



## **FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

20-21 November 2006, Bonn, Germany

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### **DRAFT SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE MACCOA DUCK** *Oxyura maccoa*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Single Species Action Plan for the Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* was initiated by AEWA in early 2005. The plan covers the entire range of this intra-African migrant. The drafting of the plan has been contracted out to the African Gamebird Research Education and Development Trust (AGRED) of South Africa and has been compiled mainly by Dr. Aldo Berruti and a number of other experts from the species Range States and organisations such as BirdLife International – Africa Division, BirdLife South Africa, and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (South Africa).

This final draft represents a version that had been circulated amongst expert organisations within the species range, and all amendments have been incorporated. Further the Technical Committee in February-March 2006 reviewed the draft plan and subsequently their comments were reflected. Official statement on the draft was sought from the Range States by mid-September, and the Secretariat received comments from the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

The Technical Committee screened this final draft at its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting in late October 2006 and suggested that it should be submitted to the Standing Committee for approval.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The Standing Committee is requested, following the decision of MOP3 in resolution 3.12, to approve the draft Single Species Action Plan for the Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* on an interim basis.

**Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*  
International Species Action Planning Workshop**

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BirdLife South Africa  
Endangered Wildlife Trust**

# **The Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* International Species Action Plan**

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## **Milestones in the production:**

1. 1st draft of Action Plan and distributed on 18 April 2005
2. Feedback from participants by 30 April 2005
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> draft completed by 18 July 2005
4. Distribute to participants
5. Review finished by 20 October 2005
6. Acceptance by AEWA Technical Committee
7. Final product printed and posted following acceptance by AEWA Technical Committee

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## Acronyms

ADU	Avian Demographic Unit, University of Cape Town
AEWA	African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
AGRED	African Gamebird Research Education and Development Trust
AWC	African Waterbird Census
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention)
CWAC	Co-ordinated Waterbird Count (South Africa)
IAAPs	Interested and Affected Parties
IBA	Important Bird Area (of BirdLife International)
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
MDAG	Maccoa Duck Action Group
NRF	National Research Foundation (South Africa)
SSC	Species Survival Commission (of the IUCN)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
WCST	Wildlife and Conservation Society of Tanzania
WFW	Working for Water (South Africa)

## Executive summary

The Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* is a localized, relatively scarce species confined to Africa, with northern (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Eritrea) and southern (Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Lesotho) populations. Previous estimates of its population size, particularly northern populations, were not based on hard data. These reports gave an impression that this species was far more numerous than the actual situation. Similarly, its distribution was described as including several countries for which there were either no records, or very few, giving a false impression of a wider distribution.

Apart from correcting the status of both populations to reflect its true abundance and distribution, information on trends in populations are presented. The northern populations appear to be in rapid decline. The southern population has now stabilised, after a period of increase in range and abundance following colonisation of artificial impoundments. The first national estimate of the population size of Maccoa Ducks in South Africa based on count data is given. At 4500-5500 birds, South Africa has the largest national population of this species, however, there is some evidence that the South African populations may now be in decline. The revised global population estimate is 9000-11750 birds.

Both the estimates of the total population size and rate of declines in at least the northern populations indicate that the status of this species should be elevated to Near-threatened globally, and more precise work on Southern Africa populations may show this species to have a global status of Vulnerable with a global population less than 10 000 birds. Regardless, it is clear that the conservation status of this species is worse than previously understood, and both research and conservation actions are required to quantify the conservation risks.

A primary element of future action is creating awareness amongst conservation organisations at international and national level on the need for concern about this species.

Because of a lack of information and lack of definition of threats, many of the proposed activities will depend on a more accurate assessment of threats and a better understanding of the biology of the Maccoa Duck, particularly its movements between breeding and non-breeding seasons.

The Maccoa Duck feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates, and thus has a higher position in the trophic chain compared to most ducks, which often feed to a larger extent on plant foods. Therefore the Maccoa Duck may be a better indicator than most wetland bird species of pollution resulting from biological concentration of contaminants up the food chain, and may also be a useful indicator of wetland quality.

The northern and southern populations appear to be subjected to different set of threats. Northern populations appear to be subject to factors resulting largely from the subsistence activities of local communities. The perceived threats to the southern populations are the result of the increasing commercialisation of agriculture and intensification of industry (e.g. pollution) and development of urbanisation with demands for leisure activities and disposal of wastes.

The Workshop saw the formation of the Maccoa Duck Action group with AGRED offering a secretariat for co-ordinating communication and action. The possibility that this group may evolve into an International Species Working group under AEWA is discussed.

## 1. Biological Assessment

<p><b>General information</b></p>	<p>The Maccoa Duck is a highly aquatic diving duck restricted to eastern and southern Africa. It has always been comparatively scarce and its biology is not well known. Movements are poorly understood but most movements probably take place over distances of &lt;500 kms. Breeding demographics are not well documented, so that interpretation of its biology in relation to breeding is not simple. This is particularly true for its distribution and movements. Previous estimates of its numbers have been far too high, based on repeated citations of estimates based on guesswork. These high estimates have helped mask the threat posed on northern populations in particular. The most detailed synthesis of the biology of this species is Colahan (2005).</p>
<p><b>Taxonomy</b></p>	<p><b>Class:</b> Aves  <b>Order:</b> Anseriformes  <b>Family:</b> Anatidae  <b>Tribe:</b> Oxyurini  <b>Genus:</b> <i>Oxyura</i>  <b>Species:</b> <i>O. maccoa</i>  <b>Subspecies:</b> none defined</p> <p><b>Scott &amp; Rose (1996) defined three separate and isolated populations in the Ethiopian highlands, East Africa and Southern Africa. No subspecies are recognised. They argued for separation of the East African population from the Ethiopian population, on the basis that the Maccoa Duck is an essentially sedentary species of highland areas in Ethiopia and East Africa. They felt that the geographic separation of these populations is a highly probable consequence of the broad band of unsuitable, low-lying country in south-eastern Sudan, southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya separating the two populations.</b></p> <p><b>However, historically, there are records from northern Kenya in this supposed gap region (Neil Baker pers. comm.), and it may be that there continues to be migration along the Rift Valley lakes between Ethiopia and countries further south. However, there is insufficient evidence at this stage to conclude these are a single population e.g. Nasirwa (<i>in litt.</i>) supports the contention of a large gap with little or no suitable habitat in the intervening area.</b></p> <p><b>Thus this Species Action plan accepts that there are two northern populations: the Ethiopian (including any Maccoa Ducks in Eritrea, following the first record of this species from that country) and the Tanzanian/Kenyan population. Clearly, this issue requires better resolution.</b></p>
<p><b>Population development</b></p>	<p>Historically, the Southern African population has increased during the twentieth century due to occupation of artificial impoundments in Namibia, Botswana and some areas of South Africa, presumably occupying Angola, Zimbabwe and Lesotho as a result. However, there are no indications that this spread is continuing and there is cause to believe that declines may have begun. However, it is also clear that the Southern Africa population is smaller than previously estimated, presumably a result of inadequate data.</p> <p>The populations in East Africa (centred on Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda) have declined considerably, perhaps by as much as 50% in the last 10 years. Data for Ethiopia do not allow an accurate estimation of status, but indications from other wetland species suggest a slower decline. However, there is now a single record from Eritrea of five birds (see Table 2a), suggesting that there might be an additional small population there. For the northern populations, the estimated populations are lower than previously estimated by Dodman (in review), and far lower than by Scott and Rose (1996).</p>
<p><b>Distribution throughout the annual cycle</b></p>	<p>The northern populations are confined to comparatively small areas in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda (one recent record), centred on lakes within the Rift Valley. The northern populations are now concentrated in high-lying inland</p>

	<p>areas. In Tanzania, movements recorded between breeding areas in temporary wetlands to concentrations in permanent deeper water when not breeding.</p> <p>In southern Africa, populations occur from sea-level in the west (South Africa and Namibia) to inland waters at high altitudes (Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Lesotho). Movements probably take place over distances of less than 500 km, with occasional records of large numbers in non-breeding concentrations on larger wetlands.</p>
<b>Survival and productivity</b>	Nothing recorded on longevity and annual survival. Survival from hatching to fledging is probably <50% (Clark 1964).
<b>Life history: Breeding</b>	<p><b>The description of the nest and breeding is taken from Tarboton (2001). The Maccoa Duck nests over deep water in emergent vegetation, usually <i>Typha</i> or sedges. The nest is a deep, round bowl constructed from plant stems which are pulled down from a standing position, and woven into a bulky bowl-shaped structure with a deep open cup that stands 100-230 mm above the water. Some nests have a ramp leading from the water to the cup. The nest would be conspicuous, were it not screened by vegetation. Old nests of Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i> are occasionally used. Nests are anchored to vegetation and therefore prone to flooding when water levels rise.</b></p> <p><b>Nests are surprisingly difficult to detect and females are very inconspicuous during the breeding season.</b></p> <p><b>Males are polygynous and promiscuous. Breeding males defend territories from other males. There may be several females breeding simultaneously within a male's territory within 20m of each other. Successful territories stretch for up to 80m along emergent vegetation, and unsuccessful males may hold inferior territories without breeding successfully (Siegfried 1976). Males take no part in incubation or chick rearing. Territorial behaviour often indicates breeding activity.</b></p> <p><b>The clutch is usually 5-6 eggs, but up to 12 recorded, with more than eight eggs being deposited by two females. Eggs are often dumped in other ducks' nests (see also Dean 1970, Milstein 1973, Lees-May 1974). Incubation of 25-27 days by female only and young cared for by female only.</b></p> <p><b>Maclean (1997) notes that in South Africa, it breeds in August – January (peak October-November) in the Western Cape Province, throughout the year in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Northwest Provinces (Tarboton <i>et al.</i>1987), and throughout the year in Zimbabwe (Irwin 1981), although mainly in northern South Africa. Broadly speaking there is a winter trough and a summer peak in breeding. Timing of breeding appears to be related to rainfall. There is no marked synchronisation of breeding.</b></p>
<b>Life history: Feeding</b>	<b>Maccoa Ducks feed by diving for extended periods, with dives lasting for 15-22 seconds (Macnae 1959) during foraging spells of 30-60 minutes (Siegfried <i>et al.</i> 1976a). The diet is mainly small invertebrates, including midge larvae, ostracods, gastropods (Siegfried <i>et al.</i> 1976b), <i>Daphnia</i> and plant material (Stark &amp; Sclater 1906), seeds of <i>Persicaria</i> and <i>Polygonum</i>, and roots and seeds of other plants (Brown <i>et al.</i> 1982).</b>
<b>Life history: Outside breeding season</b>	Maccoa Ducks occur in concentrations in the non-breeding season on larger waters, which may be devoid of vegetation, but are presumably rich in invertebrates. The species is subject to local movements which vary from year to year, and which are not well understood.
<b>Habitat requirements: Breeding</b>	<b>It breeds on inland waters, mainly smaller temporary and permanent freshwater deep nutritious wetlands (IUCN Habitats types 5.5, 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8). Emergent vegetation especially <i>Typha</i>, is critical for breeding (Irwin 1981, Hockey <i>et al.</i> 1989, Maclean 1997). It also breeds on sewage ponds (Maclean 1997). Irwin (1981) described the habitat as pans and dams providing some emergent</b>

