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## Annual Review of the World Pheasant Association, 2011/2012

World Pheasant Association

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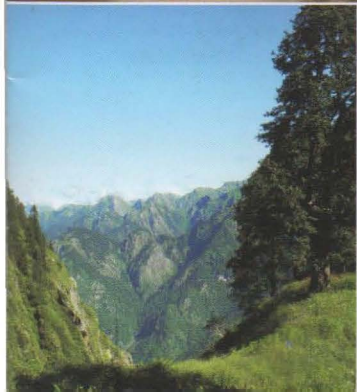
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# Annual Review

of the World Pheasant Association

2011/2012



# The World Pheasant Association Review 2011/12

A REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

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The Duke of Northumberland  
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Prof Zheng Guangmei (China)

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Dr Francis Buner  
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Sir William McAlpine

## Director

Dr Philip J K McGowan

## Conservation Research and Support Officer

Dr Matthew Grainger

## Conservation Officer

Laura Owens

## Administrator

Barbara Ingman

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Ludo Pincel (Chair)

## Conservation Breeding and Aviculture Group-UK

Simon Mayes (Chair)

## Chapter Chairs

**Austria** Manfred Prasch  
[www.wpa-oesterreich.info](http://www.wpa-oesterreich.info)

**Benelux** Ludo Pincel  
[www.wpa-benelux.info](http://www.wpa-benelux.info)

**China** Prof Zheng Guangmei  
[www.chinabird.org/Introduction\\_of\\_WPA-China\(2005\).htm](http://www.chinabird.org/Introduction_of_WPA-China(2005).htm)

**France** Laurent Fontaine  
Email: [fontlau@hotmail.com](mailto:fontlau@hotmail.com)

**Germany** Simon Jensen  
[www.wpadeutschland.de](http://www.wpadeutschland.de)

**India** Shri Shekhar Singh  
<http://wpaindia.org/home.htm>

**Pakistan** Brig Mukhtar Ahmed

**Portugal** Paula Grilo

## Affiliated Organisations

**Bird Conservation Nepal**  
[www.birdlifenepal.org](http://www.birdlifenepal.org)

**Pheasant and Waterfowl Society of Australia** [www.pwsa.org.au](http://www.pwsa.org.au)

## Galliformes Specialist Group

### Co-chairs

Dr Peter Garson  
Prof Ilse Storch

### Co-chairs Advisory Board

Dr Gillian Baker  
Prof John Carroll  
Dr René Dekker  
Dr Richard Fuller  
Dr Alain Hennache  
Dr Rahul Kaul  
Dr Michele Loneux  
Dr Gilbert Ludwig  
Dr Eric Sande  
Dr Brett Sandercock  
Dr Luis Fábio Silveira  
Dr Jeff Thompson  
Dr Zhang Yanyun

## Research Fellow

Dr Elizabeth Boakes (Imperial College, UK)

## Research Associates

Dr Clive Bealey (UK)  
Dr Christine Steiner Sao Bernardo (Brazil)  
Dr Stephen Browne (UK)  
Dr Francis Buner (UK)  
Chhum Samnang (Cambodia)  
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Prof Lu Xin (China)  
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Laxman Poudyal (Nepal)  
Houssein Rayaleh (Djibouti)  
Dr Neil Aldrin Mallari (Philippines)  
Louise Robinson (UK)  
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Nguyen Tran Vy (Vietnam)  
Suman Sharma (Nepal)  
Paras Singh (Nepal)  
Geoffrey Davison (Singapore)  
Prof Sun Yuehua (China)  
Dr Kerry Waylen (UK)  
Dr Tommaso Savini (Thailand)  
Prof Yue Bisong (China)  
Prof Zhang Zhengwang (China)  
Dr Barbara Smith (UK)

## Research Students

Merwyn Fernandes (Wildlife Institute of India)  
Matt Geary (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)  
Jon Dunn (University of Newcastle)  
Emily Woodhouse (Imperial College, UK)  
David Wragg (University of Nottingham, UK)  
Mieke Zwart (University of Newcastle)



Published in August 2012

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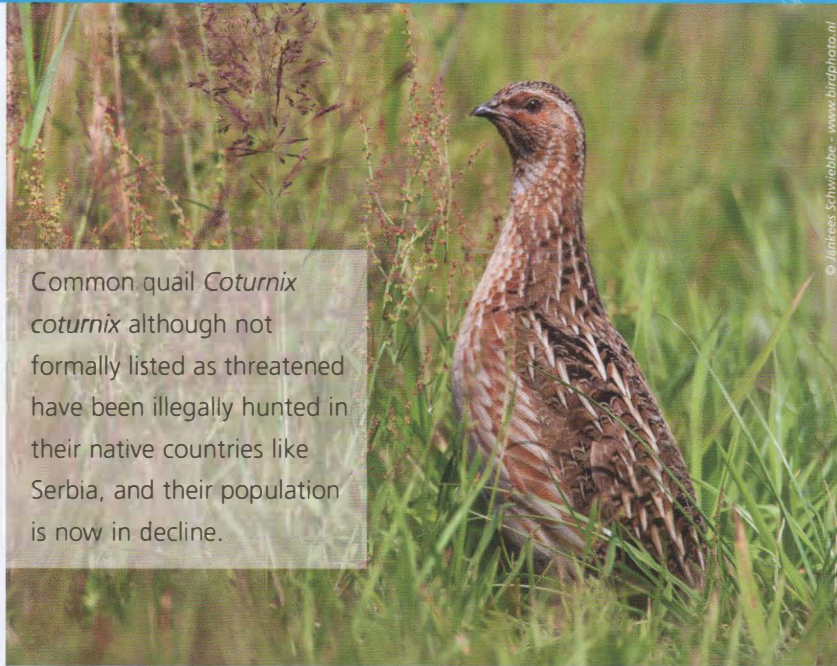
Main picture; White crested Khalij pheasant in Rajaji National Park, India © Merwyn Fernandes  
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# Chairman of Trustees' Report

Richard Carden



Common quail *Coturnix coturnix* although not formally listed as threatened have been illegally hunted in their native countries like Serbia, and their population is now in decline.

