

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

16th March 2018

CEPF Grant 103778

Fauna & Flora International

Implementing the Action Plan for the Critically Endangered Principe Thrush

Príncipe, Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Fauna & Flora International
2. Grant title: Implementing the Action Plan for the Critically Endangered Principe Thrush
3. Grant number CEPF-103778
4. Grant amount (US dollars): \$99,998.75
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1st June 2018 – 31st December 2020
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Príncipe, Sao Tome and Príncipe
7. Date of preparation of this document. 16th March 2018

The Process Framework describes the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities will be implemented. This is a preliminary draft and affected communities will have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. This draft Framework will be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders if funding is secured to deliver the project. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared, with the additional support and guidance of CEPF.

A. Project background

Príncipe's forests are among the most biodiverse in Africa, and contain a level of endemism comparable to other oceanic islands such as the Galapagos. This is centered on the island's extensive primary and secondary forests, much of which are contained within the Natural Park, Parque Natural do Príncipe (PNP). All of the island's forests, including those within PNP, are used by the island's citizens for hunting, timber and foraging for non-timber forest products. This can cause substantial damage to wildlife and threaten species. At the same time, Príncipe has very few civil society organizations or formal businesses with a stake in conserving the island's wildlife. Local communities are poor and have few opportunities to engage with conservation, or to diversify their livelihoods away from potentially damaging activities.

Príncipe has at least 33 known terrestrial bird species of which more than 50% are endemic including the Príncipe Thrush, *Turdus xanthorhynchus* (CR), the focus of this project. It is estimated that there are fewer than 250 mature thrush individuals. The population is listed as decreasing and is known to suffer from unregulated, opportunistic harvesting for food and, anecdotally, suffered a dramatic decline in population size and distribution in recent years.

The thrush is the only species of the Island with a dedicated Conservation Action Plan. The Action Plan was developed in 2014 but in reality no priority actions have been implemented. The last dedicated forest surveys for the thrush were conducted in 2010, and the latest publication was in 2012

Poor management of the Obo National Park is leaving the forests (which provide habitat for the Thrush) vulnerable to degradation from economic and development activities, while local communities are poor and have few opportunities to diversify their livelihoods away from potentially damaging activities.

This project will give us the opportunity to work towards implementing key activities from the existing action plan and to undertake a review process with relevant stakeholders to ensure the next plan is based on sound science and takes account of human need.

B. Participatory implementation

i. Procedure development

FFI has a position statement and guidance document related to displacement (including economic displacement i.e. the loss of or restricted access to livelihood resources) that was approved by FFI's Council in 2016. FFI endeavors to ensure that our conservation activities do not disadvantage or undermine poor, vulnerable or marginalized people who are dependent upon or live adjacent to natural resources, and wherever possible we seek to conserve biodiversity in ways that enhance local well-being and social equity. We are committed to respecting human rights, promoting their protection and realization within our conservation programs, and supporting the governance systems that can secure those rights. We are one of the founding members of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (<http://www.thecihr.org>), a consortium of international conservation NGOs that seek to improve the practice of conservation by promoting the integration of human rights in conservation policy and practice.

FFI seeks to uphold this position in all of its partnerships, including with government departments, the corporate sector and civil society organizations.

This draft procedure has been developed by FFI as part of the CEPF proposal development process.

Prior to finalizing and implementation it will be discussed, revised and approved with:

- The local government officials from the park authority, the Forestry direction, the Economy Secretariat and the Biosphere Reserve Management Unit.
- CEPF
- Relevant local communities

ii. Project implementation

FFI will take a participatory approach throughout this project. To achieve our project goals, we will continue to work in close partnership with local communities, the Príncipe Guides Association, the Hunters Association, the PNP authority, the Príncipe autonomous government and the Fundação Príncipe Trust to encourage participation at various levels of project delivery. Our guiding principles of participation include:

- Participatory processes should be 'well governed' (transparent, accountable, legitimate, fair and inclusive).
- There should be sufficient capacity for all involved (community members, government agency staff, civil society actors, etc.) to meaningfully participate, which may require capacity strengthening for some or all groups.

- Sufficient time should be built into decision-making processes to enable genuine participation.
- Participation should be equitable, with particular attention to ensuring accessibility and ‘voice’ of those who may be marginalized or vulnerable. This may involve additional financial, technical, time, and other resources for some groups, and attention to issues of language and culture.
- Processes should be based upon and encourage mutual respect between participants, including substantive roles and appropriate power sharing.
- Representation and leadership should be inclusive and effective.
- Participation should be an integral part of any activity or project cycle, commencing at the outset of activities and continuing through project/program design, management, monitoring and evaluation.