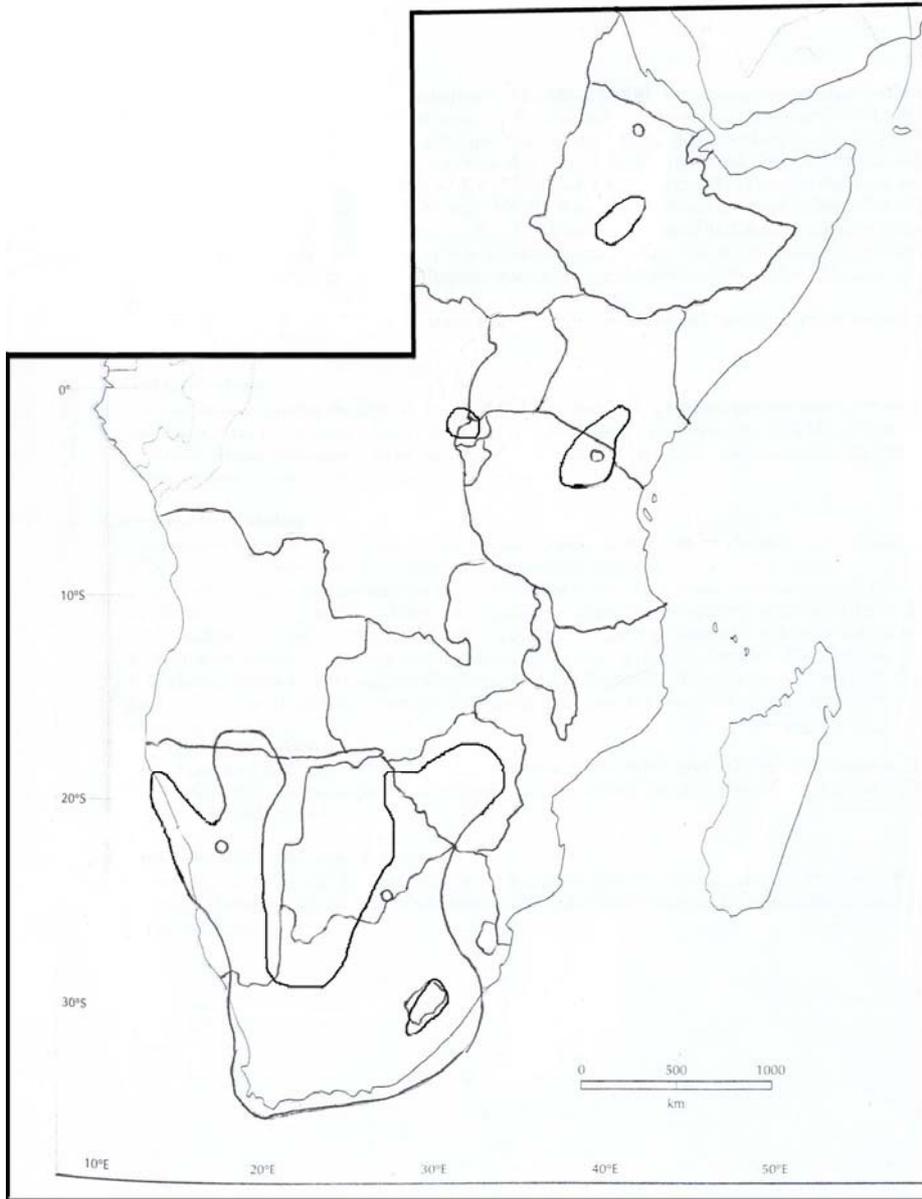
	<b>vegetation with adjacent expanse of open water, nesting in clumps of sedges and rushes.</b>
<b>Habitat requirements: Feeding</b>	<b>Refer to breeding (above) and non-breeding sections (below).</b>
<b>Habitat requirements: Outside Breeding season</b>	<b>Uses large and small permanent and temporary freshwater wetlands (IUCN Habitats 5.5, 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8) as well as large or small permanent or temporary saline or alkaline wetlands (IUCN Habitats 5.14, 5.15, 5.16 and 5.17). When not breeding, it may use habitats without any emergent vegetation at all (Maclean 1997).</b>

### **Distribution of the Maccoa Duck**

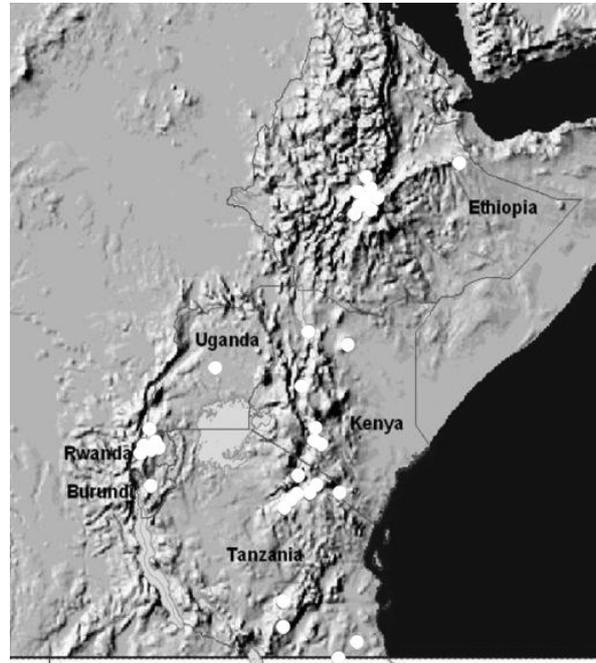
The general distribution of the species is shown below (Fig. 1a), and is much modified from Scott & Rose (1996). Apart from the reduction in general distribution of the northern populations, the following four figures show how localised the distribution is within the broad limits of both the northern (Figs. 1b and 1c) and southern (Figs. 1d and 1e) populations.

The species was listed as occurring in several countries by Brown *et al.* 1982 and del Hoyo *et al.* (1992) but these records are not based on valid original information (Baker 2004). There is no information to suggest that the species has ever occurred in Malawi, Mozambique or Sudan or has ever been more than a vagrant in Swaziland and Burundi (Dodman in review, Parker 1994, Neil Baker this workshop.). There are two recent records of single birds in Uganda, both dated 2003 (Pauline Nantongo-Kalundu pers. comm). Thus the lack of more recent records from these countries does not indicate any actual loss in range. There are no records of recent occurrence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and only one record in 1983 from Rwanda. Its present status in these countries is unknown (Neil Baker pers. comm.). O. Nasirwa (*in litt.*) notes that the species may still persist in western Kenya in areas, which are seldom visited.

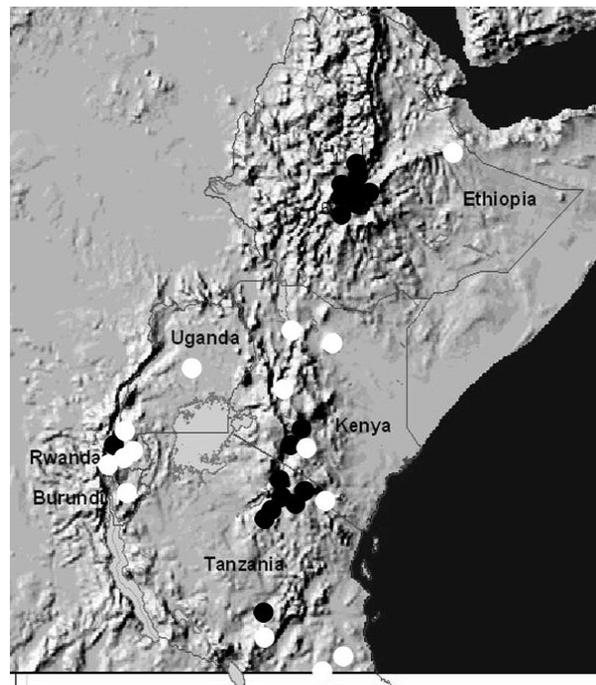
The current distribution is shown below (Fig. 1a), with historical and current distributions in East Africa (Figs. 1b, 1c) and South Africa (Figs. 1d, 1e).



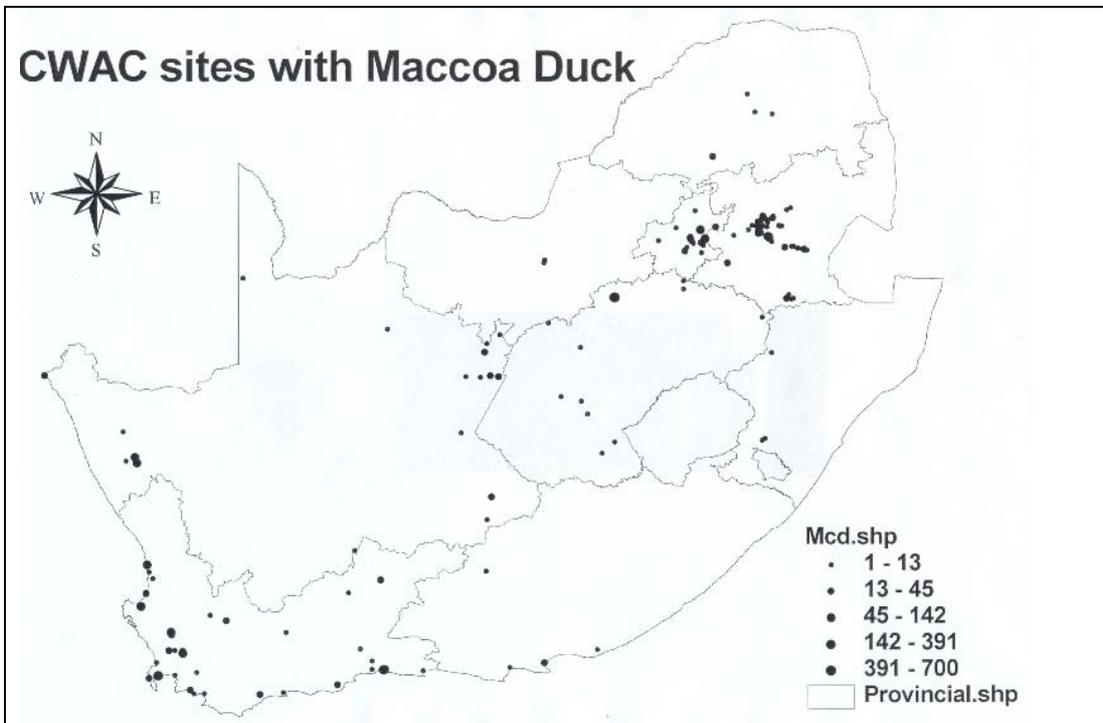
**Figure 1a. The current global distribution of the Maccoa Duck based on Scott & Rose (1996) and revised according to Neil Baker (Tanzania Bird Atlas, this workshop, Figs. 1b & 1c), the South African Bird Atlas (Macleon 1997) and CWAC counts (M.J. Wheeler, ADU, this workshop, Figs. 1d & 1e).**