I took over from Tim Lovel half-way through the year under report. I have already paid tribute to Tim in *WPA News (Winter 2011-12)*. Under his chairmanship we made real strides in building up a modern system of governance, matching today's exacting standards of our regulator, and we broadened the membership of Council with a wider range of skills. Tim continues to contribute from his new position as Vice President.

One of my aims in my first months as chairman has been to tap into the expertise of individual trustees and to draw them actively into leadership of the organization in between the three days of the year when we meet in committee with a formal agenda. Thanks to modern technology (and despite my rudimentary IT skills), we can exchange views and pool thoughts productively despite being scattered around the country. I would like to go further with this way of working over the coming year, to use the experience available to us.

One person who we have lost as trustee is Stuart Wilson. He had to resign mid-year because of new business commitments, halfway through his term of office, though he had served for six years on Council in the past. We shall be sorry no longer to have him at the Council table, but he and Julie have made a massive contribution to creating the programme for this year's Annual Convention, coming up on 28-30 September. They made all the initial contacts for us with the venues and places we shall be visiting and will,

I hope, be with us to receive our thanks at that event.

We have welcomed to the Council this year Sir William McAlpine and Heiner Jacken, both bringing in new views, skills and connections. Heiner brings us fresh



Two kilometre transect lines being set out in Cat Tien National Park for the green peafowl survey (see page 12).

perspectives from the European mainland. An obituary on page 4 records the loss of a leading member of WPA-Germany: Reinhard Krüger, whom many of you will have known.

Relations with Newcastle University were touched on in last year's Review. I am pleased to report that the relationship between WPA and the university has grown stronger. It was a hope we had when we moved from Fordingbridge to Close House, and it is being amply fulfilled. The benefits run both ways. Most prominently, joint efforts by WPA with the School of Biology have landed an important research grant from Defra, our trustee Dr Mark Whittingham in the lead position. The aim of the project is to develop a method by which Defra can assess its international species priorities. Alongside this we have also enjoyed some lively input from students of the university's Business School who advised on our image and impact.

Phil McGowan in the body of this Review describes the various ways in which he has been developing, and foresees developing further, the WPA's range of conservation activities. The overall aim is to move us from opportunistic to more focussed work plans, to get maximum impact from our limited funds and to increase our chances of securing new funds.

On a personal note, I have been learning more this year about the relations we have with our affiliates across Europe. I joined the group from the UK, Germany, Benelux and Austria which visited two zoos with notable bird collections and conservation breeding operations, Prague and Plzen, last October. I was delighted also to join the leaders of the European chapters for an ECBG meeting hosted by Keith and Kirsteen Chalmers-Watson in April. Some of us who took part will remember standing on a hillside at first light for a Black Grouse count. We heard a few, saw none, and took some hours to unfreeze. But I record that purposeful discussion came alive after a good Scottish breakfast.

Turning more serious, the state of our finances grew more troubling as the year went on, and is still looking very difficult at the time of writing. I am straying now into the current year but I make no apology. Shortage of funds is the dominant issue for us. Last year's Review announced that we had recruited Matt Grainger as Conservation Research and

Support Officer. A few months ago we had to take the hard decision to bring Matt's contract to an early end. This was unwelcome all round because Matt's work with us had been developing productively, and we hope we shall be able to keep a working relationship going one way or another.

That reduction in staff costs has not on its own been sufficient to put our finances on an even keel. This year's slimline review indicates just how short of funds we are. We had an extremely concentrated discussion at Council in June. With a disappointing flow of revenue at the moment, and reserves at a low ebb, we are having to consider cutting deeper into running costs - with high risks of weakening the future impact of WPA on conservation of Galliformes around the world. Since my request for funds in the last WPA News, we have received some, but rather few, contributions so far. We need more, so I end this piece with another urgent call for funds; contributions large or small. Please help if you can.



WPA staff and Research Associates have worked hard to bring together a diverse group of people to conserve the Critically Endangered Trinidad piping-guan *Pipile pipile*.

## Reinhard Krüger - an obituary

Reinhard Krüger, member of the governing body of WPA-Germany, died on 14 June 2012 at the age of 74.

He was one of the founding members of WPA-Germany. In 1995 their annual assembly elected him as vice-president, and he held that position up to his death. He was a softly spoken and thoughtful man. In his active years on the governing body this in particular was what marked him out. Even in the midst of combative discussions he would remain objective, and radiated an air of supreme calm.

He saw it as a positive obligation to attend the regional meetings of WPA-Germany. On the occasions when he was not there, there would be some really compelling reason for his absence. Furthermore, in his active years he travelled to represent the German chapter at international gatherings of the WPA, in England, Benelux and Austria. At all such events he was a welcome guest and senior colleague.

In Reinhard Krüger we have lost, moreover, someone who was successful over several decades as keeper and breeder of Galliformes of different kinds. His successes in breeding argus pheasants were particularly impressive. He was a practitioner of great experience, with the thoroughly positive quality that he was ever pleased to pass on his technical knowledge to other people.

The WPA-Germany, and WPA as a whole, owes him a great deal. We have lost an honest, direct and loveable friend. We pass on our heartfelt sympathies to his children and the wider family.

