

Uluguru Bush-shrike *Malaconotus alius*

Background

The Uluguru Bush-shrike is endemic to moist sub-montane and montane forest in the Uluguru Mountains of Tanzania. It is a canopy specialist and favours areas between 1,200-1,700m with high rainfall. The core habitat occurs within the Uluguru North Forest Reserve (c.84 km²) and an adjacent unprotected forest area. Surveys conducted in 1999-2000, and again in 2006-2007, estimated a population of around 1,200 pairs. In 2007, the species was recorded for the first time in the nearby Uluguru South Forest Reserve where two pairs were observed during tape playback. Although illegal logging activities are not particularly high in the area, they may still pose a serious threat to the Uluguru Bush-shrike as loggers disproportionately target large canopy trees, the species's preferred habitat.



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Species Guardian:
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Actions being implemented

1. Researchers have conducted **surveys in the Uluguru South Forest Reserve** that will provide a more precise understanding of the species' total population size.
2. A programme of **habitat monitoring** continues within the Uluguru North Forest Reserve.
3. **Community sensitisation seminars and workshops** have been conducted in order to raise awareness of the Uluguru Bush-shrike and address illegal activities taking place in the region.
4. Plans are underway to reconnect the Forest Reserve of Uluguru North and Uluguru South and **upgrade the area to the status of Nature Reserve**. At present, the two reserves are separated by the Bunduki gap, an area of farmland and scattered household approximately 1.5 km wide. **Habitat restoration**, involving the planting of indigenous trees, will be carried out in collaboration with the Forest and Bee-keeping Division (FBD), Tanzania's forest protection authority.

