



For PAs to fulfil the global social objective of protecting native ecosystems and conserving biological diversity as indicated by Ferraro (2001), effective and appropriate conservation practices should be put in place. There is limited opportunity for PAs to expand, but it is important to focus resources on ensuring their effective management. The indicators of management effectiveness are reflected on the IBA monitoring form.

Based on the monitoring findings of 2009, the main priorities for PAs authorities are to mobilize resources in order to increase land management, to manage fires appropriately, to raise site conservation awareness and to have a comprehensive programme on the control of invasive species. It is also equally important to minimize gathering of firewood and associated deforestation; and to control human intrusions into PAs through anti-poaching and law enforcement. An elephant management plan should be put in place to maintain ecological balance in certain IBAs. All stakeholders should also be involved in conservation processes.

The Driefontein Grasslands, an unprotected IBA, is in very poor condition that requires urgent attention. The site needs continuous monitoring and feedback to decision makers to lobby for its protection.

The human-crane conflict that has existed over the years needs a holistic approach to conservation, with a view to initiate formidable livelihood options to reduce pressure on the wetlands. BirdLife Zimbabwe has been working with schools and communities in the IBA on the Bird Awareness Programme and the general conservation of cranes. Building community awareness of the Wattled and Grey Crowned Crane conservation is an essential element of protecting this IBA.

The focus on educating, monitoring and building local constituencies for conservation, in the form of Site Support Groups, should continue to be supported by all stakeholders. The aim is to strike a balance between bird and wetland conservation and livelihoods in the IBA. However the lack of a management plan for the IBA is one of the major challenges that all stakeholders need to address.

The IBA monitoring approach should continue to be utilized as it creates biodiversity and conservation awareness, develops technical capacity, engages local communities and site management authorities in conservation, and builds a national constituency for conservation. Such monitoring will detect habitat loss, species loss and loss of ecosystem function in good time for appropriate conservation action on the sites.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The overall near-favorable state of IBAs/PAs should be a major cause for concern to review the PAs management plans and their implementation. The ideal situation is to have a favorable state of IBAs that will promote and maintain a high level of biodiversity. The thresholds for acceptable limits to change and use should be clearly set for PAs. This will ensure that conservation actions are target-driven. There is generally high pressure in IBAs that requires immediate attention. Protected Areas authorities have managed to improve conservation response since 2001 but there is need to address the current pressures. Stakeholder participation in conservation of IBAs is highly encouraged.

BirdLife Zimbabwe will continue to raise awareness and monitoring capacity of PAs authorities to fulfill the objective of instituting effective biodiversity monitoring systems in IBAs/PAs. The conservation message to further strengthen PAs and to increase efforts to conserve biodiversity should spread widely so that all relevant stakeholders and decision makers are pro-active rather than reactive. The continuous loss of the wetland habitat at Driefontein Grasslands if unabated may cause local extinction of the Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes and increase poverty among the local communities. Therefore stakeholders should continue to lobby for the protection of such areas, development of management plans and fundraising for conservation activities.

6.0 REFERENCES

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- Fishpool L.D.C. and Evans M.I., eds. 2001 Important Bird Areas in Africa and associated islands: Priority sites for conservation. Newbury and Cambridge, UK: Pisces Publications and BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 11).
- Leader-Williams, N., Harrison J., and Green, M.J.B. 1990. Designing Protected Areas to conserve natural resources. *Science Progress* 74: 189-204.


Annex 1: Threats/pressures in Important Bird Areas in 2009

The higher the threat level, the greater the magnitude of the threat.

Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Nyanga Mts	Stapleford Forest	Chimanimani Mts	Chirinda Forest	Hwange National Park	Chizarira National Park	Batoka Gorge	Middle Zambezi Valley	Robert Mcllwaine RP	Matobo Hills	Save-Runde Junction	
Agricultural expansion & intensification	Annual crops Shifting agriculture												
	Small-holder farming	Low	Low	Low			Low	Low	Low			Low	
	Agro-industry farming	Low											
	Perennial non-timber crops Small-holder plantations	Low											
	Agro-industry plantations												
	Wood & pulp plantations Small-holder plantations												
	Agro-industry plantations	Low	High										
	Livestock farming & ranching Nomadic grazing												
	Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming		Low		Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low		Medium	Low	
	- Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming												
	Marine & freshwater aquaculture												
	-Subsistence/ artisanal aquaculture	Low											
	Industrial aquaculture												
Residential & commercial development	Housing & urban areas						Low						
	Commercial & industrial areas												
	Tourism & recreation areas						Low		Low	Low		Low	
Energy production & mining	Mining & quarrying			Low					Low		Low		
	Renewable energy							Low					



Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Nyanga Mts	Stapleford Forest	Chimanimani Mts	Chirinda Forest	Hwange National Park	Chizarira National Park	Batoka Gorge	Middle Zambezi Valley	Robert Mcllwaine RP	Matobo Hills	Save-Runde Junction	
Transportation & service corridors	Roads & railroads	Low											
Over-exploitation, persecution & control of species	Utility & service lines				Low	Low							
	Flight paths						Low	Medium					
	Direct mortality of trigger species												
	hunting & trapping												
	persecution/control												
	Indirect mortality (bycatch) of "trigger" species	hunting									Low		
		fishing											
	Habitat effects - hunting & trapping					Medium	Low		Low	Medium			
		gathering plants	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low		Low	Low	
		logging		High	Low					Low		Medium	
	fishing & harvesting aquatic resources						Low	Medium	Low	High	Low	Medium	
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	Low			Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium	Low		
	War, civil unrest & military exercises	Low					Low				Low		
	Work & other activities		High										
Natural system modifications	Fire & fire suppression	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Medium	High	Medium	High	High	
	Dams & water managements					Medium			Low				
	Other ecosystem modifications		Low	Low		Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	
Invasive & other problematic species & genes	Invasive alien species	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium			Low	High	High	Low		
	Problematic native species					Low							
	Introduced genetic material												



Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Nyanga Mts	Stapleford Forest	Chimanimani Mts	Chirinda Forest	Hwange National Park	Chizarira National Park	Batoka Gorge	Middle Zambezi Valley	Robert Mcllwaine RP	Matobo Hills	Save-Runde Junction
Pollution	Domestic & urban waste water	Low								Medium		
	Industrial & military effluents									Medium		
	Agricultural & forestry effluents & practices									Medium		
	Garbage & solid waste											
	Air-borne pollutants											
	Noise pollution	Low	Low		Low			Low	Medium	Low		
	Thermal pollution											
	Light pollution											
Geological events	Avalanches/landslides											
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration											
	Drought					Low						
	Temperature extremes	Low				Medium			Medium			
	Storms & floods											Low
Other												



Annex 2: Important Bird Areas monitoring form



BirdLife Zimbabwe
 P.O Box RVL 100 Runiville
 Harare
 Tel (04) 481496/ 490208
 Email: birds@zol.co.zw

Monitoring Important Bird Areas

Help to monitor IBAs-
 Key sites for biodiversity
 Conservation

PLEASE:

- ⇒ Answer the questions below
- ⇒ Give details wherever possible
- ⇒ Return a completed form once a year if you are resident at a site or a regular visitor, but note that relevant information is helpful, at any time.
- ⇒ Consider making use of sketch maps as an additional means of recording key results, such as the precise location & extent of threat, sightings of key species, extent of particular habitats, routes taken and areas surveyed etc.
- ⇒ Return the completed form to BirdLife Zimbabwe using above details.

PART 1. ESSENTIAL INFORMATION (Please use a different form for each site)

Name of the IBA _____ Date _____

Your name _____ Postal address _____

Telephone/fax _____ email _____

What does this form cover? (tick one box)

(a) the whole IBA (b) just part of the IBA
 If (b), which part/how much of the whole area?

Do you live at or around the IBA?

(a) Yes (b) No
 If (b) when did you visit the IBA and for how long?

PART II. MONITORING THE IBA

You don't need to answer all the questions or fill in all the tables- please just put down the information that you have available



THREATS TO THE IBA (“PRESSURE”)

General comments on threats to the site and any changes since your last assessment (if relevant):

In the table opposite and overleaf, please score each threat that is relevant to the important birds at the IBA, based on your observations and information, for Timing, Scope and Severity. In the “details” column, please explain your scoring and make any other comments. Please note any changes in individual threats since the last assessment. If threats apply only to particular species, please say so.

