd's Lark Study: David Maphisa is undertaking an MSc on Rudd's Lark in a three-way partnership between the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, the RSPB and BirdLife South Africa, funded by the RSPB. Rudd's Lark is the only South African species listed as Critically Endangered in the Threatened Birds of the World. This project will help develop our species programme and produce an experienced black researcher.

Tourism Programmes: BirdLife South Africa is developing avitourism through the implementation of community-based BirdLife Birding Routes. The birding routes will combine existing resources into exciting avitourism destinations that will conform to standards agreed with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. These will ensure not only high standards of service and product quality, but also the mechanisms to drive community participation and transformation. The Richards Bay Rio Tinto initiative forms part of the foundation of this programme. Funding has been received for three birding routes. Soutpansberg Birding route has been funded by the Jensen Foundation, and seeks to support the creation of a Soutpansberg birding route. Staff members involved are Steven Evans and John Isom. Overberg Birding Route has received funding in 2004 to create a birding route in the south-western Cape, centred in the Overberg area, and is managed by Anton Odendal. The development of the Mpumalanga Birding Route centred on Nelspruit is supported by funding from Germany, and is managed by John Isom.

BirdLife Travel: seeks to promote Birding tourism in South Africa, channelling birders through birding routes and seeking to support conservation of birds through adding value in terms of sustainable and responsible tourism.

Cape Parrot Working Group: This became a working group of BirdLife South Africa in 2003 with a full-time officer to be situated in the Eastern Cape in 2004. The programme focuses on field action for the highly endangered Cape Parrot.

Clear Channel Bird Sanctuary: This is an urban bird sanctuary in Sandton area funded by Clear Channel Independent.

The National Trust: of BirdLife South Africa funds tertiary research and other educational activities. Expenditure is financed by income from the trust's capital.

Partnerships

BirdLife South Africa seeks to build long-term partnerships with partners such as corporates, aid agencies and NGOs. Such partnerships should be mutually beneficial, addressing the needs of all parties. BirdLife South Africa believes that it represents quality branding and seeks to involve appropriate institutions to further its aims. A Corporate Policy governs partnerships with companies. Some partnership details, not previously described, are itemised below.

Avian Demography Unit (ADU) at the University of Cape Town: There are a number of monitoring programmes, including CAR (Coordinated Avifaunal Road Counts), BIRP (Birds in Reserves Project), CWAC (Coordinated Wetland Counts) and SAFRING (the South African Bird Ringing Unit), managed by the ADU, participated in through data collection by BirdLife South Africa members and supported financially by the Society.

The Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology: houses BirdLife South Africa's extensive book and journal holdings in the Niven Library at the University of Cape Town and provides an office for the seabird programme.

Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT): Steven Evans, IBA officer at BirdLife South Africa, is also manager of the Blue Swallow Working Group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust. We are developing closer ties with the South African Crane Working Group of the EWT.

Worldwide Fund for Nature South Africa: BirdLife South Africa has close ties with WWF-SA established primarily through the Sappi-WWF-SA Wakkerstroom centre, and which now also includes the education, Richards Bay Avitourism and seabird conservation programmes, for which WWF-SA has provided funding.

Middelpunt Wetland Trust: The Middelpunt wetland Trust was founded to research and take action for the White-winged Flufftail in South Africa and Ethiopia has achieved significant successes over the years. Through the Braamhoek programme, BirdLife South Africa has established a formal working partnership with the trust.

Corporates: BirdLife South Africa has current or past major programmes or donations with several corporates, including Sasol (Guide-training programme and many smaller programmes), Sappi (Sappi-WWF-SA Wakkerstroom centre), E. Oppenheimer & Son and De Beers (Oppenheimer De Beers programme), Richards Bay Minerals and Rio Tinto (Richards Bay Avitourism programme), Anglo American (Education and Wakkerstroom facilities), Mazda Wildlife Fund (Sites and Species programme and Wakkerstroom) and Eskom (Braamhoek programme and Red Data for Birds).

International Conferences

In 1998, BirdLife South Africa hosted the very successful 22nd International Ornithological Congress (IOC) in Durban with 1 100 delegates, combining it with a National Festival of Birds and Exhibition. This was the first IOC to be held on the African continent. In October 2001, BirdLife South Africa managed the launch of the Directory of Important Bird Areas for Africa. We will host the four-yearly World Congress of BirdLife International in February 2004 in Durban, with an anticipated 600 delegates from 115 countries – also a first for Africa.

MIGRATING KESTREL PROJECT

An attempt at monitoring distribution and seasonal movement of Lesser Kestrels, and Eastern and Western Redfooted Falcons while overwintering in SA through the establishment of a volunteer network.

Hein Pienaar

Project coordinator, P.O. Box 24127, Three Rivers, 1941.

Introduction

The Migrating Kestrel Project was formally initiated in 1995 as a project of the Raptor Conservation Group, following two years of studying and monitoring the kestrels in the Vereeniging study area. The need to establish a volunteer network throughout South -Africa to monitor the kestrels became evident as it was realised that the Vereeniging Study Area represented but a fraction of the wintering distribution of the kestrels in South-Africa. Although the Lesser Kestrel (*F naumanni*) is the core species of concern, the Eastern Redfooted (*F amurensis*) and Western Redfooted (*F vespertinus*) falcons are also included in the study. The aim of the project include the following:

1. To monitor the population status of the migrating kestrel species throughout their South-African non-breeding range.
2. To contribute to the long term survival of the species by monitoring the distribution and movement of these kestrels and to establish trends and factors critical to the conservation of the species.

Objectives

- To establish and expand the volunteer network
- To expand the knowledge of the biology of the species
- To compile a data base on active roosting sites
- To investigate habitat utilisation by the different species
- To co-ordinate and guide studies/surveys
- To play an active role in international conservation efforts especially

Volunteer Network

The establishment of a volunteer network with the assistance and support of the Raptor Conservation Group is without doubt the most important single success of the project to date. The volunteers have over the past few years provided valuable input regarding kestrel numbers, active roosts and comments on the general biology of the species. The vast area covered by the network and the information gained on kestrel behaviour during their non-breeding stay in southern Africa is beginning to provide valuable input in terms of international conservation plans. The non-breeding behaviour (distribution and movement over seasons) of these kestrels have been poorly studied in the past and this project is starting to erase the gaps in information and knowledge necessary to conserve the kestrels globally.

International communication and co-operation has been improved following attendance at the 5th World Conference on Birds of Prey (Midrand) and the Fourth Eurasian Congress on Raptors (Spain) by some of the volunteers. These conferences created opportunities to discuss raptor migration in general, and Lesser Kestrel migration and conservation in particular. Informal workshops were held to inform delegates from over the world of the work done by the Migrating Kestrel Project and to discuss future co-operation. Birdlife International has also used the information provided by the volunteers as input into a draft Management Plan for Lesser Kestrels.

In an effort to determine the origin of the over wintering kestrels, feathers collected by volunteers were sent to Germany for DNA analysis.

Volunteers are also effective in raising awareness and informing the general public of the need for raptor conservation and the kestrels arriving each season in these towns provide a valuable opportunity to focus on raptors.

GENERAL TRENDS OBSERVED

The roost counting results obtained from the Migrating Kestrel Project for the period 1995-2000 were analysed and results from Vereeniging (Gauteng Highveld) and De Aar (Karoo) were compared to try and determine the potential influence of the various factors mentioned. General climatic and vegetation differences are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. *General climatic and vegetation differences*

GENERAL FACTORS	Vereeniging	De Aar
Biome	Highveld Grassland	Karoo Shrubland
Vegetation	Crops /natural grasslands	Shrubs and grasses
Farming activity	Grazing and crops	Grazing
Rainfall	Summer rainfall/thunderstorms	Sporadic rainfall
Locust outbreaks	None	Sporadic

Table 2. *Highest counts of Lesser Kestrel obtained during the season per locality*

SEASON	95/6	96/7	97/8	98/9	99/00
Vereeniging	3000	2968	3211	4080	3900
De Aar	4820	7230	748	4400	6700

It appears from the above-information (5 seasons) that kestrel numbers are more stable in the core area (Highveld) than in the Karoo. This could probably be explained by the dominant presence of the preferred grassland habitat as well as the more predictable summer rainfall in the Highveld. This however does not necessarily explain the substantial fluctuations experienced in the Karoo. Other factors need to be assessed to try and obtain a more complete picture. Rainfall and prey availability is two other factors that need to be investigated to try and understand the seasonal movement of these kestrels.

The factors discussed are by no means the only that effect Lesser Kestrel distribution and further observation will certainly highlight other factors that come to play. It is hoped that the trends observed and discussed will further enhance our understanding of Kestrel behaviour and distribution during over-wintering.

Acknowledgements

Volunteer members of the Migrating Kestrel Project for their annual observations and commitment, Francois Taljaard for his detailed counts and observations over many seasons, Margaret Kieser from the Agricultural Research Council for information on locust outbreaks, the South African Weather Services for rainfall information and the Raptor Conservation Group for continued guidance and support.

SOCIAL PALE CHANTING-GOSHAWKS AND TREE-NESTING FOREST RAPTORS

Gerard Malan

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My past raptor research activities focused on the management of nest stands for tree-nesting forest raptors and the evolution of family living in the Pale Chanting-goshawk. Of the forest raptors, I firstly investigated the edge-nesting Black Sparrowhawk and recommended to foresters to set aside small nest stands as nesting islands in a sea of commercial forests to avoid the short rotations and high tree densities employed in commercial forests. I then conducted a nest-tree study on Crowned Eagles, incorporating the extensive tall forests of the Taï National Park as a study area, and found that nest access was probably the most critical feature that identified the nest tree and placement of the nest. I also provided the forestry industry with guidelines for raptor perches (as alternative to rodenticides) so as to facilitate rodent-eating, perch-hunting raptors using and hunting from these perches. My Pale Chanting-goshawk studies focused on a social population discovered in the Little Karoo and investigated reproductive output, goshawk hunting habitat, social hunting and refuge habitat of the dominant prey species. Current research is investigating a genetic lineage within this population, and on a southern African scale, the Pale Chanting-goshawk Ringing Group is marking birds with engraved colour rings to study longevity, site fidelity, dispersal distances and mass variations.

EAGLE CONFLICT IN THE EASTERN CAPE: SURVIVAL OF TWO BEASTS

Adri Barkhuysen

Algoa Raptor Project coordinator, 34 Scanlen Street, Mount Croix, Port Elizabeth, 6001

Introduction

The interaction between a predator and its prey is extremely complex and not always understandable, however when predators take domesticated stock there is always conflict between humans and these animals. The conflict occurs world-wide and includes many species of avian and mammalian predators. This action normally ends in the death of the problem animal and the conflict starts all over again when a new predator takes over the vacant territory. However, identifying factors and effects involved in this respect is probably best understood by asking relevant questions, which can include:

- What species and how many eagles are killed per year?
- What time of the year and where do the most incidents occur?
- What is the effect on eagle populations?
- What is the feeling of farmers towards eagles or conservation?
- Is the Eastern Cape region more likely to have eagle conflict situations?

Methods

The data was collected over the past eight years of complaints or incidents of eagle conflict. Its was mainly reported by RCG, nature conservation, public or neighbours and lastly my own fieldwork. Some of these questioning conflict situations were completed by telephone conversation but the majority were collected during fieldwork. The areas visited centre mainly around Port Elizabeth but include farms from Mossel Bay in the west to Maclear in the east and inland from Murraysburg, Middelburg, Aliwal-North and Barkly-East. In addition, direct observations of black eagle behaviour at problem areas during mass lamming periods were recorded. The monitoring of two established Black eagle populations in the region during 2003 gave a better idea of the effects of land-use practices on the reproduction and survival of these birds.

Results

Data collected from conflict situations over the past eight-years in the Eastern Cape region is illustrated in Table 1. It reflects the species and number of birds of prey involved in incidents; the number of each species killed is also shown. Black eagle is the species causing the most problem situations.

Table 1. *Raptor conflict situations in the Eastern Cape since 1995.*

Species	Black	Martial	Crowned	Tawny	Fish	Buzzard	Vulture	
n of incidents	54	9	7	1	3	6	3	83
n of killed	20	1	1			4		26

The number of land-use practices or domesticated animals involved in the conflict is shown in Table 2 in comparison with the different eagle species. Sheep and Angora goat farming caused the most eagle conflict situations amongst between the seven raptor species.

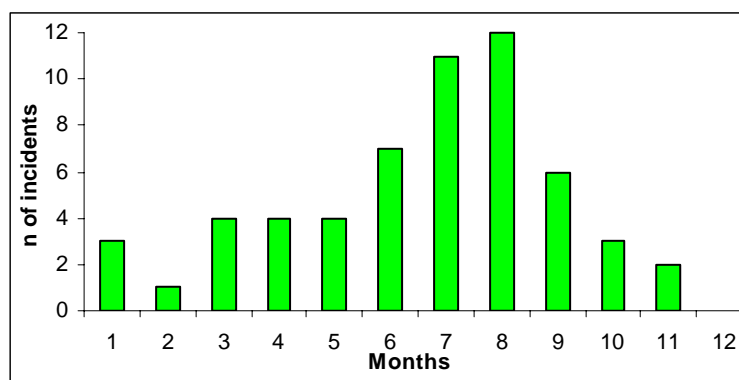
The seasonal change in recorded incidents is shown in Figure 1, this coincides with the kidding season of Angora goats in the Eastern Cape region. However, some sheep managing or husbandry systems for various breeds include permanently leaving rams with the ewes, which

results in a prolonged lamming season. The opposite of this method is the mass kidding of the Angora goats, where kidding occurs in a 6-8 week period.

Table 2. Land-use occurring in conflict situations.

Land-use	Black	Martial	Crowned	Tawny	Fish	Buzzard	Vulture
sheep	33	5	3	1	2	1	2
angora	14	1				2	
boer goat	2	1	2				
game	2	1	1				
dog			1				
ostrich	1	1					
turkey	1						
chicken						1	
guineafowl						1	
geese						1	
Bird request	1				1		1

Figure 1: The seasonal variation in reported incidents.



Many incidents were recorded where the landowner was not resident on the farm. This could include farmers that stay in town or hire ground some distance from their own property. Table 3 illustrates the percentage resident or not always active during lamming or conflict situations. The farm is normally left without any management or a farmworker is trusted with the task. The table also shows the number of eagles killed when farmers are resident or not.

Table 3. Resident status of farmers in the area.

Farmer	Resident	Hire/week	Resident	Hire/week
Status	58	25	12	14
	70%	30%	46%	54%

Reporters play an important role in resolving conflict and neighbours that are actively involved in their communities create a positive farming environment. Table 4 shows the number of incidents reported by the different agents.

Table 4. Reporters of conflict situations.

Reporter	self	neighbour	Eskom	RCG	CNC	Club
	28	19	4	23	7	2

Method of Persecution

Trapping with gin or leg-hold traps is the most common technique used to capture these birds and hitting or stoning normally kills the bird afterwards. Gin traps are a common tool for the small stock farmer and are mainly used for controlling mammalian predators. Accidental trapping of eagles during mammal control rarely occurs. Shooting is not very successful but is used as a repellent to keep the eagles away from pastoral areas. Incidents where farmers shoot at nests have been reported. At one nest site where such incidents have been reported seven nests occur, this could reflect evidence of this conflict. Poisoning is sometimes used as a last resort when previous attempts were unsuccessful.

