UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA REQUEST CONCERNING FISCHER'S LOVEBIRD (Agapornis fischeri)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM

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Ref.No Ref. No. GD/I.20/4/166

Date: 28th December 2007

CITES Secretariat,
International Environment House,
15, Chemin des Anemones,
CH – 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva,
Switzerland.
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RE: LIFTING OF THE TRADE SUSPENSION ON FISCHER'S LOVE BIRD IN TANZANIA

The United Republic of Tanzania was suspended to trade on Fischer's lovebird *(Agapornis fischeri)* since 29th March 1993 following recommendations by the Standing Committee. This was a result of the procedural requirement for implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8 Rev.CoP 13 (i.e. Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix –II species)

Following the trade suspension and further to compliance with the suspension notice, the United Republic of Tanzania endeavored to take relevant measures to addressing both the desired primary and secondary recommendations. Attached herewith please find administrative procedures governing live animal trade, together with biological assessment of *Agapornis fischeri.*

In view of the foregoing and following the observed healthy population of *Agapornis fischeri,* we request the suspension of trade on the species be lifted with effect from 2008 season.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and guidance

E. M. Tarimo
DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES GOVERNING LIVE ANIMAL TRADE AND BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF FISCHER'S LOVE BIRD *Agapornis fischeri*

Live animal trade is one of the forms of Wildlife Utilization practiced in Tanzania .The purpose of the trade is to among others; improve incomes of Tanzanians hence contributing to the national strategy towards poverty reduction.

1.0 Licensing procedures

1.1 Application

In accordance to the Wildlife Conservation Act (CAP 283 R.E 2002), dealing in any live or stuffed animal species requires possession of valid trophy dealer's licence (TDL). Applications for TDL are made once every year, between October and November through District/Regional Natural Resources Authorities, who scrutinize such applications and make recommendations to the Director of wildlife (**Game Form No. 13 Annex I**)

Further scrutiny is done by the Director of Wildlife through a licensing committee which is comprised of representatives from Tanzania Board of External Trade (BET), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Swissport-Dar es Salaam and Wildlife Division.

The Wildlife Conservation (Dealing in trophies) Regulations, GNS No. 265 and 268 of 1974 underline pre-requisites for dealing in trophies. It is worthy noting that unlike other forms of Wildlife Utilization, trophy dealers licence that deals with live animal trade is issued only to citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In addition, Trophy Dealers Licence is annually renewed, but subject to performance evaluation of the trader, in view of compliance to the governing wildlife law and Regulations.

1.2 Overview of the quota system and quota setting process

Tanzania has a quota system which is set annually by experts from selected institutions. The setting of quota is based on data and other relevant information available in terms of species distribution, natural breeding history, recruitment rate and population estimates, which partly derived from regular conducted censuses (mammals), research work and indices as may be reflected reports by field personnel.

In essence all species that are traded every year must be included in the annual export quota which is determined by the team of experts in a meeting convened by the Director of Wildlife at the end of each calendar year. The composition of experts who are involved in quota setting process include

representative from Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), which is the CITES Scientific Authority in Tanzania, Representatives from the

University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Wildlife Exporters Association (TWEA) and staff from the Wildlife Division

1.3 Administration of licence, permits and certificates including CITES compliance

All trophy dealer's licence' (TDL), live animal capture permits and export permits are centrally controlled and closely monitored by the Wildlife Division and other relevant regional authorities. These government documents are issued by the Wildlife Division from only two offices, i.e Arusha and Dar es Salaam.

It is important to note that the two offices purposely cater for the country's two strategic exit points (Julius Nyerere International-JNIA and Kilimanjaro International Airport -KIA) which have been declared to the CITES-Secretariat as the key exit points.

1.4 Issuance of capture permits

Capture permits are issued to approved trophy dealer's who already have an annual quota and having made prior payment of the relevant fees for the animals intended to be captured (live specimens) for export trade, and other local uses. The capture permit carries the following terms and conditions :-

- Place of issue
- Date of Issue and expiry
- Name and address of company/trader
- Trapper's Identify card number, its place of issue
- Locality of capture
- Number and species specified
- Trappers with capture permits need to report to respective Regional/District natural resources officers all over the country

1.5 Issuance of ownership certificate

Capture permit issued to a trophy dealer must be surrendered to the licensing officer upon which an ownership certificate is issued in lieu . The ownership certificate has no expiry date, hence allows the holder to stay with the animals until the right time for the appropriate disposal. In tandem, the ownership certificate allows for movement of trophies/specimens within the country from one place to another but not across national border.

1.6 Issuance of export permit

Two types of export permits are issued by the CITES management authority of the United Republic of Tanzania, namely CITES Export permit; for species that are listed under the CITES appendices and Trophy Export Certificate for non-CITES listed species (attached as **Annex II and III**, respectively).

Export permit is issued upon presentation of an ownership certificate. It is worthy to note that issuance of CITES export permit should comply with the regulations and resolutions of the CITES. Prior to issuance of export permit, inspection of holding ground is done by the wildlife law enforcement officers. Also following issuance of export permit, another inspection is done by the wildlife law enforcement officers in collaboration with the Police, Tanzania Revenue Authority and Swissport- cargo handling agent at the points of exit. Besides, inspection of the specimens in relation to issued permits, verification regarding crating and packing of specimens is done to ensure compliance with IATA (International Air Transport Association)-Live animal Regulations (LAR) as well as the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act (CAP 283 R.E 2002, as applicable

2.0 Trade and biological data on fisher's love birds

Since 1993, the country imposed not only export but also an internal ban on trade of the *Agapornis fischeri*, hence establishing a zero export quota for the species. Assessment of all capture and export data was done to find out if there was an unsustainable level of trade. The data was cross-checked by conducting a field survey on Fischer's lovebird so as to establish the population status of the species.

As a measure to address secondary recommendations, the survey was conducted by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) in 2004/2005. The survey was conducted in the Central Tanzania regions particularly Singida Region. The study revealed that the average density of the species in Singida Region was 1,770 birds /km^2. During the survey, it was also found out that the level of crop damage had increased significantly such that the government is forced to kill thousands of *Agapornis fischeri* together with *Quelea quelea* as pests through pesticide spraying each year. The study therefore found that the population of *Agapornis fischeri* is healthy and indeed poses a serious threat to the livelihoods of the local people due to their habit of feeding on agricultural cereals (See attached survey report).

Thus, considering that *Agapornis fischeri* has been under trade suspension for 14 years, we are writing to inform and request the Standing Committee through CITES Secretariat that the population of the species is healthy enough for sustainable harvest. We therefore submit that in order to enable Tanzania reduce expenditure of the badly needed forex in purchasing pesticides, instead be allowed to tape the economic potential of *Agapornis fischeri* through export of live birds.