Use the following guidelines to assign scores for Timing, Scope and Severity. The numbers are there to help you score, but are intended as guidance only: you don’t need exact measurements to assign a score. For scoring combined threats, Timing, Scope and Severity scores should either be equal to or more than the highest scores

Timing of selected threat

- Happening now
- Likely in short term (within 4 years)
- Likely in long term (beyond 4 years)
- Past (and unlikely to return) and no longer limiting,

Timing score

- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0

Scope of selected threat

- Whole area/ population (>90%)
- Most of area/ population (50-90%)
- Some of area/ few individuals (<10%)
- Small area/ few individuals (<10%)

Scope score

- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0

Severity of selected threat

- Rapid deterioration
(>30% over 10 years or 3 generations
Whichever is the longer)
- Moderate deterioration
(10-30% over 10 years or 3 generations)
- Slow deterioration
(1-10% over 10 years or 3 generations)
- No or imperceptible deterioration (<1% over 10 years)

Severity Score

- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0

NOTES ON THREAT TYPES

1. **Agricultural expansion & intensification.**

Threats from farming and ranching as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture. Note that wood and pulp plantations include afforestation, and livestock farming and ranching includes forest grazing. Agricultural pest control and agricultural pollution-specific problems apply to '5. Over-exploitation, persecution and control', and '9. Pollution' respectively.

2. **Residential and commercial development.**

Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint; resulting in habitat destruction and degradation, also causing mortality through collision. Note that domestic or industrial pollution-specific problems apply to '9. Pollution'.

3. **Energy production & mining.** Threats from production of non-biological resources; resulting in habitat destruction and degradation, also causing mortality through collision. Note that renewable energy includes windfarms.

4. **Transportation & service corridors** Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them, including shipping lanes and flight paths; resulting in habitat destruction and degradation, erosion, disturbance and collision.

5. **Over-exploitation, persecution & control**

Threats from consumptive use of wild biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species. Note that hunting includes egg-collecting, gathering includes firewood collection, and logging includes clear cutting, selective logging and charcoal production.

6. **Human intrusions & disturbance** Threats from human activities that alter, destroy and disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources.

7. **Natural system modifications** Threats from actions that convert or degrade habitat in service of managing natural or semi-natural systems, often to improve human welfare. Note that 'other ecosystem modifications' include intensification of forest management, abandonment of managed lands, reduction of land management, and under grazing. 'Dams & water management/use' includes construction and impact of dykes/dams/barrages, filling in of wetlands, groundwater abstraction, drainage, dredging and canalization.

8. **Invasive & other problematic species and genes**

Threats from non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens and other microbes, or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity (through mortality of species or alteration of habitats) following their introduction, spread and/or increase in abundance.

9. Pollution

Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials from point and non-point sources causing mortality of species and/or alteration of habitats. Note that domestic and urban waste water includes sewage and run-off; industrial and military effluents includes oils spills and seepage from mining; agricultural and forestry effluents and practices includes nutrient loads, soil erosion, sedimentation, high fertilizer input, excessive use of chemicals and salinization; and air-borne pollutants includes acid rain.

10. Geological events

Threats from catastrophic geological events that have the potential to cause severe damage to habitats and species.

11. Climate change & severe weather

Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events.

	Scores			
	Timing	Scope	Severity	
1. Agricultural expansion & intensification				Give details of specific crops, e.g. oil palm, or animals e.g. cattle, & issue
Annual crops- Shifting agriculture				
- Small-holder farming				
- Agro-industry farming				
Perennial non-timber crops- Small-holder plantations				
-Agro-industry plantations				
Wood &pulp plantations- Small-holder plantations				
- Agro-industry plantations				
Livestock farming & ranching- Nomadic grazing				
- Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming				
- Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming				
Marine & freshwater aquaculture				
-Subsistence/ artisanal aquaculture				
- Industrial aquaculture				
2. Residential & commercial development				Give details of type of development & issue
Housing & urban areas				
Commercial & industrial areas				
Tourism & recreation areas				
3. Energy production & mining				Give details of specific resource & issue
Oil & gas drilling				
Mining & quarrying				
Renewable energy				
4. Transportation & service corridors				
Roads & railroads				
Utility & service lines				
Shipping lanes				
Flight paths				



	Scores			
	Timing	Scope	Severity	
5. Over-exploitation, persecution & control of species				Give details of issue
Direct mortality of 'trigger' species-hunting & trapping - persecution/control				
Indirect mortality (bycatch) of 'trigger' species-hunting - fishing				
Habitat effects-hunting & trapping - gathering plants				
- logging				
- fishing & harvesting aquatic resources				
6. Human intrusions & disturbance				Give details of specific activity & issue
Recreational activities				
War, civil unrest & military exercises				
Work & other activities				
7. Natural system modifications				Give details of the alteration & issue
Fire & fire suppression				
Dams & water managements				
Other ecosystem modifications				
8. Invasive & other problematic species & genes				Give details of the invasive or problematic species& issue
Invasive alien species				
Problematic native species				
Introduced genetic material				
9. Pollution				Give details of pollution, source if known (e.g.industrial) & issue
Domestic & urban waste water				
Industrial & military effluents				
Agricultural & forestry effluents & practices				
Garbage & solid waste				
Air-borne pollutants				
Noise pollution				
Thermal pollution				
Light pollution				
10. Geological events				Give details of specific event and issue
Volcanic eruptions				
Earthquakes/tsunamis				
Avalanches/landslides				
11. Climate change & severe weather				Give details of specific event & issue
Habitat shifting & alteration				
Drought				
Temperature extremes				
Storms & floods				
12. Other				If the threat does not appear to fit in the scheme above, give details here of the threat, its source if known and how it's affecting the IBA
1.				
2.				
3.				