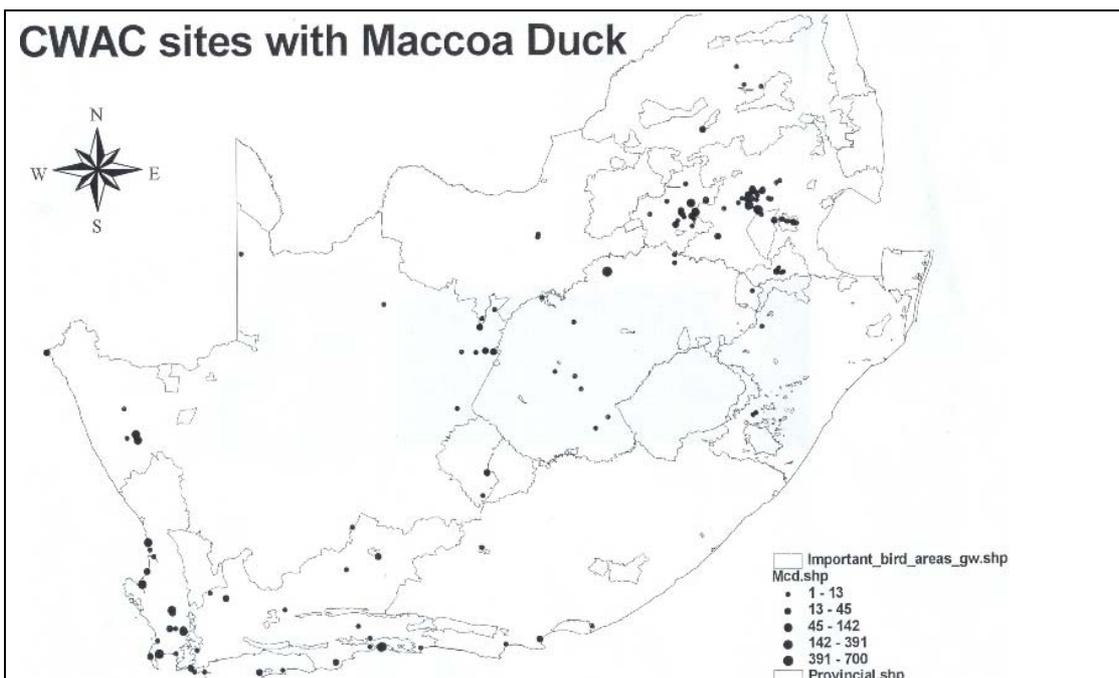
**Figure 1b. The historical distribution records of the northern populations of Maccoa Duck (Neil Baker, Tanzania Bird Atlas).**



**Figure 1c. The current distribution records of the northern populations of Maccoa Duck (Neil Baker, Tanzania Bird Atlas). White circles show sites where the Maccoa Duck no longer occurs and black circles show sites where it still occurs.**



**Figure 1d.** Current distribution records of Maccoa Duck in South Africa (showing provincial boundaries) and numbers of birds recorded based on CWACs (M.J. Wheeler, ADU).



**Figure 1e.** Current distribution records of Maccoa Duck in relation to IBAs in South Africa from CWACs (M.J. Wheeler, ADU).

## 2. Available key information

**Table 2a. Population estimates for the Maccoa Duck. It is not possible to distinguish between breeding and non-breeding populations for the Maccoa Duck in any country. Data quality, date of estimates and references in all cases do not separate breeding and non-breeding populations. Code for Quality is given as Good (Observed) (Go), Good (estimated) (Ge), Medium (estimated) (Me), Medium (Inferred) (Mi), Poor (Ps) and Unknown (Un), according to the format for AEW Single Species Action Plan, Sept 2002.**

Country	Breeding/ non-breeding no.	Quality	Year(s) of the estimate	Breeding Population trend in the last 10 years (or 3 generations)	Quality	Baseline population	References
Ethiopia	500-2000	Me	2005	Decline	Ps	<b>1000-5000</b> <b>500-3000</b>	<b>Scott &amp; Rose 1996</b> <b>Dodman in review</b>
Eritrea	5	Go	2005	Unknown	Un		<b>Ken Harte in litt</b>
Kenya	<1000	Ge		Decline Mi	Ps	<b>No data</b>	
Tanzania	500	Go	2005	Decline 50% Go	Go		
Uganda	0?	Ps			Un	?	
Rwanda	0	Ps			Un	?	This workshop
East Africa (excludes Ethiopia)	1500	Ge	2005	Decline	Me	<b>15000-25000</b> <b>1000-1500</b>	<b>Scott &amp; Rose 1996</b> <b>Dodman in review</b>
Angola	50	Mi	Recent	Unknown - Dean 2000	Un	Absent?	
Namibia	2000	Go	1990s	Unknown - Simmons & Brown <i>in prep</i>	Un	Absent	Stark & Sclater 1906
Botswana	300	Ge	1999-2000	Unknown - Tyler 2001	Un	Absent	Smithers 1964
Zimbabwe	100-300	Mi	2005	Unknown	Un	No data	
South Africa	4500-5500	Go	2005	Unknown	Un	No data	
Lesotho	10-100	Go	1990	Unknown	Un	No data	
Southern African region	7000-8250	Ge	2005	Unknown	Un	>10 000 15000-25000 <10 000	Callaghan & Green 1993 Scott & Rose 1996 Dodman in review

**Table 2b. Maccoa Duck population estimate for South Africa based on provincial population estimates using Coordinated Waterbird Counts (M.J. Wheeler, ADU). These are the sum of the maximum counts multiplied by a factor of 1.5, for wetlands where Maccoa Duck have been recorded.**

Province of South Africa	Count
<b>Western Cape</b>	<b>2148</b>
<b>Northern Cape</b>	<b>455</b>
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>North-west</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Free State</b>	<b>1125</b>
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	<b>1257</b>
<b>Gauteng</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Limpopo</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5388</b>

**Table 2c. Revised estimates of national population sizes of Maccoa Duck in Southern and Eastern Africa from this workshop.**

Country	Estimate	Reference
<b>Angola</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Based on information in Dean 2000</b>
<b>Botswana</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Tyler 2001</b>
<b>Namibia</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Simmons and Brown <i>in prep.</i></b>
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>4500-5500</b>	<b>This workshop, Table 2b</b>
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<b>100-300</b>	<b>This workshop</b>
Southern African population	7000-8250	This workshop
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>500-2000</b>	<b>This workshop</b>
<b>Eritrea</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Harte (<i>in litt.</i>)</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>This workshop</b>
<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>This workshop</b>
East African populations	2000-3500	
Global estimate	9000-11750	This workshop (rounded estimates)

**Table 3a. Knowledge on habitat, diet and occurrence of the Maccoa Duck in Important Bird Areas and Protected Areas in countries in which the population equals or exceeds 50 birds.**

Type of Knowledge	Breeding and Non-breeding								
	Ethiopia	Kenya	Tanzania	Angola	Namibia	Botswana	Zimbabwe	South Africa	Lesotho
<i>Habitat and diet</i>									
- Habitat use	Partly known	Partly known	Partly known	Partly known	Partly known	Partly known	Partly known	Partly known	Partly known
- Diet	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Partly known	Unknown
<i>Site Protection</i>									
- Number of IBAs where the species breeds or occurs	4	2	3	1	3	2	2	22	0
- Proportion of the population in IBAs	?	80%?	80%?	100%?	10%?	>50%	30%?	30%?	0
- Proportion of the national population in protected areas	?	80%?	80%?	100%?	10%?	>50%	30%?	20%?	0

### 3. Threats

This section described the identified threats or perceived threats in order of relative importance. The threat codes given refer to the hierarchical classification of threats as contained on [www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sis/authority.htm](http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sis/authority.htm).

#### High

Drowning in gill nets. \*\*\*\* **Gill-nets set for fish catch and kill Maccoa Ducks as an incidental by-catch. This was identified as the major threat by Callaghan and Green (1993) for the East African population on larger water bodies. Threat code 4.1.1.2.**

Draining of wetlands. \*\*\*\* **The draining of wetlands for various reasons, including conversion to farmlands is thought to be an important threat. This applies mainly to smaller water bodies which are used by the Maccoa Duck for breeding. Threat code 1.1.1 & 1.4.**

Pollution. \*\*\*\* **As Maccoa Duck feed on invertebrates in bottom sediment, there is the possibility that levels of pollutants may have lethal and sub-lethal effects through biological concentration up the food chain. Levels of pesticides were recorded by Tannock *et al.* (1983) in birds from Zimbabwe. The extent of these threats is not known but not considered important at present. Threat code 6.3.1, 6.3.2 & 6.3.3.**

**Alien vegetation.** \*\*\* In South Africa in particular, water bodies are prone to invasion by aquatic alien species whilst the wetland margins may be invaded by alien terrestrial plants. In Kenya, in areas around Naivasha where >60% of birds are thought to occur, water bodies have been invaded by the Louisiana Red Crayfish, Water Hyacinth and *Salvinia molesta* (O. Nasirwa *in litt*). Threat code 1.5.

**Variable water levels.** \*\*\* This threat refers to the rapid change in water levels in impoundments notably in Southern Africa, but also increased variability in water levels as a result of e.g. loss of forest cover in catchments in Kenya. Rapid changes can disrupt breeding and feeding conditions for Maccoa Ducks. Variation in water levels of natural wetlands is not included here. Threat code is 1.8.

#### Medium

**Improved treatment of sewage water.** \*\* The numbers of Maccoa Ducks at Strandfontein Sewage Works, Western Cape, South Africa, was recorded as dropping from 500 to less than 50 after a new treatment plant altered feeding conditions (Hockey *et al.* 1989). New legislation in South Africa has specified standards for high water quality, which will reduce the productivity of aquatic food chains in settling ponds of sewage plants and will probably significantly reduce the food supply of Maccoa Ducks. Threat code 1.1.8.

