

## Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:  
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/> ).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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### Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	29-013 / <del>DIR28S2-1074</del>
Project title	An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti
Country/ies	Kenya and Tanzania
Lead Partner	BirdLife International
Project partner(s)	Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania
Darwin Initiative grant value	£522,480.00
Start/end dates of project	1 June 2022 – 31 March 2023
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (Annual report 1)
Project Leader name	Paul Kariuki Nding'ang'a
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://twitter.com/BirdLifeAfrica">https://twitter.com/BirdLifeAfrica</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/birdlifeafrica/">https://www.facebook.com/birdlifeafrica/</a> <a href="https://www.birdlife.org/africa/">https://www.birdlife.org/africa/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/BirdLifeVideo">https://www.youtube.com/user/BirdLifeVideo</a>
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## 1. Project summary

The Mara-Serengeti landscape is a crucial area for vultures in Africa, but they face threats from human-wildlife conflict and use of their body parts in traditional medicine. The project aims to reduce wildlife poisoning and improve livelihoods by working with communities on both sides of the Mara-Serengeti transboundary area. Retaliatory poisoning against predators is widespread, with vultures often becoming unintended victims. The capture and poisoning of vultures for use in traditional medicine is also a major threat. The project will address these factors through community engagement and awareness-building, while also providing alternative livelihood options.

## 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

This project is being implemented by Nature Kenya (NK) and Nature Tanzania (NT), both of which are part of the BirdLife International (BirdLife) Partnership in Kenya and Tanzania in the Mara-Serengeti landscape. BirdLife is responsible for project coordination. The project partners have been working well together, with detailed work plans and contracts in place between BirdLife and the partners. NK engaged 19 villages in the Mara (Annex 1) and has been responsible for engagement of stakeholders in Kenya, while NT gained information on the perceptions of uses of vulture body parts through baseline surveys across 10 villages (Annex 2). In November 2022, BirdLife International convened a vulture symposium at the Pan-African Ornithological Congress. The symposium was an opportunity for project partners and beyond to share lessons and widen the network of those involved in vulture conservation, (**Annex 3**)

### 3. Project progress

#### 3.1. Progress in carrying out project Activities

During the reporting period, implementing partners carried out activities according to the project outputs as outlined here and in the logframe.

##### Activity 1.1.1

Nature Kenya conducted outreach surveys in 19 villages (*Emurototo-Kawaii, Kawaii, Mararianta, Olare Orok, Rehero, Kirok-Olkimitare, Olemoncho; Ilbaan, Tipilikwani, Molibaany, Ingila, Iseketa, Ngamuriak, Enooronkon, Olesere, Olesere B, Olkumoto, Emurua Dikirr, Ololbormurt*) in Masai Mara, Kenya. A total of 420 households were surveyed where 48.7% of the respondents were women and 51.3% were men. The top five drivers of wildlife poisoning were identified as the use of weak traditional bomas (corrals), poor/changing livestock herding practices, climate change-prolonged drought, and resource competition between livestock and wildlife (water, pasture). (**Annex 1**).

##### Activity 1.1.2

Nature Kenya conducted desktop research to establish the baseline for livestock depredation and poisoning incidents. This research led to the identification of two specific conflict and poisoning hotspots in the Masai Mara landscape, and they were defined as the focus area for the project's intervention (**Annex 4**).

##### Activity 1.2.

A team of four people from Nature Tanzania introduced the project to all important stakeholders for the project. Twelve (12) inception meetings were conducted at different levels. The project was introduced at the district level, village levels, and to the management of Makao WMA.

These meetings reached 1,003 (470 females and 533 males) community members in ten villages disaggregated by their economic roles and engagements including farmers, pastoralists, traditional healers, and entrepreneurs.

Nature Tanzania conducted a baseline survey in 10 villages of Makao WMA to assess the belief-based use of vultures. The survey covered 529 households, and 16% of respondents confirmed the use of vulture parts for traditional medicine, business, betting, prediction, natural remedies, rituals, and hunting. Additionally, Nature Tanzania held meetings with Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority to discuss vulture conservation and belief-based killings of vultures in Maswa Game Reserve. Reports indicated that each vulture head was sold to traditional healers for about TZS 5,000 (about £2). More meetings are planned for the next reporting period. (**Annex 2 & 33**)

##### Activity 1.3.1 – BL

Birdlife International supported the implementing partners by providing guidance and advice to ensure that the surveys were well-designed and effective in meeting the project's objectives. (**Annex 5, & 30**)

##### Activity 1.3.2

Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania conducted workshops with key stakeholders to promote discussions on suitable and recommended activities that can be implemented to benefit communities and vultures. A total of 673 people were reached in Kenya and Tanzania. In Kenya's Masai Mara, 19 site-based workshops reached 617 people and recommended activities to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and enhance community resilience, including reinforcing livestock bomas and exploring best livestock herding practices (**Annex 6**). In Tanzania's Makao WMA, a workshop with 56 attendees (41% of the participants were women (50% of the community participants)) highlighted challenges such as problem animals in human-wildlife conflict and transmission of zoonotic diseases from wildlife to livestock. Interventions such as livestock boma reinforcement, scaring/chasing problem animals away, and guarding farmlands in shifts were suggested to reduce conflict. (**Annex 7 & 34**).

##### Activity 1.4.

In Kenya, Nature Kenya articulated the proposed vulture conservation models for implementation within the project area, informed by the results of outreach survey and community consultative workshops held within the project sites. Key components of the conservation model, included, actions to mitigate human wildlife conflicts, community education and awareness creation, and strengthening local community networks on rapid response to wildlife poisoning. This activity is planned for year 2 for Nature Tanzania, based on the workshops and outreach surveys, and preliminary data gathering on vultures in the area.

##### Activity 1.5.

Baseline vulture population surveys were carried out in the Masai Mara and Makao WMA landscapes, covering a total of 458.2 km through 19 road transects. During the surveys, 408 vultures from 5 different species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, Hooded Vulture, and Palm-nut Vulture) were recorded. In the Masai Mara landscape, 10 road transects covering 326 km were surveyed, resulting in the 195 vultures from 4 species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, and Hooded Vulture) recorded (**Annex 8**). In Makao WMA, 9 road transects covering 132.2 km were surveyed, resulting in 213 vultures from 4 species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, and Palm-nut Vulture) recorded (**Annex 9**).

