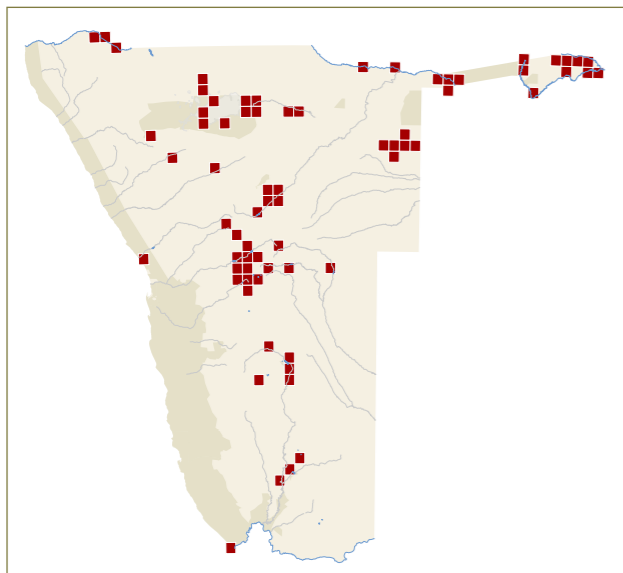




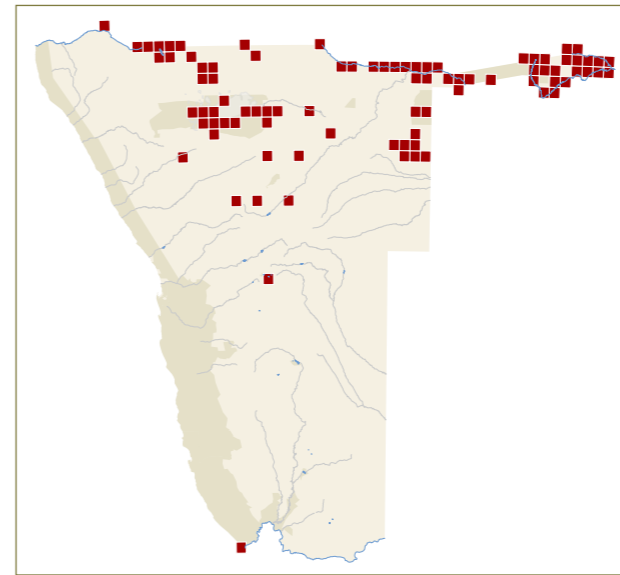
and Lake Liambezi. On rare occasions it is recorded as a vagrant to dams and coastal wetlands among the more common Great White Pelican *P. onocrotalus*. Only four breeding colonies are known: one in the Salambala Conservancy on the Chobe River floodplain, where about 25 birds were recorded in August 1998 (RE Simmons, M Paxton pers. obs.) and 125 birds in September 2001 (Ward 2001), and two from the Linyanti Swamps. The average number of nests per colony was 26 (22 to 34) and eggs were laid in July and August (Brown *et al.* 2015). The global population, spread across sub-Saharan Africa and the southern Red Sea, is estimated at 50,000 to 100,000 birds (Dodman 2002). The Namibian population is less than 1% of the African population. This species is classified as *Vulnerable* in South Africa (Taylor *et al.* in press) because of its small population, which has declined. It is common and stable elsewhere (Dodman 2002) and is not globally threatened. The population should be monitored, especially breeding colonies to ensure that there is no disturbance.

Yellow-billed Stork | *Mycteria ibis*



Widespread in Africa south of the Sahara, this species occurs mainly in the Okavango Delta in Botswana and on rivers and large protected areas in Zimbabwe and north-eastern South Africa (Anderson 1997b). In Namibia it is rare and occurs on the northern rivers, including (in decreasing order of abundance) the Chobe, Okavango, Kunene and Kwando rivers. Congregations of up to 91 birds occur in summer at Lake Oponono (W Versfeld in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). A total of 64 adult birds were recorded at the Impalila-Kasane rapids on the Chobe River in September 2011 (Brown 2012a) and small numbers are recorded from shallow inland dams such as the Omatako and those around Windhoek (Namibia Bird Club in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Some birds occur as far south as the Fish River and Orange River mouth, reflecting the somewhat nomadic movements of this otherwise resident species (Hancock *et al.* 1992). Reporting rate averaged 2% to 15% (Anderson 1997b). Forty eight active nests were recorded at the Impalila-Kasane rapids in September 2011, with 118 young birds ranging from downy nestlings to recently fledged young (Brown 2012a). Based on only three breeding records for Namibia, the average colony size is 43 nests (38 to 48), and eggs were laid in August and September (Brown *et al.* 2015). World populations are estimated at 75,000 to 100,000 birds (Nagy *et al.* 2012). It is not globally threatened, but was classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa and Swaziland (Barnes 2000a, Monadjem *et al.* 2003), based on an inferred decline of 10%. A recent assessment in South Africa has elevated its threat status to *Endangered* (Taylor *et al.* in press). There is no evidence of a decline in Namibia or globally (Wetlands International 2002, Nagy *et al.* 2012).