Monitoring Reproduction and Survival

A population study of Black eagles in the Eastern Cape revealed a better understanding of densities, reproduction and survival. The study was conducted on the properties of private landowners farming with different small stock breeds and the results are illustrated in Table 5 and 6. The study includes two populations of 15 nests each for comparative results. The mountain population is situated along the northern slopes of the Groot Winterhoek Mountains (50-km) and the open population stretches over a larger area of smaller mountains or koppies (90-km).

Table 5. Comparative breeding success of Black eagle nest sites in the Mountain and Open area populations during 2003 (from east to west).

Mountain Population		50 km Linear population		Open area		90 km Staggered population	
N of Nests	Total distance between nests in km	Attempt	Fledge	N of nests	Total distance between nests in km	Attempt	Fledge
17	50.9	13	10	16	120.3	10	9

Table 6. Observations of 3 or 4 Black eagles together at nest sites in the Mountain and Open area populations during 2003 (only one recording per nest site was recorded here).

Mountain				Open area					
n of hours observation				n of hours observation					
188.5				153.7					
Nest name	Obs. of eagles	3	Obs. of eagles	4	Nest name	Obs. of eagles	3	Obs. of eagles	4
TOTAL	10		2		TOTAL	4	4	0	
12									

Broad habitat areas used by the Black eagles in the study area suggests that although the eagles select mountainous habitats for their breeding, the eagles tend to forage more often in the farming areas outside the mountains (Table 7).

Table 7. Comparison of three areas where Black eagles were recorded in the mountain population.

	Mountain	Middle	Farm area
Hours observation in each area	59.0 h	61.0 h	68.5 h

n of single eagle observations	11	14	31
n of two eagles observations	6	27	28
n of three eagles observations	13	3	5
n of four eagles observations	2		
	32	44	64

The diet of the Black eagles in the two populations is reflected in Table 8. This data was not systematically collected, however the data includes two fallen-down nests in the open area population, nests visited during scheduled visits and during ringing of chicks.

Table 8. Prey remains of Black eagle on or under active nests or at feeding sites in the Mountain and Open area population during 2003.

Species	Scientific name	Mountain	Open area
Rock hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	26	17
Vervet monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>		1
Leopard tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>	2	3
Rock leguaan	<i>Varanus albigularis</i>	1	
Domestic stock		5	3

Many avian species were observed feeding or scavenging on carcasses during the study period and this is illustrated in Table 9. The carcasses were classified as road kills or domesticated stock. It was not known if the carcasses of the domesticated animals were killed by the feeding birds - especially among the eagle species. However, it was more likely to be just scavenging or opportunistic feeding. This can also imply that the larger species would not scavenge on road kills.

Table 9. Four raptor and two corvids species observed feeding on road kills or domestic animals in the study area.

Species name	Roadkill	Domestic animal
Black eagle		1
Martial eagle		1
Jackal buzzard	1	1
Pale chanting goshawk	1	1
Black crow	1	1
Whitenecked raven	1	1

During 1993, the Cape Nature Conservation staff in the Eastern Cape completed a questionnaire survey in the same study area and by coincidence; I completed a similar survey 10 years later. Many farmers completed both questionnaires with a 10-year time span. Table 10 compares the

results of the two surveys. This data was passed onto me in a number of official files, which I analysed.

Table 10. Comparative results of questionnaires collected during 1993 and 2003.

Question	1993	2003
Farmers with eagle nest on their farms	33 %	61 %
Farmers with eagle predation problems on their farms	38 %	45 %
Stock loss	11 farmers lost 26.4 lambs/kids	15 farmers lost 14.7 lambs/kids
Farmers with stock predation problems with mammals	95 %	97 %
Stock loss	14 farmers lost 29.2 lambs/kids	32 farmers lost 37.4 lambs/kids
Mammal species causing conflict (in order from most problematic to least)	Caracal, Leopard, baboon, Cape and Bat-eared Fox. Blackbacked Jackal	Caracal, Blackbacked Jackal, baboon, Leopard
Caracal problem	48 %	88 %
Blackbacked Jackal problem	10 %	85 %
Cost involved controlling all vermin per year	11 farmers spent R 2696 each	32 farmers spent R 4465 each
Methods of eagle control	Gintrap, shepherd, dassie eradication	Lamb away from mountain areas, kraal newborns, shepherd, scarecrow, bags along fences, gintrap, shooting near eagles
Methods of mammal vermin control	Gintrap, shoot, hunt clubs	Kingcollar, getter, walk-in and gin traps, dogs, night shoot, electric fence, lamb away from mountain areas, kraal newborns

Discussion

The complexity and balance of the farming ecosystem includes many other factors that could increase problems between eagles and farmers, however many of these will indirectly influence farm management, potential predation or lamb survival rate. No data were collected or presented in this respect but the knowledge or ideas were collected during fieldwork in the study area.

- Drought or changes in climatic conditions and poor animal husbandry (over-grazing) resulting in the degradation of natural vegetation, could result in the long-term decrease in the carrying capacity of farmlands;
- Short-term weather conditions e.g. during cold spells could have an effect on the survival of new-borns during lamming periods. Angora goats show significant sensitivity during periods of cold weather when kidding takes place;
- Large flocks of crows or ravens feeding on the foetal membranes during lamming could result in additional deaths. Similarly jackal and caracal will be attracted to lamming areas. Black eagles, because of their scavenging nature and high visibility after flushing, are sometimes wrongly accused.
- Farmers or shepherds do not often visit remote areas during lamming.
- Bounty money is still paid for predators and occasionally herbivores (dassie).
- Hunting season in the Eastern Cape is during the winter months and the intestines or guts is left in the field, which increases scavenging opportunities.

- No vultures occur in my study area of the Eastern Cape, therefore, numerous other animals (crows, ravens and jackal) has adapted to fulfil this scavenging function.

Mitigation or solutions to assist affected farmers could include many aspects.

- Management practise - human or dog activity on farms or lamming areas;
- Picking up of carcasses to reduce scavenging opportunities;
- Mass lamming could cause feeding frenzies for crows and ravens;
- Road kills and hunting off-all (intestines or guts);
- Move stock to new area or different habitat if possible;
- Kraal stock or use shepherds;
- Scarecrow or a shaded hiding place;
- Hang old white bags on the fences;
- Farmers should understand that immature Black eagles are likely to scavenge on available carcasses, therefore with ravens, they should be seen as indicators of lamb mortality and the reason could be investigated;
- Certain individual eagles can prey on domesticated animals.

In conclusion, the ecological function of a predator population in an ecosystem is not always fully understood. However, considering their possible ecological benefits on the farming system, it is likely that a Blackbacked Jackal population could have a large impact on reducing small mammal abundance. On the other hand a caracal population could reduce large numbers of dassies and small antelope, leaving more potential grazing for domestic stock. This beneficial function is overlooked when a few individuals are persecuted for the predation on domestic stock.

POWERLINE INTERACTION PROGRAMME
Overview of raptor interactions: 1996 to 2003

Chris van Rooyen

Endangered Wildlife Trust, P/Bag X11, Parkview, 2122

Goal

To strike a balance between the interests of industry and the conservation of natural resources

Basic assumption

An integrated management system, incorporating biological, engineering and economical perspectives is essential for any effective wildlife mitigation programme.

Raptor related negative interactions

- *Collisions with powerlines*
- *Electrocution*
- *Electrical faults caused by nesting and roosting*

Collisions

Cape Griffon (27)

- Very localised
- Close to powerline roosts and colonies
- Often associated with vulture restaurants

Cape Griffon

- Nooitgedacht Vulture Colony
- Rhino and Lion Park Vulture Restaurant
- Lichtenburg Vulture Restaurant

Cape Griffon

- Nooitgedacht Vulture Colony
- Bird Flappers applied in February 2000
- No new collision mortality since

Verreaux's Eagle

- Very localised
- Recently associated with powerline running to cellphone masts
- Requested tower coordinates from Vodacom for mitigation with flappers

Secretarybird

- Total recorded powerline mortality '96 to '04: 28
- All collisions
- Solitary nature, wanders widely, makes collisions unpredictable
- 16 localities marked for action
- 12 actioned (75%)
- Problem with Transmission lines: Lack of suitable marker
- New product soon to be tested

Electrocutions

- Cape Vulture (158)
- African Whitebacked Vulture (155)
- Lappetfaced Vulture (50)

Problem structures

- Kite
- Delta suspension
- T-structures
- Vertical

Problems

Existing lines

Martial Eagle

- 32 electrocutions reported
- Majority on transformers
- Most large raptors

Two basic approaches to mitigation

- Reactive
- Pro-active/preventative

Reactive

- Register incident on central database
- Field Investigation by EWT and/or Eskom
- Data captured and processed at EWT headquarters
- Recommendations generated and provided to Eskom environmental practitioner
- If accepted recommendations to be implemented within a month to get a score 100%

Pro-active

- Envirotech Committee: Internal watchdog
- Ensure bird friendly standards for new designs
- Investigate all technical issues re wildlife interactions

Envirotech

- Dedicated projects
- Single steel pole mitigation

Projects by regions

- **Burgersdorp Risk Assessment:** 2780 T-poles fitted with RP3's and earthwires cut
- **Molopo Risk Assessment:** 6830 T-poles fitted with RP3's @ cost of about R700 000.
- Northern Cape Vulture Mitigation Project
- 4800 structures to be modified @ cost of R5.8m
- Projected completion date end 2004

Long term strategic projects:

- Mitigation of all Kite and Delta Suspension structures
- Mitigation of all dangerous structures in the North Eastern Cape
- Mitigation of all structures around Kimberley for AfWhbV

Raptor impacts on electricity infrastructure

- Bird streamers produced by roosting birds
- Birds nests causing faulting on towers

Bird Streamer?

- R5 000
- R1m

Characteristics: Species

- Vultures
- Large eagles and hawks

KZN Vulture Mitigation Programme

The goal is to collate relevant data relating to vultures in KZN in order to improve the management of vulture related negative interaction with Eskom distribution infrastructure.

Project sponsor

Eskom Resources and Strategy (Research: Siven Naidoo)

- Project executant: Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Project value: R80 000

Key research questions:

- Vulture distribution in KZN, especially the Cape Griffon
- No. and location of vulture restaurants in KZN
- Foraging ranges
- Distribution (33-132kV) lines mostly likely to be impacted by vulture activities
- Potential negative interactions in relation to specific line designs

Deliverables 2004:

- A description of potential interactions
- A description of the vulture species involved
- A map showing high risk areas identified on the basis of line design, expected interactions, foraging ranges, roosts and vulture restaurants

Expected Benefits

- Reduction of quality of supply problems related to vulture activities.
- Reduction of vulture deaths or injuries on Eskom infrastructure.

Bird Streamer Project

Goal:

To determine volume, length and electrical properties of bird streamers

Project sponsor

Eskom Research and Strategy (Research: Logan Pillay)

- Project executants: University of Natal and EWT
- Project value: R67 000

Key research questions:

- What are the electrical properties and chemical composition of fresh avian excreta?
- What is the range of lengths and diameters of streamers of a variety of species

Actions:

- Determine electrical conductivity of Cape Griffon excreta
- Determine the likely maximum quantity of excreta a Cape Griffon can produce and store
- Determine frequency and mass of excreta produced by living Cape Griffon
- Determine the length and approximate diameter of excreta streams from Cape Griffons

- Compile report, which will include a table with approximate values for a range of species, using the Cape Griffon values as a departure point.

Vulture Restaurant Project

Goal:

An accurate database of all the vulture restaurants in South Africa

Project sponsor

Eskom Research and Strategy (Research: Logan Pillay)

- Project executant: University of Natal
- Project value: R12 500
- 2002: Telephonic survey recorded 126 active vulture restaurants in South Africa
- 2003: On the ground surveys have been completed in KZN, Gauteng, Northern Cape, North-West
- Register is continuously updated (Access database)

Expected benefits

- Accurate data to assist with the management of existing and potential vulture impacts on powerlines.

Electric Eagle Project

Goal:

Minimize eagle-related outages on TX lines through environmentally sensitive management techniques

Project sponsor

Eskom Research and Strategy (Research: Logan Pillay)

- Project executants: University of Cape Town and EWT
- Project value: R194 000 p/a

Objectives:

- To develop a database of all problematic large raptor nests on selected TX lines in the Western and Southern Region
- To examine correlations between habitat and the density of eagle populations along these TX lines.
- To generate a predictive capacity, develop mitigation techniques, and produce management recommendations to minimise raptor-related outages.

Preliminary Conclusions

- Correlation between eagle nests and the incidence of suspected bird related faulting on specific (not all) lines
- A minimum of 53% and a maximum of 80% of the bird related faults on these lines can be traced to within 10 towers of a nest
- At this stage there seems to be little correlation between nest position on the tower and faulting phase.
- Could be that birds roosting around the nest are causing streamer faults
- More and better data needed
- Will be doing further nest relocation experiments and observations
- Correlation between habitat and the density of large eagles breeding on powerlines in the study area, with Nama Karoo being the most favoured habitat
- Nests virtually non-existent in the fynbos biome
- Correlation between tower design and the incidence of suspected bird related faulting on certain lines
- Could also be the reason for the relative absence of faults on the lines with high density of nests and low number of faults.

Critical Success Factors

- Continued high levels of awareness, enthusiasm and commitment from participants
- Continued visible commitment by Eskom management through policy and resources
- Continual achievement of objectives

Acknowledgements

- Peter Nelson
- Wendy Poulton
- Rudi Kruger
- Hein Vosloo
- Eskom Senior Management

FALCONRY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Alan Stephenson

Falconry Association of South Africa

Definition

Falconry is the art or practise of training raptors to hunt natural quarry in a way that both raptor and prey have an equal chance of being successful. The primary aim is not to catch or kill the prey; it's far easier and cheaper to do that with a shotgun. The primary aim is to see high quality flights as close to natural as possible which are not often seen in the wild unless you are there fortunate. Keeping of raptors in captivity is not falconry on its own but training them to fly and hunt natural prey in style and quality of flight is the main objective. This is why falconry is termed an art. It requires patience, time, money and dedication not to mention patience to achieve high quality falconry.

Status

Falconry is legal and recognised in all the provinces in South Africa. Currently there are falconry clubs in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, North West, Northern Province, Mpumalanga, Kwazulu - Natal and Gauteng. These provinces allow falconry if the falconers belong to a recognized falconry club. The South African Falconry Association is the umbrella body, and although it does not prescribe to the clubs the exact rules and regulations, there is a standard set that clubs adhere to. The South African Falconry Association is also a member of the International Falconers Association, which in turn is an affiliated member of the IUCN.

Falconers have to comply with rules and regulations as set down by the clubs with certain requirements. One of these requirements is that all falcons and exotic raptors must be flown with radio telemetry. Falconers are also graded as to proficiency and experience and this determines what species of birds they are allowed to fly.

Species used in Falconry

Although most species of raptor have been flown in the past for falconry and rehabilitation, the species commonly used are; Peregrine Falcon, Lanner Falcon, Black Sparrowhawk, Redbreasted Sparrowhawk, African Goshawk, Gabar Goshawk, Ovambo Sparrowhawk and Little Sparrowhawk. Occasionally other species are flown such as eagles and Rednecked Falcon when they become available for some or other reason. Other raptors such as kestrels may be flown by apprentice falconers in learning how to manage raptors and care for them. They are not suitable for general falconry as such. In essence it is mainly bird catching raptors that are rapacious that are the best for falconry. Although eagles have been used they are generally unsuitable in that they are difficult to manage due to their size. Of the eagles used the smaller hawk eagles are better suited to falconry.