#### **Activity 1.5.2**

A feasibility assessment of Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Makao WMA and Mwiba Ranch in Tanzania was conducted. Ntare Tanzania employed the Timed Species Count (TSC) method with technical advice from BirdLife International. From the assessment, 159 bird species from 60 families were recorded, including endangered and two endemic species, and estimated stable populations of two endemic species. Makao WMA is a significant site for birds and may qualify for IBA designation. Another assessment is scheduled for August 2023 (**Annex 10**). In Kenya, an updated Masai Mara Important Bird Area/Key Biodiversity Area Basic Monitoring was achieved, and data were updated in the World Bird DataBase in 2022. The 2021 Kenya Key Biodiversity Area Status and Trend report, which included results from Masai Mara IBA/KBA, was published in October 2022 (Annex 46) ([Link 1](#))

#### **Activity 1.6.1**

During the reporting period, Nature Tanzania and Nature Kenya assessed the viability of establishing Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) in Tanzania and Kenya. In Tanzania, 17 sites were identified as important for vulture conservation, and 22 people were trained on Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) to respond to vulture poisoning incidents. 35 RRM kits were provided to WMA rangers, along with essential equipment for implementing the anti-poisoning protocol (**Annex 12**). In Kenya, a scoping exercise was conducted to develop a criteria package of key components to consider for establishing VSZs, including areas for wildlife anti-poisoning awareness, human-wildlife conflict mitigation practices, and community participation in wildlife conservation (**Annex 11**). The implementation of VSZ approaches in Africa was also discussed during the PAOC held in Zimbabwe in November 2022, where contributions from Kenya were presented (**Annex 3**).

#### **Activity 1.6.2**

The development of criteria and decision on viability of VSZs, although begun in Year 1, will be concluded in year 2.

#### **Activity 2.1.1**

Informed by results of the community outreach survey in Kenya in Activity 1.1.1, businesses that align with wildlife management were suggested including, beekeeping, beadwork, table banking/revolving fund, improved livestock breeds, organised milk trading, and poultry rearing. A scoping activity was then conducted to determine potential beneficiaries in the project's focal areas, resulting in the identification of 24 community groups. (**Annex 13**). To further explore the implementation of community-led Nature Based businesses, Nature Kenya organized a focused entrepreneurial workshop which involved documenting the strengths, weaknesses, and obstacles encountered.

#### **Activity 2.2.1**

Nature Kenya developed a criterion for selecting bomas/enclosures, which involved identifying bomas that were at a high risk of livestock depredation based on the number of livestock that were killed, as well as determining the willingness of the household to share in the cost of construction (**Annex 14**).

#### **Activity 2.2.2**

Informed by the criteria for selecting bomas, 10 beneficiary households were identified within the project focal areas in Masai Mara where standard reinforced livestock bomas/enclosures were constructed (**Annex 15**).

#### **Activity 2.2.3**

The construction of the bomas was done with an aim to demonstrate, by example, that mitigation of livestock losses can be achieved at an affordable cost. As a result, this initiative has raised awareness, and other households outside of the beneficiaries have shown interest in adopting this practice. To build the bomas, Nature Kenya engaged local craftsmen and trained unskilled workers from the beneficiary households in boma construction techniques. Further awareness raising to encourage take-up is planned for Year 2 and 3.

#### **Activity 2.2.**

Nature Kenya established a successful boma monitoring system, in which local community champions/volunteers worked alongside project field officers to monitor the effectiveness of the bomas, reporting on any incident reported by the beneficiary. To date no livestock has been killed from the 10 bomas/enclosures constructed.

#### **Activity 2.3.1**

Nature Kenya conducted a series of awareness creation events across the Masai Mara Landscape and developed communication materials such as improved livestock herding practices (**Annex 16**), which were used during these events. 6 market outreach events led by Masai Mara Wildlife Ambassadors reached 4500 members of the community (**Annex 17**). There were 36 village-level meetings held in collaboration with village elders and vulture volunteers, reaching 2430 community members (1027 men and 1403 women) across 36 villages (**Annex 18**). To increase the dissemination of information on wildlife poisoning and promote attitude change in the community, Nature Kenya marked both the global World Wildlife Day and International Vulture Awareness Day, which were covered through local radio broadcasts (**Annex 32**).

#### **Activity 2.4.1**

During the reporting period, a workshop was held with traditional healers, which brought together 16 out of 149 registered healers from the Meatu district, representing 10.7% of traditional healers from Makao WMA (**Annex 19**). The workshop included two traditional healers from each of the ten villages forming the Makao WMA, who represented others. The traditional healers mentioned drivers of belief-based use of vulture parts which are used in traditional medicine for business betting, prediction for a bright future, natural remedy, and rituals. The use of a locally known as *Viloto* as an alternative to vulture body parts was also discussed. While the scientific name and IUCN conservation status of the plant could not be identified, a sample of the plant will be collected for analysis, possibly at the Institute of Traditional Medicine of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and/or Botany Department of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) (**Annex 19**), and the attendance signed sheets are included in (**Annex 20**).

#### **Activity 2.5.1**

A Community Revolving Fund (CRF) was established, and a socio-economic consultant was engaged to provide support for the project's socio-economic aspects. The consultant is currently conducting entrepreneurship training workshops in the Makao WMA, aimed at enhancing the capacity of the communities (especially women) to develop sustainable local livelihoods. The baseline survey conducted on the project site (**Annex 2**) revealed that farming is the primary socio-economic activity at 45% followed by pastoralism at 33%. Additionally, other activities such as tailoring, conservation, beekeeping, salt extraction, and fishing are also conducted. Based on this information and additional data to be collected by the socio-economic consultant, entrepreneurship training workshops will be organized, focusing on the business options approved by the Loan Advisory Group, after the establishment of CRF. The workshop will be conducted between May and June 2023. It will be facilitated by the hired socio-economic consultant in collaboration with Meatu district and the project. The socio-economic trainings will be linked with the CRF and aim to provide training for business ideas to be supported by CRF, to ensure the success of livelihoods and the sustainability of CRF.

#### **Activity 2.6.1**

The Community Revolving Fund (CRF) system for Makao WMA was established with the participation of all stakeholders through two workshops and three meetings. A total of 16 traditional healers participated in the development of the CRF system, which was based on a zero-draft CRF Terms of Reference (ToR) developed by Nature Tanzania. The CRF ToR was reviewed and approved by the Village General Assemblies of the 10 villages forming the Makao WMA. The CRF system is owned by local communities, and a sub-grant agreement was signed with Makao WMA for its implementation. The CRF system is managed by a Loan Review Committee, and a special bank account has been opened by Makao WMA at National Microfinance Bank (NMB) Bank Ltd. The CRF investment capital was transferred from Nature Tanzania to the special bank account, and the call for loan applications has been opened. The representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group, which is also named as the CRF committee, was formed, and trained during the reporting period (**Annex 21**).

**Activity 2.6.2** During the reporting period, the representative management body and Loan Advisory Group were established in accordance with the approved CRF ToR. A training session was conducted for the CRF committee to build their capacity on implementation, ethics, and management of the CRF (**Annex 42**). A socio-economic consultant has been recruited to support capacity building for the Loan Advisory Group and loan beneficiaries with entrepreneurship skills. A follow-up training with 31 participants including 4 females was also conducted (**Annex 35 and 36**) to provide information on how to complete CRF forms (**Annex 37**), loan agreements, and guarantor agreements (see **38 and 39**). Further follow-up training is planned for the CRF committee in the second year of the project.

