

PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

**Anjouan Scops-owl
*Otus capnodes***



**Species Guardian:
Ishaka Said**



A painting of Anjouan Scops-Owl (© Ian Willis/
BirdLife International)

Background

Anjouan Scops-owl was rediscovered on Anjouan in the **Comoro Islands** in June 1992, after an absence of records dating back to 1886. Recent estimates have placed the population at between 50 and 100 pairs, and the population is thought to be declining as habitat clearance is accelerating due to agriculture, timber extraction and charcoal manufacture. Furthermore, remaining habitat is becoming increasingly degraded through human disturbance and invasion by exotic plants, hunting for food by the increasing human population is thought to be causing mortality, severe cyclones pose an ongoing threat, and introduced species such as the black rat and Common Myna are thought to hamper reproductive success.

Actions being implemented

1. Surveys using call playbacks aimed at a variety of altitudes are planned to establish the species's **population size**. A range of behavioural and habitat variables will also be measured in order to establish ecological requirement.
2. Maps of the **distribution** of the species will be produced using GPS data collected at each observation site. The distribution will then be visualised with remotely sensed imagery and habitat classification layers produced as part of the wider biodiversity monitoring programme.

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