Obtaining Birds for Falconry

Birds used in falconry are mostly obtained in one of three ways; captive bred, wild trapped or problem, and rehabilitated birds.

Captive Breeding: Currently only birds that are scarce and in demand are captive bred. Birds that have been bred successfully to date are Peregrine Falcon, Lanner Falcon, Black Sparrowhawk, Redbreasted Sparrowhawk, African Goshawk, Gabar Goshawk and Rednecked Falcon. The focus in the past was mostly on Peregrine Falcons with more than 185 bred so far.

Wild taken: Only passage birds in their first year are allowed to be trapped, or taken as nestlings in the case of goshawks and sparrowhawks. Mature birds are not removed from the wild for falconry as they are considered breeding stock, having survived their first year. Raptors experience

a high rate of mortality in their first year. Problem birds are those that come into conflict with livestock owners such as cage bird keepers, pigeon fanciers and anybody who keeps chickens. Any raptor harassing some-ones domestic birds is soon killed unless a falconer gets to hear of such a problem and traps the offending raptor. If the offending raptor is not needed for falconry it is released elsewhere after being ringed. Falconers are encouraged to rather trap problem birds first for falconry use.

Rehabilitated Birds: Many birds are brought to falconers in poor condition due to disease, starvation or injury. These birds are evaluated and although many have a poor prognosis with no chance of survival as free flying wild birds, some can be used for falconry and released after the season.

Falconry Statistics

Table 1: Annual wild take of raptors – 2003

	W.Cape	E.Cape	Gauteng	KwaZulu Natal	Free State	Others	Total
Members	66	7	46	45	8	18	190
Active Falconers	32	4	26	15	8	6	91
Peregrine							
- wild					1		1
- rehab							
Lanner							
- wild	1	2		2	2		7
- rehab	2						2
Black spar							
- wild	2	1	1	5			9
- rehab		1	2	6	2		11
Red spar				3			3
Ovambo							
Af goshawk							
- wild	1			3			4
- rehab	5		1	6	2	2	16
Rock Kestrel							
- wild							
- rehab	1				1	1	3
Greater Kestrel			5				5

General

At least half of the birds taken for falconry are hacked back at the end of the falconry season. Some would be kept for more than one season. The falconry season would be mainly in the winter months, usually ending about September, except for rehab and young birds that are being trained for the first time. Birds that are hacked (released) back into the wild are done so in spring and summer because at this time of the year they have a better chance of survival when prey is abundant with many young birds just fledged that are easy to catch.

Excess captive bred birds are also hacked back to the wild if not required for falconry. Only captive bred birds from known indigenous stock are released. Any exotics or hybrids that are flown have to be flown with radio telemetry by suitably experienced falconers. Although not infallible this greatly increases the chances of recovery and preventing permanent loss. Most hybrids are imprinted to humans so there would be very little chance of their surviving or breeding in the wild. In North America where large numbers of hybrids are flown under these conditions and some lost every year, there is no documented case of hybrids breeding in the wild. The worst - case scenario was

where a male took up residence at a suitable cliff and excluded the resident birds from breeding (Germany).

Other concerns about captive breeding and release of excess birds to the wild, is that it will contaminate the genetic integrity of the wild population. No data is available to support this and the selection factors in the wild favour the locally evolved species. In raptors, which are slow breeding and have distinctive mate recognition the evidence is in favour that there is very little chance that inferior genetic birds would survive. It is much more prevalent in precocious species such as waterfowl and game birds which can hybridise easily and can populate an area rapidly.

Historically falconry had great status and many cultures used raptors as a way to hunt food. With the advent of gunpowder and firearms falconry was no longer practised. In modern day it was revived but conflict between preservationists and falconers was the order of the day. With better insight into ecology and sustainable use of wildlife, the majority of conservation bodies throughout the world recognise falconry as a sustainable utilisation of wildlife. Falconers also have a good knowledge of raptors and their ecology and although not biologists can contribute greatly to further study of raptors. Several collaborations with falconers and ornithologists have produced good scientific data in the recent past.

In conclusion falconry has a part to play in raptor conservation and with ever better relationships between conservationists and falconers.

Table 2: Pros and Cons of Legal Organized Falconry

Pros	Cons
Legal falconry is easier to control.	Illegal falconry no control but still practising.
Better care of raptors in captivity	Often poorly kept.
More information on raptor populations.	No information on raptor populations.
Scientific data.	No scientific data.
Education of public.	No education
Very little impact on wild population as only passage birds are used, $\frac{3}{4}$ would die in their first year. Many birds released after their first year have a better chance of survival.	No second chance for young birds.
Captive breeding reduces take of wild birds.	Captive birds easy to obtain, no incentive for falconers to study wild birds, look for nests.

ZIMBABWE FALCONERS' CLUB RAPTOR RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Presented by Dr Adrian Lombard on behalf of Ron Hartley

Research Coordinator, ZFC & Zimbabwe Representative, The Peregrine Fund.

BACKGROUND

Falconry can assist raptor conservation, especially in Africa with its meagre financial resources and expertise. In Zimbabwe falconers have assisted by:

- monitoring nest sites,
- ringing raptors,
- establishing captive breeding programmes for endangered species,
- assisting with raptor rehabilitation,
- running educational programmes and
- providing specimens (mainly raptors and selected prey, but also unhatched eggs) to the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe.

This has been applied successfully for the past 28 years in Zimbabwe, as a result of the government falconry policy, consisting of a formal arrangement between the Zimbabwe Falconers' Club (ZFC) and the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management (DNPWLM).

A vital component in this relationship has been the linkages between a ZFC research coordinator and a senior ecologist (DNPWLM). The ZFC established a Raptor Conservation Unit (RCU) in 1989, which has also worked in joint programmes with The Peregrine Fund Inc.

Falconry has been a legal pursuit in Zimbabwe (Hartley 1993a) for some 40 years and the special falconry policy established in 1976 by the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management (DNPWLM) has led to a systematic and concerted effort to conserve both raptors and their prey by the falconers.

The Zimbabwe Falconers' Club (ZFC) conservation strategy has four components:

- education and public awareness through talks and demonstrations by experienced falconers and also from two falconry clubs at private schools;
- veterinary care and rehabilitation;
- a research data base on raptor nest sites used for studies of populations, comparative ecology, DDT impact and the prey base of hawks;
- and a captive breeding and release programme mainly on the African Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus minor* and Taita Falcon *F. fasciinucha*

Guidance and professional input on the conservation programme was achieved by regular linkage between the Chief Ornithologist of DNPWLM and the Club's Research Coordinator, as a consequence of official policy and also the commitment of the respective personnel concerned. A cornerstone for the success of the programme has always been the falconers' access to birds from the wild

The Raptor Conservation Fund was established by the ZFC in 1989 to provide financial support to the research programme. A separate breeding fund was established by the ZFC thereafter as well. TPF has provided most of the financial and material support, but additional help has come from the Endangered Wildlife Trust of southern Africa (EWT), the National Birds of Prey Centre (UK), while the Ecological Risk Section Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK) has sampled eggshell contents for pesticide residues.

ROUTINE ACTIVITIES

- Annual monitoring has continued, with the maintenance of the nest record card system, which has continued to burgeon.
- Numerous specimens (eggs and shell fragments; dead birds) have been measured and submitted to the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe (NHMZ) in Bulawayo.
- Data on prey taken by trained hawks included weights and measurements (including gonads), moult and location and was collected almost exclusively by RH at the Falcon College Falconry Club. This has amounted to over 3500 individuals of over 140 species.
- Furthermore RH has also compiled a prey catalogue which now represents 132 species of birds, useful in the identification of prey remains.
- The monitoring of the raptor community around Falcon College in the Esigodini area has continued for 21 years.
- Over 300 raptors have been ringed by the ZFC and
- numerous raptors have been successfully rehabilitated, including considerable veterinary work done by Dr. A. Huelin. Post mortems have revealed incidences of avian tuberculosis in a few free living and captive Peregrine and Lanner Falcons, and a possible vulnerability to aspergillosis in some captive Black Sparrowhawks.
- Education - since its inception in 1983 Falcon College Falconry Club has produced 70 fully fledged falconer-conservationists, all of whom have spent a minimum of two years of intensive activity in the unit . They have also hosted many groups of visitors, instructing them on the raptors at the facility and on aspects of raptor conservation. As many as 20 groups from visiting schools make organised trips to the facility each year.
- A similar service has been provided at the Peterhouse Falconry Club.
- Several falconers have put on posters illustrating the ZFC conservation and research programme at conservation workshops and at game fairs held in Harare. They have also given flying displays with trained raptors.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

(Information on many special projects is available from the author).

CONFERENCES

The ZFC has long been recognised as a valuable contributor in the field of raptor and gamebird conservation in Zimbabwe, and it has contributed to several conferences: Perdix VI gamebird symposium (Hartley & Mundy 1992, Mundy 1996); VIII Pan Afr. Orn. Congr. 1992 (Hartley 1993, Hartley *et al.* 1993 - extended abstract); Raptors and Man symposium (Hartley *et al.* 1996); Our Endangered Environment (Hartley 1996); Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries (Hartley, R.R. 1998); V World Conference on Birds of Prey (Hartley 2000a,b) and the IOC Conference in Durban (Bell *et al.* 1998).

PUBLICATIONS

Publishing the results and sharing information with stakeholders is an important goal of our programme. ZFC members have published over 150 papers, short notes and popular articles over the past 30 years and these have been carefully archived. Many key papers and notes have been used in standard works on birds and conservation, including the Handbook of Birds of the World Vol 2 (1994), the Atlas of southern African Birds (1997), Gamebirds of southern Africa (2000), Raptors of the world (2001), and Robert's seventh edition (in press.).

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PESTICIDES, POISONS AND RAPTORS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Raptor poisoning is strongly linked to problem animals

Felids and canids that cause livestock losses are often targeted with pesticides and poisons. This causes primary and secondary poisoning of raptors.

Birds of prey killing livestock and domestic animals.

EAGLES – HAWK & ACQUILINE EAGLES taking small stock and domestic fowl.

HAWKS – ACCIPITERS, BUTEONINES taking domestic fowl and pigeons.

FALCONS – PEREGRINE & LANNER taking pigeons.

OWLS – LARGE *BUBO* SPECIES & TYTONIDS taking domestic fowl.

VULTURES – MOSTLY GRIFFON SPECIES allegedly taking livestock (has been recorded).

Pesticides and poisons are sometimes used to kill such avian predators.

Crop damaging birds

DOVES & PIGEONS ON SMALL GRAIN	CRANES ON GRAIN AND CABBAGE	GALLINACEOUS BIRDS ON GRAIN
SEEDEATERS ON GRAIN AND FRUIT	FRUGIVOROUS BIRDS ON FRUIT	CRANES ON LUCERNE AND PASTURES

Pesticides and poisons are involved in some cases to kill crop damaging birds. Raptors that catch in on dead and dying birds will be poisoned in such cases.

Antelope

Some small antelope species have an impact on cash crops, fruit trees and plantations. These include Grey Duiker, Steenbok, Kudu, Bushbuck and Cape Grysbok. Poisoning of such animals will lead to secondary poisoning of raptors.

Rodents

Rattus, *Otomys*, *Gerberillus*, *Mus*, Porcupine, Ground Squirrel impact on grain crops, stored grain and plantations. Many rodenticides are registered for use against these pests but most of the anti-coagulants cause secondary poisoning of raptors and owls. Other agrochemicals are sometimes used to control rodents – often with secondary poisoning of raptors and owls.

Agriculture related raptor poisoning

- Commercial agriculture related – indirectly as a result of problem animal control; SIGNIFICANT AND INCIDENTAL THREAT.
- Commercial agriculture related – directly as a result of persecution; INSIGNIFICANT THREAT.

- Commercial agriculture related – directly as a result of crop protection chemical applications; MAY BE A DIRECT AND SIGNIFICANT THREAT DEPENDING ON THE PRODUCTS INVOLVED.
- Poisoning of raptors due to accidental commercial agriculture misuse of pesticides against problem animals; CONSTANT AND CRITICAL THREAT TO RAPTORS.

Tawny Eagles Kalahari, Karoo, Bushveld, Lowveld, KZN Lowveld.

Pale Chanting Goshawks Karoo & Kalahari.

Bateleurs Kalahari & Lowveld.

Afr Hawk Eagles Bushveld & Lowveld.

Black Eagles Nama Karoo & Eastern Cape.

Vultures Kalahari, Bushveld, Lowveld, KZN, ECape, Overberg, NWest & Free State.

Commercial agriculture related avian poisoning – that will lead to secondary poisoning of raptors

OPs on Redbilled Quelea.

OPs and CBs on cash crops & citrus.

OPs & CBs incorrectly as seed dressings.

OPs illegally on migratory locusts.

Gallinaceous, frugivorous and seedeating birds in crops.

Cranes, storks, bustards, kestrels, birds of prey in veld and grazing.

Deliberate persecution

OPs on Helmeted Guineafowl & francolins on grain crops.

OPs and CBs on doves & pigeons on grains crops.

OPs on cranes on grain crops and lucerne.

OPs on frugivorous birds in orchards.

OPs on seedeaters such as quelea, weavers & bishops on grain crops.

OPs on ducks & geese on grain crops.

Non-agriculture related raptor poisoning

- Non-commercial agriculture related – traditional medicine or *muti*; CRITICAL AND CONSTANT THREAT.
- Non-commercial agriculture related – harvesting of wildlife (mammals & birds) for bushmeat trade – recent cases in KZN: Bushbuck, Nyala, Blue Wildebeest, Warthog, duiker & variety of bird species.
-

CRITICAL AND CONSTANT THREAT

- Vultures & crocodiles poisoned for commercial *muti* markets in JHB, Durban and other main centres; primary and secondary poisoning of raptors may occur.
- Pachyderms poisoned for valuables – rhino in KZN and Limpopo Province; secondary poisoning may occur.
- Poisoning birds as a protein source - A recent development in
- South Africa:
 - Gallinaceous birds & waterfowl mostly, doves and pigeons often, cranes seldom.
 - Pesticides replaced snares and other traditional hunting methods.
 - Committed by farm workers, migrant workers, squatters, illegal immigrants.
 - Becomes part of bush meat trade.

Pesticides involved in bird of RAPTOR poisoning incidents.

- Strychnine
- Compound 1080 (Sodiummonofluoroacetate)
- Aldicarb
- Carbofuran
- Methamidophos
- Diazinon
- Fenthion
- Parathion
- Monocrotophos

Pesticides & other poisons implicated in wildlife poisoning – in relation to raptor poisoning

<u>Monocrotophos</u> <i>birds, mammals</i>	<u>Aldicarb</u> <i>birds, mammals</i>	<u>Carbofuran</u> <i>birds, mammals</i>
<u>Methamidophos</u> <i>Birds</i>	<u>Diazinon</u> <i>Birds</i>	Parathion <i>birds</i>
Fenamiphos <i>mammals</i>	Fenthion <i>Birds</i>	Strychnine <i>mammals, birds</i>
Ethylene glycol <i>mammals</i>	<u>Compound 1080</u> <i>mammals, birds</i>	<u>Pyrethroids</u> <i>frogs, fish</i>
Gamma-BHC <i>Reptiles</i>	Chlorpirifos <i>garden birds</i>	Dimethoate <i>birds</i>

RAPTORS DROWNING IN FARM RESERVOIRS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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In the arid areas of southern Africa, the drowning of raptors in small reservoirs on farms is a significant cause of mortality. Due to the apparent negative effect of this on raptor populations, we collated all available reports on these accidents. These data were then examined for spatial and temporal patterns of drownings, the species involved, and likely impact on raptor populations.