#### **Activity 2.6.3**

A CRF system has been formed and the CRF ToR has been approved. CRF sub-grant agreement with Makao WMA has been signed (**Annex 22**). A representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group have been formed. A special bank account for CRF operations has been opened by Makao WMA as required by the approved CRF ToR. The CRF investment fund has been sent to the special bank account for CRF operations in Makao WMA. A call for loan applications has been distributed to target beneficiaries in the project areas. Issuance of loans is expected to be conducted in the second project year after the review and approval of loan applications received by the representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group. The loans will be used to support the creation of sustainable alternative livelihood initiatives such as the development of plant-based alternatives to vulture/wildlife parts in belief-based practice, women's beadwork, poultry farming, production of biogas etc.

#### **Activity 2.6.4**

The approved CRF ToR requires that all supported loans include clear guidance and linkages to conservation, especially vulture conservation. To provide clear linkages between CRF loans and vulture conservation, a socio-economic consultant with good experience in implementing CRF for biodiversity conservation has been hired to support discussions and advise on the best linkages. Issuance of CRF loans is expected to commence in the second project year.

#### **Activity 2.6.5**

This will be implemented for the second project year.

#### **Activity 2.6.6**

A sustainable CRF system has been established and includes sustainability aspects to put in place structures for CRF implementation even beyond this project. This includes the sub-granting of the CRF to Makao WMA, a community-owned entity in Makao WMA that will continue to operate beyond the project's lifespan. The chair of the representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group is a District Community Development Officer for the Meatu district government. The CRF has been designed to be self-sufficient by providing a 5% interest rate to support fund growth and scalability. Moreover, non-refundable loan application fees will be used to maintain the operation of the CRF committee after the project ends.

#### **Activity 3.1.1**

Nature Kenya, in partnership with Narok County Government and community conservancies, established a Rapid Response Mechanism, guided by the national rapid response to wildlife poisoning incidents protocols. A network of local anti-poisoning groups was set up with operational WhatsApp accounts with a membership of approximately 35 people spread across the Masai Mara landscape. As result, as first responders, information sharing of suspected wildlife poisoning has been achieved. A total of 2 incidents have been reported across the anti-poisoning groups- resulting to 1 rescue of poisoned Bateleur and 2 effective site decontaminations.

#### **Activity 3.1.2**

A Rapid Response Mechanism training towards Vulture poisoning incidence was conducted on the 9th and 10th of February 2023 by Dr. Claire Bracebridge of North Carolina Zoo. The training was attended by 22 individuals, including 16 Village Game Scouts (VGS) from Makao WMA, 3 rangers from Maswa Game Reserve, and 3 from Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA). The training aimed to equip field staff and rangers with the skills to rapidly respond to vulture poisoning incidents. Participants were trained on vulture identification, steps to follow when encountering vulture poisoning incidents, first aid for live poisoned vultures, sample collection from dead poisoned vultures, and data collection. Makao WMA was provided with a total of 35 response kits (RRM) to implement the RRM anti-poisoning protocol, with 10 kits already delivered and the remainder to be delivered in May 2023. In addition, a motorbike was purchased to support vulture conservation activities at Makao WMA, and handouts on vulture conservation and RRM were provided by North Carolina Zoo (Annex 12).

#### **Activity 3.2.1**

A total of 358 rangers (80 rangers from Masai Mara National Reserve and 278 rangers from 10 conservancies in Masai Mara landscape) were trained on how to respond to wildlife poisoning incidents (Annex 23). A needs assessment was also carried out to determine essential resources required to reinforce the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).

#### **Activity 3.3.1**

In Kenya, Nature Kenya liaised with similar initiatives outside the scope of this project supporting RRM capacity in Amboseli landscape of Kenya southern rangelands (Annex 24) training 108 rangers from 4 community conservancies and conservation organisations.

#### **Activity 4.1.1**

BirdLife International, Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania attended the the 15th Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC), hosted this year by BirdLife Zimbabwe. Nature Kenya presented project findings and lessons learned on community engagement in vulture conservation (Annex 25) at PAOC and at the African Protected Area Congress (Annex 28). Both partners participated in BirdLife Africa Vulture Conservation Forum (BAVCF), and the CMS Energy Task Force meetings which includes a strong focus on reducing threats to soaring birds from energy infrastructure. Nature Tanzania attended the (PAOC) to learn about vulture conservation activities and initiatives going on in Africa including anti-poisoning efforts and belief-based killings of vultures. Nature Tanzania is planning to present project findings, lesson learned in the planned 4th TAWIRI Scientific Conference scheduled from 6th to 8th December 2023. All partners participated in the BirdLife Council for the African Partnership meeting in the UK in September, alongside the BirdLife World Congress/100 Year Celebration. This included sharing progress and lessons learned from this and other vulture conservation projects. A case for support document, Helping Vultures Soar Again, was drafted and launched at the World Congress (Annex 43). A number of webinars and presentations were held for BirdLife and external stakeholders on African vulture conservation and educational video was produced. E.g (1) [Saving Africa's Vultures – YouTube](#) Nature Kenya has utilized various means of internal communication channels such as YouTube ((20+ [Nature Kenya - YouTube](#) | Facebook), monthly newsletter (News – Nature Kenya), and newspapers to share updates on the project. In addition, they have incorporated project outputs into activities that commemorate important global days like International Vulture Awareness Day. As a result of lessons generated by this initiative Nature Kenya developed policy recommendations at county level (Annex 27).

#### **Activity 4.1.2**

Work has begun on data collection of vulture numbers, species, locations in Kenya and Tanzania, to provide baseline data for the project, to inform vulture conservation models, and to contribute to the knowledge base on vultures in East Africa. Work has also begun to assess Makao WMA as a potential IBA and in Kenya, an updated assessment of IBAs in the project area was done. These data will, as appropriate, be shared through existing databases (World Bird and Biodiversity Database/WBDD) and through vulture conservation networks.

#### **Activity 4.1.3**

With funding from the Band Foundation, the project supported the early stages of the development of an East African Anti-Poisoning Network. Work continued to improve operation of the African Wildlife Poisoning Database and associated working groups.

#### **Activity 4.2**

BirdLife and project partners have published/broadcast project announcements and updates through websites, social media and through media announcements. This included an announcement of the award of this and other Darwin Initiative projects ***Big wins for conservation and livelihoods – thanks to UK's Darwin Initiative - BirdLife International*** (<https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/09/08/big-wins-for-conservation-and-livelihoods-thanks-to-uks-darwin-initiative/>)

#### **Activity 4.3.1**

Nature Kenya provided recommendations to Narok County through letters, with the aim of guiding the county's policy formulation processes, including the Masai Mara Ecosystem Management Plan (Annex 26) and the County Integrated Development Plan (Annex 27).