Specific activities to facilitate wide participation in project activities will include:

- Focus group discussions with 10 communities to understand subsistence and livelihoods activities and their relationship to conservation of the Thrush. These will take place at easily accessible locations, such as the town center and within communities, and will be scheduled at times of day and in locations that are easily accessible to women, men, young people, and those with disabilities. Multiple meetings will be held where necessary, for example, to enable different groups to attend who work at different times of day, or to ensure women’s and men’s voices are heard. Verbal meetings enable people with low or no literacy to participate fully. Groups will be facilitated by male or female facilitators as needed to ensure participation. The meetings will be held in Portuguese, as the language in most common use of the island. Notification of the meetings will be made beforehand via posters, SMS messages to people with phones, and by word of mouth, so people have time to arrange attendance.
- Household surveys (with a representative sample of households) will be held at the house, and will seek to include views of different members of the household, not just the household head. We will ensure that female-headed households are included in the sample along with other particularly vulnerable households, to ensure that the people most likely to be impacted by any changes are fully involved.
- As with the focus group discussions, community consultations on the revised Action Plan will be held within communities at times and locations accessible to all, with multiple consultations as necessary to enable full participation and publicity beforehand. FFI and FPT will take a facilitation role, enabling community members to identify their own preferred alternatives to current practices, and to identify the resources needed to make those changes, along with any additional impacts. These proposals will be shared with the wider community to identify any potential additional impacts, and particularly with those we have learnt are already engaged in a given activity. For example, if the suggestion is an amendment to firewood collection, an activity usual carried out by women, we will work to ensure women identify the alternatives and impacts and check the proposed changes.
- Student participation will be inclusive with equal opportunities for both male and female students.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

This project does not seek to impose new restrictions, the increased management effectiveness of the PNP that triggers this safeguard is anticipated to be an improvement in monitoring and data collection for the Principe thrush.

This project does plan to identify the most appropriate future restrictions (if any) to conserve the Thrush while safeguarding local livelihoods and upholding human rights. The people potentially affected by restrictions will be consulted, as described above, and the implications of any future potential restrictions will be included in the revised Action Plan.

Other affected persons will include:

- Local government
- Community members involved in the project
- Community members not involved in the project
- All those who currently engage in natural resource collection in the PNP
- People who depend on illegal hunting as a source of income or food

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

We do not anticipate that any individuals will be eligible for compensation as a result of this project. This is because the project itself will not limit or prohibit access to natural resources, although improved enforcement of existing regulations is expected which will affect those engaged in illegal hunting.

Persons affected by this project are largely those who are voluntarily participating in the project, and we are structuring activities with communities to enable participation by all those who wish to engage.

There may also be people who are inadvertently negatively affected by the project who have not been identified during the development of this process. If this situation arises during consultation on this process, the process will be adapted to account for their situation. If this situation arises during implementation of the project, the people concerned will be able to seek redress through the grievance mechanism outlined below.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

A grievance mechanism will be established to enable the receipt, review and addressing of affected communities' concerns and complaints, documented in English and Portuguese and shared externally as described below. Any person or group who is affected has a right to raise a grievance and the project proponent has the responsibility to respond within a reasonable time period.

- The project coordinator in Principe will be the first contact point for grievances. His details will be shared on project communications such as posters and leaflets, together with the contact details of the Regional Implementation Team Sub-regional Officer for the Gulf of Guinea Islands, the CEPF Executive Director (cepfexecutive@conservation.org) and the local World Bank office, and he will be present at stakeholder meetings to enable face to face communications. He will be based within the Fundação Príncipe Trust. Communications and information will be in Portuguese.

- FFI and the Fundação Príncipe Trust will support him in resolving any conflicts as they arise. The process will involve discussions with all affected persons, COOPAPIP management and if needed the Regional government to identify a solution to which all are able to agree within the law and without negatively affecting others. Any grievances raised with FFI will be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response.
- For complaints that cannot be resolved through this mechanism, the grievance will be escalated as per the CEPF grievance policy and procedure.

F. Implementation Arrangements

This project builds on existing initiatives and has been developed in consultation with project stakeholders. This is the first method employed to reduce the likelihood of conflict and complaints.

Posters, leaflets and a grant roll-out meeting will provide information to stakeholders on the purpose, goals, scope and intended activities of this project. They will help to manage expectations among affected persons and will also reduce the likelihood of complaints during implementation.

Regular stakeholder meetings will provide a forum for issues to be shared and resolved in a timely and transparent manner. This should reduce the need for a formal grievance mechanism to be used.

The contact details of the project coordinator on Príncipe will be made available on public communications related to this project, to enable the grievance mechanism to be activated. Details of stakeholder meetings will also be shared in advance to enable face to face communications.