Records of 322 raptors of 29 species which drowned during 163 separate incidents were collated. African White-backed *Gyps africanus* and Cape Vultures *Gyps coprotheres* (58% of the total), and Martial *Polemaetus bellicosus* and Verreaux's Eagles *Aquila verreauxii* (13%), were the species most frequently recovered from reservoirs. There are few records of small raptors (<300 g) succumbing in this manner.

The majority of incidents occur in the arid western parts of southern Africa, particularly the Northern Cape (63% of the total), where a limited availability of natural surface water suggests a greater dependency on reservoir water.

The impact of this mortality factor on raptor populations is difficult to determine. However, despite biases, we estimated that at least 8% of the Martial Eagles in the southern Kalahari succumb in farm reservoirs.

There are several possible explanations as to why raptors drown. The simplest is that these birds enter the reservoir to drink or bathe and if it is not full are then unable to climb up the structure's steep sides.

There have been 12 recorded vulture mass drowning events, involving as many as 38 birds at one time. The reason for these mass drownings is probably different to the individual drowning of other raptors, with the "intimate lifestyle" hypothesis being the most plausible.

There are simple, cheap and effective solutions to prevent the drowning of raptors and these are being advocated with success in the Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

THE ROLE OF NGOS, THE EWT AND THE RCG - IN THE BIGGER PICTURE

Dr. Nicholas King

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UN Millennium Development Goals:

- UN Millennium Summit (September 2000), world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound, measurable targets to combat:
- Poverty;
- Hunger;
- Illiteracy;
- Infant and maternal mortality;
- HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- Discrimination against women, and
- Environmental degradation

Together with a global partnership for development, these are the Millennium Development Goals

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- Conservation, Sustainable Use and Equitable Benefit –Sharing of that use;
- Adopted Ecosystem Approach for all implementation;
- Ratified by South African in 1995;
- Operates through thematic programmes: Mountain BD, Inland waters BD, Marine and Coastal BD, Forest BD, Drylands BD, and cross-cutting areas e.g. IAS, GTI, CHM, etc
- Are political commitments to be implemented at country level (e.g. Biodiversity Bill);
- CBD CoP6, April 2002: by 2010, to reverse the rate of biodiversity loss.....

Extinction Rates:

- Last 400 years:
- 484 animal, 654 plant; is bad underestimate – only what we know;
- Extinction rates estimated from fossil records;
- have been episodic events of cataclysmic species extinctions;
- The 6th Extinction: current rate 1000 - 10 000x background rates - between 1-10% globally per decade!

Habitat Loss + Fragmentation = Species Loss

- USA - 93% of old growth forests, 98% of prairies, >50% of wetlands (also SA!);
- similar in Europe - how many species lost?
- loss rates rapidly on increase in developing world, rising exponentially with population growth;
- natural systems being converted at a rate of 1.2%/yr, or 11.4% in the decade since the Earth Summit in Rio!
- South Africa?
- 3rd most biodiverse country in the world;
- <1% of the land surface - up to 10% of global plant, bird, freshwater fish diversity, 6% of mammal and reptile diversity;

2002 EWT biodiversity assessment shows continuing downward trend - threatened are 14% of birds, 15% of plants, 18% of amphibians, 24% of reptiles, 37% of mammals and climbing!

The 2010 Biodiversity Target:

- CoP6 , The Hague, April 2002: by 2010, to reverse the rate of biodiversity loss...
- Reaffirmed (although weakened significantly - reduce the rate) at the WSSD in September 2002....
- How will this be achieved, when the driving causes are not addressed, nor do we really know what we're dealing with?

The 2012/15 Fisheries Targets:

- WSSD (Sept 2002):
- establishment of a representative network of marine protected areas by 2012...
- restoration of fisheries to maximum sustainable yields by 2015, elimination of destructive fishing practices (e.g. bottom-trawling and perverse subsidies);
- How will these be achieved, when the causes are not addressed?

The 2015 Water and Sanitation Target:

- WSSD (Sept 2002): 'halve the proportion of people living without access to clean water and sanitation by 2015';
- This is >2 billion people....
- How will this be achieved, without sustainable river basin/wetland management?
- What about competing demands for water – agriculture, industry, cities...where will the water come from?
- Who will provide the investment in infrastructure?
- What does it mean for arid landsraptors??????

The 2020 Chemicals Target:

- WSSD (Sept) 2002:
- By 2020, chemicals should be used and produced in ways that do not harm human health or the environment...
- Increased human pop. requiring increased food production, increased agriculture, increased water use, increased chemical use?????
- Massively important implications for wildlife – but how will this be achieved?
- Communicating WSSD Targets?
- “..and let us face an uncomfortable truth: the model of development we are accustomed to has been fruitful for the few, but flawed for the many. A path to prosperity that ravages the environment and leaves a majority of humankind behind in squalor will soon prove to be a dead-end road for everyone.” (Kofi Anan, UN Secretary General, WSSD 2002).

Invasive Species:

- 2nd only to habitat loss as cause of species extinctions;
- 'disturbance' increases opportunities for invasion;
- 'development' = 'disturbance';
- modes of invasion: trade, travel, transport, tourism, all on increase
- Climate change altering suitable ranges e.g mosquito-borne West Nile fever decimating bird populations...

Climate Change:

- IUCN (2004): min 1m species at risk within next 50 years from greenhouse gases already released;
- Far greater numbers if gr. gas releases not eliminated now;
- Species unable to physically move, cannot shift ranges in time, or suitable habitat no longer available;
- UK's Chief Scientist: "implications more serious than terrorism!"
- By 2050 in SA: 40% of proteas lost; up to 60% of species in KNP, CFK will no longer match climatic zone!

Political Will?

"This plan of implementation provides everything we need to make sustainable development happen over the next several years. The test is whether governments, along with civil society and the private sector, can pursue the commitments that are in the document, and take actions that achieve measurable results." (Nitin Desai, WSSD Secretary General).

- Civil Society, though NGOs, has a critical role to play in catalysing these partnerships....

Economic Value:

- Breakdown estimates on contributions in the US alone include:
- insect pollination of crops, >\$30 billion/year;
- value of flood control on one river system, approx. \$150 000 per hectare/year;
- sales from prescription drugs (derivatives from wild plants) >\$15 billion/year;
- soil bacterial services in nutrient turnover, > \$33 billion /year.
- economic value of functioning ecosystems far outweighs value of converting to uses such as cropland or housing....
- 2002: habitat destruction costs the equivalent of US\$250 billion/year globally;
- from tropical forests to ocean reefs, half an ecosystem's total economic value lost when converted;
- global network of strategic reserves costing US\$45b would deliver US\$400 trillion more/yr than services from converted systems –
- 100:1 global benefit-to-cost ratio!
- New Partnerships/Global Datasets/Local Action
- Integrated datasets: IUCN (SIS), WWF, UNEP etc. - a 'biodiversity commons' to prioritise 'hotspots';
- GISP: CHM for best practice prevention and management of IAS – massive economic implications;
- GBIF: Analyse collections databases of world's taxonomic institutions for conservation value – long-term datasets;
- SABIF: R6m over next 3 years committed by DST;
- Business/Economics, Social and Conservation/Enviro communities must become more integrated;
- Take action locally!

Societal Values:

- What will be acceptable in terms of 'loss' and degradation?
- How many species lost is too many?
- 'Ownership of life/playing God'?
- Whose values will prevail?
- Make right choices now or be denigrated by future generations forced into depauperate livelihoods...

Political Will?

- We cannot hope to implement 'sustainable development' as long as the agenda is decided by those who thrive on unsustainable practices – politicians and the private sector.
- But who is and empowers both politicians and industry?
- Civil Society: the shareholders in democracy and business!!
- As individuals making up 'Civil Society', we can advocate (and practice) more sustainable lifestyles, and seek alternatives....

KEY STRENGTHS OF NGOs 1:

- Independence: not governed by political mandates / constraints;
- Neutrality: can therefore initiate and coordinate projects, work with industry, academic institutions, govt agencies, etc;
- Partnerships: drive strong, effective, independent partnerships with relevant stakeholders;
- Multi-stakeholder input: partner with broad x-section (industry, local communities, academic institutions, governmental agencies) to achieve common goals;
- Mobilise Funding: from eg. the private sector due to strong, well established relationships based on neutrality, credibility, accountability and delivery.

KEY STRENGTHS OF NGOs 2:

- Inter-disciplinary: Partnerships between community development, social welfare, environmental education, health and skills development NGOs;
- Capacity: access to broad range of technical expertise, can call on volunteer resources from professional and amateur sectors, providing technical expertise as well as "hands";
- Public/Community participation and awareness: participation and input from members of the public and indigenous communities, fundamental to our understanding of ecosystems and various components of biodiversity;
- Environmental Education: delivery of Environmental Education, with focussed programmes for a wide range of learners.

KEY STRENGTHS OF NGOs 3:

- Supportive role: can enhance the ability of govt agencies & academic institutions to meet targets & achieve goals;
- Freely Disseminate Best Practises: by monitoring and assessing programme success or failure, can document and promote Best Practise Guidelines for future operations;
- Public accountability: much NGO work guided by ability to achieve measurable and meaningful results which benefit a wide cross-section of stakeholders;
- Cross-border cooperation: Regional and international NGOs work across political boundaries with greater ease than government agencies.

KEY LIMITATIONS OF NGOs:

- Capacity: Financial and HR capacity of NGOs often limited;
- Funding / donors: often restricted to activities supported by donor funding requirements; should not be donor-driven!
- Scope of work: enjoy freedom and independence but scope of activities undertaken must remain focussed on core business;
- Long-term vs short-term: encounter difficulties when planning long-term projects due to funding instability and capacity restrictions.

Role of EWT?

- Is the current structure adequate?
- Flexibility, adaptation, ability to work with all stakeholders...
- Align WGs to meet the needs of this bigger picture – by acting locally;

- Assist govt as well as castigate...
- Castigate industry as well as provide solutions;
- Environmental awareness/education to all sectors;
- Sound science and maximise technology use;
- Provide sustainable solutions...no holy cows!
- Good governance – raising funding!

Making the Difference – Outcomes:

- SACWG has drawn-up Guidelines for Trade and Keeping Cranes in Captivity;
- Lobbying relevant nature conservation departments in each province;
- Limpopo Province already incorporated principles into their Ordinance;
- KwaZulu-Natal, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State, E. Cape have all requested presentation of Guidelines;
- Eventually National Policy?

South Africa?

- Tourism currently 11% of GDP;
- Second only to manufacturing = 18%;
- Agric only 4% and declining...but consumes 50-70% of the country's water – and SA is an arid country!
- Tourism fastest growing sector...is there sufficient investment in conserving natural capital??
- Competition for resources e.g. Security/Crime: DA election slogan: 150 000 more police...
- South Africa?
- 1900: population <5m; 2001 = 44,8m;
- Population White Paper 1999: stabilise pop. at 80million...
- 80% depend on traditional medicine – from 4m to 36m in 100yrs....65m in <50yrs;
- 2010: min. 4m AIDS orphans;
- Only 10% of >100 000 2003 matriculants will get jobs in formal sector...

Conservation = Livelihoods

Raptor Conservation?

- *What role does Raptor Conservation have in contributing to all of the above?*
- *How can Raptors successfully be conserved within this bigger picture?*
- *How can we ensure there will be viable Raptor populations in southern Africa in 50 years time?*

How will we rise to this challenge?????????????

SOUTHERN AFRICAN RAPTOR CONSERVATION

Strategic Planning Workshop

23 – 25 March 2004

Gariep Dam, Free State, South Africa

WORKSHOP REPORT



SECTION 4

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Data Obsessive Scientists (DOS) Working Group

PARTICIPANTS:

1. Anthony van Zyl: Raptor Conservation Group member
2. Guy Palmer: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board
3. James Harrison: Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town
4. Johan Esterhuizen: Zululand Raptor Project, Raptor Conservation Group
5. Mark Anderson: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment & Conservation, Northern Cape / Raptor Conservation Group member
6. Zephné Bernitz: SAFRING and Raptor Conservation Group volunteer

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

Effective conservation requires the backing of scientific information. There is insufficient information on the biology and conservation status of raptors, the relative importance of the threats and the effectiveness of conservation actions. Studies on the biology of many raptor species are lacking and need to be encouraged. There is insufficient collaboration and no coordinated plan. Data gathering protocols (especially for monitoring and incident recording) are not currently available and nationally accepted. Existing and new information is not computerized and integrated, with no regular outputs (dissemination of information). There is a strong birding and conservation community in southern Africa, who could provide the data if their efforts were coordinated. The skills currently exist in the scientific community to rectify this situation, but the institutional structures are not yet in place.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS AND SOLUTIONS:

The problem statement and solutions for this group were grouped according to three themes, namely: Adequate or Appropriate Data, Data Collection and Data Use.

A. ADEQUATE / APPROPRIATE DATA

PROBLEM STATEMENT 1

THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF SPECIES ARE NOT KNOWN. THIS INCLUDES QUALITATIVE AND ESPECIALLY QUANTITATIVE INFORMATION ON SPECIES MORTALITY, PRODUCTIVITY, POPULATION STRENGTH AND DISPERSAL. OF THESE, POPULATION STRENGTH (OR INDICES THEREOF) IS THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL AND THEREFORE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 2

INSUFFICIENT BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR MANY RAPTOR SPECIES. OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLECT SUCH INFORMATION ARE NOT ALWAYS USED.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 3

RESEARCH AND MONITORING PRIORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN OBJECTIVELY DETERMINED. SUBJECTIVE CRITERIA TEND TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES INSTEAD OF SCIENTIFIC DATA BEING USED TO TARGET RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION EFFORT.

Solutions to ALL of the above problem statements are as follows:

SOLUTION 1

Demographics (a): Initiate a raptor roadcount to monitor the populations of raptors and crows. This project should involve volunteers on a large scale in all provinces and biomes. A standardised scientific method should be used so that population trends can be reliably monitored. The project should be planned as a long-term effort (minimum 5 years).

SOLUTION 2

Demographics (b): Monitor productivity, mortality and dispersal for selected species. Determine priority species using Red List status and other criteria.

SOLUTION 3

Other data: Collect relevant biological and natural history information for priority species. Determine priority species using Red List status and other criteria such as their suitability as indicator species.

SOLUTION 4

Priorities (a): Carry out a review of existing databases and literature on southern African raptors with the objective of identifying important gaps in conservation-related topics. Use the results to prioritize future research directions. Roberts VII can be used to provide input into this process.

SOLUTION 5

Priorities (b): In particular, consider the adequacy of projects to quantify threats/mortality and to monitor populations that are subject to conservation actions. For example, marking of known populations and following-up to determine mortality and causes of mortality. Look at comparison between areas under different types of management.

B) DATA COLLECTION

PROBLEM STATEMENT 4

THE RECORDING OF RELEVANT DATA ON RAPTORS IS NOT SYSTEMATIC. THIS INCLUDES A LACK OF APPROPRIATE PROTOCOLS FOR RECORDING OBSERVATIONS, COLLATING THEM, AND ENSURING THAT THEY REACH THE APPROPRIATE SCIENTIFIC CENTRE.

SOLUTION 1

Establish a scientific advisory group to advise on project selection, design and execution. The mandate of the group would be to advise especially on multi-participatory projects involving amateurs, but also to assist researchers with individual projects, if requested to by the researcher.