As it can be witnessed from the report, the species population is not only healthy but a menace to agricultural products and people in Singida Rural District have time and again filed complains through their Members of Parliament (MP) for onward transmission and discussion during Parliament sessions. Indeed this issue has been a hot debate in the last three years including the November 2007 parliamentary sessions where it was agreed that the

Ministry responsible for Wildlife, including birds, should take necessary measures to enable the Government avoid unnecessary forex expenditures.

By this report, we are requesting the ban be lifted. In addition, we wish to underline the fact that in our 2007 voluntary quota, we requested for a cautious export quota of 10,000 specimens as it appears in CITES Secretariat website. Despite the requested quota being sustainable, it has not been utilized because of the trade suspension on the species has not been lifted. TAWIRI, the Tanzania CITES Scientific Authority, will keep monitoring the species population to ensure that its breeding viability is maintained within its natural habitat.

ANNEX I

GAME FORM NO. 13

FIRST SCHEDULE

TANZANIA

APPLICATION FOR A TROPHY DEALERS LICENCE

1. Full Name: .....
2. Sex: ..... (3) AGE ..... (4) Nationality .....
5. Residential Address: .....
6. Business Address (1) P.O. Box ..... (2) Telephone(s) .....
   (3) Plot ..... (Street/Area) ..... (4) Town/Place .....
   .....
7. Size of (1) Factory .....
   (2) Show-room .....
8. Number and Location of (1) Stores .....
9. State whether factory, main or branch .....
10. If factory or mainshop give detailas of branches .....
11. Other line of business conducted at the factory/shop .....
    .....
12. Current Licence

Type of Licence	Number	Place of Issue	Date of Issue	Date of Expiry

13. State whether you are a general hunter, trapper and or tour operator
    .....
    .....

14. If a tour operator, state (a) Number of vehicles owned .....

.....

(b) Clients per moth .....

.....

15. Capital investment to be put into the business .....

Capital investment to be put into the business ....

16. State briefly the items you will deal or/and nature of dealing .....

17. Type of Market (Whether local or export) .....

18. Description of Source of Trophies .....

19. Class of business for which Hence required .....

.....

20. Have you even been refused a Trophy Dealer's Licence in Tanzania or any other Country?

If so give reasons: .....

21. Has any licence issued to you under the current or repealed Game law or Tanzania, or any other country ever been cancelled or suspended? If so, give reasons.

.....

.....

22. Have you ever been convicted for an offence against the current of repealed Game laws of Tanzania or any other country? If so give particulars of offence(s)

.....

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the above particulars are correct and I understand the requirement of the Wildlife Conservation Act, 1974 and of subsidiary legislation made under that Act.

Date ....

Signature of Applicant

RECOMMENDATION BY TANZANIA WILDLIFE CORPORATION

This applications is hereby not/recommended because:

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GENERAL MANAGER

RECOMMENDATION BY REGIONAL AUTHORITY

This application is hereby not/recommended because

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REGIONAL DISTRICT OFFICER

APPROVAL BY DIRECTOR

This application is hereby not/approved because

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....200 .....

DIRECTOR OF GAME

ORIGINAL

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA

FW17A (Rev. 1982)

NOT TRANSFERABLE
Isihawilishwe

FEE:
Ada: 100/ =

TROPHY EXPORT CERTIFICATE
HATI YA KUTOA NYARA NJE

A Nº [redacted]

ISSUED TO:
Imetolewa kwa ..... OF wa .....

DATE OF ISSUE
Tarehe ya Kutolewa .....

DATE OF EXPIRY
Tarehe ya kumalizika .....

THIS IS AN AUTHORITY TO EXPORT THE TROPHIES SPECIFIED HEREUNDER TO-(NAME AND ADDRESS):
Hii ni Idhini ya kusafirisha nyara zilizotajwa hapa kumpelekea (Jina na Anwani):

FOR THE PURPOSE OF:
Kwa ajili ya: .....

SERIAL No. Nambari	TYPE OF TROPHY Aina ya Nyara	QUANTITY Kiasi	WEIGHT Uzani KG.	GRADE Daraja	REGISTRATION MARK Alama ya Usajili	CERTIFICATE OR OTHER AUTHORITY Hati au Ruhusa Nyingineyo			
						TYPE Aina	NO. Nambari	PLACE Mahali	DATE Tarehe

SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNOR
Sani ya Mpelekaji

DATED STAMP OF AUTHORISING OFFICE:
Muhuri Rasmi na Tarehe:

For DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE (MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY)
k.n.y. Mkurugenzi, Idara ya Wanyamapori (Mamlaka ya Uongozi)

Note:

1. The validity of this certificate should not exceed 30 days from the date of issue.
2. This certificate must accompany the above specified trophies at all times until they reach the consignee.
3. Where the trophies to be exported are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), CITES trophy export Certificate shall be issued by the Director himself. This proviso does not apply to manufactured trophies of weight less than 3kg or less than 10 articles of the same type when measured numerically.

ZINGATIA:

1. Uhalali wa hati hii usizidi siku 30 tangu tarehe ya kutolewa.
2. Hati hii lazima iandamane na nyara zilizotajwa, wakati wote hadi zitakapomfikia mpokea
3. Iwapo nyara zinazosafirishwa zinalindwa na Makubaliano ya Biashara Kimataifa Kuhusu aina za Wanyama na Mimea iliyo katika hatari ya kutoweka (CITES); Hati za CITES za kutoa nyara nje zitatolewa na Mkurugenzi mwenyewe. Sharti hili halihusu nyara zilizotengenezwa za uzito chini ya kg 3 au vitu vya kuna moja visivyozidi 10 kwa kuvihesabu.

SC57 Doc 29.2 Annex 3
(English only/ únicamente en inglés / seulement en anglais)

ANNEX III

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

PERMIT / CERTIFICATE No. [redacted]

☐ EXPORT
☐ RE-EXPORT
☐ IMPORT
☐ OTHER:

Original

2. Valid until

3. Importer (name and address)

4. Exporter / Re-exporter (name and address, country)

3a. Country of import

Signature of the applicant

5. Special conditions

For live animals, this permit or certificate is only valid if the transport conditions conform to the Guidelines for Transport of Live Animals or, in the case of air transport, to the IATA Live Animals Regulations.

6. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of Management Authority

The Director of Wildlife
Wildlife Division
P.O. Box 1994
DAR ES SALAAM
TANZANIA

5a. Purpose of the transaction (see reverse)

5b. Security stamp N°

	7./8. SCIENTIFIC NAME (genus and species) AND COMMON NAME OF ANIMAL OR PLANT	9. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers (age/sex if live)	10. Appendix No. and source (see reverse)	11. Quantity (including unit)	11a. Total exported Quota
A	7./8.	9.	10.	11.	11a.
	12. Country of origin * Permit No. Date	12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date		12b. No. of the operation * * or date of acquisition * * *	
B	7./8.	9.	10.	11.	11a.
	12. Country of origin * Permit No. Date	12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date		12b. No. of the operation * * or date of acquisition * * *	
C	7./8.	9.	10.	11.	11a.
	12. Country of origin * Permit No. Date	12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date		12b. No. of the operation * * or date of acquisition * * *	
D	7./8.	9.	10.	11.	11a.