### **3.2. Progress Towards Project Outputs**

#### **Indicator - 1.1**

The project has exceeded the target in year 1. In Kenya, Nature Kenya organised 19 village level workshops where A total of 617 participants, (270 men, 347women) who included administrative chiefs, village elders and youths participated in the workshops providing feedback on problems faced by local communities while identifying solutions linked with sustainable livelihood practices (Annex 6). In Tanzania, Nature Tanzania conducted a workshop with key stakeholders in Makao WMA on November 21st, 2022, where there was a total of 56 attendees, consisting of representatives from Meatu District Council, Makao WMA management, village executive officers, village chairpersons, community members, and a species conservation officer from Nature Tanzania. 41% of the participants were women. Problem animals in Human-Wildlife Conflict were identified and transmission of zoonotic diseases from wildlife to livestock were highlighted as some challenges the community is facing. Livestock boma reinforcement, scaring/chasing problem animals away and guarding farmlands in shifts were also highlighted as interventions in reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict in this landscape (Annex 7).

#### **Indicator 1.2**

The project exceeded the target in terms of numbers reached in year 1 and succeeded in gathering useful insights. Outreach surveys were carried out, using questionnaires from 420 households within the project

focal areas in Masai Mara, Kenya. The respondents were 48.7% Women and 51.3% Men (target was 50%). As a result of this survey key drivers of wildlife poisoning were identified and documented which were associated to Human Wildlife Conflict, mainly of livestock depredation by wildlife, especially large carnivores. Key socio-economic solutions identified included, reinforcement livestock enclosures, improving livestock herding practice; improve accessibility of water and overall rangeland management. (Annex 1)

### **Indicator 1.3**

The project exceeded the target in terms of numbers surveyed or consulted through workshops in year 1. Useful insights into the project approach were gained. During the reporting period, Nature Tanzania conducted several outreach activities in Makao Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Tanzania. 16 traditional healers participated in a workshop that was held to collect information about the use of vulture parts in traditional medicine where a plant (locally known as Viloto) was mentioned that it can be used as an alternative for vulture parts. A baseline survey was also conducted where 529 households in 10 villages in Makao WMA (Annex 2) were surveyed where HWC was found to be a common problem caused by predators and crop-raiding wild animals. Different solutions were suggested to deter these animals, such as making noise, using torches, and protecting farms by staying on them. During the 12 project inception meetings 1,003 (470 females and 533 males) were reached. During these HWC challenges were reported, and the need to improve capacity to address HWC was highlighted (Annex 29)

### **Indicator 1.4**

The project met Indicator 1.4 in Kenya. In Tanzania, this will be met in Year 2. This is in line with the logframe. In Kenya, Nature Kenya articulated proposed vulture conservation models for implementation within the project area, informed by the results of outreach survey and community consultative workshops held within the project sites (Annex 6). Key components of the conservation model, included, actions to mitigate human wildlife conflicts, community education and awareness creation, and strengthening local community networks on rapid response to wildlife poisoning. In Tanzania, where vulture conservation work is at an earlier stage, the vulture conservation model will be developed and reported in the 2nd year of the project, building on the vulture population surveys, and several workshops with different stakeholders,

### **Indicator 1.5**

The project is on target to meet this Indicator in Year 2. Vulture monitoring and assessment of Important Bird and Key Biodiversity Areas were conducted in the two countries. In Tanzania, Nature Tanzania conducted vulture monitoring at Makao WMA through road counts (Annex 9) and IBA feasibility assessment (Annex 10). The assessment revealed that Makao WMA is important for bird life, hosting 159 species from 60 families, including 2 endemic species and 7 threatened species. Nature Kenya developed a vulture monitoring protocol which was implemented through surveying 10 transects where 195 vultures were recorded while mapping their distribution (Annex 8). The monitoring was in addition to long-term nest monitoring carried out by Kenya Bird of Prey Trust in the Masai Mara National Reserve (Annex 44). The status of the Masai Mara Important Bird and Key Biodiversity Area was assessed using globally accepted basic monitoring protocol, with results published in the 2021 Kenya KBA Status Trends Report. ([Link 1](#)). Data of 2022 has already been consolidated and entered in the World Bird Data Base, will be published in Q3 of 2023

### **Indicator 1.6**

The project is on target to meet this Indicator in Year 2. Nature Kenya presented a draft Vulture Safe Zone criteria (Annex 11) during an Africa wide round table discussions held during the PAOC in November 2022.

### **Indicator 2.1**

The project is on target to meet this Indicator by Year 2/3. Informed by the outreach survey results, Nature Kenya identified conservation friendly supplementary businesses including beekeeping, poultry rearing, and bead work among other recommended businesses (Annex 1 pg 5). Based on this, Nature Kenya embarked on profiling, following an organisation capacity assessment tool (Annex 13), of 24 potential community led organisations that would be recipients of training and capacity building of nature-friendly businesses.

### **Indicator 2.2**

The project is on target for Year 1. Further work is planned for Year 2 to site and erect 10 additional bomas. Based on boma beneficiary selection criteria developed (Annex 14), Nature Kenya identified 10 beneficiaries whose boma/livestock enclosures would be improved. As a result, 10 predator proof bomas were erected in the project focal areas (Annex 15)

### **Indicator 2.3**

The project exceeded Indicators by Year 1 although this work is planned to continue. Nature Kenya applied different approaches for education and awareness. 2430 people were reached through 36 village level meetings on improved livestock husbandry advice (Annex 18)

### **Indicator 2.4 a**

The project is on target to reach the indicators for 2.4 by Year 3. 6 Market outreach events in 6 local markets reaching 4500 community members were held in the 2-hotspot area of Masai Mara raising awareness of values of vultures and to stop wildlife poisoning. (Annex 17). Nature Tanzania will conduct the market outreach events in the second year of the project.

**Indicator 2.4 b.**

36 village level barazas were convened collaboratively with village elders and local chiefs reaching 2430 people with key messages of vulture conservation (Annex 18). Nature Tanzania Conducted 10 awareness creation activities in 10 villages during the project inception period reaching out to 1,003 (470 females and 533 males) community (Annex 29)

**Indicator 2.4 c.**

Nature Kenya produced 300 copies of information poster on improved livestock herding practices (Annex 16) which were shared in public areas. Also, used local radio broadcast covering important global days like World Wildlife Day (Annex 32). Nature Tanzania is planning to commemorate the Preparation Vulture Awareness Day in September 2023 where awareness materials such as posters, T-shirts and banners will be used.

**Indicator 2.5**

The project is on target to meet the Indicators in Years 2 and 3. Nature Tanzania conducted a workshop that converge 16 traditional healers from Meatu district. The 16 traditional healers represent 10.7% of the total 149 registered healers from Makao WMA. During the workshop, the traditional healers discussed the uses of vulture parts. They also expressed interest in a plant locally known Viloto as an alternative to vulture body parts. This plant is found in the Malagarasi-Muyovozi ecosystem. Further investigation and engagement is planned for Year 2. (Annex 19)

**Indicator 2.6**

The project is on target to meet the indicators in Year 2. Nature Tanzania has recruited a socio-economic consultant support training and advice that is scheduled to be carried out during the second year of the project.