SOLUTION 2

Identify the scientific centres that have the capacity to capture data and curate databases. These centres should also be responsible for producing regular reports on the summaries of the databases.

SOLUTION 3

Review the suite of data collection protocols that exist; consolidate and refine these. Develop additional protocols if necessary. All protocols should be subjected to peer review and finalised by the relevant scientific centres. The objective is to arrive at a suite of standardized protocols that should be used by everyone working on raptors. Duplication of databases and associated data management must be avoided.

SOLUTION 4

Integrate the functions of project coordination, database management, and feedback to observers as closely as possible to ensure efficiency and sustainability of projects. Acknowledgements of receipt of data and feedback to participants, as well as sensitivity with regard to certain types of data and data ownership considerations, are important aspects of successful operation of data-gathering networks.

(C) DATA USE

PROBLEM STATEMENT 5

THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH AND MONITORING ARE NOT ADEQUATELY DISSEMINATED TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND BROADER COMMUNITIES.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 6

THERE IS A LACK OF INTEGRATED AND REGULARLY UPDATED AND ANALYSED DATABASES.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 7

THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF RAPTORS (IN TERMS OF IUCN RED LIST CRITERIA) IS NOT REGULARLY UPDATED.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 8

EXISTING AND NEW DATA ARE NOT SHARED ADEQUATELY TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL RESEARCHERS AND CONSERVATIONISTS.

Solutions to ALL of the above problem statements are as follows:

SOLUTION 1

General (a): Promote an awareness of the importance of scientific data and its appropriate use. Use the RCG network to achieve this.

SOLUTION 2

General (b): There should be a proactive drive to encourage young scientists and students to study raptors. Academics who supervise students are well placed to do this.

SOLUTION 3

Integrated databases (a): Delegate responsibility for particular data collection projects to appropriate scientific centres. Responsibilities should be outlined in an explicit agreement with defined deliverables.

SOLUTION 4

Integrated databases (b): Establish / identify a national raptor body to collate and manage raptor information that is not managed by other centres. This can also serve as a centre for meta-data, e.g., library of publications.

SOLUTION 5

Dissemination of information (a): Develop strategies to encourage analyses and publication of results in both the scientific and popular literature, and in the mass media.

SOLUTION 6

Dissemination of information (b): Make production of publications a requirement of project managers and/or their scientific partners.

SOLUTION 7

Dissemination of information (c): Promote the regular appearance of GABAR and VULTURE NEWS as vehicles for publications. Maintain a semi-formal format to encourage the inclusion of material that is not necessarily suitable for formal scientific journals. Editors need to solicit material.

SOLUTION 8

Dissemination of information (d): Incentives, awards, and acknowledgements can be used to encourage the publication of observations and analyses.

SOLUTION 9

Conservation status: Under the auspices of CBSG Southern Africa, do five-yearly updates of the conservation status of all raptor species; i.e., hold regular Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshops.

SOLUTION 10

Sharing data: Develop data-sharing protocols and policies and produce a document.

Legislation and Policy Enforcement Working Group

PARTICIPANTS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Craig Whittington-Jones: | Gauteng Directorate of Nature Conservation |
| 2. Ben Hoffman: | Predatory Bird Centre, KwaZulu-Natal |
| 3. Johann Knobel: | Lecturer in Private Law, UNISA |
| 4. Kobus Pienaar: | Bird Monitoring for Environmental Affairs, Limpopo Province |
| 5. Bill Howells: | Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife |
| 6. Adrian Lombard: | Secretary for SAFA (South African Falconry Association – Western Cape) |

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

This group has to deal with the current situation with regard to the lack of law enforcement, fragmented legislation and policy and impending new national legislation that affects raptor conservation and utilisation in southern Africa.

The group comprises representatives of formal conservation authorities, falconry clubs, rehabilitation centres, raptor display centres and the legal sector.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS AND SOLUTIONS:

PROBLEM STATEMENT 1

THERE IS LACK OF ADEQUATE UNIFORM LEGISLATION AND POLICY AND STRUCTURES TO REGULATE THE CONSERVATION AND UTILISATION OF RAPTORS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

SOLUTION 1

Establish a Focus Group which should include representatives of:

- Provincial authorities
- Raptor Conservation Group and the Vulture Study Group of the EWT
- SAFA (Falconers)
- Rehabbers – elected representatives
- Flight display
- Bird Parks & Zoological Gardens
- Traditional healers
- Legal professionals
- Scientific community
- Organised agriculture
- Other relevant stakeholders

Action 1:

Identify convenor

- Responsibility: The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Raptor Conservation Group.
- Timeline: June 2004.

Action 2:

Identify participants

- Responsibility: Convenor.
- Timeline: 2 Months.
- Resources: Administrative.

Action 3:

Convene initial meeting

- Responsibility: Convenor.
- Timeline: Before end 2004.
- Resources: Venue, transport.

Action 4:

Establish *modus operandi* for focus group

- Responsibility: Focus group.
- Timeline: At first meeting.
- Resources: Facilitator.

SOLUTION 2

Evaluate existing legislation.

SOLUTION 3

Evaluate existing policies.

SOLUTION 4

Identify key areas requiring policy development and law reform.

SOLUTION 5

Make recommendations to Working Group 1, to improve uniformity.

Actions for solutions 2- 5:

- Responsibility: Focus group.
- Timeline: First and subsequent meetings (2-5 years).
- Resources: Access to all relevant material (E.g. conventions, Acts, etc.)
IT equipment.
- Outcome: Uniform policies and legislation.
- Obstacles: No buy-in from relevant role-players.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 2

THERE IS AN APPARENT LACK OF COMMITMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA TO IMPLEMENT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

SOLUTION

Bring the national and international implications of non-compliance with international conventions, to the attention of government through lobbying.

Action Step 1:

Identify areas of non-compliance.

- Responsibility: Johann Knobel.
- Time: 2 years.
- Collaborators: Workshop participants.
- Resources: Copies of all conventions, all relevant national and provincial legislation, admin support
- Measurable outcome: Report to RCG / focus group.

Action Step 2:

Establish the implications of non-compliance.

- Responsibility: Johann Knobel.
- Timeline: 2 years.
- Collaborators: Workshop participants.
- Resources: Copies of all conventions, all relevant national and provincial legislation, admin support.
- Measurable outcome: Report to RCG / focus group.

Action Step 3:

Investigate effective lobbying methods / avenues.

- Responsibility: RCG.
- Timeline: 6-12 months.
- Collaborators: EWT management and working groups.
- Measurable outcome: Effective lobbying strategy.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 3

THERE IS A LACK OF RESOURCES, FUNDING AND TRAINED PERSONNEL TO EFFECTIVELY ENFORCE RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY.

SOLUTION

Lobby provincial conservation authorities to carry out their mandate (with regard to effectively executing their biodiversity, law enforcement, regulation and compliance mandates.)

Action Step 1:

Inform the relevant authorities of the advantages to conservation if staffing and training are adequate.

- Responsibility: RCG.
- Collaborators: EWT management and relevant working groups.
- Measurable outcome: Effective lobbying strategy.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 4

THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN THE LEGAL PROCESS. THESE INCLUDE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONSERVATION CASES. THERE IS ALSO THE TENDENCY WITHIN CONSERVATION CASES TO FOCUS ON CHARISMATIC MEGAFUNA.

SOLUTION 1

Expose public prosecutors, magistrates and the SAPS to the importance of successful prosecutions with raptor cases.

SOLUTION 2

Provide training for appropriate Nature Conservation staff in case management.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 5

THERE IS INSUFFICIENT COMMITMENT TO RAPTOR CONSERVATION AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

SOLUTION

Raise profile of raptor conservation among municipalities, provincial government, national government and traditional healers / community leaders.

Action Step:

Develop an awareness programme and lobbying strategy.

- Responsibility: RCG.
- Timeline: 6 - 12 months.
- Collaborators: EWT management a relevant working groups.
- Measurable outcome: Effective lobbying strategy.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 6

THERE APPEARS TO BE INSUFFICIENT COOPERATION BETWEEN ROLEPLAYERS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM, THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY, PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (KZN), PROVINCIAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES AND CONSERVATION NGOs (INCLUDING REHABILITATION CENTRES FALCONRY, BREEDERS, DISPLAY CENTRES, ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, BIRD PARKS, MUTI MARKETS AND TRADITIONAL HEALERS).

SOLUTION

Establish a Liaison Group.

Action Step:

Guide the Focus Group on policy and law reform towards the formation of a more permanent and inclusive liaison group, following completion of the initial actions under Problem Statement 1.

- Responsibility: RCG.
- Timeline: 6 - 12 months.
- Collaborators: EWT.
- Measurable outcome: Effective lobbying strategy.

Education and Awareness Working Group

PARTICIPANTS:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Ulrich Oberprieler: | National Zoological Gardens |
| 2. Christelle Pauw: | Student |
| 3. Shannon Hoffman: | On Air Raptor Displays, KwaZulu-Natal |
| 4. Tracey Chalmers: | Eagle Encounters |
| 5. Trevor Oertel: | National Bird of Prey Centre |
| 6. Alan Stephenson: | South African Falconry Association |
| 7. Jonathan Haw: | Free-lance Environmental educationist |
| 8. Jenny le Roux: | Endangered Wildlife Trust Raptor Conservation Group manager |

The initial group brainstorming exercise generated three main themes:

- Limited involvement of all ethnic groups in raptor conservation;
- Insufficient emphasis on education/awareness;
- Public ignorance.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS AND SOLUTIONS:

PROBLEM STATEMENT 1

RAPTOR EDUCATION IS NOT A NATIONAL EDUCATION PRIORITY BOTH WITHIN EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS AND THE POLITICAL ARENA.

SOLUTION 1

Link raptor conservation directly to school curriculum and incorporate it into the new Outcomes-Based Education (OBE) system (for eg. the Pretoria Zoological Gardens/SA Eagle Zoo Booklet).

SOLUTION 2

Proactively lobby national and local political leaders on the importance of education of raptor-related education (EWT Law & Policy Working Group / Contact Trust – achievable nationally).

SOLUTION 3

Short-term plan could be to identify teachers at urban and rural schools.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 2

THERE IS INSUFFICIENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCIENTISTS, THE RAPTOR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY, THE EDUCATORS AND THE PUBLIC.

SOLUTION 1

Establish an electronic communication network between the scientific community and other role-players.

Action Step 1:

Create an internet discussion group with links to the RCG website.

- Responsible: Start with all at workshop, RCG to implement.

Action Step 2:

Rewrite and popularise scientific data (GABAR, Talon Talk and other media).

- Responsible: RCG to drive and implement.

SOLUTION 2

Encourage tertiary institutions to include awareness element into graduate studies e.g graduate students need to popularise theses.

- Responsible: Start off with Gerard Malan and Andrew Jenkins, national level later.

SOLUTION 3

Encourage funding bodies e.g. NRF to include public awareness element into their funding requirements – one of their missions is 'bringing knowledge to life'.

- Responsible: Ulrich Oberprieler to drive this.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 3

THERE IS INSUFFICIENT HUMAN CAPACITY (INCLUDING LACK OF TRANSFORMATION) AND A LACK OF LONG-TERM EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND CONTINUED INTERACTION, AND A LACK OF MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RAPTOR EDUCATORS.

SOLUTION 1

- Incorporate raptor information at into the Tswane University of Technology (TUT) 2nd year environmental education curriculum.
- Identify appropriate priority research projects and appropriate university students to undertake this work.

SOLUTION 2

Host workshops for teachers, conservationists, tour guides, Working for Water (WfW), Eskom employees, Field Guides Association of South Africa (FGASA), THETA, Department of Water and Forestry Affairs (DWAF), farmers and farm workers and advertise for volunteers to become involved in training programmes.

Action Step:

Advertise for volunteers to become involved in training programmes.

- Responsibility: Conservation Leadership Group (CLG), Tracy, Shannon, Jonathan, the National Birds of Prey Centre and the rest of the RCG.

SOLUTION 3

Create awareness among previously disadvantaged communities about career opportunities and identify individuals with potential.

SOLUTION 4

Long-term education: Encourage educators to develop long-term education programmes, to follow up interactions with the public and evaluate the effectiveness of programmes, i.e. have a long-term view.

SOLUTION 5

Standards for raptor educators: Create a forum to address the standards required for raptor education incorporating the use of raptor displays.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 4

TARGET GROUPS ARE NOT CLEARLY IDENTIFIED, EDUCATION PROGRAMMES ARE NOT NECESSARILY RELEVANT TO CONSERVATION PRIORITIES, AND WE DON'T ALWAYS ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC TARGET GROUP EFFECTIVELY.

SOLUTION 1

Convene an education working group to determine educational target groups.

SOLUTION 2

Receive a conservation priority list from the other working groups at the workshop and implementing the plan.

SOLUTION 3

This education working group should link to target groups defined by conservation priority setting.

SOLUTION 4

Ensure that the correct message addresses the correct audience.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 5

PHYSIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS AND SOCIAL NEEDS OVERRIDE CONSERVATION NEEDS (LOWER LEVELS OF MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS PLACES LITTLE EMPHASIS ON CONSERVATION).

SOLUTION 1

Identify economic opportunities within the targeted conservation priority areas.

SOLUTION 2

"Edutainment" – initiate community-based driven "Fun Days" sponsored by local industry, with a conservation theme.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 6

THERE ARE CULTURAL BARRIERS TO EDUCATION.

SOLUTION 1

Determine what the cultural barriers are.

SOLUTION 2

Identify and train like-minded members from similar cultural groups to target the 'problem audience'.

Habitat Loss / Change Working Group

PARTICIPANTS:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Kate Webster: | EWT-RCG |
| 2. Dr Andrew Jenkins: | Western Cape Raptor Research Programme - FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town |
| 3. Riette Griesel: | EWT-RCG Southern Free State |
| 4. Hein Pienaar: | EWT-RCG Southern Gauteng |
| 5. Prof Gerard Malan: | Tswane University of Technology |
| 6. Nico Laubscher: | Northern Cape Nature Conservation |
| 7. Dawie de Swardt: | National Museum Bloemfontein |
| 8. Steven W. Evans: | BirdLife South Africa |

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

The group includes a good cross-section of people able to adequately address this subject, including researchers, field staff, landowners, provincial conservation authorities, museum scientist and NGOs.

Habitat change is an ongoing, expanding and accelerating process. Its effects are often diffuse and can be difficult to quantify, but the progressive destruction, modification and/or transformation of natural habitat may be affecting southern African raptor populations in the following ways:

- by depleting vital resources (e.g. less foraging and breeding habitat); and
- by changing the structure of natural communities and affecting the relative influences of competitive and predatory interactions.

There is limited understanding of the nature, extent and impact of this change on raptor populations. In order to determine what conservation action is necessary, there is an urgent need to qualify and quantify habitat changes taking place, estimate the apparent impact of these changes on the conservation status of our raptors, and use this knowledge to guide efforts to reverse, eliminate or at least reduce the negative effects of change.

Challenges faced:

There is a need to quantify and qualify changes taking place, and the impact on the conservation status of our raptors. We also need to make research meaningful to conservation for landowners, and use the results to determine priority actions to reverse, eliminate and reduce the threats and to improve the conservation status of our raptors.