* Country in which the specimens were taken from the wild, bred in captivity or artificially propagated (only in case of re-export)
* * Only for specimens of Appendix-I species bred in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes
* * * For pre-Convention specimens

13. THIS PERMIT / CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED BY

Place Date Signature and seal of the authority

14. EXPORT ENDORSEMENT

15. Bill of Lading, Air Way bill number

Block	Quantity
A	
B	
C	
D	

Point of Export Date Signature

CITES PERMIT / CERTIFICATE N° [redacted]

TANZANIA WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Status of Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri* in Singida Region

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE WILDLIFE DIVISION

by

Charles Mlingwa and Maurus Msuha

July 2004

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Executive summary

A study on the status of Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri* in Singida Region was carried out in Singida Region in May 2004 to determine the distribution of the lovebird, its population estimates, nesting and roosting sites, types of crops targeted by the Fischer's Lovebird, and its control measures, levels of crop damage caused by lovebirds before and after imposition of a trade *moratorium* on this and other species of birds.

Geographical Positioning System (GPS) readings were recorded to determine the distribution of the Fischer's Lovebird in Singida Region. Population estimates of the lovebird was determined using point count method. A standard questionnaire was used to collect information on nesting and roosting sites, types of crops targeted, levels of crop damage and control measures.

Results show that the Fischer's Lovebird distribution in Singida Region has its south most range in Singida District and its northern range in Iramba District. The core area for this species is in the Iramba District especially in Iruga and Ihanja Divisions. Population estimate of the species in the region was on average 1,770 birds / km^2. Level of crop damage increased after the trade *moratorium*. However, crop damage is caused not only by the lovebirds but also other birds. In Manyoni District for example, there were no Fischer's Lovebirds and yet considerable crop damage was reported. Detailed assessment of the results from this survey will be made once surveys for this species are completed in other regions where the Fischer's Lovebird occurs.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the Wildlife Division for providing funds to carry out survey of the Fischer's Lovebird in Singida Region. Equally we would like to extend our gratitude to the government officials and local communities in Singida Region for their support during the fieldwork.

The following participated in this work: C. Mlingwa, M. Msuha, J. Nyahongo, E. Kohi, H. Maliti, J. Kitaule from TAWIRI; E. Mungaya from the of Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST), and J. Mollel of Arusha.

1.0 Introduction

This report provides highlights on the progress to date on the Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri* survey in Singida Region, a study that is funded by the Wildlife Division. The Fisher's Lovebird has been previously the most important psittacine species in the international bird trade in Tanzania, accounting for over 84% from 1983 to 1990 (Edwards and Broad, 1996). This situation drew international concern on sustainability of trade in this species such that a joint team from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the UK and Vogelbescherming (VBN) of Netherlands visited Tanzania in 1991 to assess the trade on the Fischer's Lovebird. The work of RSPB and VBN, which was later followed by the work of IUCN and TRAFFIC, led to the Government of Tanzania to impose a trade *moratorium* on this lovebird and all psittacines as well as a few other species.

The Fischer's Lovebird is known to feed on seeds/grains and in some areas it does some damage on crops (Williams and Arlott, 1993). It has also recently been reported to be a crop pest in Singida Region (RNRO pers. comm.).

Despite the national trade *moratorium* on some bird species, the live bird trade in Tanzania remains an important form of wildlife utilization in terms of generation of revenues to the Government and bird dealers as well as creating employment to the local people (MNRT, 1998). In this case it is important to assess the population status of all the species on the *moratorium,* the Fischer's Lovebird included, with a view to finding possibilities for bringing them back to trade. This study is focusing on the Fischer's Lovebird as a starting point for the species on the *moratorium*.
In May 2004 a team of scientists from the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute carried out surveys of the Fischer's Lovebird in the Singida Region. The Region is

one of the strongholds for this species for which it is also reported to be a crop pest. It is against this background that this study was first carried out in this region; the entire study will cover all other regions where this species occurs

In 1995 (Moyer, 1996) carried out a similar survey using transect sampling methods to determine population estimates of the Fischer's Lovebird within its distributional range in Tanzania. The 1995 surveys will be compared with those from current study.

1.1 Objectives

Objectives of the study were as follows:

(i) To determine its distribution in the Region

(ii) To determine population estimates of the species in the Region

(iii) To identify nesting and roosting sites

(iv) To identify sources of food for the Fischer's Lovebird

(v) To determine levels of crop damage by taking into account damage before and after the internal ban, types of crops targeted, time of the year crops are raided, time of year when destruction is minimum and maximum

(vi) To identify control measures (as a crop pest) before and after the internal ban of the species in the live bird trade

2. 0 Materials and Methods

2.1 The study area

The Fischer's Lovebird survey was carried out during May 2004 in Singida Region (Figure 1). The study was carried out in areas with altitude ranging between 1180m-1550m above sea level. The habitats in the study area were miombo and acacia woodlands, farmland and Borassus palms *Borassus aethiopicus* (see Plates 1a-d).

