

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	The Peregrine Fund
Project Title:	Mapping Mara's Threatened Raptors: Emergency Action to safeguard sensitive hotspots for threatened raptors in the Masai Mara National Reserve
Date of Report:	24 th February 2017
Report Author and Contact Information	Dr Munir Virani Virani.munir@peregrinefund.org

CEPF Region: East Africa

Strategic Direction:

Grant Amount: US\$ 10,000

Project Dates: February 1st 2016 to January 31st 2017

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): -

- 1) Masai Mara National Reserve – Mr Samson Lenjirr helped arrange all the permits and support to collect data
- 2) Matira Camp – provided subsidized accommodation and transport facilities for the work to be done
- 3) Habitat Info – Modeled the constraints mapping process that developed the final map
- 4) National Museums of Kenya , Birdlife International, Nature Kenya and Mara Lion Project – Project Partners

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

This project has provided the first ever constraints map to establish the spatial relationship between threatened breeding raptors and tourist facilities. It acts as a pilot to further build on strengthening the protocols of using birds of prey as indicators of sound ecological health. Our results provide the first rays of hope to further engage with Narok County officials to inspire and engage them towards protecting the last remaining breeding habitats of threatened birds of prey.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

We believe our work was very successful in generating awareness amongst local people especially bird guides and hotels to take a critical look at their facilities and ensure that the least disturbance is caused when driving close to nests. We developed an accurate constraints map that was presented to the senior warden who appreciated our work. We provided training to Anthony Tira and the staff of Matira camp. We influenced over 37 participants from 8 conservancies around the Mara at a workshop held in November 2016.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 50000

Species Conserved: 104 nests of 9 species of birds of prey

Corridors Created: nil

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The project was successful in identifying those species that were the most sensitive to infrastructure. These included the critically endangered White-headed Vulture and the Martial eagle. The project provided the basic framework in developing the tools that could identify those areas that needed the most protection. The major challenge of this project was the fact that we did not effectively engage the Narok County Government before the project started so that they could be part of it. Essentially, we designed the project in a way that we would find the information that was vital to ensure habitat protection and then take that to the County Government to let them know what we found. We learned very quickly that this method does not work well in developing countries. Ideally, we should have engaged the County Government first, to let them know that this would be a good study to add value to their conservation portfolio, and then made them a major partner.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

One major impact of this study was in understanding population trends of some of the raptor species we worked on. We found that the critically endangered White-backed Vultures were rather tolerant of human infrastructure and continued to nest on the mature trees in the middle of some of the very old camps. We also identified a reduction in the number of Tawny Eagle nests within our study sites that raised new questions about their conservation status.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The major challenge of this project was the fact that we did not effectively engage the Narok County Government before the project started so that they could be part of it. Essentially, we designed the project in a way that we would find the information that was vital to ensure habitat protection and then take that to the County Government to let them know what we found. We learned very quickly that this method does not work well in developing countries. Ideally, we should have engaged the County Government first, to let them know that this would be a good study to add value to their conservation portfolio, and then made them a major partner.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

We had very good support from local partners and especially the Senior Warden of the Masai Mara National reserve. Getting buy in from the authorities on the ground plays a major part in the success of the project.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

One important aspect of this project was that it helped cement our partnerships and help build new ones. We strengthened our partnership with Nature Kenya and Birdlife Africa Secretariat and build a new one with the Mara Lion Project. This enabled us to organize a Rapid Response Strategy Meeting in November 2016.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Sea World and Busch Gardens	B	US\$10,000	

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)
- B** Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)
- C** Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Our study provided a basic framework to expand this within the greater Mara ecosystem. We do realize of course that the Masai Mara faces a labyrinth of conservation issues one of which is unplanned infrastructure expansion. What we would like to do as our primary next step is to engage further with the Narok County Government and get their buy in towards doing this study over a wider area that also includes the conservancies. We would also need to include multiple partners such as the Masai Mara Wildlife and Conservancies Association. This will give us more traction in achieving our long term results.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Our final report has already had a wide readership and interest. Partners on the ground are contacting us to help them develop these tools as an ongoing dynamic constraints mapping process.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date	Describe the principal results achieved during project period (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	It did strengthen management along the riverine areas of the park.	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No		Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes		
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No		

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.