Opportunities

Attempts to redress the effects of habitat change are likely to require input from players across the environmental spectrum. The EWT-RCG could act as the central coordinator of such a multi-disciplinary effort. By developing key raptor species as ecological indicators of habitat quality and/or flagships for habitat preservation, we may be able to achieve broader conservation objectives while ensuring the long-term welfare of threatened

PROBLEM STATEMENTS AND SOLUTIONS:

PROBLEM STATEMENT 1

HABITAT DESTRUCTION (WHOLESALE TRANSFORMATION, FRAGMENTATION) THROUGH LAND-USE IMPACTS ON THE QUANTITY OF AVAILABLE HABITAT (E.G. URBANISATION, AFFORESTATION, DEFORESTATION, CROP FARMING, DAMS).

SOLUTION 1

A modelling study using existing GIS coverage and overlapping these with raptor distribution and abundance data to determine the extent of various forms of habitat destruction and their relative impacts on raptor populations. The execution of this research will be done in the context of and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)).

SOLUTION 2

Use the results of the modelling study to review the conservation status of raptors in relation to land-use changes.

SOLUTION 3

Refine the modelling study through field-based research of priority species and areas (e.g. Important Bird Areas) deemed particularly threatened by land-use changes as per the modelling exercise and review of raptor conservation status.

SOLUTION 4

Make information on the impacts of land-use and developments affecting raptors available to Environmental Impact Assessment processes.

SOLUTION 5

Pre-emptive identification and communication of no-go land use areas for the conservation of raptors and their habitats (e.g. Important Bird Areas).

SOLUTION 6

Encourage a network of raptor conservationists to become involved in combating or mitigating the negative effects of habitat destructive processes impacting on raptors in their areas (e.g. alien vegetation clearing).

SOLUTION 7

Identify and promote raptors (e.g. Lesser Kestrel, Black Harrier, African Marsh Harrier, Black Sparrowhawk & Grass Owl) as indicators of habitat destruction and as flagships for habitat conservation to all relevant stakeholders (e.g. farmers groups, associations NGOs etc.).

PROBLEM STATEMENT 2

HABITAT DEGRADATION (SUBTLE MODIFICATION) THROUGH POOR MANAGEMENT IMPACTS ON THE QUALITY OF RAPTOR HABITAT (E.G. OVER-GRAZING, DESERTIFICATION, FIRE, BUSH ENCROACHMENT, EROSION, TRAMPLING, ALIEN INFESTATION, POLLUTION).

SOLUTION 1

A modelling study using existing GIS coverage and overlaying these with raptor distribution and abundance data to determine the extent of the various forms of habitat degradation and their relative impacts on raptor populations. The execution of this research will be done in the context of and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)).

SOLUTION 2

Use the results of the modelling study to review the conservation status of raptors in relation to various forms of habitat degradation.

SOLUTION 3

Refine the modelling study through field based research of priority species and areas (e.g. Important Bird Areas) deemed particularly threatened by factors causing habitat degradation as per the modelling exercise and review of raptor conservation status (Solutions 1 and 2).

SOLUTION 4

Pre-emptive identification and communication of no-go areas important for the conservation of raptors and their habitats (e.g. Important Bird Areas).

SOLUTION 5

Provide recommendations to landowners and managers to reverse eliminate or reduce the degradation of raptor habitat.

SOLUTION 6

Encourage a network of raptor conservationists to become involved in combating or mitigating the negative effects of habitat degrading processes on raptors in their areas (e.g. alien vegetation clearing).

SOLUTION 7

Identify and promote raptors (e.g. Martial Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Lesser Kestrel, Amur Falcon, Black Harrier and African Marsh Harrier) as indicators of habitat degradation and as flagships for habitat conservation to all relevant stakeholders (e.g. farmers groups, associations NGO's etc.).

PROBLEM STATEMENT 3

THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE WILL INCREASINGLY INFLUENCE THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF RAPTOR HABITAT CHANGES AT ALL SCALES.

SOLUTION 1

A modelling study using existing GIS coverage and overlaying these with raptor distribution and abundance data to determine the predicted extent and impacts of climate change on raptor habitats and populations. The execution of this research will be done in the context of, and in collaboration with, other relevant initiatives (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)).

This, and the modelling studies proposed under Problem Statements 1 and 2 (above) will be conducted as one study. The results of the Climate Change component are likely to influence actions taken under Problem Statements 1 and 2.

SOLUTION 2

Lobby government and the international community with the modelling and research results for the appropriate changes to legislation and attitudes to effect a positive change.

Foot note to problem statements 1 - 3

Although we are using the terms destruction (wholesale transformation) and degradation (subtle modification) it was noted that changes to habitat do not always have negative impacts on all raptor populations. Modification of natural or human-made habitats impacting positively on populations of threatened or potentially threatened raptor species should be cautiously encouraged (e.g. stands of exotic trees providing a substitute habitat for raptors where forests have been destroyed). Modification of natural or human-made habitat impacting negatively on populations of threatened or potentially threatened raptor species should be discouraged.

Table 1. Raptor species proposed as possible indicators of habitat change and/or flagships for habitat conservation.

Habitat Destruction	Indicators (Species)	Habitat
	Black Harrier	Lowland Fynbos and Renosterveld
	Lesser Kestrel, Grass Owl, Amur Falcon	Grassland
	Black Sparrowhawk & Crowned Eagle	Forest and alien trees
Habitat Degradation		
	Martial Eagle & Tawny Eagle	Karoo, Kalahari, Savannah
	Lesser Kestrel, Grass Owl, Amur Falcon; Jackal Buzzard, Lanner Falcon	Grasslands
	Black Harrier	Lowland Fynbos and Renosterveld
	African Marsh Harrier	Wetlands

Immediate Threats Working Group

PARTICIPANTS:

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1. | Chris van Rooyen | EWT-ESKOM Partnership |
| 2. | Brian Colahan | Free State Environmental Affairs |
| 3. | Eugene Marais | Poison Working Group & Raptor Conservation Group |
| 4. | Gerhard Verdoorn | Poison Working Group & Raptor Conservation Group |
| 5. | Adri Barkhuizen | Raptor Conservation Group |
| 6. | Hank Chalmers | Spier Eagle Encounters |
| 7. | Koos de Goede | Raptor Conservation Group |
| 8. | Tim Snow | Poison Working Group & Raptor Conservation Group |

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

Raptors in southern Africa are under pressure from a number of direct threats. These threats may have severe detrimental impacts on raptor populations and the future survival of the species, and require intervention. Some of the threats are current and real such as unnatural mortalities that are mostly human induced whereas others are futuristic of nature such as the possible impact of natural pathogens that may cross bio-geographical boundaries and impact on southern African raptor populations. Unsustainable use of raptors is something that needs monitoring and intervention while greater awareness of the issues that raptors are facing may resolve some of these.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS AND SOLUTIONS:

It is important to quantify the impact of the immediate threats on raptor populations

PROBLEM STATEMENT 1

UNNATURAL MORTALITIES OF RAPTORS OCCUR IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1.1. POWERLINE IMPACTS

SOLUTION

Continue working with and expand the relationship with the EWT-ESKOM Partnership.

This project is managed by Chris van Rooyen who contacts EWT/RCG field workers or volunteers for reports and follow-ups of incidents *ad hoc*. We cannot interfere with the project's defined goals but make the suggestions below:

Action Step 1:

Reprint educational posters and/or pamphlets produced by the EWT to supply the need for additional educational material.

Action Step 2:

Supply all field workers with an updated set of report forms by the EWT/Eskom project.

Action Step 3:

Advise the project manager about progress of available mitigation measures.

1.2. POISONING

SOLUTION 1

Increase awareness and education via the EWT's Poison Working Group (PWG).

Action Step 1:

Continue with, and expand the PWG Commercial Farmer programme.

Action Step 2:

Expand volunteer network to improve reporting.

Action Step 3:

Volunteer training on poison investigation protocols and toxicology specimen collection.

SOLUTION 2

Collaboration with provincial conservation authorities and other institutions on anti-poisoning campaigns.

Action Step:

Continue PWG training primary training programme for conservation authorities with *ad hoc* refreshers.

1.3. DROWNING IN FARM RESERVOIRS

SOLUTION 1

Institute a publicity and awareness campaign.

Action Step 1:

Distribute Northern Cape Nature Conservation's information brochures to public.

Action Step 2:

Media campaign targeting farmers, by Northern Cape Nature Conservation.

SOLUTION 2

Promote mitigation measures at farmers' days.

SOLUTION 3

Promote demonstrated solutions to farmers.

1.4. ROAD MORTALITIES

SOLUTION 1

Promote awareness of raptors on roads and the hazards posed by roads via a publicity campaign and the media.

Action Step 1:

The RCG should produce a media statement and distribute widely.

Action Step 2:

The RCG should write articles for Talon Talk, Vet News and other appropriate media.

SOLUTION 2

Lobby conservation agencies to participate in capturing data on road mortalities.

1.5. PERSECUTION

SOLUTION 1

Promote awareness and education programmes amongst the farming community.

SOLUTION 2

Manage conflict situations actively.

SOLUTION 3

Encourage and support effective law enforcement.

1.6. COLLISIONS WITH FARM FENCES

SOLUTION 1

Identify problem areas and quantify the extent of the problem.

SOLUTION 2

Create awareness of the available assistance to resolve problems through media exposure.

SOLUTION 3

Distribute information on fence marking to increase fence visibility.

SOLUTION 4

Create incentives and job opportunities for local communities to mark fences.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 2

HUMAN DISTURBANCE. NEST AND ROOST DISTURBANCE MAY BE CAUSED BY RAPTOR RINGERS AND RESEARCHERS WHILE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY WILL ALSO HAVE A DISTURBING EFFECT. DISTURBANCE CAN ALSO BE COMMITTED IN THE PROCESS OF LAND INVASION, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE.

SOLUTION 1

Create public awareness through targeted multi-media campaigns.

SOLUTION 2

Generate awareness amongst pilots through the Directorate of Civil Aviation and aviation targeted printed media.

SOLUTION 3

Only allow *bona fide* AFRING registered ringers to ring raptors.

SOLUTION 4

Lobby government to strictly enforce land restitution and resettlement policies and regulations.

SOLUTION 5

Raptorophile volunteers need to participate in the EIA processes through doing part of the EIA study and commenting on EIA reports.

SOLUTION 6

Make government departments aware that raptorophiles have information available about raptors that is important for the EIA process.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 3

DEPLETION OF PREY RESOURCES. PREY RESOURCES ARE BEING DEPLETED BY THE POACHING OF PREY ANIMALS, BOUNTY HUNTING OF PREY ANIMALS AND AGRICULTURAL PEST CONTROL.

SOLUTION 1

Create awareness of the problem among farmers, farm workers and other landowners of the problem through the media and workshops.

SOLUTION 2

Lobby government to encourage and enforce sustainable and responsible agricultural pest management.

SOLUTION 3

Ensure legal compliance through collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

SOLUTION 4

Assess and address the impact of feral dogs on raptor prey species.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 4

UTILISATION OF RAPTORS IS UNSUSTAINABLE.

SOLUTION 1

To address the problems associated with Muthi collection and trade:

- Assess the extent of collection and the real impact.
- Collaborate with law enforcers and user groups in the development of a policy for sustainable resource utilisation

SOLUTION 2

To address the problems associated with killing for consumption as a protein source:

- Education and awareness of the community in which such activities occur.

SOLUTION 3

To address the problems associated with killing for trophies and illegal trade:

- Awareness and education.
- Effective law enforcement and standardise policies and legislation across South Africa (this is dealt with by the Legislation Working Group).
- Collaboration with the taxidermy industry.

SOLUTION 4

To address the problems associated with nest robbing for nestlings and eggs, and illegal falconry:

- Awareness and education.
- Effective law enforcement through collaboration with falconry institutions and conservation agencies.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 5

DISEASES POSE A THREAT TO WILD RAPTOR POPULATIONS.

SOLUTION 1

Compile a disease risk policy document that can be used by all vets working within the wildlife / bird interface.

SOLUTION 2

Lobby government departments to ensure strict enforcement of bio-security measures.

SOLUTION 3

Lobby for the eradication of alien bird species that are disease vectors (like feral pigeons).

SOLUTION 4

In drafting the policy document as described in Solution 1 above, make use of work done by the Western Cape Conservation Board and others.

PROBLEM STATEMENT 6**INAPPROPRIATE REHABILITATION PRACTICES AND RELEASE OF RAPTORS****SOLUTION 1**

Propose stricter controls and limitations on the activities of raptor rehabilitation facilities.

SOLUTION 2

Apply existing documentation from the international conservation community to the local field, to ensure that contact and communication between facilities occurs.

SOLUTION 3

Promote data collection on this problem.

Research point:

Suggested marking of adult birds to assess survival of adult birds on farmland vs. conservation areas, to assess rate of turnover and thus rates of unnatural mortality (Andrew Jenkins). There is a need to determine rates of adult mortality in populations that are being actively monitored in order to determine sources of mortality and the effects of the unnatural mortality threats.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN RAPTOR CONSERVATION

Strategic Planning Workshop

23 – 25 March 2004

Gariep Dam, Free State, South Africa

WORKSHOP REPORT



SECTION 5

RAPTOR CONSERVATION GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Raptor Conservation Group Discussions

INTRODUCTION

During the last half day of the workshop, the entire group convened and held an open discussion to discuss various structures which would be required to most effectively implement the strategic framework / plan and in particular, the most effective structure for the Raptor Conservation Group (RCG) of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) as a driving force behind much of the Plan. The RCG was considered by many to have become exclusionary and many groups felt that the group needed to be more inclusive and representative if it is to be successful in its future activities.

The following points capture the essence of the discussions and conclusions.

1. Where should the RCG be going and what is its role?

- Central administration
- Watchdog, keeping an eye on policies and implementation
- Administrative hub of all Raptor conservation and research activities
- Fundraiser support for projects
- Publishing *Gabar* (journal)
- Prioritise *Gabar*
- Facilitate and coordinate strategic plan - Platform to assist communication between stakeholder groups, facilitate and bring groups together
- DRIVE UNIFICATION OF POLICIES NATIONALLY
- Follow lines of Vulture Study Group (VSG) successes
- Must be an open forum and inclusive

2. What is the role of the RCG in implementing the strategic plan?

- Facilitator
- No responsibility other than being the coordinating forum between the provinces, to collect data, talk on legislation and encourage people out of isolation
- To drive the formulation of national policy and uniform legislation
- Management of meta databases and in some cases specific databases?
- Convene annual meeting of all stakeholders
- Provide domicile for non-student researchers for example, volunteers, i.e. coordinate volunteers and related projects

3. To what degree must RCG drive projects?

- Domicile for volunteer projects
- Identify gaps and develop projects to address these
- Coordinate project implementation and data collation

4. Are there gaps where RCG must implement rather than facilitate?

- The RCG can coordinate larger “national projects” where capacity lacks in provinces e.g. Lesser Kestrels.
- RCG projects should focus on where there is a lack of capacity.
- Volunteer-based projects.
- The EWT has strength in working with landowners and the RCG must use this without duplicating efforts (well coordinated programmes).
- Establish more formal links with the Avian Demography Unit of the University of Cape Town and other universities, provincial conservation departments and other relevant organisations.
- Develop resource materials on national scale.
- Membership role? Where do they fit in and what say do they have in the management of the RCG? Can they be included more?
- Need for greater democracy in RCG committees – more people should be included and invited to participate. The group should be open to all stakeholders.
- Improve interaction between the EWT’s RCG and Vulture Study Group and avoid duplication of efforts and projects.
- Identify any gaps and direct them to the best home to get them addressed.