Disturbance. \*\*\* **This is incidental disturbance with two very different sources – recreational usage of large water bodies in Southern Africa and incidental disturbance resulting from activities of subsistence living of local communities around wetlands. Threat code 1.4.2. & 10.1**

**Nest predation and poaching.** \*\* This is the deliberate searching for eggs in nests of Maccoa Ducks in small ephemeral wetlands where they exist. Threat code 3.1.1.

#### Low

**Sport hunting.** \* Bags are limited and controlled by permit. It is unlikely that this is a significant threat except locally. In South Africa, where the bird is protected, questioning of experienced duck hunters suggest that it is rarely shot and then by accident (A. Berruti, AGRED). When disturbed, birds usually seek to escape to cover by swimming low in the water or by diving and swimming underwater (Macnae 1959, Clark 1964). Because this species does not readily flush (Clancey 1967), it is less likely to be an accidental or deliberate target for sport hunters. Threat code 3.5.1.

**Botulism.** \* Botulism (ingestion of toxins released by the bacterium (*Clostridium botulinum*) has been recorded on at least one occasion in the Free State Province of South Africa (van Heerden 1974). Thirty-one birds (5.8 % of Maccoa Ducks counted at the site) were affected (presumably this means they died in all cases) over summer of 1972-1973 at Witpan in the Free State, Goldfields, South Africa. From time to time, botulism outbreaks occur in South Africa, and it is likely that Maccoa Ducks are infected and die during such occurrences. However, this is unlikely to be a significant mortality. Hilgarth and Kear (1984) note a death as a result of avian tuberculosis in captivity. Threat code 8.5.

#### Local

**Competition and hybridisation with *Oxyura jamaicensis*.** \*. There is a probable record of *O. jamaicensis* from Eritrea (Dodman & Taylor 1995) from which the Maccoa Duck has now been recorded (Harte *in litt*). As this species is a major

threat to *Oxyura leucocephala* (Birdlife International 2005c) and is increasing in its distribution in Eurasia, it does represent a future threat to the integrity of the Ethiopian population of *O. maccoa*, then possibly southwards to East Africa and finally southern Africa. Another possibility is the escape of captive *Oxyura jamaicensis* from collections in South Africa. No other hybridisation reported with other species (Milstein 1979). At present a very local threat but it does have the potential to become an important threat. Threat codes 2.1 & 2.3.

Bird trade. \* **This is regarded as a low priority threat. Threat code 3.5.2.**

Unknown

**Alien benthic-feeding fish.**\*\* Based on the threat posed to the Australian Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* (BirdLife International 2005a), it is possible that the introduction of alien benthic feeding species, notably carp, is a potential threat by direct competition for benthic invertebrates with the Maccoa Duck. Threat code 2.1.

**Table 4.1** The importance of threats resulting in a reduction in breeding success at the national level for Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The threats are ranked relative to each other (-1: a threat believed to have a negligible impact, -2: a threat believed to have a medium impact, -3: a threat believed to have a high impact and -4: a threat believed to have a critical impact and that needs to be addressed immediately). Threats are coded according to the IUCN SSC SiS Threats Authority files.

Threat code	Threats reducing breeding success	Countries						
		Ethiopia	Kenya	Tanzania	Namibia	Botswana	Zimbabwe	South Africa
High								
1.1.1, 1.4.	Draining of wetlands	1	3	1	1	1	1	2
4.1.1.2	Drowning in gill-nets	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
6.3.1., 6.3.2, 6.3.3.	Pollution	1	1	1	2	2	1	2
1.5.	Invasive alien vegetation on wetlands	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
1.8	Variable water levels	1	2/3	1	3	3	3	3
Medium								
1.1.8	Improved quality of sewage farm water	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
1.4.2., 10.1.	Disturbance	2	2	3	1	1	2	2
3.1.1	Nest predation and poaching	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Low								
3.5.1.	Sport hunting	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8.5.	Botulism	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unknown								
2.1.; 2.3.	Competition with <i>O. jamaicensis</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2.1	Competition with alien fish	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
3.5.2.	Bird trade	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Table 4.2** The importance of threats resulting in a reduction in adult survival at the national level for Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Threats are coded according to the IUCN SSC SiS Threats Authority files. (-1: a threat believed to have a negligible impact, -2: a threat believed to have a medium impact, -3: a threat believed to have a high impact and -4: a threat believed to have a critical impact and that needs to be addressed immediately).

Threat code	Threats reducing breeding success	Countries						
		Ethiopia	Kenya	Tanzania	Namibia	Botswana	Zimbabwe	South Africa
High								
1.1.1, 1.4.	Draining of wetlands	1	3	1	1	1	1	3
4.1.1.2	Drowning in gill-nets	2	2	3	1	1	1	1
6.3.1., 6.3.2, 6.3.3.	Pollution	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1.5.	Invasive alien vegetation on wetlands	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
1.8	Variable water levels	1	2/3	1	3	3	3	3
Medium								
1.1.8	Improved quality of sewage farm water	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1.4.2., 10.1.	Disturbance	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
3.1.1	Nest predation and poaching	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Low								
3.5.1.	Sport hunting	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8.5.	Botulism	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unknown								
2.1.; 2.3.	Competition with <i>O. jamaicensis</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2.1	Competition with alien fish	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3.5.2.	Bird trade	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Figure 2. Problem tree of threats and problems relating to Maccoa Duck.