Registered Charity No. 271203

## 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

to be held on Saturday 29 September 2012 at 12.15pm

in the King's Arms, 147 High Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP34 3HL

Attendance at the AGM is free

### AGENDA

1. Agreement of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 22 October 2011
2. Receive and consider the Report from Council on the past year
3. Receive and consider the Accounts for the year 2011/12
4. Election and Re-election of Members of Council  
The following have agreed to stand, for election:
  - Keith Chalmers-Watson as Charity Trustee and Vice-chairman (*nominated by Council*)
  - Dr Nigel Collar as Charity Trustee (*nominated by Council for a second three year term*)
  - Dr Lesley Dickie as Charity Trustee (*nominated by Council*)
  - Paul North as Charity Trustee (*nominated by Nigel Hester, Keith Howman, Robert Wilding, Ian Hoggarth, Gary Robbins, Mike Rowland, John Newsome, Jim Waring, Jamie MacTavish, Ian Elvin, Carl Garnham*)
  - Billy Wilson as Charity Trustee (*nominated by Keith Chalmers-Watson, Simon Mayes, Stuart Wilson, Ivan Scott, Ashley Reid, Sheila Feltham, Mervyn Montgomery, Ian Henderson, Stephen Jaques, Belinda Moyle, John Corder*)
5. Election and re-election of Vice Presidents

Council has nominated the following, who have agreed to stand, for re-election:

- Prof EJ Milner-Gulland
  - Dang Gia Tung
6. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner
    - Roger Howell
  7. WPA Constitution: further amendments needed

The rules agreed at the AGM in October 2010 are unclear or ambiguous in two places. To remedy this, the AGM is invited to agree to amendment of rules 9) e) and f), and 12) c) i), as set out below.

#### Rule 9) e) and f)

Rule 9) e) sets a deadline (31 May) for members to put forward candidates for Council membership, and for Council to receive those. Council's practice has been to consider at its June meeting nominations (if any) from members and candidates emerging from Council discussions, and to finalise a list of nominations to the AGM then, taking account of both sources.

Rule 9) f) in its present form can be read as conflicting with that way of proceeding. Its last sentence says: "No vote may be given [ie at the AGM] for any candidate whose name does not appear on the list of candidates and no name may be added to such list after the closing date specified above at 9) e) [ie 31 May]".

#### Proposed changes

Amend 9) e) by:

- inserting between second and third sentences: "No name may be added after this closing date." That limitation would then refer only to the list of nominations by members;

- inserting in the fourth sentence, after "The Council shall prepare" the words "as soon as practicable after 31 May".

Amend 9) f) last sentence as follows:

"No vote may be given for any candidate whose name does not appear on the list of candidates put forward by the Council for members' approval at the AGM". [Deleted: "and no name may be added to such list after the closing date."]  
These amendments combined would make clear the distinction between the two steps of the process.

#### Rule 12) c) i)

Rule 12) c) i) explaining the composition of Council says (third sentence):

"Council shall consist of not less than six and not more than fifteen members... and subject to this overall maximum of fifteen the chairman of the UK Conservation Breeding Advisory Group (CBAG-UK) shall be a member ex officio..."

This makes the place of the CBAG chairman conditional on there being fewer than 15 Council members. The intention in 2010 was that he should be a member of Council ex officio, not subject to that condition.

#### Proposed change

Amend Rule 12) c) i) third sentence as follows:-

After the words "Council shall consist of... and Treasurer" replace the rest of that sentence with a new sentence as follows: "The chairman of the UK Conservation Breeding Advisory Group (CBAG-UK) shall also be a member ex officio. Subject to the overall maximum of fifteen, up to three supplementary members may be co-opted each year by the Council."

# Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 April 2012

Jon Riley



WPA is helping Houssein Rayaleh from Djibouti Nature, to bring together scientific knowledge, community engagement, captive collections, politicians and officials, to form a clear conservation strategy for Djibouti's birds and mammals, including the Djibouti francolin *Francolinus ochropectus*.

The year was a difficult one, with expenditure exceeding income for the fourth consecutive year.

As a consequence Trustees have started to take steps to ensure the continued financial health of the charity; seeking ways to reduce expenditure and increase income. Competition for grant funding is increasingly competitive and, despite a welcome increase in some areas of income thanks to strong support from the membership, income declined by some £50,000 in comparison to the previous year. Expenditure was controlled, but a release of funds from the Jimmy Roberts Memorial Fund, coupled by our investments losing £2,500 in value, resulted in a net deficit to reserves of £35,000.

**Unrestricted funds** The decrease in unrestricted fund income during the year can be explained partly by the Symposium taking place the previous year. However, grant and other voluntary

income decline by £25,000 year-on-year and was only partly offset by a £13,000 increase in income from members, such as the clay pigeon shoot and raffle. The importance of members' contributions to the Association should not be underestimated. There was tight control of costs during the year. Even accepting the distortion of figures because of the Symposium in the previous year, staff made real efforts to control costs and seek grants to cover salaries and core costs. However, despite these fund-raising efforts and a tight control of costs, unrestricted funds still decreased by £12,900 over the year. At the year-end, there was £19,000 of unrestricted reserves.

**Investments** The continuing economic crisis has had a detrimental effect on charities in general and we have not escaped. Investment income from both bank deposits and the M&G Charifund reduced and the value of the M&G Charifund investments also declined. However, the investments in the M&G Charifund remain some £14,600 (45%)

above their original purchase cost.

**Restricted funds** Expenditure exceeded income over the year, largely explained by the release of funds from the Jimmy Roberts Memorial Fund to support activities in Nepal. The Director worked hard to develop projects and source funds meeting with some success in new ventures with the University Of Newcastle. At the year-end there were £44,300 of restricted reserves held across 10 different funds.

Cash balances have declined over the year and cash flow has been difficult at times. There has been a deliberate policy of not releasing cash from our investments but this may be necessary in the coming financial year. At the year-end cash balances, held across four bank accounts, were £20,600.