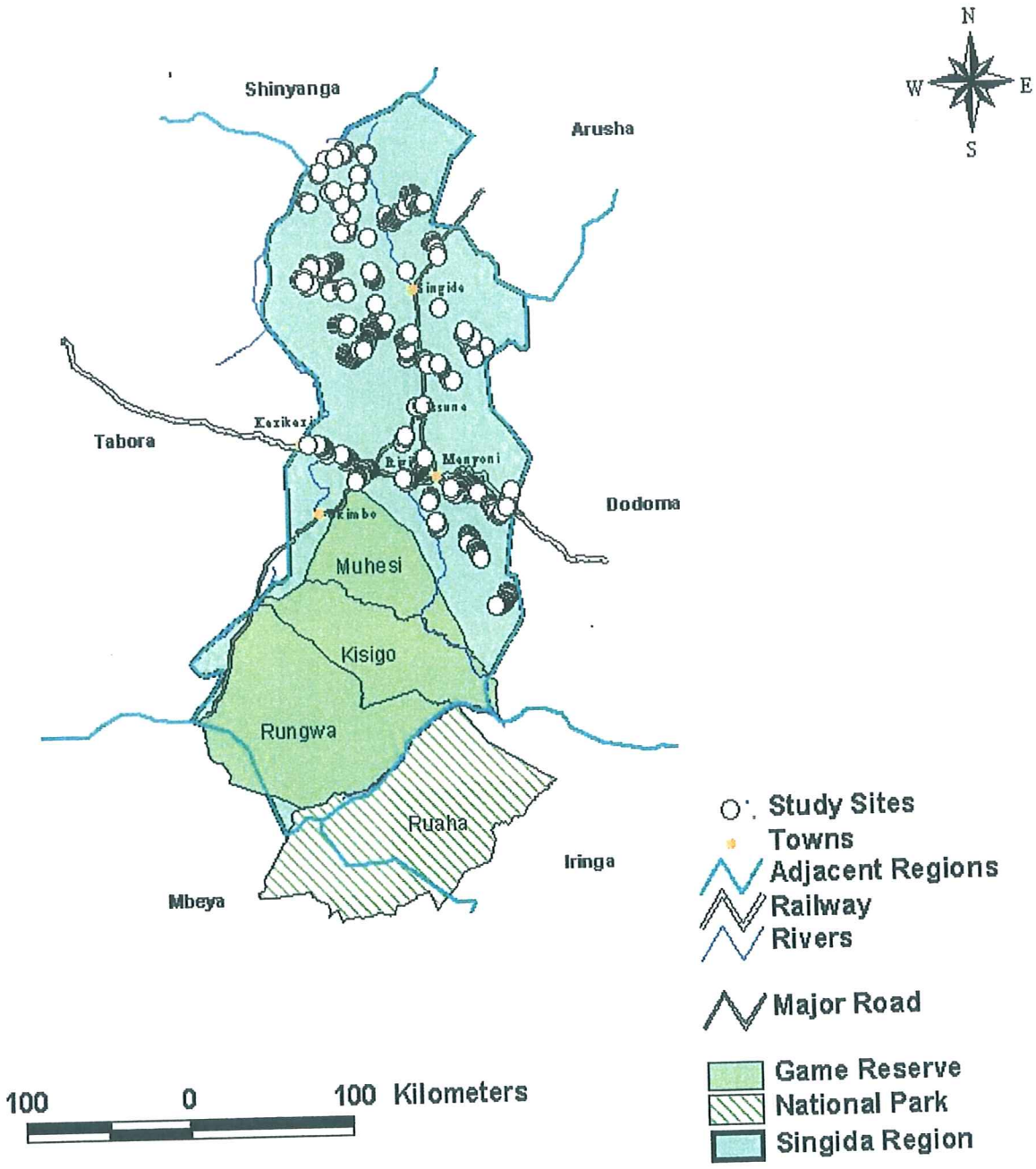

Figure 1: Study sites for the Fischer's Lovebird in Singida Region

Plate 1a: Miombo woodlands

Plate 1b: Acacia woodlands

Plate 1c: Farmlands surrounded by Borassus palms

Plate 1d: Borassus palms

2.2 Field Methods

2.2.1 Distribution

Geographical Positioning System (GPS) readings at each point were recorded for determining the distribution of the Fischer's Lovebird in the Region (Figure 1).

2.2.2 Population estimate

Population estimate of the Fischer's Lovebird was determined by census using the point count method as described by Bibby *et al* (1992) and Sutherland (1996). The species distribution area in the Singida Region was stratified and divided into study sites according to habitat types from which sampling points were randomly selected.

At each sampling point the counter spent a total of 15 minutes, the first 5 minutes to let the birds settle and the remaining 10 minutes for counting the birds. Density of the Fischer's Lovebird in the surveyed areas was calculated as:

$$\text{Density} = \frac{n_1+n_2}{\Pi r^2 m} \log_e \left(\frac{n_1+n_2}{n_2}\right)$$

Where: *r* = radius of first zone (the second extends from *r* to infinity)

n_1 = number of birds counted within *r*

n_2 = number of birds counted beyond *r*

m = number of replicate points at a given site

In this case, density 'd' is equal to the number of birds per square meter (d= #/m^2); when multiplied by 10,000 then 'd' is equal to number of birds per hectare or when multiplied by a million 'd' is equal to number of birds per square kilometer.

2.2.3 Identification of nesting and roosting sites

We used a standard questionnaire to interview local communities and government officials with regard to information on nesting and roosting sites for the Fischer's Lovebird. This information was supplemented by field observations during census work.

2.2.4 Food sources

A standard questionnaire was used to interview local people and government officials with regard to food sources for the Fischer's Lovebird. This information was supplemented by field observations during censusing work.

2.2.5 Types of crops targeted

Interviews with local communities and government officials were conducted to find out the types of crops targeted by the Fischer's Lovebird. This information was supplemented by field observations during censusing of these lovebirds in Singida Region.

2.2.6 Level of crop damage by birds

We investigated some aspects of crop damage caused by Fischer's Lovebird before and after the imposition of a national *moratorium* in bird trade for this species. A standard questionnaire was used to interview local communities and government officials in the study area. The Singida Region was divided into three sub-areas based on intensity of crop damage; these were Manyoni District, Singida / Iramba Districts and Singida / Iramba Districts.

2.2.7 Control measures of the Fischer's Lovebird as a crop pest

We used standard questionnaire to investigate pest control measures before and after the internal ban in the trade of the Fischer's' Lovebird and the stage at which these lovebirds damage crops.

This information was supplemented by field observations during field surveys to determine population size of the species in Singida Region.

3. 0 Results and Discussion

We present here results on the survey of the Fischer' Lovebird in Singida Region. A full report will be produced once the survey has been completed across the species distributional range.

3.1 Distribution

The distribution of the Fischer's Lovebird in Singida Region is shown in Figure 2. Despite the wide coverage of the surveys in the Singida Region, the Fischer's Lovebird had its south most distributional range in Singida District in Issuna and Ihanja Divisions and its northern range in Iramba District in Mkalama and Tulia Divisions (Figure 3). The eastern distributional range for the Fischer's Lovebird was in Misughaa Division in Singida District (see Figure 3). The core areas for this species were in Urugu and Ihanja Divisions in Iramba and Singida Districts respectively where the birds were seen almost in all sites.