**Indicator 2.7 a.**

The project is ahead of schedule and on track to meet the indicators. A CRF system (including operational procedures in the ToR) has been formed and the CRF ToR has been approved. CRF sub-grant agreement with Makao WMA has been signed. A representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group have been formed. A special bank account for CRF operations has been opened by Makao WMA. The CRF investment fund has been sent to the special bank account for CRF operations in Makao WMA. Call for loan applications have been advertised to target beneficiaries in the project areas. Issuance of loans is expected to be conducted in the second project year after the review and approval of loan applications received by the representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group.

**Indicator 2.7 b. c.**

Activities towards the achievement of this Indicator are on track for Year 2.

**Indicator 3.1**

The project is ahead of schedule to achieve this indicator by Year 2. In Tanzania, Makao WMA, one anti-poisoning group has been formed and trained on responding to poisoning incidents. This group comprises of 33 (5 females) WMA rangers. In Kenya two active wildlife anti-poisoning groups with a total membership of 35 members in 2 hotspot areas in Masai Mara have had their capacity strengthened.

**Indicator 3.2**

The project is ahead of schedule to achieve this indicator by Year 2. 509 rangers and enforcement officers from Masai Mara National Reserve and community conservancies in the Masai Mara landscape were trained on application of the national wildlife poisoning response protocol (Annex 13NK). One anti-poisoning group has been formed in Makao WMA comprised of 33 (5 females) WMA rangers. 22 rangers were trained on RRM protocols and have been provided with RRM kits, handouts, and data collection tools to implement the RRM protocol. Additionally, a motorcycle was bought to support implementation of the RRM protocol.

**Indicator 3.3**

The project is ahead of schedule to achieve this indicator by Year 2. In Makao WMA, Tanzania, one anti-poisoning group of Makao WMA has been formed during the reporting period and some of the rangers received RRM training facilitated by North Carolina Zoo. This anti-poisoning group is now operational and has received equipment to facilitate RRM protocol implementation. In Kenya, there are two active wildlife anti-poisoning groups members in 2 focal areas in Masai Mara. These groups were trained on early detection and reporting wildlife poisoning incidents. As a result of the training, equipment needs assessments was done and procurement of necessary materials done to support implementation of RRM.

**Indicator 4.1**

The project is on target to meet this indicator by Year 3. Capacity for vulture conservation has been increased through mentoring and sharing of experience between NGOs and joint fundraising including the production of a vulture conservation video, presentations and workshops linked to PAOC, BirdLife's Pan Africa Council Meeting and the World Congress and at APAC. A BirdLife Vulture Forum was established and the foundation has been laid for an East African Poison Network. With regards to the target of developing and populating existing repositories of vulture conservation data with documented results and learnings from the project, the project has achieved the following: Work has begun on data collection of vulture numbers, species, locations in Kenya and Tanzania, to provide baseline data for the project, to inform vulture conservation models, and to contribute to the knowledge base on vultures in East Africa. Work has also begun to assess Makao WMA as a potential IBA and in Kenya, an updated assessment of



IBAs in the project area was done. These data will, as appropriate, be shared through existing databases (World Bird and Biodiversity Database/WBDD) and through vulture conservation networks.

#### **Indicator 4.2**

The project is on target to meet this indicator by Year 3. Nature Kenya shared lessons learned on community engagement in vulture conservation through a presentation done during the Pan-African Ornithological Conference (PAOC 16) (Annex 25). Nature Tanzania participated in the PAOC conference to gain knowledge about vulture conservation efforts and initiatives taking place in Africa, such as measures to combat poisoning belief-based killings of vultures.

#### **Indicator 4.3**

The project is on target to meet this indicator by Year 3. The BirdLife team began the process of framing an Africa policy review for Africa, including a section on policies in East Africa that most impact vulture conservation. The draft framework will need to be reviewed and completed. Nature Kenya packaged key recommendations towards informing Narok County policy processes like –Masai Mara Ecosystem Management Plan (Annex 26) and County Integrated Development Plan (Annex 27).

#### **Indicator 4.4.**

The project is on target to meet this indicator by Year 3. BirdLife announced the award on its website Big wins for conservation and livelihoods (<https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/09/08/big-wins-for-conservation-and-livelihoods-thanks-to-uks-darwin-initiative/>) thanks to UK's Darwin Initiative. BirdLife International and partners have posted updates on their websites and social media pages. E.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAhx5onusyl&t=7s> Nature Kenya shared lessons learned through different platforms i.e. Facebook (<https://fb.watch/kotbJhkELI/>), monthly newsletter and local media, including local language radio. Lessons learnt, project findings and project outputs have been disseminated through Nature Tanzania Newsletters, websites and Nature Tanzania social media (Facebook and Instagram).

#### **Indicator 4.5**

Nature Kenya has incorporated project outputs into activities that commemorate important global days like International Vulture Awareness Day. Nature Tanzania is preparing awareness materials such as posters, T-shirts, and banners to commemorate the International Vulture Awareness Day in September 2023.

#### **Indicator 4.6**

In Kenya, Nature Kenya provided important recommendations to Narok County through letters, with the aim of guiding the county's policy formulation processes, including the Masai Mara Ecosystem Management Plan (Annex 26) and the County Integrated Development Plan (Annex 27).

### **3.3. Progress Towards Project Outcome**

Outcome: Community livelihoods in the Mara-Serengeti are improved and pressure on wildlife (particularly vultures) reduced through addressing drivers of poisoning, including income losses, linked to human-wildlife conflict and belief-based use. The project is making good progress, in line with the project timeline, to achieve the desired outcomes by project end. Progress towards the Indicators is outlined below:

#### **Indicator OI\_1**

Nature Kenya raised awareness on negative impacts of wildlife poisoning and use of non-lethal HWC mitigation method we have reached 6930 people (Annex 10 & 11 NK). The level of engagement is a positive sign that awareness will be raised, attitudes to vultures and poison use changed, and take up of safe HWC mitigation methods will increase. We are optimistic that the Outcome Indicator will be met by the project end.

#### **Indicator OI\_2**

Construction of 10 improved bomas was done (Annex 15) aimed at reducing livestock losses due to wildlife depredation. Preliminary results show 100% efficacy of bomas in preventing livestock losses from wildlife. The project is on target to meet this Indicator by project end. It is too early to assess the efficacy of other methods to mitigate HWC. Further work is needed to find the best way to monitor and evaluate these.

#### **Indicator OI\_3.**

Nature Kenya continued to monitor predator poisoning within the project focal area against the baseline documenting 1 suspected poisoning incident during the project implementation period. It is too early to say whether this Indicator will be met. Further work is planned for Year 2 to ensure that the project is collecting the right data to evaluate this effectively.

