Conclusion and further proposed actions

Natural and anthropogenic pressures on combination are likely to have cumulative impacts that marginal populations probably cannot sustain. Coupled with catastrophic events such as severe drought under global climate changes in environmental conditions, Namibia’s small population of Blue Cranes could rapidly be pushed to extinction, without further conservation interventions.

The Namibia Crane Working Group will continue to:

- Conduct population monitoring and movements, in order to target areas for conservation actions
- Address habitat threat/modification, including human impacts and (potential) changes in water availability
- Increase awareness about the conservation status of the cranes
- Monitor numbers and breeding success
- Based on recent genetic findings: investigate the possibility of reintroductions from the main population.

Methods

- In collaboration with many partners, the Namibia Crane Working Group has conducted annual wet and dry season crane counts since April 2006 – ground surveys; aerial surveys; opportunistic counts; plus available historical data.
- 35 cranes fitted with standard metal ring and green plastic ring with unique alphanumeric code: many rings sighted occasionally, VHF radio and GPS satellite tracking
- Ongoing outreach and awareness play important part in obtaining data and promoting conservation: Namibian Environmental Education Centre plays a crucial role.

Special thanks

- The contributions of our many other crane friends and supporters are gratefully acknowledged, and especially all those who have provided valuable research data and photographs over the years.

https://www.rspb.org.uk/projects/birds/namibian-blue-crane-working-group/