**Reserves** Unrestricted reserves stood at £19,000 (little more than two months of expenditure) and restricted reserves at £44,300, at the year end.

My thanks to all our staff, members, volunteers and donors who have worked extremely hard during a difficult financial year. Myself and other Trustees, together with the Director and staff are currently reviewing our future strategy in light of this year's disappointing results and continued diminution of our unrestricted reserves. Changes to our operating structure seem inevitable through 2012-13.

This Annual Review includes a summary of the financial results for the year. Copies of the full Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities will be available at the Annual General Meeting and can be obtained by written request from the Administrator at the WPA office. Full accounts are filed with the Charities Commissioners.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

I report on the accounts of The World Pheasant Association (charity number 271203) for the year ended 30 April 2012, which are summarised out on page 7.

## Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The

charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records (in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act), and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Richard Alsept, Independent Examiner,  
August 2012*

*Seahouses Accountancy Services, 62-64 Main Street,  
Seahouses, Northumberland NE68 7TP.*

## WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

### Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 April 2012

	Unrestricted Funds 2012 £	Restricted Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Voluntary income	43,269	95,451	138,720	160,237
Activities for generating funds	40,108	0	40,108	27,579
Investment income	1,940	644	2,584	2,857
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>				
	877	0	877	41,418
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>86,194</b>	<b>96,095</b>	<b>182,289</b>	<b>232,091</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>				
Costs of generating voluntary income	37,946	0	37,946	51,367
Fundraising trading costs	20,851	0	20,851	8,499
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
	37,426	117,998	155,424	197,625
<b>Governance costs</b>				
	864	0	864	633
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>97,087</b>	<b>117,998</b>	<b>215,085</b>	<b>258,123</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES before other recognised gains</b>				
	(10,893)	(21,903)	(32,796)	(26,032)
<b>Other recognised gains</b>				
Transfers	(101)	101	0	0
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(1,949)	(638)	(2,587)	3,658
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	<b>(12,943)</b>	<b>(22,440)</b>	<b>(35,383)</b>	<b>(22,373)</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>31,976</b>	<b>66,760</b>	<b>98,736</b>	<b>121,109</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>19,033</b>	<b>44,320</b>	<b>63,353</b>	<b>98,736</b>

## WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

### Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2012

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2012 £	Total 2011 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets	146	0	146	914
Investments	35,565	11,639	47,204	49,791
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>35,711</b>	<b>11,639</b>	<b>47,350</b>	<b>50,705</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock	500	0	500	569
Debtors	0	5,540	5,540	8,564
Cash at Bank and in hand	(6,517)	27,141	20,624	50,075
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>(6,017)</b>	<b>32,681</b>	<b>26,664</b>	<b>59,208</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>29,694</b>	<b>44,320</b>	<b>74,014</b>	<b>109,913</b>
<b>CREDITORS amounts falling due within one year</b>				
	10,661	0	10,661	11,177
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>19,033</b>	<b>44,320</b>	<b>63,353</b>	<b>98,736</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>				
Unrestricted funds	19,033	0	19,033	31,976
Restricted funds	0	44,320	47,334	66,760
	19,033	44,320	63,353	98,736

Signed on behalf of all the Trustees by:

Chairman R. Carden  
Treasurer J. Riley

August 2012

Full versions of the accounts are available on request.



# Achieving our charitable objectives

Philip McGowan



© WPA



© Laxman Poudyal

1970s: WPA surveys in Nepal undertaken by UK conservationists

2000s: WPA surveys in Nepal undertaken by Nepalese conservationists

WPA's range of activities has grown significantly in recent years. We have taken advantage of opportunities to match people, funds and conservation needs in order to build a large and varied range of conservation activities in recent years. Sometimes these opportunities have arisen and been seized at short notice and at other times they have been nurtured until the right conditions prevail.

This flexible approach has been at the heart of WPA's ability to have an impact in excess of the resources at our disposal and has led to yet more opportunities and requests for help. Needless to say, there is a point when a developing programme of activities requires consolidating so that it can be sustainable in the long-term. We reached that stage during the year.

As a result we have sharpened the work programme element of the strategy so

that it targets those areas where WPA can make a difference because of the expertise we have in our ranks at present and the range of partners and collaborators that we work with. This has led to a clear statement of how WPA can organise the resources (including staff and its network) that it has at present in order to pursue our fundamental objective that describes how we will achieve the public benefit all charities must demonstrate.

## WPA's fundamental objectives are:

- to promote the conservation of those species of pheasant and related species (the Galliformes) which are rare or in danger of extinction;
- to advance the education of the public in the knowledge of such species; and
- to conduct study and research into the above species, and to publish the results of all such research.

WPA Constitution adopted at the 2010 AGM



© Somchai@2008

Of the 106 Galliformes listed as Least Concern, 60% have a declining population, the rufous-throated partridge *Arborophila rufularis* is one such species.

## The current population trend of Galliformes in the wild

Population trend	Number (percentage) of species
Decreasing	215 (75%)
Stable	64 (22%)
Increasing	5 (2%)
Unknown	3 (1%)

The WPA strategy 2009-14 states that WPA will pursue these objectives by:

- Play a leading international role in the conservation of the Galliformes and their habitats, defining priorities that will maximise benefits to overall biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. To this end, WPA will liaise with other interested parties, such as government agencies, non-governmental organisations and individuals.
- Provide the motivation and develop the skills necessary for effective conservation, through work in training and education of people, especially those from countries where Galliformes occur. *WPA regards local ownership of conservation programmes as the key to long-term success.*
- Support and take part in conservation projects both in the wild and in captivity that are based on sound scientific information and good practice.
- Aim to design conservation schemes that take account of, and where possible improve, the livelihoods and welfare of local human communities, encouraging the sustainable use of natural resources.

