

## **Rod Tether (Zambia)**

### **1. Status of Conservation Projects**

The Zambian Ornithological Society (ZOS) is currently running an Important Bird Area (IBA) Biodiversity monitoring project "Instituting Effective Monitoring of Protected Areas (Important Bird Areas) as a Contribution to Reducing the Rate of Biodiversity Loss in Africa" This project is funded by the European Union through The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The Project aims at training Biodiversity Monitors in IBAs that fall in Protected Areas. These monitors are to submit data to ZOS on an annual basis in order to compile a yearly Status and Trends Report that is distributed to interested parties and organisations. The data is also uplifted onto the World Biodiversity Data Base so that access to the information can be made by international organisations. Training of Monitors and collection of data is successfully completed in 27 of the 32 IBAs that fall within Protected Areas. Status and Trends Reports have been compiled for 2008 and 2009 and the 2010 report is currently being collated.

ZOS has also just completed a project - "Local participation in the sustainable use of selected important biodiversity areas in Zambia – working together for birds and people" This project is funded by NORAD through the Norwegian Ornithological Society. The aims of this project was to protect and monitor a network of 15 IBAs for biodiversity conservation in Zambia, through education and awareness building as well as the promotion of sustainable resource use in communities living in or around these sites. The project is implemented by ZOS mainly through selected Schools and Site Support Groups in the Important Bird Areas in Zambia. ZOS has trained community bird guides in 10 of these IBAs. These guides can take visitors to the area in the IBA where the important birds are found and help with sound and visual identification. They are also trained to show tourists any other points of interest in the IBA. ZOS has been working with the Site Support Groups (SSGs) in the IBAs helping with the registration process and assisting the SSGs in sourcing funding to set up income generating activities that will improve the livelihoods of the rural communities.

Another project that ZOS is involved in is "Support for Mutulanganga IBA conservation and Mutulanganga Community eco-tourism initiatives" funded through the Global Environment Fund Small Grants Programme .This project aims at poverty reduction through livelihood enhancement activities. The project aims to develop eco-tourism in the IBA as well assisting other local industries like fishing and traditional crafts (pottery and basketry). The Project also plans to enhance Biodiversity Conservation by improving the protection of the IBA through Site Support Group Capacity Building. Thus empowering the indigenous people to preserve and maintain their environment as well as their culture.

The Community are in the process of building an Eco-tourism Camp that will in future be able to fund further activities in the area. Community Bird Guides have been trained in the IBA and ZOS is helping the Women's Groups in the area market their pots and baskets. This project has also provided loans to small scale farming projects to help the people in the area get ahead with improved farming activities.

Advocacy work in 2010 has been mainly centered around stopping commercial logging in Mutulanganga IBA.

### **2. Conservation Concerns**

Degradation and loss of habitat remain the most serious environmental threat facing Zambia. Large areas of woodland and forest are being seriously affected by clearance for agriculture (largely small scale farming) and the cutting of trees for charcoal and firewood. An additional and growing threat is that of commercial logging – in the past year the Zambian Ornithological Society together with the WECSZ successfully stopped a Chinese Timber Company from commencing logging operations in the ornithologically important Mutulanganga IBA (see attached document).

### 3. Significant Bird Sightings / Discoveries

There were no additions to the Zambian Bird List in 2010 and the Country total remains to 753. Kasanka National Park recorded several new species for the Park (including Sooty Falcon – rarely recorded in Zambia, Curlew Sandpiper and Thrush Nightingale) and the total for that Park is now 452 species. The ninth, and earliest, record for Zambia of a Pectoral Sandpiper was photographed in the Bangweulu Swamps on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

### 4. New Contacts with other Bird Clubs

I maintain close contact with the Zambian Ornithological Society and the Zambia Birds web-group.

### 5. Promotional Activity for ABC (e.g. talks)

none

### 6. Other Concerns or Issues

none