

**Status of Conservation Projects**

There are too many conservation projects within SA for us to report on. Our recommendation would be to contact BirdLife South Africa for more information on these.

**2. Conservation Concerns**

Our concerns are mostly around the management and conservation of grasslands, wetlands and marine resources. South Africa's grasslands are under ever increasing pressure as the need for agricultural land grows and for energy grows. In particular, South Africa's recent energy crisis has resulted in increased coal prospecting in some of South Africa's most important grassland in Provinces such as Mpumalanga. BirdLife South Africa has played a very important role in ensuring that prospecting rights in these areas are challenged and that the biodiversity within is properly accounted for and considered.

In terms of wetlands similar, pressures and threats are being experienced to those of grasslands.

The NEBRAC (No Eskom Blue Route) initiative was about preventing the installation of a massive power line through some important wetlands and grasslands which support red data species such as the Blue and Wattled Cranes.

As is the case with many, the South African fisheries and coastal waters are in need of constant monitoring and policing. Unfortunately this is very difficult to carry out (due to limited human and financial resources), but it seems as if some good progress is being made by BirdLife South Africa's Seabird Programme and WWF's South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI).

**Promotional Activity for ABC (e.g. talks)**

Rockjumper has agreed to sponsor ABC membership fees for all tour participants who join any of our