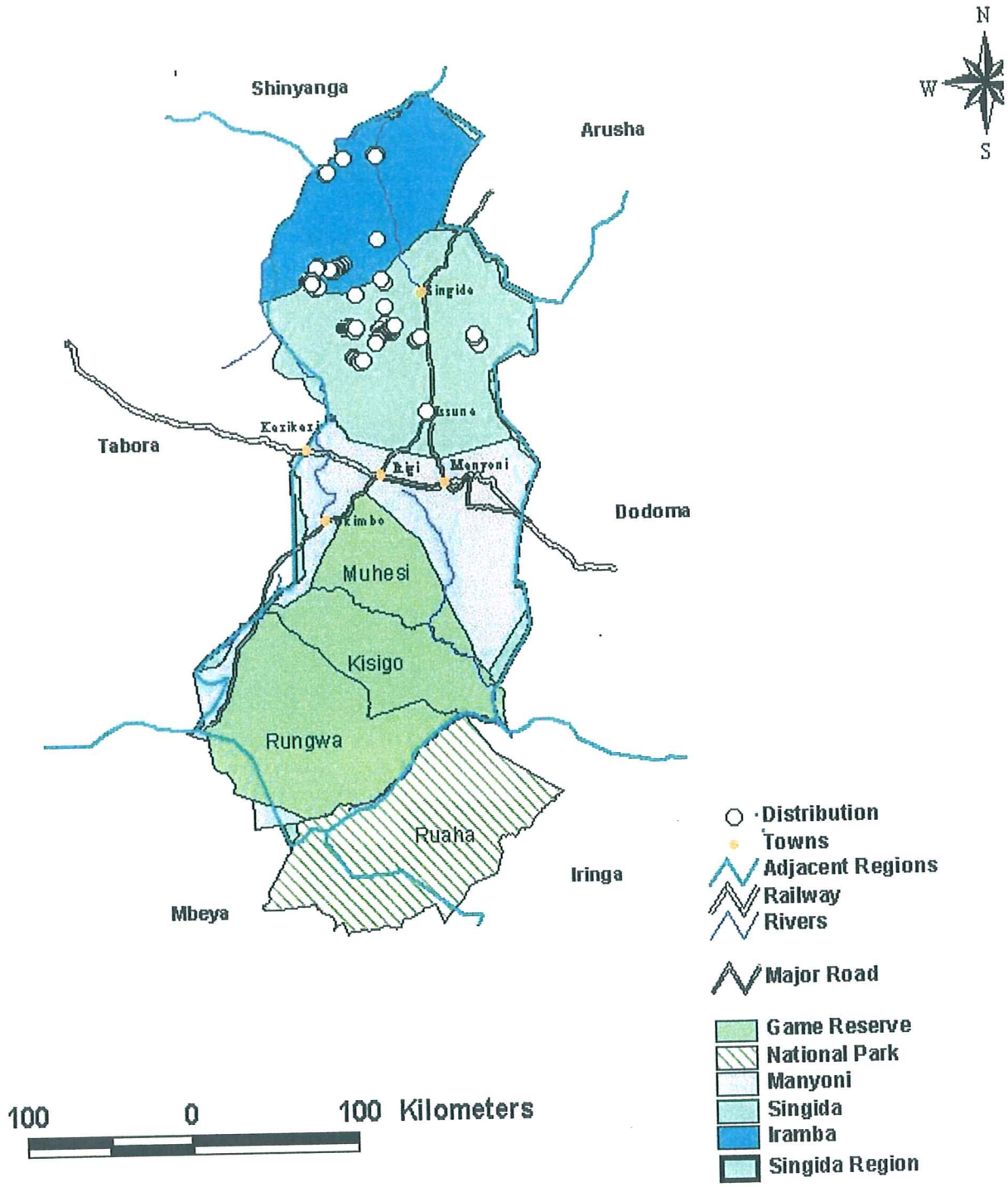
N
W
S
Shinyanga
Arusha
Singida
Tabora
Kazikazi
Issuna
Kiomboi
Manyoni
Dodoma
Muhesi
Kisigo
Rungwa
Ruaha
Iringa
Mbeya
Distribution
Towns
Adjacent Regions
Railway
Rivers
Major Road
Game Reserve
National Park
Manyoni
Singida
Iramba
Singida Region
100 0 100 Kilometers

Figure 2: The distribution of the Fisher's Lovebirds in Singida Region.

The Fischer's Lovebirds in Singida Region were distributed mainly in habitats dominated by Borassus palms and mixture of Miombo and Borassus palms (Pers. observ.). No Fischer's Lovebirds were found in habitats that were dominated by wooded savannah, acacia, Miombo woodlands and croton species.

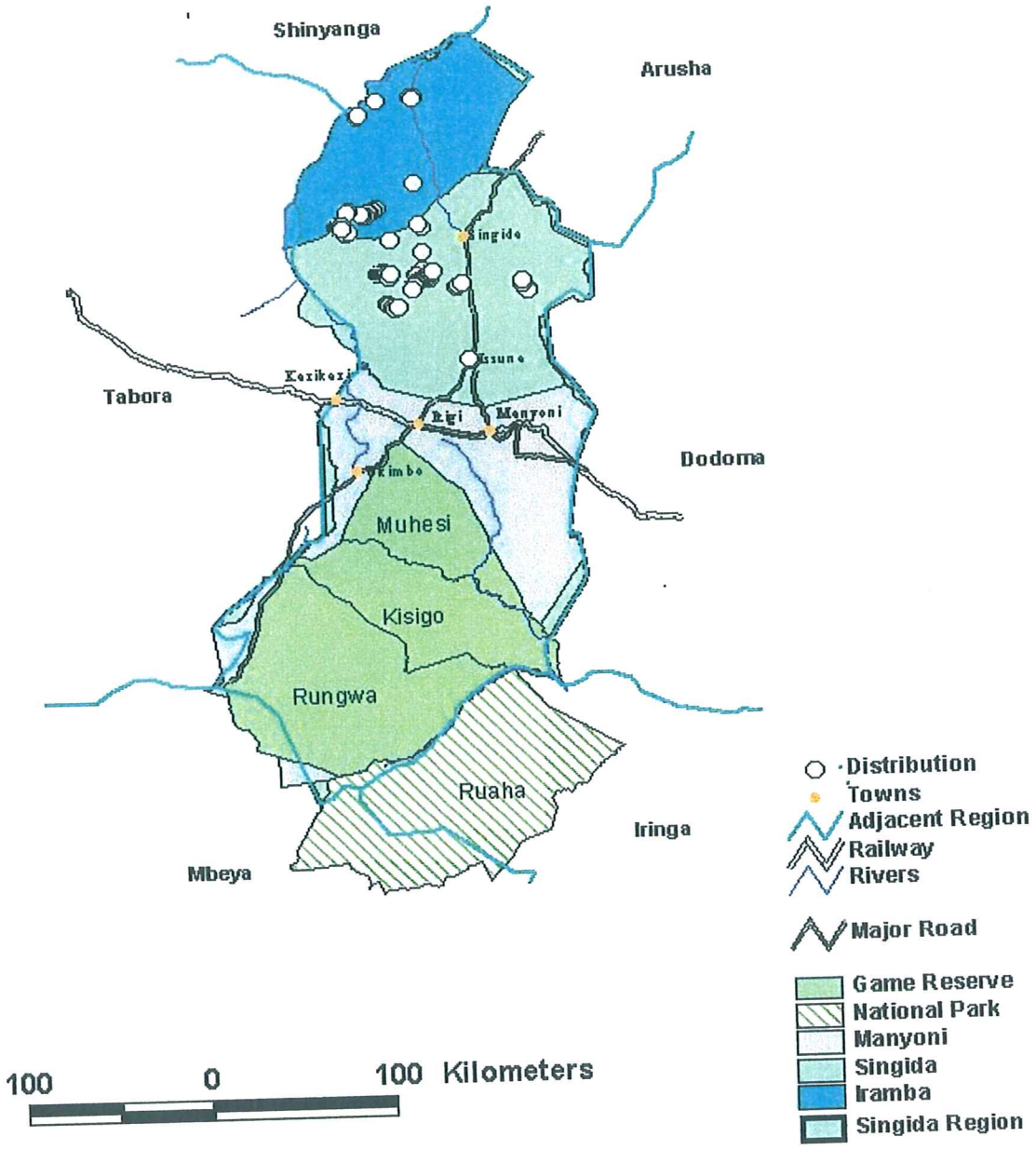

Figure 3: Records of the Fischer's Lovebird distributional range in Singida Region

3.2 Population estimates

Results of the population estimates of the Fischer's Lovebird survey carried out in Singida Region are shown on Table 1a. Average density of the Fischer's Lovebird in the region was 1,770 birds / km^2 from a range of 0 – 11,200 birds / km^2. Lowest density (70 birds / km^2) was counted in Issuna, Singida District. This study site was dominated by Miombo and Borassus palms. The highest density (11,200 birds / km^2) was also counted in Singida District. Borassus palms were the dominant species in the area. These results suggest that the Borassus palms provide suitable habitat for the lovebirds.

