# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF MAPS</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF PLATES</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER I  INTRODUCTION
1.1 Literature review  2
1.2 Objectives  3
1.3 Hypotheses  3
1.4 General description of the genus *Pavo*  4
1.5 Phylogenetic relationship of the genus *Pavo*  6

## CHAPTER II  STUDY AREA
2.1 Location  8
2.2 Climate  8
2.3 Vegetation  11

## CHAPTER III  POPULATION
3.1 Methods  14
3.2 Results  16
3.2.1 Population size  16
3.2.2 Population structure and sex ratio  16
3.2.3 Density  16
3.2.4 Exponential rate of increase  18
3.2.5 Mortality  18
3.2.6 Dispersal  19
3.3 Discussion  19
3.4 Summary  23
CHAPTER IV HABITAT USE

4.1 Methods

4.1.1 Macrohabitat use

Home range

4.1.2 Microhabitat use

4.1.3 Roost tree characteristics

4.1.4 Statistical analyses

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Macrohabitat use

Home range

Second-order selection

Third-order selection

4.2.2 Seasonal variation in habitat and cover use

4.2.3 Microhabitat use

4.2.4 Roost tree characteristics

4.3 Discussion

4.4 Evolutionary and ecological aspects of habitat selection by peafowl

4.5 Summary

CHAPTER V COMMUNICATION

5.1 Methods

5.2 Results

5.2.1 Call types

5.2.2 Seasonal and hourly variation in call output

5.2.3 Effect of environmental factors on call output

5.3 Discussion

5.4 Summary

CHAPTER VI FOOD AND FEEDING HABITS

6.1 Methods

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Food availability
6.2.2 Feeding habitats of peafowl................. 70
6.2.3 Food items........................................... 74
   Direct observation................................. 74
6.2.4 Seasonal variation in food and
   feeding habits...................................... 74
6.2.5 Correlation between abundance of
   wild herbs and their utilization.............. 76
6.2.6 Niche breadth....................................... 76
6.2.7 Droppings analysis............................... 76
6.3 Discussion........................................... 79
6.4 Summary............................................. 84

CHAPTER VII BREEDING BIOLOGY............................... 85
7.1 Methods.............................................. 86
   7.1.1 Male dispersion pattern....................... 86
   7.1.2 Courtship behaviour and factors
         affecting male mating success.............. 86
   7.1.3 Clutch size and nest site
         characteristics............................... 87
7.2 Results.............................................. 88
   7.2.1 Male dispersion pattern....................... 88
   7.2.2 Courtship behaviour and factors
         affecting male mating success.............. 91
   7.2.3 Clutch size and nest site
         characteristics............................... 93
7.3 Discussion........................................... 94
7.4 Summary............................................. 99

REFERENCES.................................................100
APPENDIX I Flora of the study area.....................109
APPENDIX II List of food items of peafowl...........114
APPENDIX III Key for the identification of selected
            food plants....................................116
PLATES....................................................126