

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Ghana Wildlife Society

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Status of White-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes gymnocephalus*) in Ghana.

Implementation Partners for This Project: None

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): November 2005

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

White-necked Picathartes, Picathartes gymnocephalus is a globally threatened endemic bird of the Upper Guinea forest, with global distribution restricted to Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. The primary habitat of White-necked Picathartes, lowland rainforest, is disappearing rapidly within all the range states. Distribution of the species is highly fragmented and all known populations are small and isolated and close to the minimum for long-term viability. Global population in the Upper Guinea forest is almost certainly less than 10,000 mature individuals (threshold for vulnerable status).

In Ghana there was no documented sighting of the bird for about 40 years until February 2003 when a single individual was sighted in the Subim Forest Reserve by a group of museum collector from the North Louisiana State University in the USA. The sighting of the bird in Ghana revived the hope of the existence of the bird in the country. A follow up visit by the field research team of the Ghana Wildlife Society to the Subim and the adjoining Ayum and Bonsam Bepo forest reserves saw 13 active nests and two more individuals of the bird. The positive result of the follow-up visit propelled the Ghana Wildlife Society to embark on an exercise to determine the status of the species in Ghana. Ghana Wildlife Society's effort was boosted with a \$19,300.00 funding from the Critical Ecosystem Fund (CEPF) under its small grant program. The exercise to determine the status of the species in Ghana is in line with the prime objective of the National Species Action Plan for the conservation of White-necked Picathartes under the threatened species project of the BirdLife International.

Four major White-necked Picathartes nesting areas within the high forest zone of Ghana have been identified. A good number of active nests were found at all the nesting sites which is a significant pointer to the presence of a breeding population of the species. Consequently, a funding proposal has been developed to carry out monitoring of population and reproductive activities. The monitoring would afford a realistic estimate of population size of White-necked Picathartes to be calculated for Ghana.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

1. *Search and establish the presence of the population of White-necked Picathartes at all potential sites in Ghana especially in the high forest zone.*
2. *Investigate, document and disseminate local knowledge about the species*
3. *Study the ecology and the habitat specificity of Picathartes nests sites.*
4. *Study the pattern of distribution and population status of White-necked Picathartes in Ghana.*
5. *Assess population sizes and distribution at each identified site*
6. *Identify site-specific threats that confront the species*
7. *Develop a monitoring and wardening system for any site discovered*

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

The initial objectives of the project did not change significantly during the implementation.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

Almost all the initial project objectives have been significantly achieved. With regards to objective 5 thus assessing population sizes at each nest site identified, more data would be required in order to be able to achieve this objective. This will be focus of the planned follow-up activities for which we are trying to source some funds from the RSPB.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

The team did not experience any significant set back during the implementation of the project. However at some places especially in the Kwahu South District the team disappointingly found some previously active Picathartes nesting sites which had been destroyed by hunters who have used some of the rock caves as their base.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

We realized in the course of the implementation of the project that local knowledge was crucial in finding nesting areas and nest sites. It is very difficult to successfully search for Picathartes in the field without local knowledge or close collaboration with local people. The field search for the bird should begin with informal interaction with local people in potential breeding areas to gather the necessary information before beginning the field search.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

We are seeking funds to carry out monitoring of population and reproductive dynamics at two major breeding areas in the Kwahu South and the Adansi West Districts. Funding proposals have been submitted to the Royal Society for the Protection Society in the UK and the French Embassy in Accra.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

Information on the breeding or nesting sites of the White-necked Picathartes in Ghana was very limited and speculative. We have now been able to identify about four major nesting areas of the species. These areas however need to be monitored over a period of time in order to ascertain the population trend and reproductive success. It is also important people living around these sites are made to appreciate the importance of the species. This will greatly enhance efforts to protect the species and its habitat

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
<i>Ghana Wildlife Society</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>\$15,000.00</i>	<i>GWS bore about 40% of the salary of the staff who were engaged on this project and also provided vehicle for the field work of this project</i>
<i>Ayum Forest products Limited</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>\$13,000.00</i>	<i>This funding was provided to intensify work on the species in a forest reserve that the company hold logging concession</i>

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

In view of the national and international conservation importance of the species, we intend to continue with some aspects of the conservation of the species as stated in the objectives of the National Conservation Action Plan for the species. We will be concentrating on site-based and community-led conservation activities. The necessary fundraising mechanisms have been put in place though no funds have been secured yet. Any advice on possible funding sources would be very much appreciated.

IV. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No further comments

V. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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