Table 1a: Density of the Fischer's Lovebird in Singida Region.

Study sites	Density (Number of birds / km^2)	Habitat area (Km^2)	Number of birds	Habitat type
1. Kinyangiri - Mtinko	0	0.26	0	Miombo & wooded savannah
2. Sepuka - Minyughee	2,140	0.24	514	Borassus Palms & Miombo
3. Kwasasa	860	0.24	206	Borasus Palms & Miombo
4. Misughaa	510	0.25	128	Borassus Palms
5. Ndago - Mlandala	3,360	0.24	804	Borassus Palms & Miombo
6. Njirii - Heka	0	0.25	0	Croton species
7. Bahi Swamp - Majiri	0	0.24	0	Acacia & Baobab trees
8. Kintinku	3,110	0.24	746	Borassus & Miombo
9. Kiomboi	0	0.24	0	Acacia woodland
10. Itigi - Kazikazi	0	0.24	0	Acacia & Miombo
11. Issuna - Ihanja	70	0.26	18	Miombo & Borassus Palms

12.	11,200	0.20	2,240	Borassus Palms
Mean ± SE	1,770.8 ± 930			

3.3 Food sources

Results of the interviews on food sources for the Fischer's Lovebird are shown on Figure 4. The results indicate maize was the main food source compared to other sources (Figure 4). This does not mean that maize is the most preferred source of food for the lovebirds. Probably the birds feed on maize because it may be the most widely grown crop in the region. In view of this our research scientists will be carrying out an in-depth investigation on the type food sources preferred by the Fischer's Lovebirds through experimental feeding to determine the main source of food for the Fischer's Lovebird.

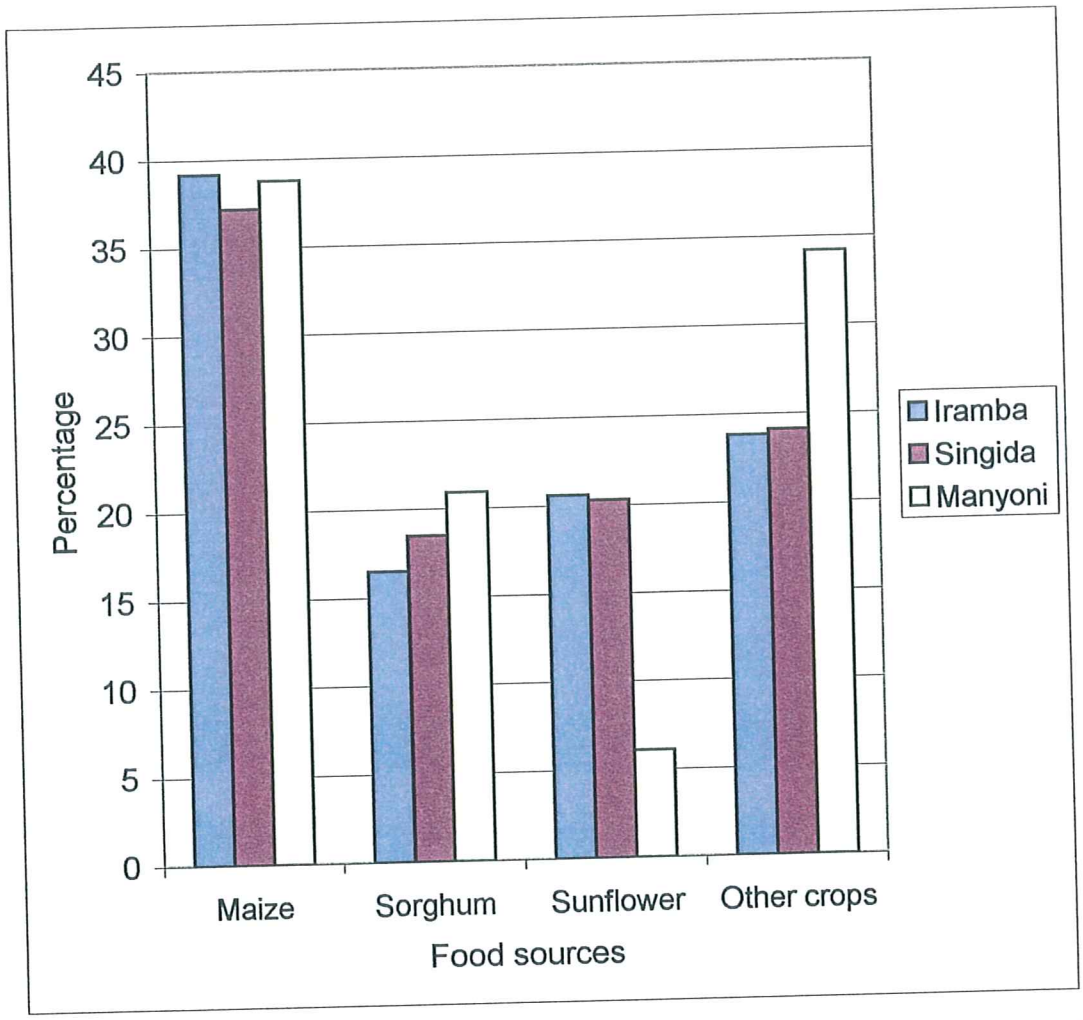

Figure 4: Reported food sources for the Fischer's Lovebird and others in Singida Region (Iramba, N = 41, Singida, N = 65, Manyoni, N = 54).

3.4 Nesting and roosting sites

Nesting and roosting sites for the Fischer's Lovebird in Iramba and Singida Districts are shown on Figure 5a & b respectively. Results indicate that over 90% of the Fischer's Lovebirds nest and roost in live Borassus palms. The nesting of the Fischer's Lovebird in the Borassus palms is probably due to the fact that these birds can easily make a hole nest in these live palms. Also during our survey we observed Fischer's Lovebird nesting in residential houses (see also Plate 2).

