

### **Project Update: January 2004**

This study has highlighted the threats, issues of management, livelihood, beliefs and commercialism of the trade involving birds. Clearly, the bird trade forms a significant proportion of the wild animal export and the bushmeat trade in Ghana and therefore deserves equal priority of attention with the trade in mammals. It is hoped that the findings from this study will provide the basis and insight for decision-makers and all stakeholders to help develop efficient conservation practices that will ensure sustainability for the all species targeted for trade.

The following recommendations are made in the light of the findings of this study:

1. Licenses for rare species such as Blue Plantain-eater *Corythaëola cristata*, Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus*, Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*, Ahanta Francolin *Francolinus achantensis*, White-Breasted Guineafowl *Agelastes meleagrides*, Fraser's Eagle Owl *Bubo poensis*, Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* and Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, should be banned and fewer licenses should be granted for species of uncertain status or of dwindling numbers.
2. An effective educative and monitoring programme should be established, involving the relevant stakeholders, to monitor bird populations and control inappropriate conservation activities.
3. Action plans to manage all aspects of bird exploitation and define appropriate scales for urgent interventions where trade impacts dangerously on certain species should be drafted.
4. Provisions should be made in the wildlife legislation in Ghana to give a clear legal backing for the enforcement of the principles and obligations of CITES and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).