5. What is the best structure for the RCG to achieve these aims?

- Satellite committees of RCG could be provincially-based and give input into a national committee.
- Chairs of provinces make up central / national committee.
- Regionalism exists, but there is a need for a coordinator for all NGO volunteer work.
- Open minded view on all participants, stakeholders.
- Important to extend to other southern African countries to support their efforts.
- Must establish links with other NGO committees/clubs etc. e.g. BLSA.
- Need for more employees? Not necessarily. Broad base of stakeholders wanted.
- Employment question can be dealt with at a later stage as group complexity grows.
- Defined, manageable duties for regional representatives.
- Principle of inclusion of all – format debatable.
- EWT-Blue Swallow Working Group example of regional project coordinators driving regional projects but being coordinated nationally.
- The problem with overburdening individuals, costs etc needs to be considered.
- Falconers felt excluded but they could fit under clubs – Jenny to check
- WG Manager could represent the provincial reps

6. Discussions around the RCG Committee

- As a starting point, the graphic below was presented as a suggested new structure for the RCG committee.
- Is the RCG committee executive or advisory? Executive power lies with EWT / RCG staff, through the working group manager, to the EWT management. Committee is not legal entity but an advisory forum.
- Should there be an election of a new RCG committee / chair?
- Term of office? Defined as 1 year, but need to consider continuity. Elected at annual meeting, chair elected by committee.
- Portfolios around this workshop’s themes suggested.

- Committee has to drive the implementation of the strategic plan - thematic or discipline-based portfolios therefore suggested.
- User groups need representation on the committee too.
- Primary and secondary reps must be selected to ensure representation and committee members cannot have anonymous seats.
- Agriculture rep?
- National annual meeting must be held.

7. Define criteria for selecting committee members

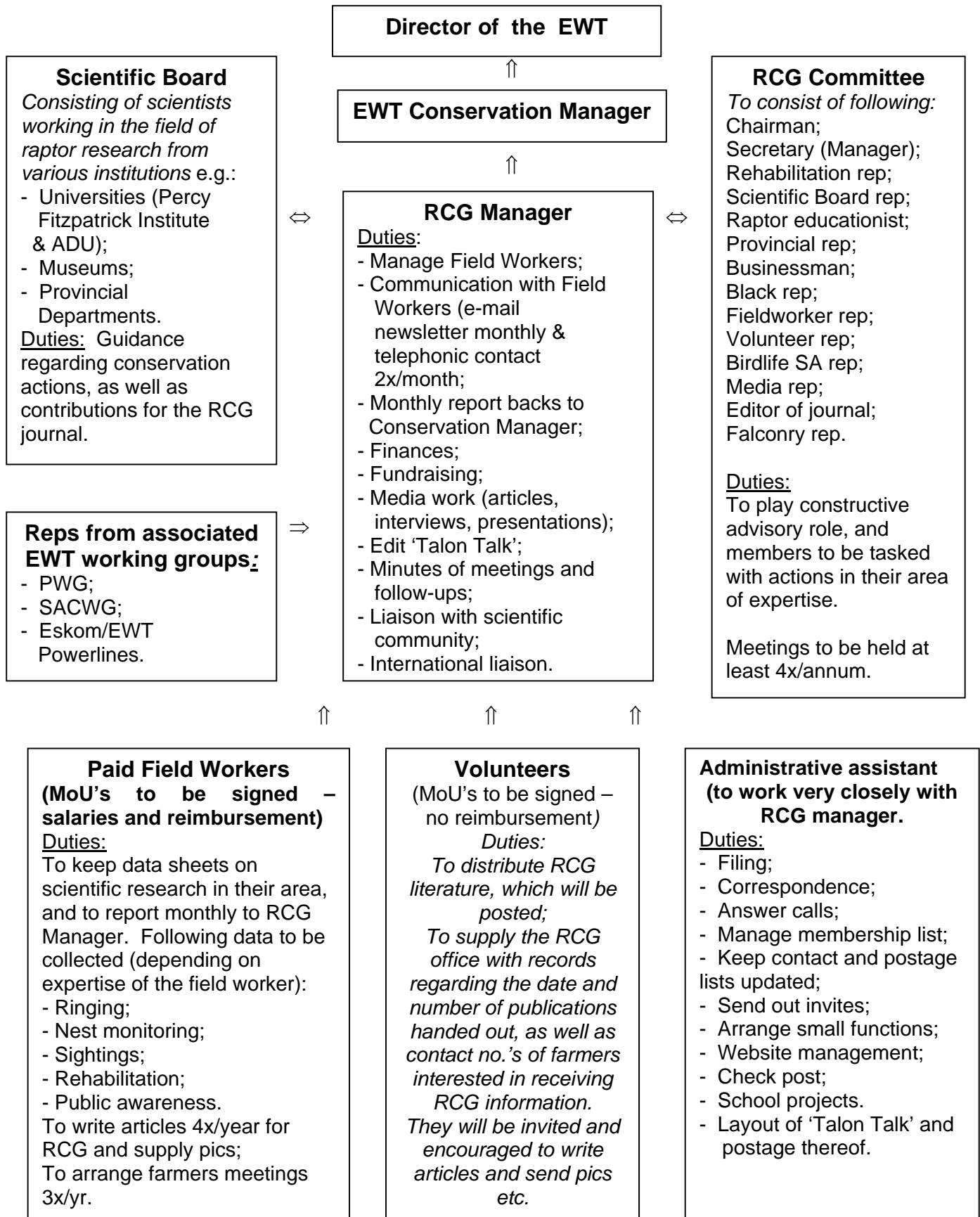
- Access to e-mail.
- Support of group.
- Agreement to nomination.
- Own transport.
- Willingness to attend 4 meetings per annum.
- Need serious portfolio insight.
- Institutional support.
- Experience base.
- Primary and secondary representation principle, therefore two nominations per portfolio.

8. Conclusion

The following points were agreed to as a way forward:

- The existing RCG committee would continue to meet and drive the projects currently under way.
- A new Transitional Committee would be elected and would deal with the issues of transforming the RCG. This would be done over the next 3 – 6 months.
- The idea of committee portfolios was agreed to, although more discussion as to which portfolios should exist needs to be had (the graphic presented would be used as a starting point).
- The transitional committee would consider the various potential portfolios on the new RCG committee, and the means of implementing the changes and make recommendations on these.
- Recommendations from this transitional committee as to the most appropriate structure of the RCG and process of implementation will be presented to the group and the EWT management for consideration and implementation thereafter.
- The issue of possibly merging the RCG and VSG would be raised at the upcoming VSG Strategic Planning workshop to be held within the next month, and thereafter, dealt with by the transitional committee as part of any restructuring process.

SUGGESTED RESTRUCTURING OF THE RAPTOR CONSERVATION GROUP
(Line of reporting from top to bottom)



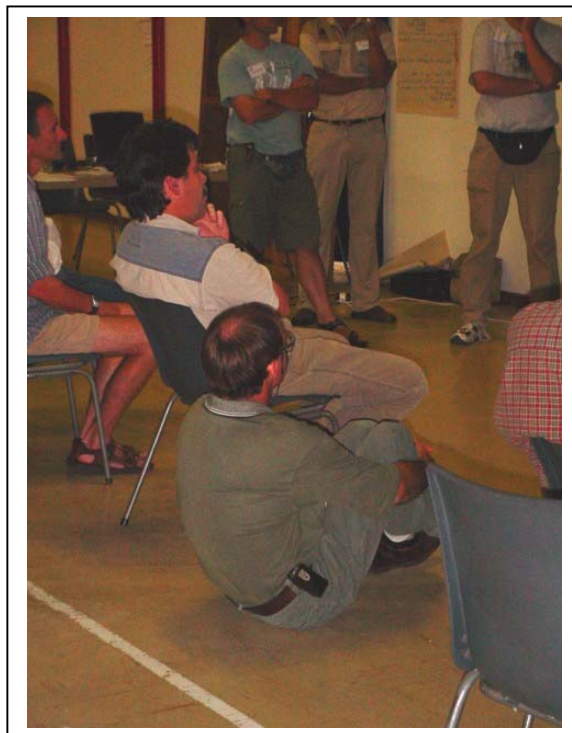
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SECTION 6

RAPTOR CONSERVATION WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Raptor Conservation Workshop Participants

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WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS' HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS

	What do you hope will be accomplished at this workshop?	What do you wish to contribute to the workshop?
1.	Find a common vision for raptor conservation in southern Africa, and find ways to get there.	Experience with conservation partnerships.
2.	Find a common goal for raptor conservation in South Africa that everybody adheres and agrees to.	Put raptor conservation on a secure scientific footing.
3.	To understand the way in which different organizations work and find a successful way to work together.	
4.	A framework for community-based raptor conservation i.e. owl boxes for rodent control.	Some ideas, a little knowledge and general interest.
5.	A cohesive long-term strategy for the conservation of birds of prey in which all role-players will have an input based on their specialist field.	The management of birds of prey in rehabilitation centres and captivity/sustainable use, based on scientific principles.
6.	Networks established, controls enforced and awareness of enviro facts and figures.	A different angle or viewpoint because I come from an 'industry' that is on the edge of raptor conservation, but I believe as important. The general public cannot appreciate something they have never seen or know nothing about. It is my responsibility to learn and understand what is happening in South Africa naturally and managerially, and communicate this to the general public to try and ensure the conservation of raptor species.
7.	Better cooperation and understanding between different groups.	My knowledge and experience.
8.	Find guidelines to conserve/sustain natural raptor populations through research, education and discussion.	Find solutions.
9.	I hope decisions will be taken that will promote raptor conservation in South Africa. Decisions good for birds of prey and their future.	I am not sure, but I hope I can be useful in some way. I have a legal background and shall be interested to hear about legal problems/challenges concerning raptor conservation.
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input from a wide range of stakeholders; - Clear indication of what it is that the RCG is about (role etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full participation; - Experience with volunteers.
11.	<p>The following issues regarding the RCG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation direction (prioritizing and quick reaction to conservation projects); - Improving communication within the RCG; - Meeting the needs of the historically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss relevant topics regarding raptor conservation and provide a plan to move forward; - An avenue of communication between the scientific community and conservation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disadvantaged communities; - RCG membership (its future and member participation); - The future of GABAR. 	
12.	Put an end to faction fighting within the field of raptor conservation by acknowledging that there is a role for everyone, and that by working together and exchanging expertise we can move forward in a more directed manner. Involvement of other racial groups.	Any field specific skills I have. I am open to suggestions from people in other fields. Practical input.
13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A coherent plan that address the many facets of raptor conservation; - An opportunity for many different organizations and individuals to contribute to raptor conservation in the short, medium and long term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My experience; - My knowledge; - My insight; - My encouragement and support.
14.	<p>A long-term strategy for the RCG which addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The key threats to birds of prey in the region; - Improved collaboration and communication between relevant role players; - A scientific basis to raptor work in the region. 	My knowledge of birds of prey in the Northern Cape Province.
15.	That we reach consensus on, and commitment to, an achievable way to ensure the sustainable conservation of southern Africa's raptor populations.	My time, energy, knowledge and expertise, and an open mind.
16.	An action plan giving guidance on what provincial nature conservation authorities should be doing for the conservation of birds of prey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My limited knowledge of birds of prey in the Free State; - My ideas on raptor conservation in this province.
17.	I hope that the strategic framework will be used/adopted by all formal conservation agencies and that the framework will be robust enough to be applied to other single species working groups. It must also start reflecting the long-term changes we are seeing in climate and political direction.	Have a very broad base experience with field and management, formal and informal.
18.	Develop a strategic collaborative framework for the conservation of birds of prey and their habitat.	Insight and understanding of conservation issues.
19.	To foster a cooperative working relationship between falconer, the RCG and conservation. Not prescribed to by the RCG but mutual consideration and understanding of each other's views.	Knowledge and experience of birds of prey and problems pertaining to their conservation.
20.	Find solutions to raptor conservation problems.	To help to find a plan to ensure the future of birds of prey with respect to various disciplines.
21.	Find an outlet for the falconry community to contribute and participate in raptor conservation.	Whatever I can, based on 30 years of experience in dealing with falconry related issues, including policies and protocols as

		well as conservation and sustainable utilization issues.
22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The working together of all groups; - Communication; - All specialist fields are used to make decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To bring a separate group of experience/understanding to the group for the common goal of raptor conservation.
23.	That individuals and/or organizations with a common passion and goal, but with different opinions and strategies, can come together and combine ideas and motivations to achieve a greater good.	I wish to learn about other aspects in order to understand what part I have to play.
24.	To create a strategic plan for raptor conservation (particularly for the RCG) by involving various stakeholders, their ideas, opinions and objectives. To get every ones commitment to implement the plan and to be part of dynamic changes to the plan in the coming years.	My knowledge and skills regarding environmental issues, but especially my holistic approach i.e. seeing the bigger picture.
25.	<p>Make a start at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a framework/platform for involvement of all stakeholders in raptor conservation, irrespective of personalities, controversies, and the past; - Development of an agreed and realistic strategy for the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats in southern Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where appropriate create linkages, synergies and partnerships between Birdlife South Africa's projects and programmes, where these BLSA programmes and projects can contribute to raptor conservation in southern Africa; - See where BLSA's projects and programmes can contribute to raptor conservation in southern Africa.
26.	A coherent and logical plan of action for the RCG with clear definition of expectation and functions of all role-players within that frame.	Offer some pragmatic solutions towards raptor conservation by eliminating, resolving/or reducing conflict between primarily conservationist and unsustainable threats to birds of prey.
27.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set national priorities for raptor conservation; - Clearly define research priorities and conservation priorities; - Clearly define the role of the RCG in SA's raptor fraternity as a conservation implementation agency. 	Experience in working with landowners, conflict resolution, biological research, mitigating human impacts on birds of prey, agrochemical knowledge, managing unpaid and dedicated volunteers, and knowledge of the species.
28.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration i.e. building partnerships with people/institutions/groups that are important for the future conservation of birds of prey but have previously been excluded; - Form a basic inclusive framework/structure from the delegates that can be used to achieve the goals/objectives emanating from the workshop; - Prioritize conservation objectives in order to conserve birds of prey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ideas regarding known threats; - Bring people together.

29.	A new vision for raptor conservation in southern Africa, building on the successes of the past and expanding these into the future.	As much info and support and commitment from EWT to the process for achieving success as possible
30.	Better communication between all different participants (representatives) to promote raptor conservation, and most important to make clear what the role of raptor conservation can play in conservation as a whole.	To give my opinion and views coming from an ordinary volunteer on ground level regarding specific problems in my area.
31.	Development of strategies (policies) and way forward for the RCG to contribute to raptor conservation.	Field experience, knowledge and participation.
32.	Produce a framework and action plan for raptor conservation in an endeavour to conserve birds of prey and their environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raptor knowledge; - Ecological knowledge; - Project planning knowledge.
33.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify where I fit into the big picture of the RCG i.e. my role within the RCG; - Hope the word conservation is maintained in the RCG. 	My own background knowledge and experiences in relation to the problems I face in relation to birds of prey and the conservation thereof.
34.	Formulate a workable plan and to figure out where I fit into the picture.	To give a positive contribution in the conservation of our scare fauna and flora.
35.	A well balanced, complete, yet clear strategic plan for conserving all birds of prey and their habitats.	Knowledge, experience of similar situations within other fields.
36.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be part of a plan for conservation development in order to conserve birds of prey; - To share ideas, and working with other interested parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To make my expertise on raptor ringing, and as a museum scientist available; - To emphasize the role that collection managers/researchers can play in raptor conservation and education.
37.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compilation of a clear list of conservation priorities and at least some indication as to how to achieve these; - Improved communication between role-players. 	Local knowledge and experience.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN RAPTOR CONSERVATION

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WORKSHOP REPORT



SECTION 7

APPENDICES

You are invited to a
WORKSHOP On the
FUTURE CONSERVATION OF RAPTORS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

At
Aventura Gariep Dam

FREE STATE PROVINCE

Dates: 23 March – 25 March 2004 (Registration evening of 22 March at 20h00)

Aims of the Workshop:

- to encourage collaboration among individuals interested in, and involved in, the conservation, research and utilization of raptor species in southern Africa;
- to evaluate the current known status of raptor populations within the southern African region, as well as present research and conservation initiatives in the region;
- to identify short and medium-term priorities regarding the future conservation of raptor species in the region, and
- to produce an action plan for the conservation of the raptors in our region, which will be evaluated within 5 years.