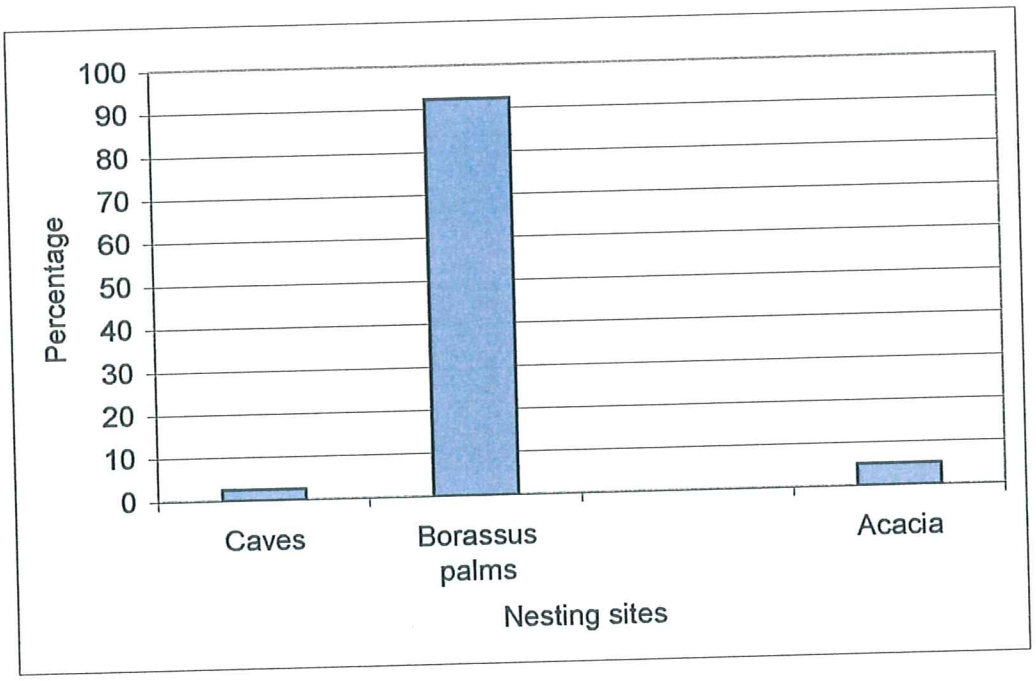

Figure 5a: Reported nesting sites for Fischer's Lovebird in Iramba District (N = 41)

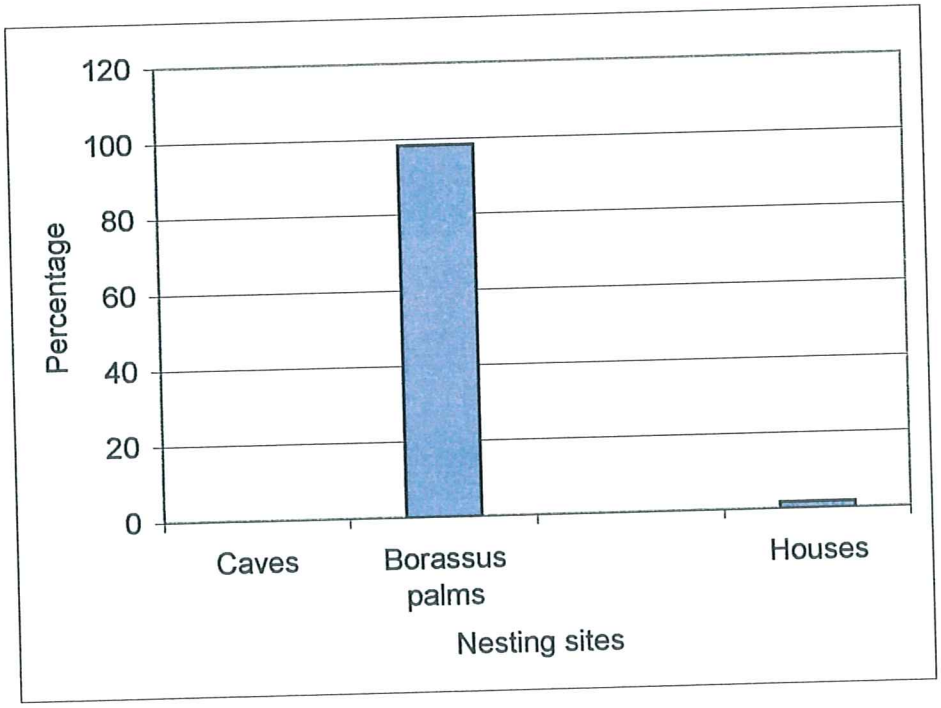

Figure 5b: Reported nesting sites for the Fischer's Lovebirds in Singida District (N = 59).

Plate 2: Fischer's Lovebird hole nest in a house

3.5 Types of crops targeted

The types of crops targeted by the Fischer's Lovebird and other birds are indicated in Figure 6 (see also Plate 3a & b).