These four areas of activity are those that the current work programme has been shaped around. This review, therefore, describes how WPA has delivered public benefit through pursuing its fundamental objectives, during the year.

### 1. Play a leading international role: leadership

Over the years WPA has built up a large body of technical expertise that we can use to see emerging issues, plan strategically and draw on a wide range of complementary skills and knowledge so that we can work with greater effectiveness. We have continued to develop our network, which includes the WPA-IUCN Species Survival Commission Galliformes Specialist Group, and those Research Associates and collaborators listed on the inside cover of this Annual Review. We have also sought to bring in new expertise through making our philosophy and activities known to new audiences. These included invited plenary

presentations to the International Union of Game Biologists/Perdix symposium in Barcelona and at the annual meeting of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria bird Taxon Advisory Groups. It is clearly important for our conservation ethos to be in the public domain so that they can both be improved and be used by others. The content of the first presentation entitled *Galliformes science and species extinctions: what we know and what we need to know* has been accepted for publication in the journal *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation* and the latter presentation 'Joining up conservation' appeared in the last WPA News and is available via our news blog on the web ([worldpheasantassociation.wordpress.com](http://worldpheasantassociation.wordpress.com)).

We have continued to increase the quality of conservation planning, especially for the most threatened species. A strategy for the Endangered green peafowl *Pavo muticus* has been finalised with input from many people active at the sites where it remains, a workshop was held on writing grants and gathering financial support for implementing the Critically Endangered Trinidad piping-guan strategy, and we have worked to broaden the engagement in conservation of Djibouti's birds and mammals. This was especially exciting because, for the first time, it has brought together scientific knowledge, community engagement, captive collections, politicians and officials, to form a straightforward and clear conservation strategy.

## Galliformes Specialist Group

We work closely with WPA and BirdLife International, as the Red List Authority for all birds, via the Threatened Galliformes Forum <http://www.birdlife.org/globally-threatened-bird-forums/category/species-group/threatened-galliformes/>, in order to debate IUCN Red List re-classifications. In early 2012 and after a prolonged discussion, Edwards's pheasant was uplisted to Critically Endangered. There must now be real doubt that it persists in the severely fragmented forests of central Vietnam. The current captive population of 1,000 or so individuals contains hybrids and is spread over three continents, requiring careful appraisal and management.

Any species classified as threatened (CR, EN or VU) on the Red List deserves our attention, but we have a quarter or so of 286 species listed and 'only' 250 experts worldwide to solve all their problems. Feasibility, in terms of access to the field, local expertise, and of course funds, need to be brought into the mix to determine priorities. Despite the efforts of WPA and GSG members, some highly threatened species are losing ground and receiving little attention.

The GSG membership has the best information available on status, biology, threats and solutions for its species, whilst many WPA members have specialist husbandry expertise, and zoos have additional strengths in education and outreach. We have been helping the IUCN Species Specialist Committee to develop guidelines for the encouragement of closer collaboration between SGs and Taxon Advisory Groups, which can only improve the public focus and prospect for conservation action on behalf of our most needy species.

Capacity-building remains one of the GSG's main pre-occupations. Many members review proposals and draft publications for each other across the continents, and some go abroad to help others in the field or at the computer! But we could still make much greater use of the professional expertise of our many Northern Hemisphere members who work mainly on species of grouse and pheasant hunted for sport, for the benefit of those elsewhere and the species they are trying to save from extinction.

Peter Garson & Ilse Storch Co-Chairs  
[www.galliformes-sg.org](http://www.galliformes-sg.org)



Ensuring that positive attitudes towards white-eared pheasant and conservation persist and spread is the next step for WPA, our Research Associates and partners in Sichuan.



Raising awareness about the plight of Edwards's pheasant *Lophura edwardsi* is not only important within the international community but also with local communities that share the bird's habitat.

Leadership also entails working out how to increase our conservation impact. We now have a good idea of what is needed to stop or even reverse the declines of many species and their habitats. The challenge we face now, and it is a huge one, is working out how to design conservation programmes that include people and balance human livelihoods with environmental conservation. This year has seen our research into Buddhist perceptions of the environment draw to a close. Our symposium in Chengdu drew a lot of attention to the amazing spectacle of white eared-pheasant flocks around the monasteries of Daocheng County in western Sichuan. Our research project, with Imperial College and Beijing Forestry University, has provided immensely useful insights into the sympathetic attitudes, hand-feeding, sacred groves and other factors that offer such encouragement for

conservation. The key now is to use this understanding for the future, both to ensure that these attitudes persist in a rapidly changing world and to see if we can encourage similar understanding elsewhere.

Other examples include the reassessment of our pheasant monitoring programme in Pipar, Nepal that led to the development of a new approach that will make our monitoring more effective and informative in the coming years. As noted elsewhere, we have pursued a reassessment of Edwards's pheasant *Lophura edwardsi* on the IUCN Red List and continued to work on plans for its conservation. A final example is the work we are undertaking for the UK government Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to develop a system for assessing priorities for international species conservation.

## Conserving Djibouti's Priority Land Animals

From 26-29 March 2012, the workshop "Conserving Djibouti's priority land animals" was held in Djibouti, hosted by the Djibouti Ministry of Housing, Urbanism and Environment, and jointly organized by CBSG (Europe and Brazil networks), the IUCN/SSC Strategic Conservation Planning Subcommittee, the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), the IUCN/SSC Equid, Antelope, Cat, and Galliformes Specialist Groups, Association DECAN (DECouvrir et Aider la Nature), the World Pheasant Association, Association Beauval Conservation et Recherche, and ZooParc de Beauval. The workshop was preceded by a one-day seminar that provided an overview of conservation issues for Djibouti and the Horn of Africa in general. This included the conservation status of, and threats to, the Djiboutian land animals that were the subject of the workshop: Djibouti francolin, Somali wild ass, Grevy's zebra, gerenuk, beira, beisa oryx, Soemmering's and Pelzeln's gazelles, Salt's dik-dik, leopard and cheetah.

