

## **Project Title: Preventing Poisoning to Save Africa's Vultures – Nature's Misunderstood Heroes**

**Regions and Country: Kenya**

**Donor: Band Foundation**

**Focal Area: Maasi Mara**

**Duration: 2017-20**

**Amount of Financing: Overall 5,848,458 Euro (maximum EU Contribution 4,386,343)**

**Birdlife Africa Budget: 450,000 USD**

### **Collaborators:**

- **Nature Kenya**
- **The Peregrine Fund**
- **BirdLife International**

### **Project Description:**

#### **i) Goal**

Establish the framework and policy processes required to allow for a rapid response to wildlife poisoning incidents in Kenya.

- To achieve the long-term objective of preventing illegal wildlife poisoning altogether, our first need is to establish a system which will allow us to respond to poisoning incidents as soon as they are discovered.
- A rapid response to poisoning will allow us to contain the site before further deaths can occur, gather evidence, analyse and prosecute.

#### **ii) Objectives**

- Establish the structure, capacity and funding required for a rapid response to wildlife poisoning incidents in Kenya. NK + BLI
- Engage with local communities in and around Maasai Mara to combat the threat of poisoning NK + TPF
- Measure the impact of rapid response measures in the Maasai Mara TPF
- Policy changes on illegal wildlife poisoning NK + BLI
- Compile and share the lessons learned from rapid response actions to other countries in Africa NK + BLI + TPF

#### **iii) Activities**

- **Establish the structure, capacity and funding required for a rapid response to wildlife poisoning incidents in Kenya**
  - a) Presentation of rapid response protocol to stakeholders at a national level
  - b) Draft a Memorandum of Understanding between institutions responsible for implementing components of the rapid response measures
  - c) Develop a Kenya-specific training programme on implementing the poisoning response protocol

- d) Create and manage an emergency fund to cover costs incurred by KWS as a result of rapid response to poisoning incidents
  - e) Conduct a two day training workshop to demonstrate the Kenya-specific programme
- **Engage with local communities in and around Maasai Mara to combat the threat of poisoning Conduct an in-depth social science survey on community attitudes**
    - a) Conduct an in-depth review of best practices to address human-wildlife conflict
    - b) Arrange community exchange visits
    - c) Conduct village meetings and workshops with local pastoral communities to highlight the problem of illegal wildlife poisoning and the African vulture crisis
    - d) Establish and roll-out awareness raising campaigns and outreach programmes targeted at the local community
    - e) Roll-out a national awareness campaign to highlight the plight of vultures, and their importance to the ecosystem and to human health
- **Measure the impact of rapid response measures in the Maasai Mara**
    - a) Trap and tag 20 vultures
    - b) Establish whether annual mortality rates from poisoning have significantly decreased
    - c) Identify new vulture poisoning hotspots if any and develop the appropriate intervention method
    - d) Present, publish and share findings with key stakeholders
- **Policy changes on illegal wildlife poisoning**
    - a) Identify policy and legislation gaps to effectively prevent illegal wildlife poisoning
    - b) Engage with the African Union and East African Community
    - c) Conduct a workshop with high-level stakeholders to highlight the issues around wildlife poisoning
- **Compile and share the lessons learned from rapid response actions to other countries in Africa**
    - a) Publish the protocol for poisoning response (Y2, Q3)
    - b) Publish a report of the steps undertaken in this project and the lessons learned
    - c) Present a report of our project findings to international conventions, meetings and congresses

**Last updated (date): June 2018**

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