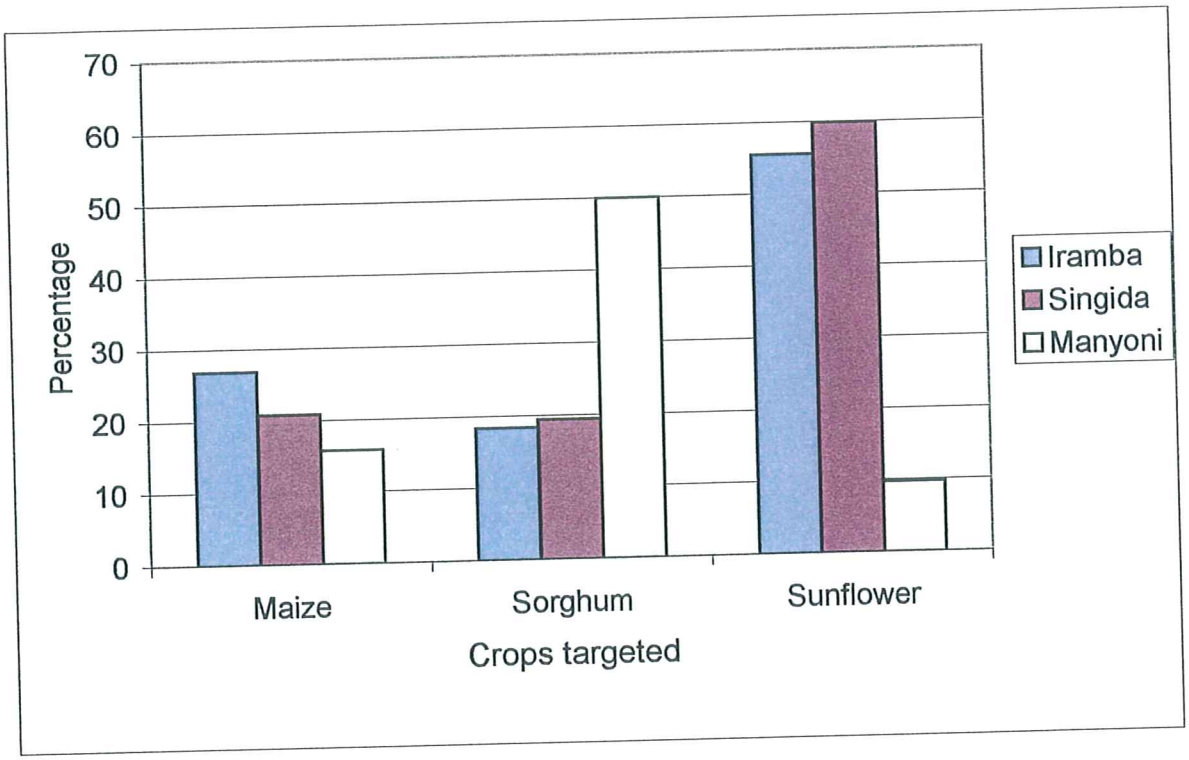

Figure 6: Reported crops targeted by the Fischer's Lovebird and other birds in Singida Region (Iramba, N = 41, Singida, N = 59, Manyoni, N = 54).

Plate 3a: Maize

Plate 3b: Sunflower

The percentage of crops targeted by the Fischer's Lovebirds varied from one area to another. For example, in Singida and Iramba Districts sunflower is the most targeted crop than others. On the other hand in Manyoni District, where there were no

Fischer's Lovebirds, sorghum was the main crop targeted by other birds. This indicates that crop damage in Singida Region is not only caused by the Fischer's Lovebirds but also by other birds as observed in the Manyoni District (Figure 6). The variation in the types of crops targeted is probably due to the fact that crops are not uniformly grown throughout Singida Region.

3.6 Level of crop damage

Figure 7 shows level of crop damage for different crops in different areas. The results indicate that crop damage increased after the internal ban in the trade of the Fischer's Lovebird. This situation does not mean that this species is the only crop pest in the Singida Region; other bird species are also responsible as indicated in Figure 6. For example, in Manyoni District other birds cause crop damage and not Fischer's Lovebirds.

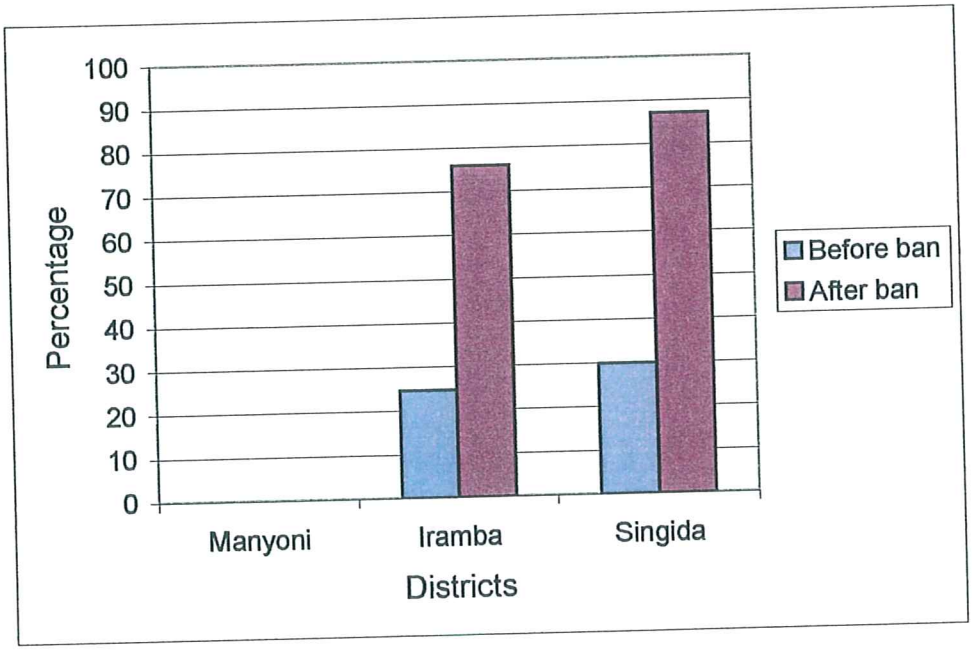

Figure 7: Reported level of crop damage in Singida Region before and after the internal ban in the trade of Fischer's Lovebird

3.5 Control measures

Control measures before and after internal ban of trade in Fischer's Lovebird in shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Reported pest control measures before and after internal ban of trade in the Fischer's Lovebird.

Study site	Before internal ban (%)		After internal ban (%)	
Manyoni District (N=54) (For other birds)	Trapping	3.7	Trapping	0
	Scaring	75.9	Scaring	79.1
	Others	12.9	Others	20.9
Iramba District (N=48)	Scaring	86.7	Scaring	86.7
	Trapping	13.3	Others	13.3
Singida District (N=53)	Scaring	94.1	Scaring	94.1
	Trapping	3.8	Trapping	3.8
	Others	2.2	Others	2.1

In the three study sites, Manyoni, Iramba and Singida Districts scaring was the main method used for control of the Fischer's Lovebird before and after the ban of trade in this species. The local communities see this method as the most cost effective in the control of pest. Trapping is also used to a less extent. Other methods reported to be used included spraying by aircraft from the BCU of the Ministry of Agriculture (DALDO pers.com). However, spraying of avicides has been reported to be ineffective in the region for the reasons that Borassus palms provide good hiding places for the birds whenever an aircraft flies over (DEO pers.comm.).

Table 3: Reported stages at which the Fischer's Lovebirds raid crops in the Singida Region.

Study sites	Crop types (%)					
	Maize		Sorghum		Sunflower	
Manyoni District (N = 54)	-		-		-	
Iramba District (N=48)	See setting	79.2	Seed setting	67.9	Seed setting	67.9
	Flowering	10.5	Flowering	7.5	Flowering	7.5
	Mature	6.3	Mature	7.5	Mature	7.5
	No response	4	No response	17.1	No response	17.1
Singida District (N=53)	Seed setting	83.0	Seed setting	79.2	Seed setting	79.2
	Flowering	15.1	Flowering	10.5	Flowering	10.5
	Mature	1.9	Mature	6.3	Mature	6.3
	No response	0	No response	3.3	No response	3.3

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CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Mr E.M. Tarimo
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Geneva, 11 January 2008

Dear Mr Tarimo,

I am writing in response to your letter of 28 December 2007 regarding withdrawing the recommendation to suspend trade in Fischer's lovebird to and from the United Republic of Tanzania. As mentioned in your letter, this recommendation was made by the CITES Standing Committee following the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev.CoP13). Thus, only the Committee has the authority to withdraw the recommendation.

In view of the information you have submitted, I will ensure that this matter is raised at the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 to18 July 2008. The decision of the Committee will be communicated to you as soon as possible thereafter.

Yours sincerely,

Willem Wijnstekers
Secretary General

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