**LEGEND:**

**SA = South Africa**

**EA = East Africa**

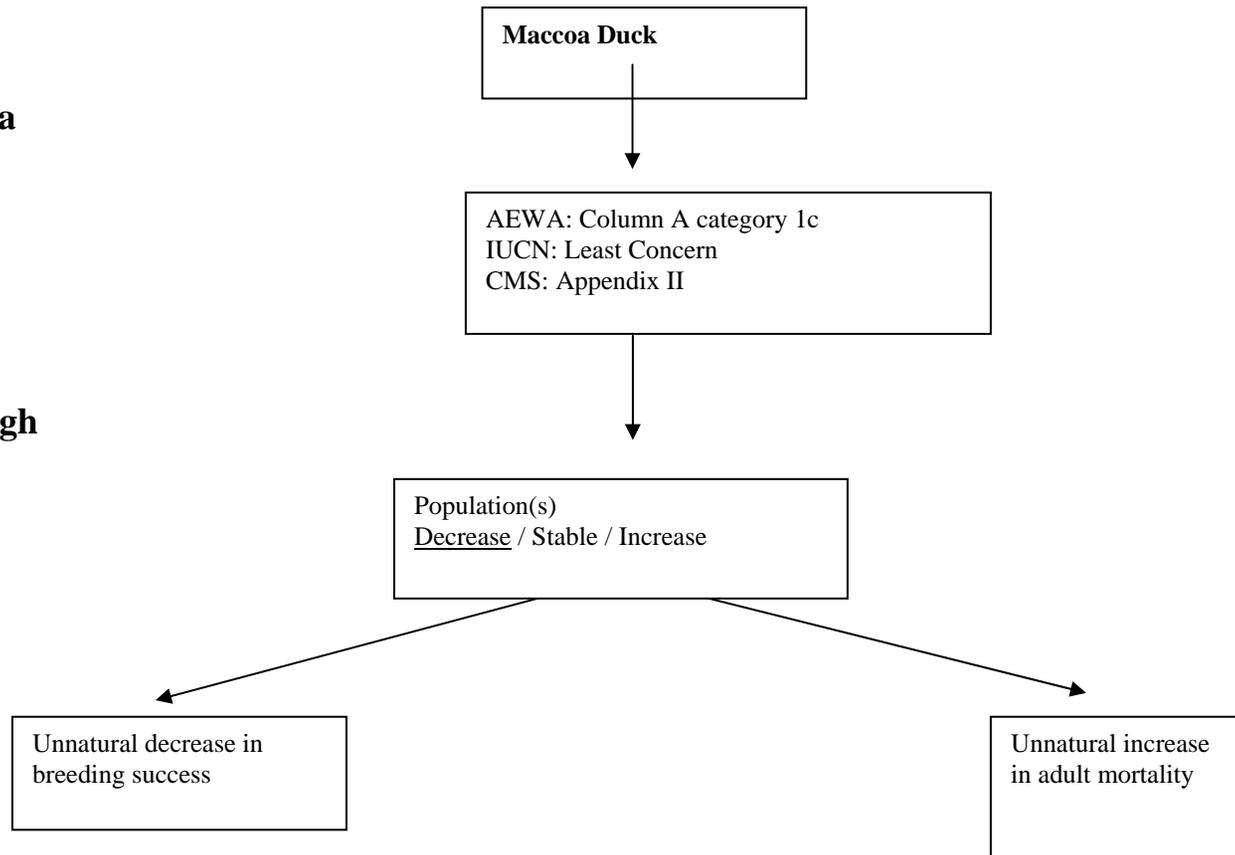
**Rating**

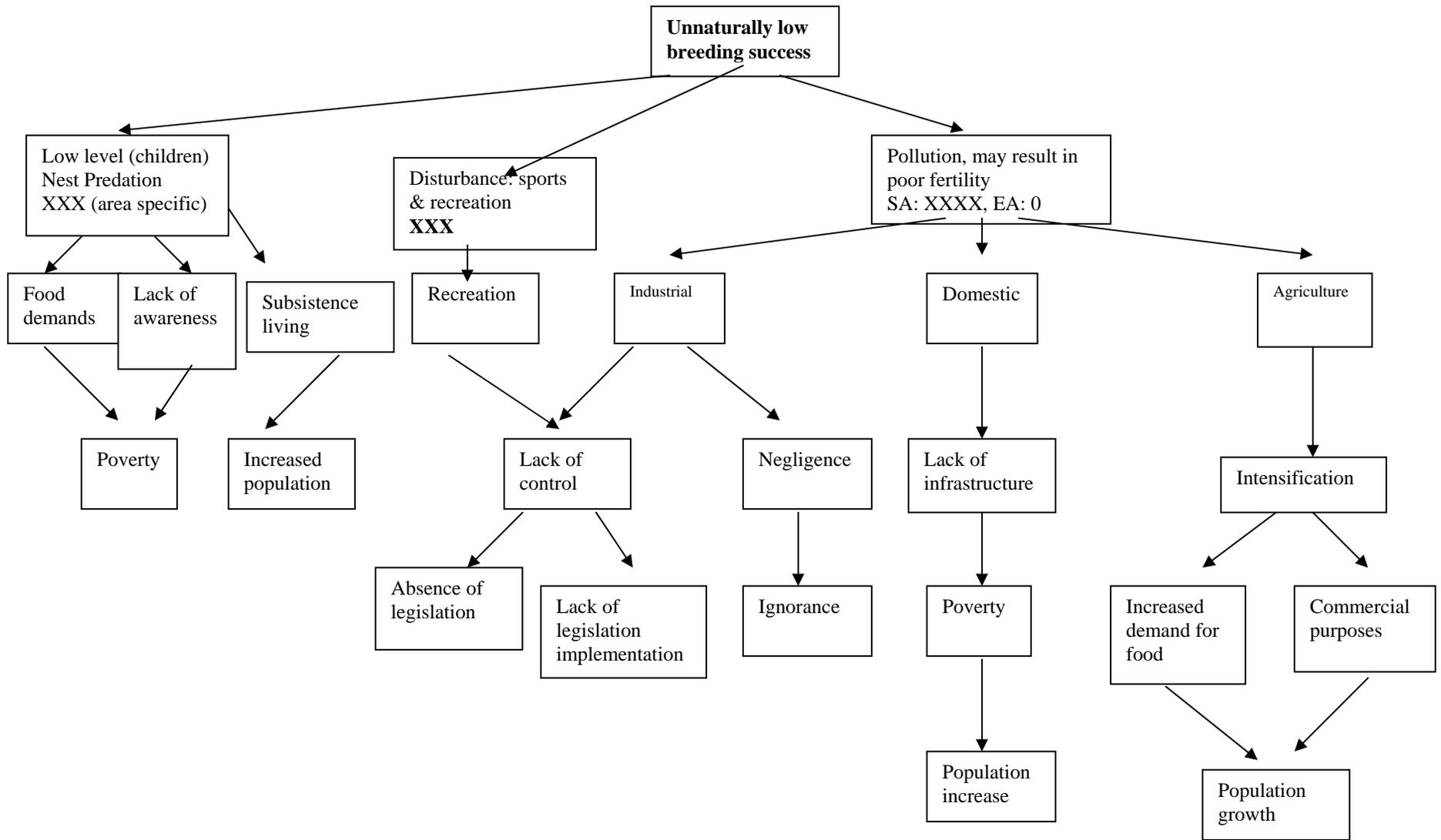
**X = Low**

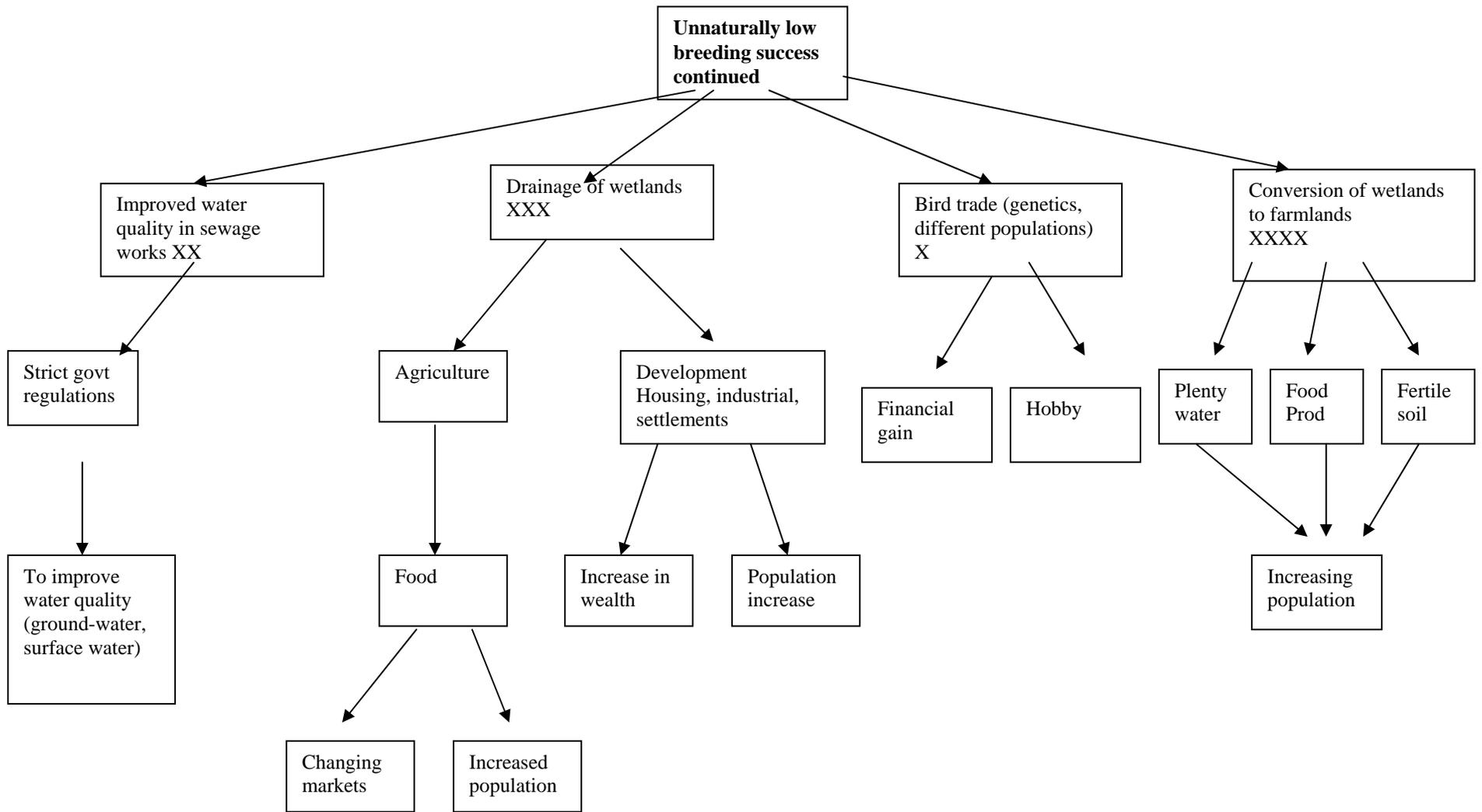
**XX = Medium**

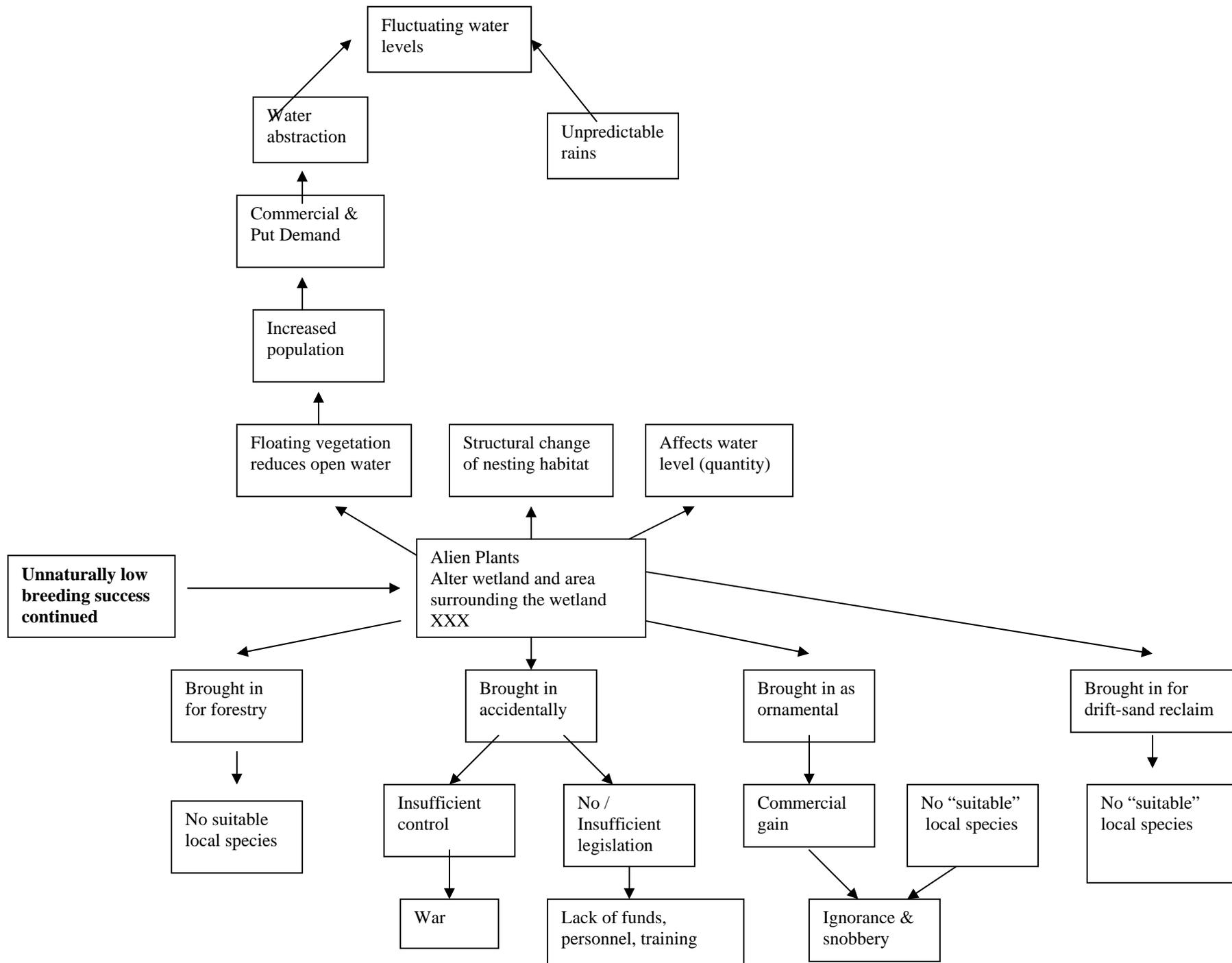
**XXX = High**

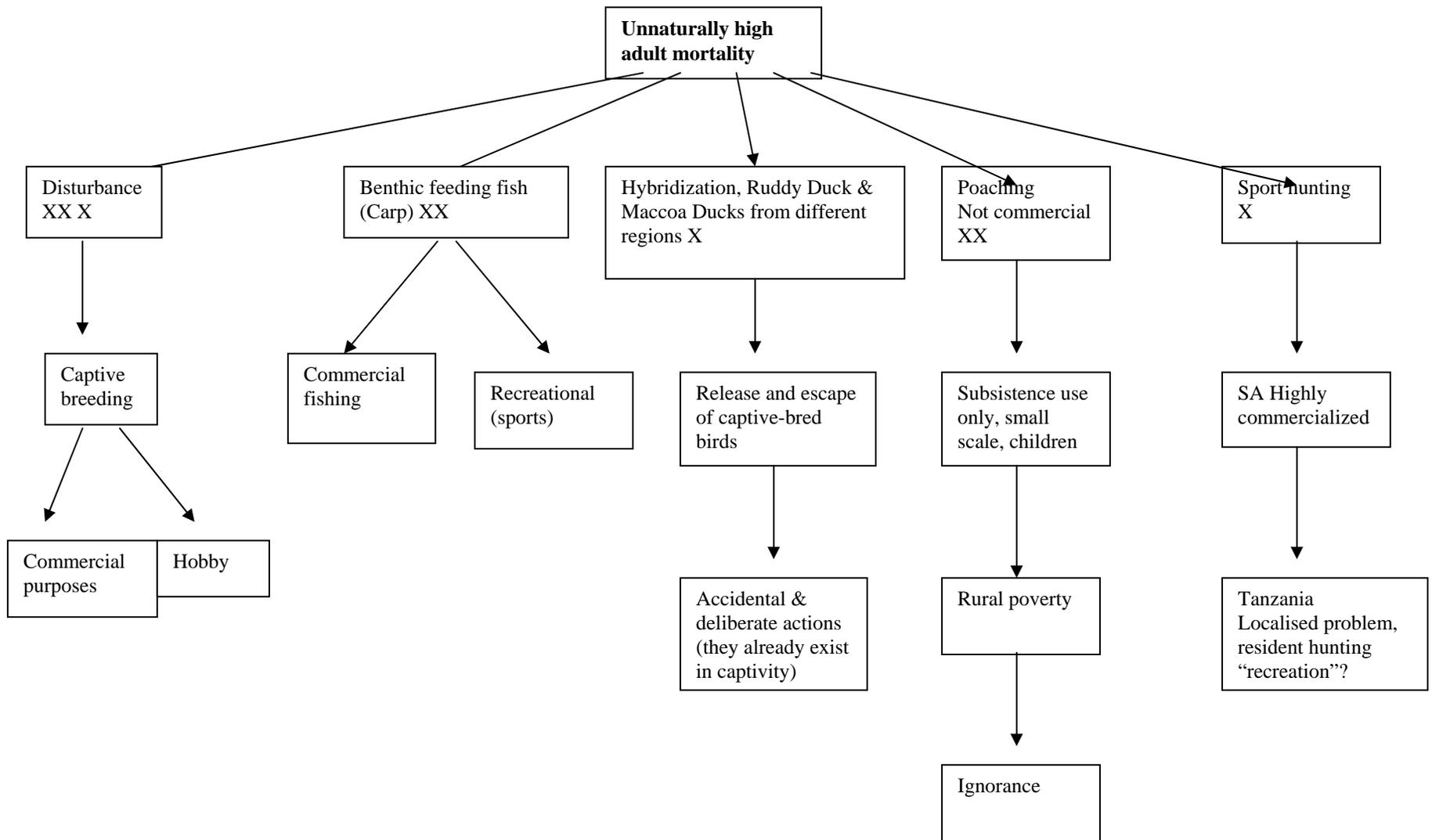
**XXXX = Very High**

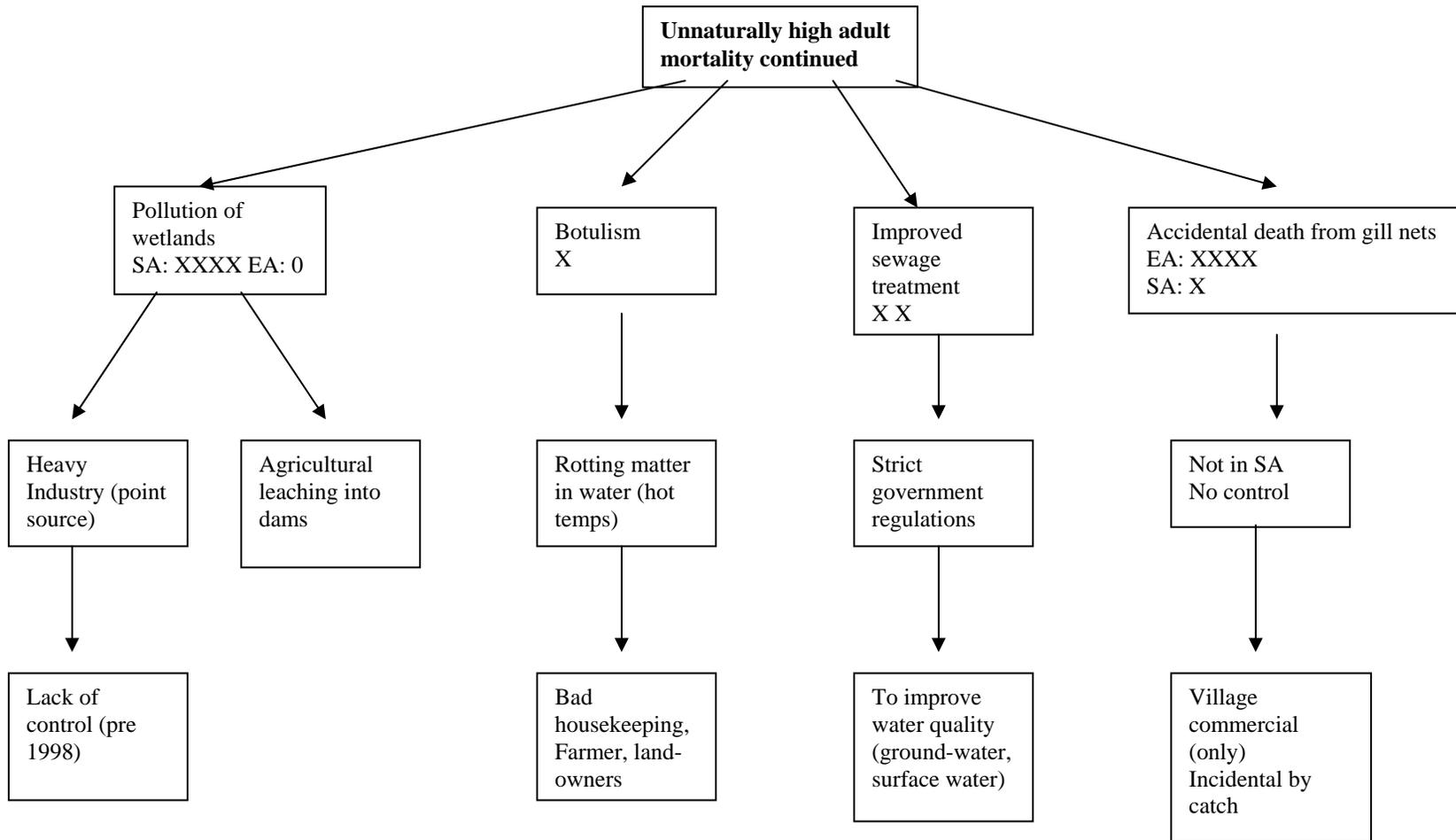












#### 4. Policies and legislation relevant for management

**Table 5. International conservation and legal status of the species.**

World Status	African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species	Convention on Migratory Species
Least concern	Category A, column 1c	Not listed	Appendix II

#### National policies, legislation and ongoing activities

**Table 6. National conservation and legal status**

Country	Status in national Red Data Book	Legal protection from killing	Year of protection status	Penalties for illegal killing or nest destruction	Highest responsible authority
Ethiopia	No RDB	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kenya	Endangered	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tanzania	Endangered	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Angola	No RDB		N/A	N/A	N/A
Namibia	Near-threatened Draft RDB		N/A	N/A	N/A
Botswana	Listed in RDB Status?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zimbabwe	No RDB		N/A	N/A	N/A
South Africa	Of least concern	Protected by provincial hunting regulations	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lesotho	No RDB	?	N/A	N/A	N/A

Bennun, L. & Njoroge, P. (eds). 1996. Birds to watch in East Africa: A preliminary Red Data List. National Museums of Kenya, Centre for Biodiversity Research Reports: Ornithology No. 23.

**Table 7. Site (and habitat) protection and research.**

Country	Percentage of population included in	Percentage of population included in	Percentage of population included in	Research carried out in the last 5 years