In accordance with the approach described in the SSC handbook for *Strategic Planning for Species Conservation*, the workshop began with developing a vision for Djibouti's natural heritage as a whole, and long-term general goals were formed per taxon or species of interest. Thereafter the participants first developed objectives and actions on a threats basis, later regrouping into taxon-specific groups to ensure that no taxon-specific priorities were overlooked. Participants also developed detailed GIS maps of species of interest. The workshop benefited from participation of a wide range of influential participation, including contributions from four Ministers at one time or another. This commitment of all relevant ministries bodes well for the implementation of the strategy.

Philip McGowan

## Assessing the future for a species on the brink

The hard work undertaken by WPA and BirdLife International-Vietnam Programme over the last year, has led to Edwards's pheasant being uplisted from Endangered to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. This change in status will hopefully increase the attention given to the species and highlight the immediate need for conservation action for not only Edwards's pheasant but also other animals threatened by hunting and habitat loss in central Vietnam. WPA and our international partners are currently seeking funds to train Forest Protection Department Rangers to assist with additional surveys in the last few areas of remaining habitat for the species and to implement a conservation strategy.

Captive collections of Edwards's pheasant could serve a critical role for re-introduction into the wild if threats like hunting and habitat loss are significantly reduced. A review of available genetically viable birds has been planned by the EAZA Galliformes Taxon Advisory Group, with help from the European Conservation Breeding Group of WPA.

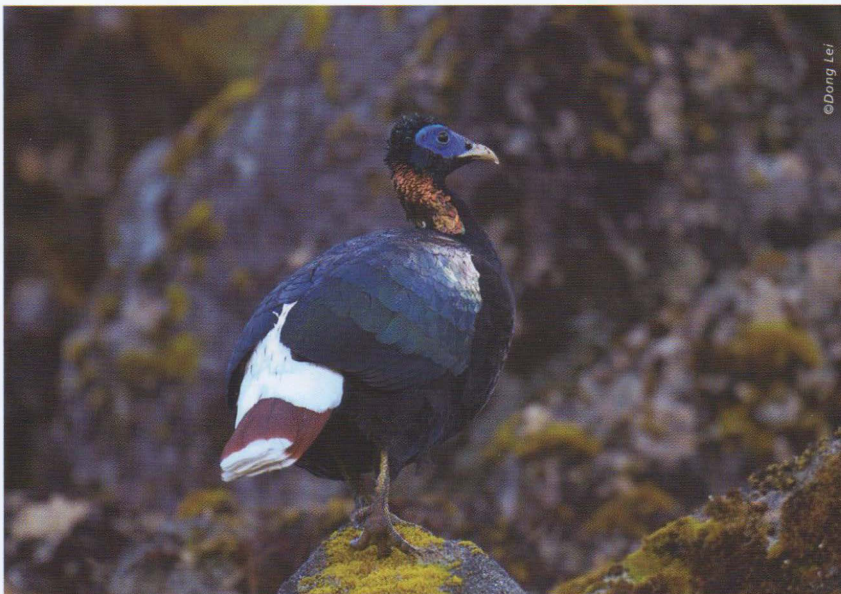
It is not only WPA concerned with raising awareness about the serious situation for Edwards's pheasant. The species will be featured in a new book called 'Breaking Point' put together by the Zoological Society of London and the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The aim of the book is to emphasise the top 100 species most at risk of extinction in the wild in the next five years without immediate action.

Matt Grainger

## 2. Motivation and training

This has long been a cornerstone of WPA's philosophy because we believe that ultimately conservation success hinges on increasing the technical level of those in countries where the need is greatest. Gone are the days where it is either necessary or morally acceptable for us to

parachute foreigners in to undertake a project and then leave. It is absolutely critical to work together to enhance the ability of all our colleagues to apply what they know within an overall species conservation strategy (see above). Key progress this year has been made in South East Asia, notably in Thailand and Myanmar.



©Dong Lei

## Myanmar workshop

WPA Germany members Alexander Pack-Blumenau and Karl-Heinz Grabowski spent 2-3 weeks a year travelling in search of pheasants in rural Burma for six of the last ten years. As a result of this, coupled with the political changes now taking place in the country, we were invited to hold a workshop with the Forest Department in mid-February 2012. This was the first WPA visit to Myanmar and generous sponsorship by James Goodhart made this possible. We had strong representation from the Forest Department as well as participation from two NGOs.

The significant changes that the country is undergoing offer prospects for WPA to develop conservation activities. As these changes are occurring on an almost weekly basis, we have to work out how best to start these activities. For example, the political situation is changing so rapidly that in many parts of the country where we might wish to work there is no infrastructure. This makes it hugely expensive to operate in remote areas. Set against that is the wonderful opportunity to train very keen people in a variety of field techniques so that they can take responsibility for assessing the status of their own species. Tommaso Savini (WPA Research Associate from King Mongkut's University in Bangkok) and Dusit Ngoprasert gave a short training session at the Forestry University. There is a vast amount of necessary conservation work to be done, starting with assessments of the status of species such as green peafowl (for which the country is likely to be exceptionally important), Sclater's monal, Blyth's tragopan and Hume's pheasant.

Philip McGowan

Sclater's monal *Lophophorus sclateri*, listed as Vulnerable in the wild, is one of many species in Myanmar that would benefit from increased assessment and conservation work.

