Monitoring collisions of large birds with power lines in Namibia

John Pallett
• Need evidence of collisions to motivate spending money on mitigation

• Need to test various designs and ideas to achieve optimum mitigation
Power line surveys
~ 100 km on each line
Repeated every 3 months
15 July 2012
Kori Bustard 400 kV
Keetmanshoop area
S26 44.668 E18 48.870

2 October 2012
Ludwig’s Bustard 66 kV
Luderitz area
S26 43.236 E15 26.947
5 October 2012
Unidentified bustard 132kV
Warmbad area
S28 26.650 E18 31.093
7 October 2012
Kori Bustard 400 kV
Karasburg area
Other species being impacted:

Various korhaans
Flamingos

July 2012 power line survey

70 collision fatalities
380 km surveyed
Comparable with situation in Karoo

Estimate 1 large bird per km per year

Clearly a threat to the Ludwig’s population

Ludwig’s bustard uplisted to Vulnerable.
Mitigation

• Very difficult to find effective solution

• Likely to focus on making lines more visible with flappers, but birds fly ‘blind’

• Best (only?) opportunity to mitigate: during construction