Cost for 3 days: Sharing – R680.00/Not Sharing – R950.00

The Cost Includes:

Fully equipped chalets (linen and towels provided and full kitchen)

(The chalets consist of 2 or 3 bedroom units, some with a double bed, most with 2 single beds and 1 bathroom. 'Sharing' means 2 persons per room, while 'Not Sharing', means a room to yourself, but still sharing bathroom facilities.)

Dinner in the restaurant upon arrival;

Morning and afternoon tea with eats;

Full buffet lunch;

Salads and/or rolls with evening braai's;

Fuel for fires.

Please bring:

Own breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, sugar, rusks, cereal etc). To be enjoyed in the luxury of your chalet every morning before the workshop begins;

Meat for one braai (or alternative 'vegetarian braaiable food');

Boerewors for boerewors-rolls (or alternative 'vegetarian something for rolls');

Own drinks for the evenings.

Basket to carry crockery and cutlery from chalet each evening.

Please fax registration form together with deposit slip to: Jenny le Roux

Fax no. (011) 486 1506

E-mail: rcg@ewt.org.za.

APPENDIX 2: Raptor Conservation Strategic Planning Workshop Programme

22 – 25 March 2004 at Gariep Aventura, Free State Province.

Date & Time	Topic	Speaker
22 March		
18h00 – 20h00	Registration outside restaurant	
23 March		
07h30 – 07h45	Welcoming & Introductions	Jenny le Roux
07h45 – 08h15	Raptor status in N.Cape	Mark Anderson
08h15 – 08h35	Raptor status in Free State	Brian Colahan
08h35 – 08h55	Raptor status in Limpopo	Kobus Pienaar
08h55 – 09h25	Raptor status in Gauteng	Dr Craig Whittington-Jones
09h25 – 09h45	Raptor status in KZN	Bill Howells
09h45 – 10h00	Wrap up for provincial reports	Including feedback from W.Cape (Guy Palmer) and Eastern Cape (Alan Stephenson)
10h00 – 10h20 Tea/Coffee & Eats		
10h20 – 10h50	W.Cape Raptor Research Programme	Dr Andrew Jenkins
10h50 – 11h30	Avian Demography Unit and road counts	James Harrison
11h30 – 11h50	SAFRING	Mark Anderson on behalf of Dieter Oschaedleus
11h50 – 12h20	Raptor Conservation Group	Jenny le Roux
12h20 – 12h30	Vulture Study Group	Mark Anderson
12h30 – 13h30 Lunch		
13h30 – 13h50	Birdlife SA	Steven Evans
13h50 – 13h10	Migrating Kestrels	Hein Pienaar
14h10 – 14h30	Pale Chanting Goshawks	Prof Gerard Malan
14h30 – 15h00	Persecution of Raptors in the Eastern Cape	Adri Barkhuysen
15h00 – 15h30	Eskom/EWT Strategic Partnership	Chris van Rooyen
15h30 – 15h45 Tea/Coffee & Eats		
15h45 – 16h05	Falconry	Alan Stephenson
16h05 – 16h25	Falconry in Zimbabwe	Dr Adrian Lombard on behalf of Ron Hartley
16h25 – 16h45	Rehabilitation	Lorna Stanton
16h45 – 17h05	Effect of poisons on raptors	Prof Gerhard Verdoorn
17h05 – 17h25	Drowning in farm reservoirs	Mark Anderson
17h25 – 17h45	Raptor education	Ulrich Oberprieler
17h45 – 18h00	Wrap up for Day 1	Jenny le Roux
19h00 – 21h00	Braai on hilltop	

24 March		
07h30 – 08h00	Role of NGOs	Dr Nick King
08h00 – 08h30	Introduction to CBSG (Conservation Breeding Specialist Group) workshop process	Yolan Friedmann
08h30 – 10h00	Work Session 1	Group session to determine issues and form stakeholder groups
10h00 – 10h20	Tea	
10h20 – 12h30	Work Session 2	Breakaway groups
12h30 – 13h15	Lunch	
13h15 – 15h30	Work Session 3	Breakaway groups
15h30 – 15h50	Tea	
15h50 – 17h00	Work Session 4	Breakaway groups
17h00 – 17h30	Plenary session	
18h30	Boerewors braai outside conference room	
20h00 till late	Continue if necessary	All
25 March		
07h30 – 08h30	Completion of working group reports	All
08h30 – 10h30	Discuss structure of Raptor Conservation Group	All
10h30 – 11h00	Election of RCG Committee	All
11h00	Closure	Jenny le Roux
12h00	Lunch	



THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

www.ewt.org.za

The EWT is one of the largest conservation non-governmental organisations in southern Africa. Established in 1973, the EWT conducts grass-roots conservation activities through the work of its specialist Working Groups which collectively coordinate between 90 and 110 projects throughout southern Africa. The EWT conserves threatened species and their habitats through field-based projects, applied research and community conservation programmes and has developed effective partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholder groups, ranging from government agencies, corporations and industry to farmers and landowners.

Current EWT Working Groups include:

- African Wattled Crane Programme
- Airports Company Strategic Partnership
- Bat Conservation Group
- Blue Swallow Working Group
- Carnivore Conservation Group
- CBSG Southern Africa
- Conservation Leadership Group
- Eskom Powerlines Strategic Partnership
- Law and Policy Working Group
- Marine and Coastal Working Group
- Oribi Working Group
- Poison Working Group
- Raptor Conservation Group
- Riverine Rabbit Working Group
- South African Crane Working Group
- Vulture Study Group
- Wildlife Biological Resource Centre

Partnerships have been established with:

- TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa South African office (partnership)
- *Forum Natureza em Perigo* (The Mozambique arm of the EWT)

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Raptor Conservation Group is committed to the conservation of the natural populations of diurnal and nocturnal raptors in southern Africa by the initiation and support of research, conservation and education programmes based on scientific and sound conservation principles



OBJECTIVES:

1. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The main target audience of the RCG are farmers, as the majority of the birds of prey in South Africa are dependent on their goodwill and tolerance. Education of, and creating awareness with these farmers concerning the importance of raptors in ecosystem functioning, is therefore paramount. This is done through personal visits to farmers by field coordinators and through delivering presentations at farmers meetings. Special literature targeting farmers, is also produced and is one of the highest priorities of the Raptor Conservation Group. Datasheets which record the dates, venues and number of people addressed, have been instated to ascertain the number of farmers being addressed annually.

2. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Field coordinators are volunteers who spend many hours observing raptors on their nests, as well as trapping, measuring and ringing them. Datasheets regarding these activities are used to provide useful trend data over the next few years.

3. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Conflict between farmers and raptors, perceived or real, has led to a decline in their populations in South Africa during the last 20 years. The most unpleasant task of the field coordinators is to resolve this conflict which is handled expertly, and often results in a 'converted' farmer, who is willing to try and change the attitudes of his neighbours.

4. REHABILITATION

Raptor rehabilitation is necessary when sick or injured birds are brought in by members of the public. Datasheets regarding the species, nature of the injury and treatment and location, as well as the date of release or death, are dutifully recorded.

5. PUBLICATIONS

To create awareness among the broader public, it is necessary to write articles for as many popular magazines as possible. The RCG produces a vast amount of public information and popular articles on the plight of raptors. Sponsors are acknowledged for their important role via this route. Scientific publications on the research and monitoring conducted by the RCG and other raptor conservationists is published in the RCG journal *Gabar* and the RCG newsletter *Talon Talk* is produced to highlight various projects.

MAJOR PARTNERS AND OR STAKEHOLDERS:

All provincial, government and non-governmental organisations involved in the conservation of raptors.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Ongoing work on all 16 coordinated projects:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------------|
| 1. | Southwestern Cape Raptor Project | (Koos de Goede) |
| 2. | Little Karoo Raptor Project | (Andrew Schofield) |
| 3. | Eastern Cape Raptor Project | (Dr Johan Joubert) |
| 4. | Algoa Raptor Project | (Adri Barkhuysen) |
| 5. | Stormberg Raptor Project | (Kate Webster) |
| 6. | Platberg-Karoo Raptor Project | (Francois Taljaard) |
| 7. | SA Eagle Kalahari Raptor Project | (Abrie Maritz) |
| 8. | Free State Raptor Project | (Alma Fuller) |
| 9. | Hoogland Raptor Project | (Dr Pieter Koornhof) |
| 10. | Northwest Kwazulu-Natal Raptor Project | (Tim Snow) |
| 11. | Thabazimbi Raptor Project | (Riaan Nagel) |
| 12. | Migrating Kestrel Project | (Hein Pienaar) |
| 13. | Nashua Central Owl Project | (Paul Jooste) |
| 14. | Bushveld Raptor Project | (Eugene Marais) |
| 15. | Talon Talk Newsletter | (Edited by Jenny le Roux) |
| 16. | GABAR Journal | (Edited by Erica van Wyk) |

MAIN FUNDERS

SA Eagle Insurance Company:

Nashua Central:

Philagro:

VVM:

Mazda Wildlife Fund:

The Lomas Wildlife Trust:

The Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust;

The Charles van der Merwe Trust:

Kalahari Raptor Project, Algoa RP; Core funding;

Owl project;

Algoa Raptor Project;

Rehabilitation projects (x3);

Kalahari Raptor Project vehicle;

Algoa Raptor Project

South Western Cape Martial Eagle Project;

Free State Raptor Project.



INTRODUCING THE CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP

Web site at <http://www.cbsg.org>

Introduction

There is a lack of generally accepted tools to evaluate and integrate the interaction of biological, physical, and social factors on the population dynamics of the broad range of threatened species. There is a need for tools and processes to characterise the risk of species and habitat extinction, to plot the possible effects of future events and the effects of management interventions and to develop and sustain learning-based cross-institutional management programmes.

The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) has more than 15 year's experience in developing, testing and applying a series of scientifically based tools and processes to assist risk characterisation and species management decision making. These tools, based on small population and conservation biology (biological and physical factors), human demography, and the dynamics of social learning are used in intensive, problem-solving workshops to produce realistic and achievable recommendations for both *in situ* and *ex situ* population management.

The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group mission is "*to conserve and establish populations of threatened species through conservation breeding programs and through intensive protection and management of these plant and animal populations in the wild.*"

WHAT DOES THE CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP DO?

Conservation bodies, governmental officials and non-governmental agencies invite the CBSG to assist with their conservation efforts. CBSG uses numerous processes and tools it has developed to carry out its globally recognised programme.

Experience: The CBSG has conducted and facilitated more than 150 species and ecosystem workshops in 43 countries during the past 10 years. CBSG has worked on a continuing basis with agencies on some taxa (e.g. Florida panther, Sumatran tiger) and has assisted in the development of national conservation strategies for other taxa (e.g., Sumatran elephant, Sumatran tiger (Indonesia), Blue Cranes (South Africa) and cheetah (globally)).

Scientific Studies of Workshop Process: The effectiveness of these workshops as tools for eliciting information, assisting the development of sustained networking among stakeholders, impact on attitudes of participants, and in achieving consensus on needed management actions and research has been extensively debated. CBSG initiated a scientific study of the process and its long term aftermath in collaboration with an independent team of researchers (Vredenburg and Westley, 1995). A survey questionnaire is administered at the beginning and end of each workshop and extensive interviews have also been conducted with participants in workshops held in five countries. The study also is undertaking follow up at one and two years after each workshop to

assess longer-term effects. There is no comparable systematic scientific study of conservation and management processes.

CBSG RESOURCES AS UNIQUE ASSET

Expertise and Costs: The problems and threats to endangered species everywhere are complex and interactive with a need for information from diverse specialists. No agency or country encompasses all of the useful expert knowledge. Thus, there is a need to include a wide range of people as resources and analysts. It is important that the invited experts have reputations for expertise, objectivity, initial lack of local stake, and for active transfer of wanted skills. CBSG has a volunteer network of more than 700 experts in more than 50 countries. More than 3,000 people from 400 organisations have assisted CBSG on projects and participated in workshops on a volunteer basis contributing tens of thousands of hours of time. We call upon individual experts to assist in all phases of projects.

Indirect cost contributions to support: Use of CBSG resources and the contribution of participating experts provide a matching contribution more than equalling the proposed budget request for projects.

Manuals and Reports: Manuals are available to provide guidance on how best to achieve the goals, objectives, and preparations needed for CBSG workshops. These help to reduce start-up time and costs and allow us to work on organising the project immediately with proposed participants and stockholders. Draft workshop reports are prepared during the workshop so that there is agreement by participants on its content and recommendations. Reports are also prepared on the mini-workshops (working groups) that will be conducted in information gathering exercises with small groups of experts and stakeholders.



CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP

SOUTHERN AFRICA



AN ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST PARTNERSHIP
SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION, IUCN – WORLD CONSERVATION UNION

THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST AND CBSG SOUTHERN AFRICA

web site: www.ewt.org.za/cbsg

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is one of the largest non-governmental conservation organisations in Southern Africa and was established in 1973. Widely recognised by its prominent red cheetah spoor logo, the EWT conserves biodiversity through the hands-on conservation of species and their habitats, in a sustainable and responsible manner. Coordinating more than 100 field-based conservation projects and 18 Working Groups operating throughout Southern Africa, Endangered Wildlife Trust programmes cover a wide variety of species and eco-systems and play a pivotal role in conserving Southern African biodiversity and natural resources.

Nine CBSG regional networks exist worldwide, including CBSG Indonesia, India, Japan, Mesoamerica, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Europe and South Asia. Regional CBSG networks are developed in regions requiring intensive conservation action and each network operates in a manner best suited to the region and local species. CBSG tools are adapted according to the needs and requirements of regional stakeholders and species and local expertise is utilised to best effect. Each regional network has developed its own unique conservation identity. The Endangered Wildlife Trust with its access to a rich and diverse range of conservation expertise, established CBSG Southern Africa in partnership with the CBSG, SSC/IUCN in 2000.

CBSG Southern Africa's mission is: *To catalyse conservation action in southern Africa by assisting in the development of integrated and scientifically sound conservation programmes for species and ecosystems, building capacity in the regional conservation community and incorporating practical and globally endorsed tools and processes into current and future conservation programmes.*

CBSG Southern Africa, operating under the banner of the Endangered Wildlife Trust is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, serving the needs of the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation community in Southern Africa through the provision of capacity building courses, Action Planning, PHVA and CAMP workshops, communication networks, species assessments and a host of other CBSG processes for species and ecosystem conservation. CBSG Southern Africa works with all stakeholders in the pursuit of effective biodiversity conservation in Southern Africa.

Contact CBSG Southern Africa on + 27 (0) 11 486 1102 / cbsgsa@wol.co.za / www.ewt.org.za/cbsg