#### **Indicator OI\_4.**

Nature Kenya carried out household baseline survey reaching 420 households (Annex 1) which captured likelihoods of use of poison to kill wildlife. This provides a baseline which we will assess change against during the project implementation phase. Nature Tanzania carried out a survey on belief-based use of vultures in 10 villages of Makao WMA, which covered 529 households over five days (Annex 2). The results showed that 16% of respondents confirmed the use of vulture parts. In addition, 16 out of 149 registered traditional healers participated in a workshop exploring the reasons for the belief-based use of vulture parts, and some of them mentioned using an alternative plant called Viloto. It is too early to say whether this Indicator will be met. Further work is planned for Year 2 to ensure that the project is collecting the right data to evaluate this effectively. The baseline attitude survey in Kenya is a good start. The situation in

Tanzania is more complex. The results of the surveys will be reviewed in Year 2 to ensure that adequate information is available to set a baseline (for attitudes to vultures and risks of poison use).

#### **Indicator OI\_5**

Nature Tanzania conducted a survey in 10 villages in Makao WMA on the belief-based use of vultures (Annex 2). The survey was conducted over five days, covering 529 households. 16% of respondents confirmed the use of vulture. 16 out of 149 registered traditional healers (10.7% of traditional healers of Makao WMA), participated in a workshop on drivers of the belief-based use of vulture parts, where some of the traditional healers indicated the use of an alternative plant locally known as Viloto. Good progress has been made towards this Indicator. The results of the surveys will be reviewed to identify knowledge gaps.

#### **Indicator OI\_6**

A Community Revolving Fund (CRF) has been established in Makao WMA. The CRF system is owned by local communities and is managed by a Loan Review Committee. The call for loan applications has been opened. The project is on target to achieve this Outcome Indicator.

#### **Indicator OI\_7**

To ensure that there is a reduced vulture and other wildlife deaths from poisoning by 30%, Nature Kenya strengthened capacity of implementation of Rapid Response Mechanism in the project focal area through training of 509 rangers, scouts, and volunteers on implementation of poisoning response protocol (Annex 23). In Tanzania 22 individuals, including 16 Village Game Scouts (VGS) from Makao WMA, 3 rangers from Maswa Game Reserve, and 3 from Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) were trained on responding to poisoning incidents (Annex 12). The project is on target to achieve this Indicator, although the project team recognise that it may be challenging to measure the impact of the RRM directly or in percentage terms. Further work on M&E is planned for Year 2, in case any changes need to be made.

### **3.4. Monitoring of assumptions**

#### **Outcome Assumptions:**

*National and district governments, park authorities and communities continue to engage on addressing HWC in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.*

Thus far, engagement has been very positive. It is too soon to judge whether engagement will persist beyond the life of the project, but we are optimistic.

*It is possible to measure change in predator poisoning in a meaningful way not distorted by an increase in reporting.*

The Poisoning Database is already proving a valuable tool, but gaps in data and increased reporting will skew data. A quantitative assessment may be a challenge over 3 years, but a qualitative assessment can help address the impact of increases in reporting. Assessment remains the same for now. Work is continuing to improve poison data collection and response.

*Current economic, social and health factors do not seriously impede progress.*

The project is designed to increase resilience to economic and social changes but economic shocks, will be factored in. Assessment remains the same.

*Reductions in livestock losses and increases in sustainable livelihoods, coupled with awareness actions lead to the behaviour change anticipated.*

We expect this to hold true based on similar initiatives elsewhere but must be prepared to adapt. Assessment remains the same for now. It is still too early to tell.

*Traditional healers in Makao WMA show willingness to consider using alternatives to animal parts. Plant alternative choices are not threatened species.*

We think this will hold true based on success in Nigeria – but this is very much an information gathering and pilot action, so we must be prepared to adapt. Reach out to botanist experts/Red Lists to check threatened species. Assessment remains the same for now.

*The CRF does not support activities damaging to the environment.*

This will hold true as the Terms of Reference will include restrictions on what can be funded and the obligations of recipients.

*COVID 19 travel restrictions do not prevent the implementation of the project or distort results.*

Adaptive management will prepare for and address this. Assessment remains the same

*Project staff are aware of any emerging issues resulting from new, legal bushmeat markets in TZ.*

Staff will monitor development of this. Assessment remains the same

*The project results in more capacity, interest and resources for sustainability and scaling up by multiple stakeholders in the region.*

We think the training, provision of resources, awareness raising, and dissemination will support this. Ongoing participation in AWPDP. WhatsApp group, and the emerging East African Poisoning Network will help to mainstream this approach. Assessment remains the same.

### **Output Assumptions:**

#### **Output 1:**

*Workshops and surveys gather information from a representative sample.*

Workshops may be split into smaller groups to meet COVID restrictions and encourage participation of women and other groups. Assessment remains the same.

*Government agencies in both countries continue willingness to cooperate and engage in addressing illegal wildlife poisoning.*

We think this will hold true due to advocacy experience of national partners and govt. Strategies. Assessment remains the same.

*Stakeholders continue willingness to engage in project activities and address drivers for wildlife poisoning.*

We think this will hold true if project outputs are achieved. Assessment remains the same.

*Traditional healers are willing to provide information on belief-based use. (See earlier comment. Also, surveys will be conducted in such a way as to maintain trust – involve community members, anonymizing, using small groups or individual interviews, backed up by market surveys). Assessment remains the same.*

#### **Output 2:**

*Local communities are receptive to engagement in non-lethal methods of predator control acknowledging that livelihood improvement methods can help alleviate losses from HWC.*

We think this will hold true if project outputs are achieved. Assessment remains the same for now. It is still too early to tell.

*Communities provide accurate information on incidents of livestock predation.*

We think this will hold true due to careful selection, training and prep. Will need to adjust for increasing in reporting. Assessment remains the same.

*Bomas are the primary or preferred method for livestock protection in project areas.*

We think this will hold true due to focal area selection. Assessment remains the same.

*Boma designs will protect against attacks from all predator species.*

We think this will hold true due to boma improvements matched to requirements. Assessment remains the same.

*Making communities more aware of vultures, wildlife and poisoning will cause people to reconsider attitudes and behaviours.*

We think this will hold true based on experience. Assessment remains the same for now. It is still too early to tell.

*Training in business entrepreneurship will lead to community members implementing ideas and improving livelihoods in ways that do not negatively impact wildlife.*

We think this will hold true based on previous experience, aided by an intention to maintain a relationship with the communities to support further intervention. Assessment remains the same for now. It is still too early to tell.

*Traditional healers show willingness to consider using alternatives to animal parts and/or adopting alternative livelihood practices.*

See earlier comment

*Communities will participate in and sustain the CRF after project duration.*

We think this will hold true based on previous experience (e.g. in Lake Natron, TZ). Assessment remains the same for now. It is still too early to tell.

#### **Output 3:**

*Communities and Governments are willing to take action against wildlife poisoning and its drivers. Government authorities are willing to integrate Rapid Poison Response into their policies. Rapid Response Groups continue to reduce vulture and other wildlife deaths at poisoning incidents.*

We think this will hold true as it works elsewhere, including in other parts of the project area. Assessment remains the same.

