

Project Update: September 2010

In partnership with the Site Support Group (SSG) or Local Conservation Group (LCG), meetings and the field 3L reconnaissance survey were executed. The project has formally been introduced to both government and the traditional authorities. A common understanding on the project has been reached and works towards the development of the species conservation action plan for the black cheeeked lovebird have commenced. The local conservation group was working towards formalising its presence through formal registration. The project's sustainability relies on stakeholder contribution. SSG started making monetary contributions towards formalisation of the local group. Rufford shall subsidize this effort.

A species monitoring and bird counting strategy was also being implemented by a special team of seven SSG members chosen specifically for the purpose.

A participatory map of the project area has also been developed. The map has helped the SSG identify key conservation actions, locations for the same including potentials and challenges inherent in the area. By virtue of the size of the IBA, a decision on the size of the project area has been reached and the project area has since been appropriately designated and defined.



Left: Emerging - uncontrolled fires are a major threat to breeding and roosting sites for the black cheeeked love bird in the project area. © Moses Nyoni. Right: IBA species monitoring team analyzing bio-physical circumstances pertaining to the IBA and the black cheeeked love bird. © Moses Nyoni.



Left: Machile SSG chairperson making a contribution towards SSG registration, while SSG secretary prepares to do the same. © Moses Nyoni. Right: Species monitoring Team inspecting a breeding and roosting area for the black cheeeked love bird. © Moses Nyoni.