CONDITION OF BIRD POPULATIONS AND HABITATS ('STATE')

General comments on condition of the site and any changes since your last assessment (if relevant):

If you have estimates or counts of bird populations, or other information on the important bird species at the IBA, please summarize these in the table below

Bird species or groups	Population estimate (state whether individuals or pairs)	Details/other comments

If you have information on the area of the natural habitats important for birds' populations at the IBA, please summarize it below. Please note any major changes since last assessment in the 'details' column.

Habitat	Current area if known (include units, e.g. ha, km ²) or code	Details/comments/major changes

Habitat area codes: Choose from Good (overall >90% of optimum), Moderate (70-90%) or Very Poor (<40%). If you do not know the actual habitat area, give your best assessment of the current habitat area at the site, in relation to its potential optimum if the site was undisturbed. The percentages are given as guidelines only: use your best estimate. Please justify your coding in the 'details' column.

Habitat	Quality rating	Details/comments/major changes

- Habitat quality rating: Choose from Good (overall >90% of optimum), Moderate (70-90%), Poor (40-70%) or Very Poor (<40%). Give your best assessment of the average habitat quality across the site, in terms of its suitability for the important bird species. The percentages relate to the population density of the 'trigger' species in its key habitat. Thus 100% means that the species is at carrying capacity in its habitat. The percentages are given as guidelines only: use your best estimate. Please justify your selection

CONSERVATION ACTIONS TAKEN AT IBA ('RESPONSE')

General comments on actions taken at the site, including recent changes or developments

Please tick the box next to the text that applies for each of conservation designation, management planning and conservation action below. Please add any details and where appropriate give a brief explanation for your choice.

CONSERVATION DESIGNATION

- Whole area of IBA (>90%) covered by appropriate conservation designation
- Most of IBA (50-90%) covered (including the most critical parts for the important birdspecies)
- Some of IBA covered (10-49%)
- Little/ none of IBA covered (<10%)

Details and explanation _____



MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- A comprehensive and appropriate management plan exists that aims to maintain or improve the population of qualifying
- A management plan exists but it is out of date or not comprehensive
- No management planning exists but the management planning process has begun
- No management planning has taken place

Details and explanation _____

CONSERVATION ACTION

- The conservation measures needed for the site are being comprehensively and effectively implemented
- Substantive conservation measures are being implemented but these are not comprehensive and are limited by resources and capacity
- Some limited conservation initiatives are in place (e.g. action by Local Conservation Groups)
- Very little or no conservation action is taking place

Details and explanation _____

PART III. INFORMATION ON PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

Please record any details of Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) (e.g. SSGs, Caretaker Groups) established at the site in the table below.

LCG name	Total members	Male members	Female members	Other information

PART IV. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AT THE IBA

In the table opposite, please indicate the activities undertaken by any the LCG, other CBO, the Birdlife Partner, Government agencies or other organizations or people at the IBA. This should include current activities, and activities carried out in the last four years

Notes on action type

1. **Land/water protection** Actions to identify, establish or expand parks and other legally protected areas
2. **Land/water management** Actions directed at conserving or restoring sites, habitats and the wider environment
3. **Species management** Actions directed at managing or restoring species, focused on the species of concern itself
4. **Education & awareness** Actions directed at people to improve understanding and skills, and influence behavior
5. **Law & policy** Actions to develop, change, influence, and help implement formal legislation, regulations (including at the community level), and voluntary standards.
6. **Livelihood, economic & other incentives** Actions to use economic and other incentives and to influence behavior
7. **External capacity building** Actions to build infrastructure resulting in better conservation, including through civil society development (e.g. enhancing community role in decision-making on natural resource use).

