



Crowned Crane Conservation African Crane Trade Project



Cynthia Gitter, Aviculturist
International Crane Foundation
cgitter@savingcranes.org



Objectives

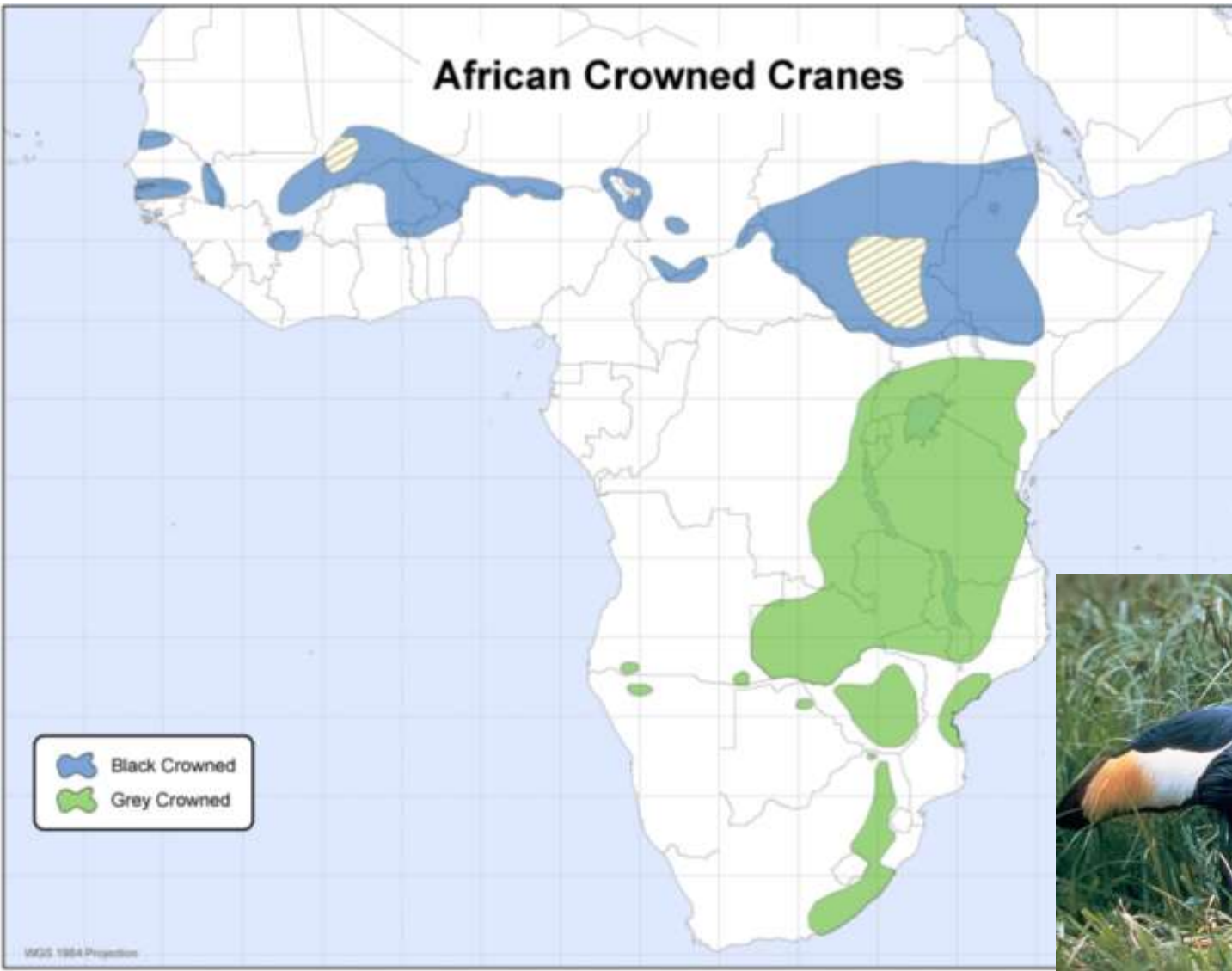


1. Share information on the current status of wild Crowned Cranes and key threats
2. African crane trade project
 - a) African crane trade project objectives
 - b) CITES significant trade review
3. Opportunities for zoo involvement
 - a) Sustainable captive population
 - b) Crowned Crane husbandry guidelines
 - c) Support field conservation



