Project Title: Assessing the Breeding probability of Slaty Egrets in and around the Barotse floodplain IBA, Zambia

Background

September 2017, BirdWatch Zambia (BWZ) was awarded a capacity development small grant under BirdLife International’s young conservation leaders program. The grant supported a team of early career conservationist working for BirdWatch Zambia (the BirdLife International Partner) to undertake an ambitious series of surveys to ascertain the breeding probability of the Vulnerable Slaty Egret, *Egretta vinaceigula* in Zambia’s Barotse floodplain IBA and the Liuwa National Park.

Project Objectives

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<th>Project Objectives</th>
<th>Indicators/measures of success</th>
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<td>Identify all breeding colonies on the Barotse floodplain and initiate studies to assess the breeding performance of the Slaty Egret on the Barotse floodplain</td>
<td>New maps showing area utilised by the species Public reports documenting work on the project and new information collected about the species At least one paper in a scientific journal containing new information collected about the species</td>
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<td>Improve local knowledge on threats to the species and impact of human disturbance through awareness talks</td>
<td>Locals aware of their roles in the conservation of the Slaty Egret</td>
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<td>Train at least 2 local species monitors to sustain data collection</td>
<td>At least 2 locals participating in field assessments and able to collect data with minimal supervision</td>
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<td>Prescribe measures to safe guard breeding, foraging and roosting sites of the Slaty Egret on the Barotse floodplain</td>
<td>Document of prescribed measures to safe guard key areas utilised by the species attached to final report and shared with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the custodians of all wildlife in Zambia.</td>
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Project Implementation Approach

The project is being implemented in partnership with the department of national parks and wildlife (DNPW) as well as the International Crane Foundation (ICF). The research team in
BirdWatch Zambia is a membership Society founded in 1969 to stimulate interest in birdlife, and to further the study and conservation of birds in Zambia. Birdwatch is also a member of the BirdLife Africa Partnership, a growing network of twenty-four Partners. Our activities and programmes are implemented through the following pillars:

- Conserve Viable Species Populations
- Save Threatened Species
- Preserve natural processes and systems
- Conserve ecosystem services with people

BirdWatch Zambia is a Registered Society (Registration No. ORS102/35/54) and is a Registered NGO (RNGO 101/0490/15)

组成的代表，由BWZ，ICF和DNPW拥有。这个项目的目的是刺激鸟类兴趣，进一步研究和保护在赞比亚的鸟类。Birdwatch也是BirdLife非洲伙伴关系的一员，这是一个由24个伙伴组成的网络。我们的活动和项目通过以下支柱实施：

- 保护可生存的物种群体
- 保存濒危物种
- 保护自然过程和系统
- 保护生态系统服务与人

鸟盟Zambia是根据OR510/35/54号注册的社会团体，也是根据RNGO 101/0490/15号注册的非政府组织。
In addition to bird and habitat description data, the project team has also documented threats to the habitats around the Barotse. It is worth noting that agriculture expansion for rice farming was listed as the most critical from the data of the November and March surveys.

The preliminary findings so far are now feeding into the development of a proposed 2\textsuperscript{nd} phase of the project which is to be submitted in October this year for possible funding. Proposed highlights of the anticipated 2\textsuperscript{nd} phase are shown below;