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# **Endangered Birds of Botswana: The Cranes** Country

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cvc:

### SOUVENIR SHEET



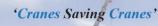
### FIRST DAY COVER



### Conserving Rarities And (their) Natural Environment

As the founders of the Crane Fund, Hoisting Solutions has embarked on a long-term As the founders of the Crane Fund, Hoisting Solutions has embaticed on a long-term strategy to contribute to the saving of Bolstwans's cranes, whose species continue to dwindle and are listed globally as vulnerable and endangered. Hoisting Solutions (Pty) Ldt, opened in May 2010, is a 100% Blotwans owned company that provides crane hire services and lifting solutions "nationally and within the region". Within two years of the company's inception, the CRANE Fund was formed, with proceeds of the company's sales going toward the Fund. The company continues to urge and seek support from the public to aidet them in all crane conservation efforts within Botwama by making domations directly to the Crane Fund.

As part of their important conservation policy, Hoisting Solutions wishes to create awareness on the value of saving these cranes through contributions of funds, knowledge and outsourced skills to rehabilitate these amazing birds and the habitat in which they live.



### BANKING DETAILS:

Crane Fund (IBA); Bank: First National Bank Bots Account: 62274560484 Branch Code: 284567 FNB Swift Code: FIRNBWG

www.hoistings.co.bw www.birdlifebotswana.co.bw







# Endangered Birds of Botswana: - The Cranes -







## RILIECRANE

Grus paradisea (Formerly) Anthropoides paradiseus

mo.gôlôri, mo.gôlôdi



Status: Vagrant; may be locally extinct as a breeding bird (although breeding recorded as recently as 2000).

Identification: Tall, stately, blue-grey bird with large, bulbous head. Long black tertial feathers

undance: Rare. This species, a Southern African endemic, is now a vagrant in Botswana. Up to 1997, it was recorded in the southeastern corner of the country at Kgoro Pan and Good Hope and in Makgadikgadi Pans, where it bred until about 2000. These birds are no longer seen, and it is presumed that they were relict pairs that have now died or moved elsewhere. The most recent sightings were in 2004 at Phokoje Pan in the CKGR and in 2006, at Nxai Pan.

Habits: Occurs in pairs. Ground dwelling, it forages in grasslands with short, sparse growth.

Diet and Feeding: The cranes mainly eat aquatic vegetation but also eat seeds, small reptiles,

Threats: Changes in agricultural practices, power lines collisions, human disturbances, unintentional and intentional poisoning, land conversion, live capturing and egg collection for



### GREY CROWNED CRANE Ralearica regularum



### **IUCN Red List Conservation Status: Vulnerable**

Identification: Tall waterbird with "decorative" gold crest (crown) and red throat wattle. Pale grey body and neck contrast with the darker back. Adult has a bare white cheek patch; this is covered with creamy feathers in immature birds, which has a shorter crown. In flight, white upper and underwing coverts contrast with dark flight feathers.

Abundance: Scarce. Most sightings, including chicks, are from Nata Sanctuary; irregular sightings from the Okavango Delta, Makgadikgadi Pans, Chobe District, and bodies of water in

Habitat: Occurs in freshwater wetlands and associated grasslands.

Habits: Seen in pairs and small flocks of up to 17 birds. Roosts in wetlands.

Call: Bi-syllabic trumpet: may hem, may hem,

Diet and Feeding: the cranes are omnivores, eat plants, seeds, grains, insects, frogs, worms, snakes and small fish. The birds are also associated with the grazing mammalian herbivores, benefiting from the ability to grab prey items disturbed by grazing animals.

Threats: Wetland loss and degradation, human disturbance, live capture and egg collection for commercial trade, unintentional or intentional poisoning, power line collisions and land developments.



WATTLED CRANE Grus carunculata (Formerly)

mo.gôlôdi, mo.gôlôri



Status: Resident, breeding. Main egg-laying period (July to September) follows floods in the Okavango Delta.

Identification: Tall, stately waterbird. Adult has grey cap, red facial skin, white neck, and pair of white, pendulous wattles at base of bill. Wings are slate grey with long black tertial feathers that project over the tail. First-year immature has white head (no grey cap) and smaller wattles. Sexes can be determined only when pair is calling in unison: at end of call, male briefly raises both wings above his back.

Abundance: Common in Jao-Boro river system in the Okayango Delta throughout the year and in localized areas in Makgadikgadi Pans during summer. The Okavango Delta currently supports the single largest population of this species in the world, numbering approximately 1,300

Habitat: A floodplain specialist, it is found on seasonally inundated, large-scale, low-lying floodplains.

Habits: Monogamous, pairs for life; seen in trios, which are adults with single offspring. Large flocks of several hundred form at front of annual Okavango floodwaters; however, th spectacular flocks of 800 to 1,000 birds documented in the late 1990s are no longer seen. Small flocks (4 to 20 birds) move to grassy outlying pans away from the Okavango during summer.

Threats: Habitat loss, especially due to changing hydrology, invasion species, unsustainable exploitation of wetlands, human disturbance, fire and conversion of grasslands.



### WATTLED CRANE

Grus carunculata (Formerly) Bugeranus carunculatus

mo.gôlôdi, mo.gôlôri



### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

BotswanaPost would like to thank:

Pete Hancock for assistance with the "Endangered Birds of Botswana: 'The Cranes' brochure

BirdLife Botswana for the conservation of Botswana's cranes species

Hoisting Solutions for collaborating with BotswanaPost to successfully launch the 'Crane' Stamps International Crane Foundation for "Threats" information (www.savingcranes.org) used in the

The Artist and Graphic Designer for the 'Cranes' stamps artwork and design conceptualization, Mr. Modiredi Ramokate and Mr. Irfan Kokahi

BotswanaPost also wishes to acknowledge the following photographers work as sources of inspiration for the Crane Stamps: Marie-France Grenouillet, Brenden Scott, Erhard Nerger, Soffel Lombard, and Giorgio Conti

Printer:	Southern Colour Print, New Zealand
Artist	Modiredi Ramokate
Graphic Designer:	Irfan Kokabi
Process:	CMYK - Four Colour Process
Sheet:	2 x 20 Panes with gutter
Stamp Size:	40mm x 30mm and 55mm x 35mm
Denominations:	P2.00, P5.00, P7.00, P10.00
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