Grey Crowned Cranes

Balearica regulorum



IUCN Red List



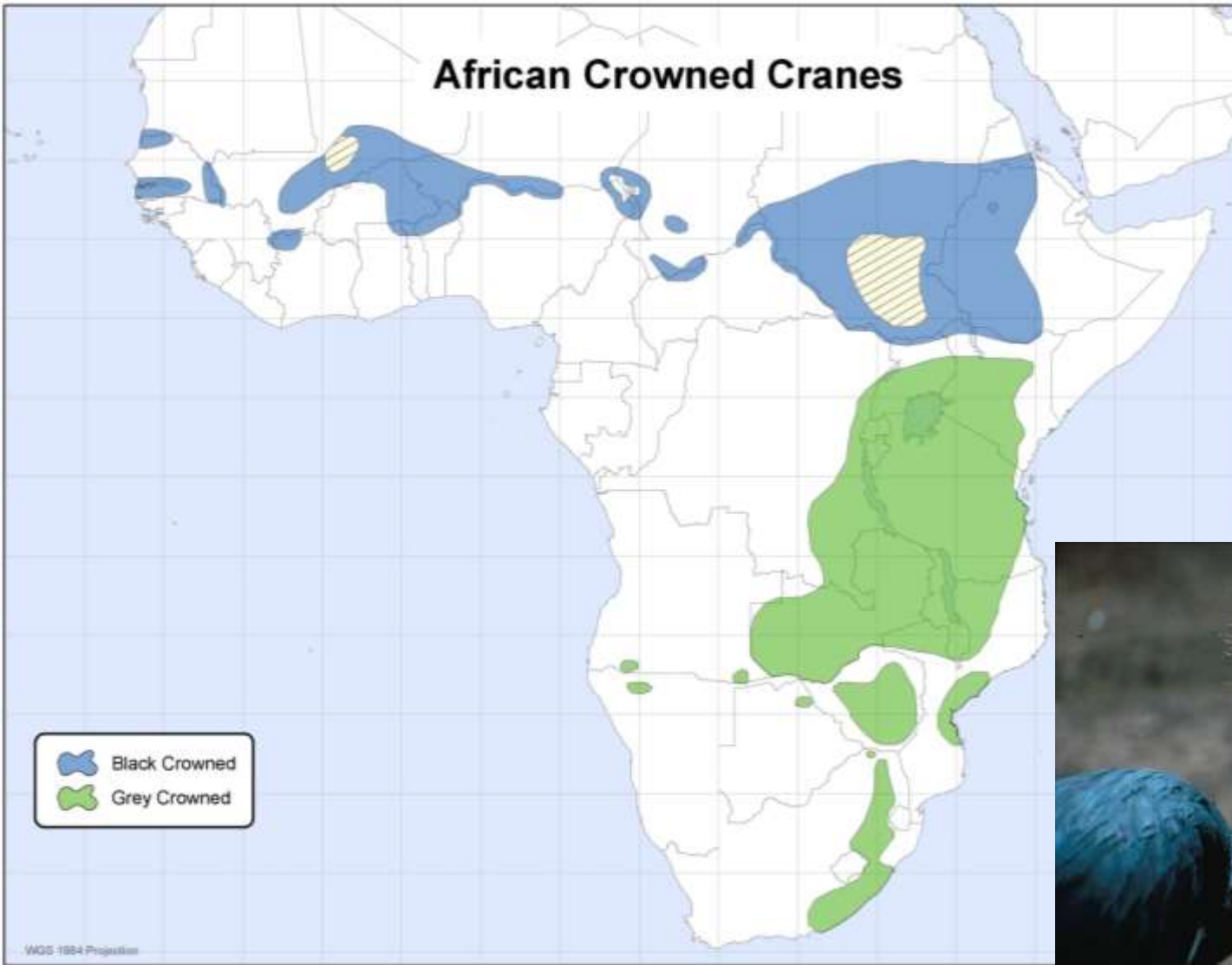
Least Concern → Vulnerable (2009)

→ Endangered (2012)

- Current population 60,000 (2004), 31,000-- 50-80% decline
- Threats:
 - Trade in live birds and their eggs
 - Wetland cultivation
 - Persecution in agricultural fields
 - Disruption of breeding by destruction of nests
 - Disturbance due to persistent human presence in wetlands
 - Power line collisions and electrocutions

Black Crowned Cranes

Balearica pavonina



IUCN Red List



Threatened → Vulnerable (2012)
→ Endangered ??

- Current population 42,000 (2004), 33,000-70,000-- 27- 40% decline
- One of least known species, need support to update surveys
- Threats
 - Live capture for commercial trade and domestication
 - Degradation of wetlands through agriculture, overgrazing
 - Human disturbance
 - Drought and desertification, especially related to climate change

African Crane Trade Project Goal



To better understand the African crane trade and to develop measures to minimize its impact on wild populations



African Crane Trade Project Objectives



- Understand trade supply, movement and demand
- Assess trade impact on wild populations
- Strengthen legislation and law enforcement
- Assess current global captive status
- Education and awareness programs
- Community based conservation



