



June 2004

## Namibia crane workshop and action plan

The first Namibia Crane Workshop in Etosha in May 2004 was attended by an enthusiastic mix of participants from Namibia and several other countries. Many thanks to all our supporters, especially the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), SIDA, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), the African Wattled Crane Programme (AWAC) of the International Crane Foundation and many others who have helped in different ways. As a result of these positive interactions we now have a Namibia Crane Action Plan, which is included in the workshop proceedings being forwarded to all participants. Thank you, NNF, for your assistance with printing and distributing this document and for helping us obtain seed funding. Equally important, we have a Namibia Crane Working Group to put this plan into action!



Crane workshop participants at Ekuma River, May 2004  
(L to R: Sekhowa Motsumi, Aldrin Siyanla, Chrispin Chizabulyo, Titus Shivolo, Rich Beilfuss and Gabriel Fillipus)

### We have a six-point crane action plan:

1. Co-ordinate conservation effort and promote networking
2. Obtain information and data
3. Conserve crane habitats
4. Promote conservation awareness/education
5. Build capacity
6. Develop area-based crane management strategies

### Now for action!

We are circulating a questionnaire to help identify priority activities and needs - thank you for your invaluable inputs on the way forward. We are also networking with crane conservationist groups in other countries. We are drafting an information sheet on who we are and what we are doing. Please let us know what you think of our (draft) logo on top!



### Crane information and data

We have had a good exchange of ideas on data collection and will collate crane sightings; crane nesting records are being held by the MET (DEA). Those of you who visited the Ekuma River in Etosha with us in May will be interested to know that Wilferd Versfeld of the Etosha Ecological Institute spotted three Crowned Cranes in this area recently. Crane surveys in focal areas are being planned. Lotto Kuushomwa and his colleagues from Rössing Foundation in North Central are planning a crane survey in the Lake Opono area. Please let us know about any further plans for crane counts and ringing.

### Conserving crane habitats

We would also like to hear about any progress or ideas on the challenges of integrating crane conservation with river-basin management, diversifying land-use income options and promoting community-based natural resource management as well as developing conservation incentives.

### Conservation awareness/education

There is a great need for Namibian crane educational materials. Holger Kolberg of the MET is producing a poster on crane status in Namibia. We are also working on simple crane information sheets, to promote conservation awareness, and planning a crane resource book with activities for children. This book will include stories about cranes and their cultural value, so please help us track this information down - Lotto and his team already have plans to do so.

### Capacity-building and developing area-based management strategies

We are hoping to visit Nyae-Nyae in July, to discuss crane conservation activities in consultation with Andries Alberts of the MET and other local partners. These informal discussions are open to anyone interested. We are also hoping to find a way to visit Caprivi, Rundu and North-Central later this year.

### Please keep in touch

This is your newsletter - please send us your news items and pictures to share with the other members of our crane group, and also any ideas on how we can seek further funding for our activities!