In Thailand, it is wonderful to see the development of the Conservation Ecology Program at King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi (KMUTT) under Drs George Gale and WPA Research Associate Tommaso Savini. The Galliformes of SE Asia are amongst the most poorly known of all of our species and this has hindered our ability to make robust conservation assessments and fine-tune the most appropriate conservation action for the species with highest priority. Anecdotal information and very broadscale assessments have previously been the best that we can call on when making decisions. We now have a group that is working to develop approaches and methods that will allow us the insights we so badly need. The combination of new field techniques, endless hours in the forests of SE Asia, skilful application of analyses and the use of datasets on forest cover, protected areas, human habitation and topography amongst other information is starting to show huge promise. Furthermore, our colleagues at KMUTT, backed by an enlightened administration at their university, are starting to work with WPA colleagues in neighbouring countries, including Vietnam and Myanmar. At long last, we have a serious platform from which to promote the high quality conservation assessments that the region so badly needs.

### 3. Conservation projects

There will always be a need for specific projects with clear conservation objectives (i.e. what is the problem it is trying to address) and which are based on sound information and good practice. We have worked hard in recent years to ensure that the most threatened species are not neglected and can now point to conservation strategies for the two Critically Endangered birds that received little or no attention a few years ago. There is now a diverse group working to conserve the Trinidad piping-guan *Pipile pipile*, which has been designated as one of three Environmentally Sensitive Species in Trinidad. A new forest policy passed during the year benefited from much input by our colleagues, notably WPA Research Associate Dr Howard Nelson. This offers promise of the protection that the species' Northern Range stronghold so badly needs.



Colleagues from Thailand and Vietnam surveying for green peafowl *Pavo muticus* along the banks of Crocodile Lake, Vietnam.

## What is the status of green peafowl in Vietnam?

Although considered Endangered, the current status of green peafowl remains unknown throughout most of its range. Over the past year the World Pheasant Association, in collaboration with the Institute of Tropical Biology (Vietnam) and the Conservation Ecology Program, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (Thailand), has started an extensive survey for this species within remaining potential habitat in South Vietnam. The goal of this survey is to determine in which forest patches the species remain and how many of them there are in these areas.

In January 2012, when the calls from mating males are at their highest, the first detailed survey was carried out at Cat Tien National Park, considered to be one of the best remaining habitat patches in the area. To establish the density of peafowl in the park the survey team used a method of counting the number of peafowl they saw or heard along two 2 km straight line in grasslands and at three different points along the edges of Crocodile Lake. The overall density estimate was an average of four to five calling males per km<sup>2</sup>.

A second detailed survey is scheduled for January 2013 at Yok Don National Park, the largest patch of protected dry dipterocarp forest in South Vietnam. Its broadleaf open structure makes this forest type particularly suitable for green peafowl.

Once all remaining potential habitat has been surveyed for green peafowl, results from these will be compared to results from the last surveys undertaken in 1998, to establish whether the population status has changed over time.

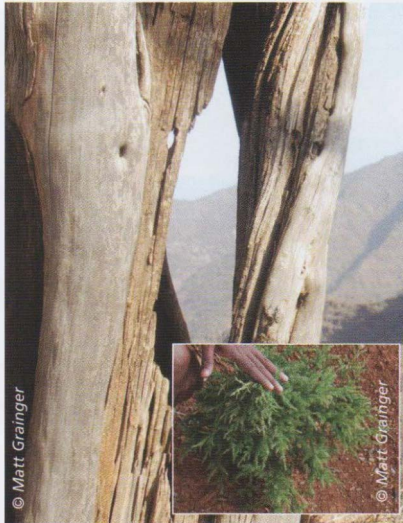
Tommaso Savini, Vy Nguyen Tran and Niti Sukumal

In Djibouti, we can at last point to a widening of conservation concern beyond the endemic francolin to include not only other bird and mammal species in the country, but wildlife more generally throughout the Horn of Africa. The region has been so ravaged by drought and civil strife for many years that the environment has been long considered a low priority. The development of a broad strategy for Djibouti's Priority Land Animals and the engagement of the IUCN East and Southern Africa Regional Office (based in Nairobi) and the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Network and Centre (based in Addis Ababa) begins to provide the strong platform that the Djibouti francolin *Francolinus ochropectus*, and indeed the region's threatened species and habitats, desperately need. We can be proud of the central role we have played in bringing that change about.

The uplisting of Edwards's pheasant brings another species into the category of those requiring a concerted effort to upgrade conservation action and as mentioned elsewhere this is likely to remain a high priority for WPA for some time.

We have also started looking at the next

most threatened species, those that are Endangered on the IUCN Red List. We have been active on a number of species, such as the Palawan peacock-pheasant



The juniper trees in Djibouti are suffering because of drought and there is now a scheme in place to plant seedlings where there is no natural regeneration.

*Polyplectron napoleonis* and the Polynesian megapode *Megapodius pritchardii*, whilst some other species are catered for by other organisations. For example, our early work on the Sichuan hill-partridge *Arborophila rufipectus*, developed into Chester Zoo's Sichuan Biodiversity Programme. The over-riding challenge facing us now is that the Endangered species are scattered far and wide across the globe: 14 of them are single country endemics and the remainder are found in a further 17 countries. We will now be assessing how we can best utilise our stretched resources to make a meaningful impact on the deteriorating status of these species.

One Endangered species that we are uniquely placed to help is the green peafowl. Distributed throughout South East Asia and thought to have undergone a substantial decline in geographic range and numbers since the turn of the Twentieth Century, the species requires a co-ordinated effort across remaining range states if we are to ensure that the majestic species is not lost from the relatively few sites that hold large and potentially viable populations.