	Action being undertaken by					
	LCG	Other CBO	Birdlife Partner	Government	Other (specify)	
1. Land/water protection						
Site/area protection						
Resource & habitat protection						
2. Land/water management						
General site/area management						



	Action being undertaken by					
	LCG	Other CBO	Birdlife Partner	Government	Other (specify)	
Invasive/problematic species control						
Habitat & natural process restoration						
3. Species management						
General species management						
Species recovery						
Species (re)introduction						
4. Education & awareness						
Formal education						
Training						
Awareness, publicity & communications						
5. Law & policy						
Public legislation						
Policies and regulations						
Private sector standards & codes						
Compliance, enforcement & policy						
6. Livelihood, economic & other incentives						
Linked enterprises & livelihood alternatives (e.g. ecotourism)						
Substitution (alternative products to reduce pressure)						
Market forces (e.g. certification)						
Conservation payments						
Non-monetary values (e.g. spiritual, cultural)						
7. Capacity building						
Institutional & civil society development						
Alliance and partnership development						
Conservation finance						
8. Other (e.g. surveys, monitoring, research, EIAs)						
1.						
2.						
3.						

PART V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please give any further information or details that you think may be helpful. For example • Number of conservation staff and volunteers • Number of visitors • Revenue generated • Interesting bird records • Lists or details of other fauna or flora • Useful contacts (for research or conservation projects, tourism initiatives etc.) • Other notes. Please attach or send more sheets or other documents/ reports as necessary.

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this form

Annex 3. List of contributors to the Status and Trends Report

Name	Organization
Mawoko Ozias	Nyanga National Park
Nyamvura Maxwell	Nyanga National Park
Mundodzi Jailos	Nyanga National Park
Tungwarara Innocent	Nyanga National Park
Tatire Gerald	Stapleford Forest- Allied Timbers Holdings
Mutihoto Washington	Stapleford Forest- Allied Timbers Holdings
Kambeva Amon C	Stapleford Forest- Allied Timbers Holdings
Mwafundu Dunmore	Stapleford Forest- Allied Timbers Holdings
Mhere Tambudzai	Stapleford Forest- Allied Timbers Holdings
Zinzada Marshford	Stapleford Forest- Allied Timbers Holdings
Ruzai Joseph	Stapleford Forest- Allied Timbers Holdings
Nyamusara Thomas	Stapleford Forest- Allied Timbers Holdings
Magweni John	Forestry Commission- Chirinda Forest
Mashava Charles	Livestock Department- Chirinda Forest
Semende Munashe	Chimanimani National Park
Katsande Caroline	Chimanimani National Park
Tendaupenyu Itai Hilary	Kariba Fisheries
Kuvaoga P. T	Marongora
Mushongahande Veliso	Marongora
Joroma Bright	Mana Pools National Park
Dube N	Mana Pools National Park
Dzika Knowledge	Mana Pools National Park
Chipesi David M	Mana Pools National Park
Majeza Joseph	Gonarezhou NP- Chipinda Pools
Jonathan	Gonarezhou NP- Mabalauta Field Station
Makondo Addlight	Gonarezhou NP- Chipinda Pools
Zisadza Patience	Gonarezhou NP- Chipinda Pools
Gandiwa Edson	Gonarezhou NP- Chipinda Pools
Wachi Tendai	Lake Chivero
Mtsvakiwa Taruona	Lake Chivero
Amonie Jack	Lake Chivero
Mutyasira Chidaushe	Lake Chivero
Chauruka Clave	Lake Chivero
Nyambipo Samuel	Lake Chivero
Chibaya Samson	Chizarira National Park
Muzambi Edward	Chizarira National Park
Moyo Honest	Chizarira National Park
Sithole John	Zambezi Camp
Magaya Joshua	Zambezi Camp
Nheya Fanuel	Zambezi Camp
Kwanele I. Kanengoni	Zambezi Camp
Mudhimba Simeon	Hwange National Park
Banda Juliet N	Hwange National Park
Dladla Philani	Hwange National Park
Banda Elias	Hwange National Park
Hlongwane Nkululeko	Hwange National Park
Mtare Godfrey	Hwange National Park
Zhuwau Colum	Matobo National Park
Sibanda Themba	Matobo National Park
Doto Memory	Matobo National Park
Kanisios Mukwashii	BirdLife Zimbabwe
Fadzai Matsvimbo	BirdLife Zimbabwe
Dr. Chirara Chipangura	BirdLife Zimbabwe
Fakarayi Togarasei	BirdLife Zimbabwe



Alien invasive species (Wattle and Pine) in the Eastern Highlands



Alien invasive species (Water Hyacinth) at Robert MacIlwaine Recreational Park



Grey Crowned Cranes *Balearica regulorum* in the Driefontein Grasslands



Wattled Cranes *Bugeranus carunculatus* in the Driefontein Grasslands