*Communities and Governments are willing to consider and provide feedback on piloting alternative new approaches to vulture conservation e.g. VSZs.*

We think this will hold true based on experience elsewhere. Assessment remains the same.

#### **Output 4:**

*Lessons learnt will result in rolling out of successful actions to more areas.*

We think this will hold true as there is a growing audience for this material. Assessment remains the same for now. It is still too early to tell.

*Lessons learnt are adaptable or applicable to other contexts across the continent and beyond.*

We think this will hold true although adaptations will likely be needed BirdLife and Partners are in a position to influence government into adopting policies and laws to support vulture conservation. Assessment remains the same for now. It is still too early to tell.

We think this will hold true due to track record although we recognise that policy changes can take time and implementation (resources) will also be needed. Assessment remains the same for now. It is still too early to tell.

### **3.5. Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction**

Efforts from the implementing partners are contributing to the project's overall Impact of Integrated and evidence-based approaches reduce wildlife mortality from poisoning and improve livelihoods for communities living adjacent to protected areas in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem

The surveys conducted identified ways to reduce wildlife mortality and livelihood interventions that could be used as incentives. One such intervention involved implementing predator-proof boma to mitigate livestock depredation. Resource conflict, especially over water, increases HWC. To reduce, this, Nature Kenya co-financed the setup of rainwater harvesting and storage infrastructure in the Masi Mara area (Annex 45). There were several recommended supplementary businesses to improve the communities' livelihoods. In Tanzania, a Community Revolving Fund (CRF) system has been established, and a sub-grant agreement has been signed with Makao WMA to support the establishment and growth of local businesses. Nature Kenya has started supporting local communities in beekeeping enterprise. Lessons learned from this project are and will be used to inform national and county-level policy processes to promote co-existence with wildlife for long-term impact.

The project is still at an early stage. However, we are hopeful that the project, together with other vulture conservation and anti-poisoning initiatives in the target region will result in meaningful improvements in the conservation status of vultures and the livelihoods of communities in the long-term.

## **4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

The project is contributing to the implementation of the different Conventions, Treaties and Agreements that Kenya and Tanzania are a signatory to. Under the CMS Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP), adopted in 2016, the project contributed to Objective 1. This was through actions implemented towards reducing vulture deaths from toxic substances (see Annex 23 and Annex 12) where there was increased site-based capacity in the implementation of rapid response to wildlife poisoning protocol. In addition, contributing to CMS Vulture MsAP Result 1.1. outreach surveys (see Annex 2) were conducted to improve understanding and awareness of HWC, belief-based practices and impacts on vultures in Tanzania. Implementation of actions to tackle unintentional wildlife poisoning - MsAP Result 1.2- for example improving livestock protection through reinforced bomas (see Annex 15) contributed to mitigation of wildlife poisoning in form of retaliation.

The project is contributing to SDG 1 and 2 – where the project activities aim at decreasing livestock losses (Annex 15) through reinforcing livestock enclosures as well as implementation of sustainable livelihood intervention such as establishing a Community |Revolving Fund, supporting sustainable livelihoods (see Annex 41 NK & Annex 31). We are working to ensure that in all activities Gender equality was promoted in line with SDG 5.

The project responds to the NBSAP in Tanzania, which highlights, lack of biodiversity data and community awareness of the ecosystem value of biodiversity as key gaps in conservation. The vulture baseline surveys (see Annex 9), and the community engagements address in Makao (see Annex 7) contribute to the implementation of the Tanzanian NBSAP.

On the Tanzania side, the project is responding to objective 4, to reduce and eventually halt the trade in vulture parts for belief-based use, NT addresses in its surveys, Annex 2)

The project also contributes to targets 4 and 5 of the Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework. BirdLife and many of its Partners engaged extensively in the discussions leading up to the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

CITES: The project supports the new Decisions on ‘West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)’ adopted by CITES COP 19 in November 2022, set out in the document CoP19 Doc.58. <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-CoP19-58.pdf>

## 5. Project support to poverty reduction

The project is on target to achieve its proposed Outcomes for livelihood improvements for communities living in the target areas, which are important range areas for threatened vulture populations.

In the Masai Mara landscape, the project supports poverty reduction mainly by reducing livestock losses to wildlife depredation. Nature Kenya designed a selection system for the homesteads affected the most by Human-Wildlife Conflict. The beneficiaries were selected based on previous reports of livestock losses, absence of a predator proof boma, permanent establishment in area, willingness to share construction costs among others. A total of ten beneficiaries from ten villages fit the profile and were selected. Prior to implementation of reinforced livestock bomas, the 10 beneficiaries cumulatively lost 69 cows and 192 sheep and goats to wildlife depredation in the past year (Annex 14). Using a market value of livestock, a total of USD25,000 was lost (average USD250/HH/YR). Overall, by reinforcing livestock bomas, it reduces livestock loss by 50% for Sheep and Goats and 40% for Cows. It is still early in the project, but we anticipate that the benefit of reinforced bomas (and other mitigation approaches to HWC) will be clearly demonstrated. Future project actions will construct an additional 10 bomas and promote their uptake more widely. Other livelihood benefits will be achieved through the development of capacity for other sustainable livelihood opportunities.

In Tanzania, the project is focused on the Makao Wildlife Management Area, which has been shown to be an important area for vultures. The project has made progress in understanding the livelihood challenges faced by the communities as well as exploring the threats to vulture populations, from belief-based use. By establishing a CRF and supporting capacity development, the project will encourage the establishment and promotion of small businesses, create employment opportunities, and support the growth and sustainability of community-owned businesses. This will be achieved by assisting in the sustainability of environmentally friendly businesses and wildlife through access to finance and professional support.

## 6. Gender equality and social inclusion

The project has ensured that Gender equality and social inclusion is maximised. In Tanzania, 1,003 (470 females and 533 males) community members were reached during the 12 inception meetings (Annex 29). Nature Tanzania also conducted a workshop where a total of 21 people attended the workshop and 9.52% of the participants were females. The workshop with stakeholders on Human Wildlife Conflict had a total of 56 attendees where 41% of the participants were women (50% of the community participants were women) (Annex 7). Nature Kenya encouraged equal proportion of representation in the project activities in Masai Mara considering that Masai community cultural set up is highly patriarchal (Annex 1)- where 48.7% Women and 51.3% Men were reached). Further classifying age groups engaged - 48.6% (18-35yrs); 41.5% (36-50yr) and 10% above 50years of age (Annex 1) which ensure social inclusion of youth and elderly. The project field officer is a woman, part of Nature Kenya team which consist of 36%women and 64%men which is above the national average in accordance with the Kenyan constitution of a third gender representation.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board <sup>1</sup> .	50%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women <sup>2</sup> .	33% BirdLife International is led by a woman. The senior leadership team is 33% female. The Global Council is 33% female.