---------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--

	<b>IBAs</b>	<b>Ramsar sites</b>	<b>national protected areas</b>	
Ethiopia	?	Nil	?	Nil
Kenya	80%?	70%	80%	Population monitoring
Tanzania	80%?	Nil	80%?	Population monitoring
Angola	100%	Nil	100%	Nil
Namibia	10%?	2%	10%?	Population monitoring
Botswana	>50%	Nil	0%	Nil
Zimbabwe	30%	Nil	30%	Nil
South Africa	30%?	20%?	20%?	Population monitoring in selected locations
Lesotho?	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**Table 8. Recent conservation action and attitude towards the species.**

<b>Country</b>	<b>National protection plan for the species</b>	<b>Is there a national Maccoa Duck working group?</b>	<b>Is there a national survey/monitoring programme?</b>	<b>Is there a monitoring programme in protected areas?</b>	<b>Routines for informing the responsible authorities regarding nesting areas and nest sites</b>	<b>Conservation efforts over the last ten years</b>	<b>General attitude towards the species</b>
Ethiopia	No	No	No	No	No	Not specific	Not a priority
Kenya	No	No	Yes?	No	No	Not specific	Not a priority
Tanzania	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes?	Not specific	Not a priority
Angola	No	No	No	No	No	Not specific	Not a priority
Namibia	No	No	Yes	Partly	No	Not specific	Not a priority
Botswana	No	No	Yes?	Partly?	No	Not specific	Not a priority
Zimbabwe	No	No	No	No	No	Not specific	Not a priority
South Africa	No	No	Yes	Partly	No	Not specific	Not a priority
Lesotho	No	No	No	No	No	Not specific	Not a priority

## 5. Framework for Action

### Aim

To stabilise or increase natural populations of Maccoa Duck as indicators of sustainable wetland management for the benefit of people in Africa by 2010.

### Purpose

To define the threats and take mitigating action based on improved knowledge based on co-operative partnerships.