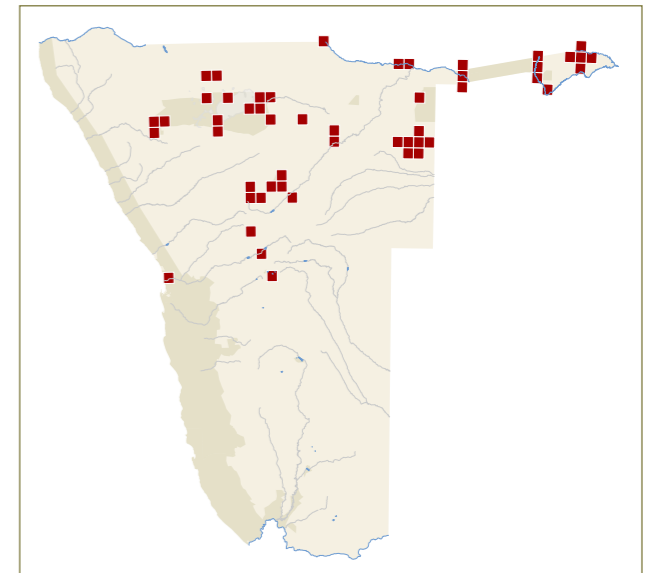
African Openbill (Openbilled Stork) | *Anastomus lamelligerus*



Endemic to sub-Saharan wetlands, avoiding forests (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992), this species is found in northern Namibia, mainly along perennial rivers and floodplains, as well as in the Cuvelai drainage system, sometimes in large flocks when pans such as Etosha are flooded. During the good rains of 2000 and 2001, flocks of 460 birds were recorded on flooded Nyae Nyae Pan and 385 birds in the Mahango area of Bwabwata National Park (RE Simmons, M Paxton in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). There is one recorded sighting from the Orange River mouth. In 2001, the sum of all known flocks was 1,460 birds (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). However, 1,600 birds were counted along short sections of the Okavango River in 2005 (CJ Brown, M Paxton pers. obs.) and over 4,500 birds were counted over three days in March 2008 on the Zambezi and Chobe floodplains when high flooding inundated the Zambezi-Chobe floodplains (CJ Brown pers. obs.). In September 2011, a minimum of 485 nests were recorded near the Impalila-Kasane Rapids on the Chobe River and 3,435 birds were counted in this one locality. This represents the minimum number, as birds were coming and going and presumably a large part of this flock was out on the floodplains foraging (Brown 2012a). This refutes the assertion of the estimated southern African population numbering "fewer than 100 pairs" (Barnes 2000a). The maximum Namibian population is probably in the region of 8,000 birds, although populations are highly variable, depending on environmental conditions. Core areas in the Okavango Delta where it is resident (Navarro 1997b) sometimes support flocks of up to 3,000 birds (Tyler 2001). The African population is estimated at 300,000 to 500,000 birds (Dodman 2002). The Namibian population is thus about 2% of the African population. It is not globally threatened, and has been down-listed from

Near Threatened to *Least Concern* in South Africa (Taylor *et al.* in press), where it breeds only sporadically.

Woolly-necked Stork | *Ciconia episcopus*



This is a widespread species throughout sub-Saharan Africa and India, through to the Philippines (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). It is very rare in southern Africa; the breeding population in South Africa is estimated to comprise fewer than 30 pairs (Berruti 1997a). It is largely vagrant to Namibia, with a maximum of 31 birds seen at Lake Oponono in March 1999 and 58 birds at Middelbult Dam, near the Waterberg Plateau National Park, in April 1993. Other similar concentrations are known from Namibia's

