

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** A Second Population Assessment of the Uluguru Bush Shrike *Malaconotus alius*, Uluguru Mountains

**Implementation Partners for This Project:**

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** November 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007

**Date of Report (month/year):** 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Wildlife Conservation Society is a BirdLife International partner in Tanzania and has been running conservation projects in the Uluguru Mountains for more than a decade. Through its development partners such as the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Denmark Ornithological Society (DOF), it has previously supported surveys of the Uluguru Bush-shrike, a highly threatened bird species which is endemic in the Ulugurus and results from previous surveys have been used as a basis for Red Listing by IUCN. Before the present survey the Uluguru Bush-shrike was only known to inhabit one of the two big blocks of forests within the Ulugurus, the Uluguru North Forests Reserve which is about 84 sq km.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

Objectives of the project:

The overall objective of this project was to provide a second population estimate for the Uluguru Bush Shrike, an Endangered bird species endemic to the Uluguru Mountains. The first population estimate of c.1, 200 pairs was made in 2000 and a summary has since been published (Burgess et al. 2001).

Specific objectives:

1. To repeat the year 2000 count of the Uluguru Bush Shrike during its breeding period (December 2006 to March 2007)
2. To provide training opportunity for WCST field staff and one M.Sc student at the University of Dar es Salaam through working together with experts from abroad.
3. To publish the results of the 2006/07 population count of the Uluguru Bush Shrike together with the unpublished results from the 2000 count.
4. To update the red list status of this species.

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

The objectives of the study remained the same but with additional achievements that require an immediate follow up. The fact that this bird was only known to occur in a single site, the Uluguru North Forest Reserve, of less than 100 sq km in total area. The present study recorded two pairs in the Uluguru South Forest Reserve and it was suspected that one pair was breeding in that area. It is therefore important that immediate survey be conducted in this area during the 2007/2008 breeding season to be able to ascertain the global population. These two forests are separated by a 1.5 km gap with unsuitable habitats for the Uluguru Bush-shrike and that it is not likely for this bird to cross that gap. Further details on this record were posted on the BirdLife International website: [http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/03/uluguru\\_bush-shrike.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/03/uluguru_bush-shrike.html), and CEPF website: [www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/arc\\_journal\\_edition\\_20](http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/arc_journal_edition_20).

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

Thirty seven transects of various lengths (from 600-2000m) were run in the Uluguru North and seven transects in the Uluguru South from December 2006 towards the end of February 2007. The entire surveys recorded about 23% of the total census points (n=209) that were occupied by breeding pairs of Uluguru Bush-shrike in the North. Only two census points had Uluguru Bush Shrike in the Uluguru South out of 51 census points but only a small segment in the eastern part was surveyed. In general the leeward side of the Uluguru North had no Uluguru Bush Shrike in this surveys, which may be explained by less humidity and rainfall. Although field data is yet to be fully scrutinized, preliminary analysis indicates that the population in the North is either stable or increasing compared to what was found in previous surveys particularly the 1999/2000, which estimated 1200pairs in the Uluguru North, and nothing was recorded in the Uluguru South in that survey. This difference could be subjected to amount of effort invested in the present survey (number of days of survey), which was more than 2 times, and prior knowledge gained from previous surveys. The study was done during the peak of breeding season for forest, or montane, bird species as it were in other previous surveys of this bird. The survey team leader (Jasson John) did not change throughout the survey. The bird call/song used in this survey was the same that was used in 1999/2000 which was recorded by Elia Mulungu in 1993 in the Ulugurus.

Many volunteers joined the survey team with a view of either learning or gain more experiences: Mr. Paul Nnyiti, Mr. Elias Mungaya, Mr. Fadhili Njilima all came from WCST and joined the main survey team (Jasson John from WCST, Ronald Mulwa from National Museum of Kenya, Ornithology Department and Makanyaga from Tegetero Village in the Ulugurus) at different times for different periods. Martina Boay Hagwet an Assistant Lecturer and Chacha Werema came from College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka in Moshi and University of Dar es Salaam respectively also joined the survey team in the Ulugurus.

Jasson John and Ronald Mulwa had prior knowledge and experience in using the playbacks in other forested areas. Makanyaga was in the 1999/2000 survey and all previously surveyed areas were visited with help of Mr. Makanyaga.

Manuscripts for publication are being prepared in collaboration with the lead person in the 1999/2000 surveys who is based at the Copenhagen Museum in Denmark. However, some preliminary articles and highlights have been documented elsewhere (Miombo the WCST magazine in press, BirdLife website, and contributing to the BirdLife threatened species fact sheets for IUCN review, The Arc Journal issue 20).

### 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.

Neither disappointments nor failures were experienced throughout the survey

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.

Commitments and collaboration with other organizations and individuals with relevant expertise can demonstrate success in professional projects or surveys like this one. The great collaboration that was sought from Dr. Neil Burgess and National Museum of Kenya helped the survey very much. Use of existing data and eager to prove null hypotheses as suggested by previous grey literatures may result into good results as it was in this survey, the records in the South Ulugurus is of great concern to future conservation of this threatened bird in the wild. But had it not been the local experienced forest guides, the survey would have not been of great quality as it is now. Small funding if properly managed can have long potential impacts in conservation of rare and endemic species like the Uluguru Bush-shrike.

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

Immediate survey in the Uluguru south, which is new range extension for the Uluguru Bush shrike is highly needed. The detailed survey in the South will make a complete estimation of the global population of this species from which management and monitoring options could be suggested. This survey should be conducted in the breeding of many forest birds i.e. from November to February. With the approval from the CEPF grant Manager, WCST would spend the balance (USD 2,314) from this project with other in kind support from in-house to conduct the survey immediately (i.e. 2007/2008). It was not possible to use all funds and survey the south because of short time of preferred season (breeding) of the Uluguru Bush Shrike.

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

#### 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

***\*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.)*

## **V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The support and contribution from CEPF is highly acknowledged and a long-term monitoring of the Uluguru Bush Shrike and its habitats is recommended. Available data on the Ulugurus and the bird provides an amicable avenue for such monitoring which would be used as model in other highly threatened species to extinction in the wild elsewhere. Education and extension programs should be encouraged on the importance of conserving threatened species including government departments responsible for management and conservation of wild species.

## **VI. INFORMATION SHARING**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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### **Note:**

Jasson John now works with the University of Dar es Salaam, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation and can be reached through the following email: [wildornithology@yahoo.com](mailto:wildornithology@yahoo.com)