CITES Significant Trade Review



- In 2009 both Black & Grey Crowned cranes were included in the Significant Trade Review process under the CITES Animal Committee
- Requirement:
 - Countries trading in wild caught cranes need to show Non-Detriment Findings
- Many trade suspensions in African countries including Guinea, Sudan, South Sudan (BCC) and Rwanda, Lesotho, Uganda, Tanzania (GCC)
- Countries must prove they can monitor permits
- South Africa is working on a protocol for parentage testing of all cranes to minimize the interpretation gap of captive vs. wild chicks
- Rwanda is developing a media campaign, database of cranes going into local domestication, health checks and confiscating cranes in poor condition



African Crowned Crane Sustainable Captive Populations

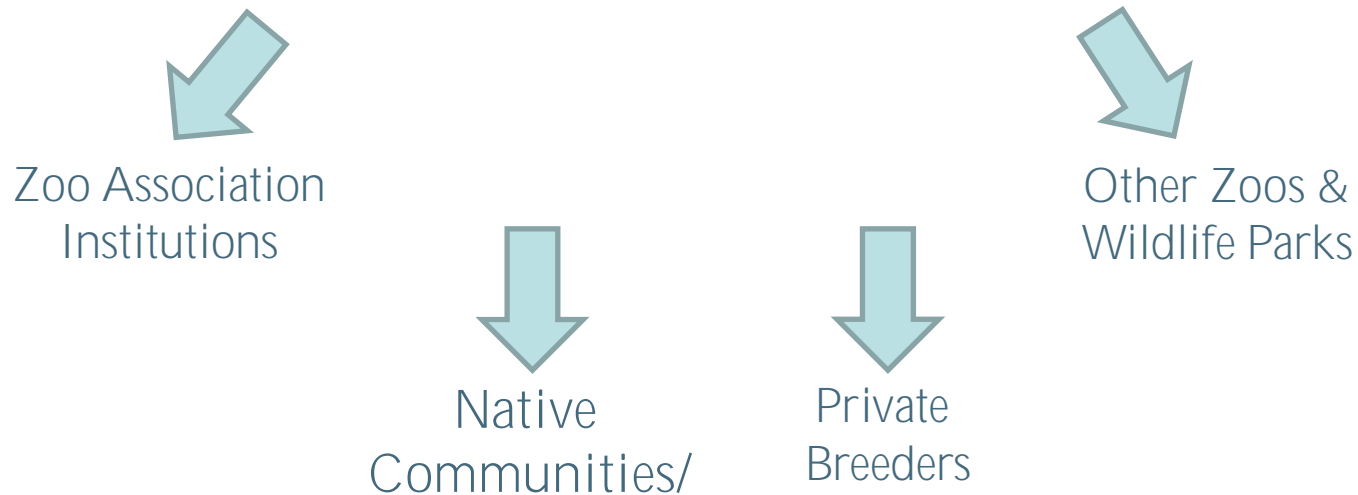


- Explore origin of Crowned Cranes; do not accept wild-caught individuals
 - BCC continue to be offered out of South Sudan and Sudan
- Zoo association institutions can and have contributed to sustainable captive populations
 - North America (AZA): completed and implementing master plans for both species
 - Europe (EAZA): assessing holdings and breeding plans with the potential to develop studbooks and EEPs
 - China (CAZG): prepared studbooks and completing population analysis with the goal of creating sustainable populations
 - Africa (PAAZAB): preparing to develop programs
- Means of reducing the demand of trade on wild populations
- Encourage other zoos and private breeders to manage their populations to reduce future needs

African Crowned Crane Husbandry Guidelines



- Cranes in some African zoos and local caretakers are generally short-lived, high vulnerability to predators, low breeding success
- A resource to increase successful captive care and management of Crowned Cranes developed for a variety of audiences (minimum requirements)



- Help minimize the impacts of trade on wild populations by reducing the demand for wild cranes and associated illegal trade

African Crowned Crane Husbandry Guidelines



- Compile data on Grey and Black Crowned Crane
 - natural history
 - relevant husbandry methods
 - breeding requirements
 - special breeding techniques
 - captive management challenges and solutions
- Survey to AZA, EAZA, private breeders
 - Potential to look at captive management in UAE
 - Begin a dialogue
- Coordinate with the general crane husbandry guidelines being updated through Gruiformes TAG



Support African Crane Conservation



- Explore origin of Crowned Cranes; do not accept wild-caught individuals
 - BCC continue to be offered out of South Sudan and Sudan
- Many cranes from Uganda going into Rwanda for local domestication
- Wild populations surveys—especially Black Crowned Cranes
- Secure 7 sites in East Africa to protect/develop sustainable wetlands
- Identify, map, characterize current and historic sites where cranes forage, roost and breed
- Help communities develop alternative methods of livelihoods that do not impact environment



African Crane Conservation Support



Zoo Miami





Thank you!