### Objectives

**Prevent accidental drawings in gill nets.** To reduce the use of gill nets in critical sites through the use of legislation (national and local) and education.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Quarterly report
Means of verification:	Provincial conservation reports – law enforcement actions and investigation reports.
Country:	All
Priority:	East Africa **** Southern Africa **
Risks:	Government may not wish to amend legislation
Opportunities:	Capacity building Changes in legislation Wetland management Reduction in bycatch

**To stop wetland loss in key Maccoa Duck areas.**

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Reports
Means of verification:	Remote sensing – (Satellite Application Centre – CSIR)
Country:	All
Priority:	SA and Kenya***
Risks:	No funds Political will
Opportunities:	Updated data and images Public support

**To reduce disturbance at critical Maccoa Duck sites**

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Quantitative progress report
Means of verification:	
Country:	All
Priority:	Disturbance must first be identified and quantified
Risks:	Political will Practicalities

Opportunities:	Increasing poverty Private ownership/protected areas
<b>Sport hunting</b>	
Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Data from hunting organisations Reduction of hunted Maccua ducks Report accidental deaths Provincial officials to attend selected hunts (AGRED/NGF could advise)
Means of verification:	
Country:	All
Priority:	*
Risks:	Non-cooperation by hunting organisations Integrity of data Political will Developing sport hunting industry in east Africa Well-structured South Africa hunting organisations
Opportunities:	
<b>To prevent poaching</b>	
Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Political buy-in Site specific success No of cases handled by Conservation
Means of verification:	
Country:	All
Priority:	*
Risks:	Lack of political buy-in No community support Capacity building Govt support for Ramsar sites
Opportunities:	
<b>Loss of habitat through upgrading sewage works.</b>	
Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	
Means of verification:	
Country:	Southern Africa
Priority:	?
Risks:	Political will Practicalities Increasing poverty Private ownership/protected areas
Opportunities:	
<b>Eliminate alien plants</b>	
Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Reduction in alien plants
Means of verification:	Working for Water/Wetlands progress reports in South Africa

Country:	All
Priority:	?
Risks:	Lack of funding No political buy-in Slow progress
Opportunities:	Improved co-operation Awareness
<b>Reduce Botulism</b>	
Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Fewer sites experiencing botulism
Means of verification:	
Country:	South Africa
Priority:	*
Risks:	Lack of funding Lack of practical solution
Opportunities:	
<b>Manage water levels for optimal Maccoa Duck</b>	
Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Successful breeding Length of stay longer than before
Means of verification:	Progress in ecological reserve determination and implementation of ecological sound water flow management (appropriate for rivers that feed dams and weirs)
Country:	Southern Africa, Kenya
Priority:	?
Risks:	Lack of funding Lack of manpower Lack of political will
Opportunities:	Overall improved aquatic biodiversity/ecological processes
<b>Determine effect of pollution on breeding and abundance of Maccoa Duck</b>	
Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Effects of pollution determined Mitigation measures in place
Means of verification:	
Country:	South Africa, Kenya (Naivasha)
Priority:	****
Risks:	Lack of funding No data available Lack of manpower Lack of political will
Opportunities:	Data gained Capacity building
<b>Competition with alien benthic-feeding fish</b>	
Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):	Confirmation of threat

Means of verification:  
 Country: All  
 Priority: \*\*  
 Risks: Data does not exist  
 Opportunities: Similar studies do exist

**Obtain improved population estimates and distribution of Maccoa Duck**

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI): Revised estimates of all parameters  
 Means of verification:  
 Country: All  
 Priority: \*\*\*\*  
 Risks: Buy-in  
 Opportunities: Outside funding

**Re-introduction of birds into suitable sites in southern Tanzania**

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI): No. of birds 2 years after release  
 Means of verification:  
 Country: Tanzania  
 Priority: \*\*  
 Risks: Reasons for extirpation not fully known  
 No source of birds for breeding  
 Many risks in actual introduction  
 No suitable partners  
 Opportunities: Supportive community in re-introduction area  
 Much already known  
 New partners

**Bird trade**

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI): Known trade is controlled  
 Means of verification:  
 Country: All  
 Priority: \*  
 Risks: Trade not detected  
 Policy is not accepted  
 Opportunities: Educate traders  
 Creating awareness in conservation agencies

**Hybridisation**

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI): No hybrids known  
 Means of verification: CWAC/BIRP/wing-shooters observations  
 Country: All  
 Priority: \*\*  
 Risks: Undetected populations of Ruddy Ducks  
 Identification of hybrids

Opportunities:

Educate waterfowl breeders  
Uniform policy in South Africa

**Upgrade threat status of Maccoa Duck internationally**

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI):

Means of verification:

Country:

Priority:

Risks:

Opportunities:

Species listed as Near-threatened by BirdLife International

Listing on website and RDB

All

\*\*\*

Increase international awareness of species at risk

## 6. Activities by country

### Legend:

**Cost:** \* 0 – 5,000 US\$,  
 \*\* 50001 – 10,000 US\$,  
 \*\*\* 10,001 – 15,000 US\$,  
 \*\*\*\* 15,000 US\$

**Priority (for results):** \* low importance  
 \*\* medium importance  
 \*\*\* high importance  
 \*\*\*\* critically important

Result (Objective)	Activity	Agencies	Timescale	Cost
To reduce the use of gill nets in critical sites through the use of legislation (national and local) and education.				
	1. Access existing legislation on gill nets 2. Is legislation being implemented? 3. Discuss possible amendments with govt. 4. Identify strategic sites 5. Visit sites to discuss with stakeholders 6. Establish & implement site action plans 7. Monitor use of gill nets and duck populations	Govt reps, WCST Maccoa Duck Action Group NGOs, Govt NGOs, Govt NGOs, Govt NGOs, Govt, community NGOs, Govt, community	April 05 – Sep 05 Oct 05 – Oct 07 Apr 05 – Apr 08 Apr 05 – Apr 08 Apr 05 -2010 Apr 05 -2010 Apr 05 - 2010	** ** **** **** **** **** ****
Stop wetland loss in key Maccoa Duck areas				
	1. Compile a comprehensive list of Maccoa Duck areas by 2006. 2. Understand Maccoa Duck movement 3. Identify key sites where conversion of wetlands is a problem. Priority *** 4. Form partnerships between IAAPs to prevent wetland loss/conversion and rehabilitate degraded wetlands. Priority **. 5. Implement/enforce existing relevant legislation including EIAs. Priority ***. 6. Monitor wetland loss and rehabilitation. Priority ***	Govt, NGOs, NRF  Govt, NGOs  All  Govt  Govt/NGOs, NRF	Apr 05 – Apr 06  Apr 05 – Apr 06 Apr 05 – Apr 06  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing	****  **** ****  **  **  ****
To reduce disturbance at critical Maccoa Duck sites				
	1. Assess level and forms of disturbance at critical Maccoa Duck sites. Priority *** 2. Formulate proper solution and mitigation	Maccoa Duck Action Group, WCST Maccoa Duck Action Group, WCST	Apr 06 – Apr 07 Apr 06 – Apr 07	*** ***

Result (Objective)	Activity	Agencies	Timescale	Cost
	measures. Priority***			
To prevent any negative impacts of sport-hunting on Maccoa Duck				
	1. Contact all hunting organizations to request data on mortalities of Maccoa Duck due to hunting. Priority **	Thirstland Safaris	Apr 05 – Sept 05	*
	2. Mitigate through education where necessary. Priority *	Thirstland Safaris, govt, media Neil Baker, WCST	Apr 05 - 2010	** *
	3. Alert Government to status & threats to Maccoa Duck through hunting. Identify species critical sites not to be hunted. Priority ***			
To minimize the impact of poaching on the Maccoa Duck				
	1. Implement village-based, site-specific awareness programmes **	WCST, Govt, NGOs	Apr 05 - 2010	**
	2. Monitor the effectiveness of programmes **	WCST, Govt, NGOs	Apr 05 - 2010	**
To determine the effect of water pollution on the breeding and abundance of Maccoa Ducks and possible mitigation measures				
	1. Desktop study of relevant pollution literature and unpublished data sources in SA by 2007. Priority ****.	Responsible research scientist (NW Univ, EWT)	Apr 05 – Dec 06	****
	2. Depending on outcome of desktop study. Conduct field work on specific pollution threats of necessary by 2010. Priority ****?.	Responsible research scientist (NW Univ, EWT)	Jan 07 – Dec 2010	***
	3. Implement pollution mitigation measures where necessary, using national/provincial legislation. Priority ****.	All relevant govt agencies, private landowners, NGOs	Jan 2011 - ongoing	*
Eliminate alien plants, restore natural vegetation in 10 key Maccoa Duck sites by 2010				
	1. Identify key Maccoa Duck sites where alien plants are a problem. Priority ***.	Resp. gov. depts., NGOs (WFW)	Jan 06 – Dec 06	****

Result (Objective)	Activity	Agencies	Timescale	Cost
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Form partnerships with key institutions &amp; landowners &amp; IAAPs in order to eliminate alien plants + restore natural vegetation in key MD sites. Priority ****.</li> <li>3. Implement relevant legislation concerning alien plant species where it exists. Priority ***</li> <li>4. Monitor alien plant control and rehabilitation of natural vegetations. Priority ****</li> </ol>	<p>Resp. gov depts., NGOs, landowners</p> <p>Resp. govt depts.</p> <p>Resp. govt depts., universities</p>	<p>Jan 06 – ongoing</p> <p>April 05 – ongoing</p> <p>Apr 05 - ongoing</p>	<p>****?</p> <p>*?</p> <p>***</p>
Manage water levels for optimum Maccoa Duck habitat in 5 sites by 2010				
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify key Maccoa Duck sites where water level fluctuations are a problem. Priority **.</li> <li>2. Form partnerships with key institutions and IAAPs in order to manage water levels. Priority ***.</li> <li>3. Implement relevant legislation with regard to water. Priority ***.</li> <li>4. Monitor water levels at key Maccoa Duck sites. Priority ***.</li> </ol>	<p>Ornithological NGOs</p> <p>Resp. partners, NGOs, govt</p> <p>Resp. Govt agencies</p> <p>Ornithol. govt dept, NGOs, bird clubs</p>	<p>Jan 06- Dec 06</p> <p>Jan 06 – ongoing</p> <p>Apr 06 – ongoing</p> <p>Jan 06 -ongoing</p>	<p>****?</p> <p>****?</p> <p>*?</p> <p>****</p>
To mitigate negative impact on Maccoa Duck habitat due to upgrading of sewage plants				
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compile a report on dependence of MD on settling ponds in existing sewage ponds. Priority ***.</li> <li>2. To encourage provision of suitable habitat for Maccoa Ducks in modern sewage works. Priority *.</li> <li>3. EIAs for the upgrading of municipal sewage works must incorporate Maccoa Duck habitats. Priority ***.</li> <li>4. Encourage catchments forums to become aware of Maccoa Duck habitat. Priority **.</li> </ol>	<p>Responsible ornithologists &amp; bird clubs.</p> <p>Provincial and local authorities, EIA consultants, NGOs</p> <p>National, provincial and local Govt, NGOs, EIA consultants</p> <p>Resp. ornithologist and NGOs</p>	<p>Jan 06 – Dec 07</p> <p>Jan 08 – ongoing</p> <p>Apr 05 – ongoing</p> <p>Jan 06 - ongoing</p>	<p>***</p> <p>*</p> <p>***</p> <p>***</p>
To minimize occurrence of botulism and therefore impact on Maccoa Duck				