## Highlights from the European Conservation Breeding Group

Last year two ECBG meetings took place. The thirteenth meeting of the group was hosted by WPA-Benelux and took place in September at Arnhem in the beautiful surroundings of Burgers' Zoo. At the meeting, it was announced that a new website ([www.wpadeutschland.de](http://www.wpadeutschland.de)) for the Green Peafowl Focus Group is now online.

The Common Pheasants Focus Group has about 35 members in Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, France, USA and Germany and meets five to six times a year ([www.edelfocusgruppe.de.vu](http://www.edelfocusgruppe.de.vu)). Regular exchange of bloodlines, particularly between the USA and Europe has been set up with the aim of avoiding inbreeding in captive bred birds. The group has several connections with *in-situ* projects concerned with common pheasants in their country of origin. To make sure that results from all projects were captured it was agreed at this meeting that each project should be evaluated against its objectives to ensure that they were met. The success of a number of (non-galliform) *ex-situ* conservation projects has been recently published in the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums magazine. The results of these projects all emphasize that large populations are needed and therefore cooperation is necessary. There is also a need for global management of collections of all captive birds, as after all, a species commonly kept in captivity today can be important for reintroduction in the future.

The fourteenth meeting was held at Keith Chalmers-Watson's magnificent Ardtaraig Estate in the Southern Highlands. Much of this meeting was dedicated to the current critical situation of Edwards's pheasant. Possible future actions and ECBG's role therein were discussed extensively.

Genetic research ought to be the first step. We are unsure whether all Edwards's pheasant are pure and previous investigations only focused on the species mitochondrial DNA to determine genetic relationships. It is proposed that selected representatives of the captive population are fully investigated. Once a pure population has been determined, genetic relatedness between individuals can then be examined and a group of "founders" selected for an *ex-situ* population.

Reintroduction of the species into the wild however, cannot be considered before suitable habitats have been identified and threats such as hunting and habitat destruction through logging practices and farming have been mitigated.

Saving Edwards's pheasant is a challenge for all of us and it appears that the will for co-operation is present in many organisations including the Associations for Zoos and Aquariums (both worldwide and European), the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations and the Galliformes Specialist Group.

Ludo Pinceel



©Frank Falle

The 10+2 school in Sukla Gandaki village, built with help from many volunteers, is now complete.

#### 4. Designing conservation schemes that include people

WPA's focus is conserving and enhancing the status of species of Galliformes. That is why WPA was formed and it remains at the heart of our fundamental objectives. As with conservation more generally, however, we are well aware that species will not survive in isolation. Although we start a project because of an interest in one or more species, we recognise that we cannot conserve species without safeguarding their habitat and in many cases this requires working with communities that share these habitats. This is a huge and challenging task and in order to give us the best chance of delivering long lasting conservation benefits we are best advised to develop

partnerships with other organisations with specialist skills. This is the end point that we are working towards and whilst we are increasingly making progress with species such as the Djibouti francolin and Trinidad piping-guan, one project stands out as a model and that is Pipar.

Of course understanding how to engage with local communities is hugely informed by a good understanding in the way that local people see their environment and what their aspirations are. Completion of the research project in Daocheng investigating Buddhist perceptions of the environment and its impact on the landscape (mentioned above) marks a significant step towards this.

### Pipar project

The Pipar project has achieved a considerable amount for education in Seti Khola Valley over the last year. The biggest tangible mark of progress has been the completion of the 10+2 extension to Sukla Gandaki School and two new kindergartens in the Seti Khola Valley. The efforts of all those who provided funding and helped to construct the new builds have now been realised, as older students, who previously could not travel further afield to continue with their education due to the expense and the need for continued help with the family home and farm, are now receiving all of their pre-university education in the valley. The kindergarten schools are also taking the pressure off older siblings as they no longer have to care for brothers and sisters when they should be studying.

In a more hands on role, Christine Stone began her new and important role this year to 'train the trainer'. This scheme aims to develop and improve the English language standards of teachers at schools across the valley and is having a positive impact already. The idea is that this and other skills will be passed onto the children, thereby helping them.

With the catastrophic flood in May that destroyed much of Kharapani Village including homes, businesses, and access routes to schools, WPA's Robin Marston and Pema Sherpa were able to assist people affected by the flood both financially and logistically, this includes rebuilding homes where villagers have been relocated.



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Henry Angest

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US Fish & Wildlife Service

A F Wallace Charity Trust

Weltvogelpark Walsrode, Germany

WF Southall Trust

In addition, we have worked with the following organisations during the year

Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Nepal

Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad

Aviornis Deutschland

Aviornis International, Netherlands

Beijing Forestry University

Beijing Normal University

Beijing Zoo

Biodiversity Conservation Society Nepal

China Ornithological Society

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Djibouti Nature

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Fauna & Flora International-Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Programme

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The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust

The Guardian Life Wildlife Trust

Hainan Normal University

Imperial College London

India International Centre, New Delhi

IUCN Species Survival Commission Conservation Breeding Specialist Group

King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi, Thailand

Le Ministère de l'Habitat, de l'Urbanisme, de l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire, Djibouti

National Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal

The Pahar Trust, Nepal

The Pawi Study Group, Trinidad and Tobago

Perthshire Black Grouse Study Group

Protected Area Management Board of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, Philippines

Tribal Councils of CADC Cayasan and CADC Cabayugan, Palawan, Philippines

University of Djibouti

The University of Nottingham

The University of Queensland

University of Sao Paulo

Wildlife Institute of India

Wildlife Trust of India

Zoo Landau

Zoological Society of London





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In 2011, WPA with our associates, produced a status review and conservation strategy for green peafowl. There are now a number of different conservation programmes and research studies underway with a focus on or inclusion of green peafowl. This strategic approach is bringing attention to efforts for some of our most threatened species.