Result (Objective)	Activity	Agencies	Timescale	Cost
	1. Get specialist (veterinary?) input on impact and mitigation of botulism in wetlands	Veterinary consultant	Jan 06 – Dec 06	***
Re-introduction of birds in suitable sites in southern highlands of Tanzania				
	1. Identify suitable sites	Tanzania Bird Atlas Project	Jan 06 - Jul 06	*
	2. Understand reasons for extirpation	Tanzania Bird Atlas Project	Jan 06 – Jul 06	*
	3. Ensure previous threats no longer exist	Tanzania Bird Atlas Project	Jan 06 – Jul 06	*
	4. Identify source of eggs/adults of same genetic stock	Tanzania Bird Atlas Project	Jan 06 – Jul 06	*
	5. Desktop study of previous programmes/techniques	Tanzania Bird Atlas Project	Jan 06 – Jul 06	*
	6. Collaboration with suitable partners	Tanzania Bird Atlas Project, others	Jan 06 – Jul 06	*
	7. Re-introduction	Tanzania Bird Atlas Project, others	Jan 06 – Jul 06	*
Competition with alien benthic feeding fish				
	1. Identify key Maccoa Duck sites where exotic benthic-feeding fish occur	University	Jan 7 – Dec 07	*
	2. Conduct desktop study on literature and unpublished data on the impact of alien fish on Maccoa Duck food sources.	University	Jan 06 – Jul 06	*
	3. Publish	University	07	*
	4. Based on Desktop study undertake further appropriate action if necessary.	?	?	?
Obtain improved population estimates and distribution of Maccoa Duck				
	1. Identify all Maccoa Duck breeding and non-breeding sites	CWAC, BirdLife partners	Present – Dec 06	****
	2. Co-ordinated Maccoa Duck count at non-breeding sites	CWAC, volunteers, NGOs, conservation agencies	07 – ongoing	**
	3. Expand CWAC and other counts to include more Maccoa Duck sites	CWAC	07 – ongoing	**
	4. List all sites where species used to occur and why they no longer occur there	Universities/consultants	Jan 07-Dec 09	***
	5. Determine movement patterns	Universities	Jan 07 – Dec 09	***
	6. Maccoa Duck genetics to determine genetics of captive and wild birds	Universities	Jan -6-Dec 06	**
To prevent hybridization of wild populations of Maccoa Duck				

<b>Result (Objective)</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Agencies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Cost</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify captive populations (by end of 2006).</li> <li>2. Alert provincial authorities to ensure compliance (re captive populations) with legislation.</li> <li>3. Alert bird-watchers to report sightings of the Ruddy Duck.</li> </ol>	<p>Conservation agencies/NGOs</p> <p>Maccoa Duck Action Group</p> <p>AGRED plus Maccoa Duck Action Group</p>	<p>Jan 06 –Jul 06</p> <p>Jan 06 –Jul 06</p> <p>Jan 06 –Jul 06</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>
To control trade of collection of <i>Oxyura</i> ducks and eggs in Africa				
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine extent of Maccoa Duck adult and egg trade by 2006.</li> <li>2. Write a policy document on <i>Oxyura</i> duck importation and collections for national and provincial governments.</li> <li>3. Dispatch policy documents and advocacy for adoption in each range state/province.</li> <li>4. Create awareness of possible dangers of hybridization</li> <li>5. Get other <i>Oxyura</i> species listed as invasive in South Africa and elsewhere</li> </ol>	<p>Conservation agencies/NGOs</p> <p>AGRED/conservation agencies/NGOs</p> <p>AGRED/conservation agencies/NGOs</p> <p>AGRED/conservation agencies/ NGOs/ AEWA</p> <p>AGRED/conservation agencies/NGOs</p>	<p>Jan 06 – Jul 06</p> <p>Apr 05 – Dec 05</p> <p>Apr 05 – Dec 05</p> <p>Jan 06 – ongoing</p> <p>Apr 05 – Dec 05</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>
To upgrade the threat status of the Maccoa Duck internationally				
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact BirdLife International and provide information on Maccoa Duck numbers.</li> <li>2. Provide information as requested by BLI for upgrade</li> </ol>	<p>AGRED</p> <p>AGRED/conservation agencies/NGOs</p>	<p>Sept 05</p> <p>Oct 05-Dec 05</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p>

## 7. Implementation

During the Workshop, AGRED (African Gamebird Research Education and Development Trust) offered to act as the lead organisation for the implementation of the Action Plan, and this offer was accepted by the workshop participants.

This Workshop group comprised representatives of national or provincial government (the latter in the case of South Africa), individual experts and representatives of NGOs. This could form the basis of an International Species Working Group (ISWG), which is envisaged as being comprised of representatives of national Species Working Groups, government representatives, representatives of relevant interest groups including relevant treaties. AGRED would as described above, take on the role as co-ordinator and disseminator of information and act as the driving institution in terms of establishing an International Species Working Group. However, National Species Working Groups will often comprise only one or two individuals, because capacity and expertise is lacking in most, if not all, Range States. In addition, because the Maccoa Duck is not presently rated as highly threatened, it is less likely to achieve significant support from national governments, international and national NGOs and international treaties. Clarification will be sought from the AEW Technical Committee in terms establishing an ISWG, or a less formal structure (e.g. Maccoa Duck Action group) will develop through a transitional stage of action and achievement towards the status and structure of an ISWG.

It is perceived that initially, the group would firstly focus on obtaining a better understanding of population sizes and trends, secondly on increasing awareness amongst conservationists and executive authorities that this species is at best Near-threatened.

The activities of this group would focus on:

- Guidelines for population censusing and monitoring
- Annual national counts of Maccoa Ducks
- Inclusion in national and international RDB status, and upgrading (i.e. higher levels of threat categorisation) of national and international conservation status as appropriate
- Improved definition of annual cycles and movement
- Improved understanding of habitat usage in relation to breeding activities
- Guidelines for habitat management practices
- Improved definition and evaluation of threats
- Collect country data for and annual reports on the implementation of the Action Plan
- Monitor implementation through submission of an annual report
- Prepare and organise a triennial meeting with range states
- Prepare and submit a triennial review to the triennial range states meeting

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ANNEX 1. Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of relevance for the Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*. Data from Fishpool & Evans (2001), N. Baker (this workshop), M.J. Wheeler (this workshop), Simmons & Brown *in prep.* and Taylor *et al.* (1999).

Country	International name	Area (ha)	Location		Population		Year	Season	Accuracy	Protection status
			Lat	Long	Min	Max				
Ethiopia	Sululta plains ET024	?	09 12	38 43	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
	Bishoftu ET032	93	08 48	39 00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
	Chelekleka lake & swamp ET033	?	08 51	38 58	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
	Abijatta-Shalla Lakes National Park ET048	88 700	07 30	38 30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Proposed national park
Kenya	Lake Naivasha KE048	23 600	00 46	36 21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ramsar
	Lake Nakuru National Park	18 800	00 22	36 05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	National Ramsar
Tanzania	Arusha National Park TZ001	13 700	03 15	37 00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	National Forest reserve
	Eluanata TZ022	1100	03 23	36 18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
	Singida Lakes TZ034	1100	04 18	34 42	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
Angola	Bicuari National Park AO 001	790 000	15 08	14 56	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	National
Zimbabwe	Robert Macilwaine Recreation Park ZW 013	6 180	17 52	30 46	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Recreation park
	Hwange National Park ZW009	1 460 000	19 00	26 30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	National
Botswana	Bokaa Dam? BW009	620	24 28	25 55	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
	Phakalane Sewage lagoons BW010	100	24 34	25 58	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
Namibia	Etosha National Park NA004	2 291 200	18 59	14 45	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	National Ramsar
	Bushman Pan System NA 007	120 000	19 37	20 37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
	Sandwich harbour NA014	8 500	23 20	14 30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Park Ramsar
South Africa	Nyl River Floodplain SA008	50 270	28.41	24.93	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially Protected
	Steenkamsberg SA016	4431	30.02	25.37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially Protected
	<b>Amersfoort-Bethal-Carolina District SA018</b>	347 381	26 32	29 50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
	Chrissie Pans SA019	98 122	26 19	30 15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprotected
	SA020 Grassland Biosphere Reserve	1 053 740	27 15	30 01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partly res Ramsar
	Nyl River	50 270	28.41	24.93	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially

	Floodplain SA008									Protecte
	Blesbokspruit SA021	1932	28.30	26.16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially Protecte
	Spitzkop Dam SA028	13 131	24.33	28.04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprote
	Orange River Mouth Wetlands SA030	2311	28.36	16.28	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprote Ramsar
	Kamfers Dam SA032	1176	24.46	28.40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially Protecte
	Platberg-Karoo Conservancy SA037	1 248 164	24.18	30.38	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprote
	Sandveld & Bloemhof Nature Reserve SA039	49 310	25.40	27.41	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fully Pr
	Karoo Nature Reserve SA090	16 865	24.32	32.13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially Protecte
	Swartkops Estuary & Chatty Salt pans SA096	2878	25.36	33.52	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially Protecte
	Verlorenvlei SA103	1448	18.25	32.20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprote
	Lower Berg River Wetlands SA104	23 949	32.47	18.16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprote
	Overberg Wheatbelt SA115	904 760	20.00	34.24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprote
	Rietvlei Wetland Reserve SA111	619	18.30	33.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fully Pr
	Wilderness-Sedgefield Lakes Complex SA114	19 854	34.00	22.44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially Protecte Nationa Nature r
	False Bay Park (Proposed) SA116	893	34.05	8.31	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprote
	Botriviervlei & Kleinmond Estuary SA118	26 642	19.06	34.21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unprote
	De Hoop Nature Reserve SA119	18 256	20.23	34.26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fully Pr Ramsar
Lesotho	None				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

ANNEX 2. Signatory Countries for International Conventions relevant for conservation of the Maccoa Duck.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Presence of Maccoa Duck</b>	<b>Ramsar</b>	<b>CMS</b>	<b>AEWA</b>	<b>CBD</b>	<b>CITES</b>
Angola	Breeding?				X	
Botswana	Breeding	X			X	
Burundi	Historical	X			X	X
Ethiopia	Breeding				X	X
Kenya	Breeding	X	X	X		
Lesotho	Breeding?					
Namibia	Breeding	X			X	X
Rwanda	Absent?				X	X
South Africa	Breeding	X	X	X	X	X
Uganda	Absent?	X	X	X	X	X
Tanzania	Breeding	X	X	X	X	X
Zimbabwe	Breeding				X	X