## 7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project has various levels of monitoring. The first stage happens internally at organisational level amongst all the partners involved. Nature Kenya has a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) officer who assists the organisation implementing monitoring and evaluation plans across its projects. BirdLife International has staff time dedicated by a MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) specialist based in Cambridge, assisting when needed. A MEAL webinar was held in June 2022 (link to webinar) to improve capacity of BirdLife partners to effectively implement M&E across various projects, attended by various members of the project team. However, as key staff changes have happened, we plan to do further training and work on monitoring and evaluation for this project, using the first annual report as a frame of reference.

BirdLife has the overall responsibility for M&E of the project. To support this, project meetings address progress and partners submit quarterly reports to ensure that project activities are proceeding as planned. Reports from Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania were shared with BirdLife between June 2022 and March 2023. The Finance Officer from BirdLife visited Nature Tanzania in March 2023. The purpose of the visit was to go over financial records and check that they are in order and also understand how funds have been used to support various activities. Project partners submitted annual reports, including evidence and financial reports which have been consolidated to produce this report.

Internal BirdLife processes: Regular meetings were held between the Project Officer and the partners to agree workplans, outline expectations, review monitoring and evaluation procedures, and share safeguarding policies. However, the project did not formally establish the Steering Group, with clear terms of reference and scheduled meetings. This will be corrected in Year 2.

The result-chain of the project is well structured to contribute towards the project outcome and BirdLife's Vulture Conservation Strategy.

Activities under Output 1 are largely concerned with knowledge building, to shape the project and assess baselines. Activities under Output 2 implement vulture conservation actions and explore various livelihood options. Activities under Output 3 contribute towards reducing mortality due to poisoning that still occurs. Activities under Output 4 are focused on capacity building and dissemination. The Indicators of Achievement are clearly outlined in the Logframe, with the means of verification articulated.

There are 7 Outcome Indicators in the logframe.

There 6 Output Indicators for Output 1, 7 Indicators for Output 2, 3 Indicators for Output 3 and 6 Indicators for Output 4.

To a large extent, the project is able to collect the data needed to measure progress on these Indicators. A monitoring and evaluation meeting is planned for the first half of Year 2 to review progress, but also to review the efficacy of the chosen Indicators, Means of Verification and to review or establish baselines.

## 8. Lessons learnt

A lot of time was spent translating and interpreting survey questions into local languages during baseline surveys due to language barriers. This was also experienced during the project inception meetings by Nature Tanzania (Annex 29), but interpreters were involved which helped address the problem.

Women's engagement in leadership roles in the project area in Tanzania is lower than anticipated. The project team will explore ways to expand this. Beneficiaries are expected to be in line with expectations. However, we would like to ensure that decision making roles, such as participation in the CRF committee includes more female representation.

The project team was very keen to start engagement with local communities as early as possible and to hit the ground running. This is reflected in good progress being made on many of the outputs. This, together with the fact that there were many major events during 2022 (PAOC, APAC, World Congress, Vulture Forum, Anti-Poisoning Group Annex 3) left less time for setting up a M&E process/working group. This will be now undertaken in year 2, which may have advantages as we can now see the indicators and means of verification in practice.

## 9. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

**Reviewer comment** *The cover letter acknowledges the challenge of data collection to understand the poisoning of vultures, but the application does not really say how this will be addressed.*

**BirdLife Response:** The project seeks a reduction in poisoning incidents and vulture mortality due to poisoning. We are promoting continued improvements in poisoning incident data collection and reporting. We believe that the approaches being employed will have an impact on the use of poisons. However, we are aware that by encouraging the reporting of poisoning, this may disguise reduction in use. Despite these challenges, monitoring the number of poisoning incidents and related injuries remain useful indicators. It needs to be combined, however, with measures of awareness, attitude change and behaviour change. By working closely with vulture conservation researchers and members of the Vulture Specialist Group, and the East Africa Anti Poisoning Network, we will explore ways to improve data collection and statistical methods that may avoid distortions in data. Baseline data is available on poisoning incidents in Kenya, with species impacted and responses. We should be able to identify trends using this data. Baseline and end of data information on the numbers of vultures may provide positive indications. However, due to the long-life span, large ranges, slow breeding rate of vultures, it seemed unrealistic to see a significant increase in vulture populations for the target site over 3 years. The M&E work planned for year 2 will explore this further.

**Reviewer comment** *The Ethics section is very generic, covering general project management issues, but not the research ethics issues associated with this sort of collection of sensitive data, where you are essentially asking people to incriminate themselves and others.*

BirdLife and Partners are experienced in addressing sensitive issues of resource use, including actual and potential illegal behaviour. Broadly, this is done through a collaborative approach that builds trust between the project team and the resource users. This is easier when the first approach is not to call for stronger

law enforcement, although this may be a part of the solution. The project will ensure the anonymity of project participants, should they wish it, and make sure that their data is not shared.

*Further, it is not clear that the team have relevant expertise on this sort of data collection. The cover letter mentions that a consultant will do the surveys, but does not say who, what their skill set is, or their understanding of these issues. Reassurance on these points would be welcomed.*

**BirdLife Response:** The project teams have experience of engagement with the local communities, developed over some time. They have experience of conducting socioeconomic and other surveys focused on resource use, challenges and attitudes, but will draw on the additional expertise of a consultant experienced with socioeconomic surveys and the implementation of community microfunding. BirdLife will share a summary of the consultant's experience with the Darwin team when it is available.

*It would have been good to see consideration of measures of biodiversity benefits beyond the vultures (in terms of tolerance/reduced killing of predators) and it is not clear how many vultures would be saved by this intervention, nor is it clear how large the wider population in this area is or how significant it is.*

**BirdLife Response:** We could add anecdotal info on attitudes to and poisonings of predators/wildlife - but it would be too complicated to add additional indicators. Poisoning data records include impacts on other wildlife. There is reasonable evidence that poisoning accounts for 61% of human induced mortality of vultures and Belief-based use 29% and that the project sites are hotspots for poisoning, but this remains a complicated question. We also know that these areas have substantial populations of vultures. By collecting more and better data on poisoning incidences in the target area, coupled with data on the number and species of vultures, we can begin to track the impact. For critically endangered species, the prevention of even a small number of mass poisoning events can have a significant impact.

The retaliatory killings in the Mara landscape largely target predators as they are the ones that kill livestock. Reducing livestock depredation by using bomas translates to reduced HWC by about 40%, which results in less killings of predators. In the Kenyan Southern Rangelands (Narok and Kajiado Counties), 64 Vulture Volunteers are well distributed in the five wildlife poisoning hotspots (Kwenia-Mashuruu, Mosiro, Amboseli, MajiMoto – Talek, and Nyakweri – Aitong'). They collect data on poisoning and raise awareness on the dangers of wildlife poisoning. Data collected is on all affected species and this will be tracked over the course of the project. The baseline report (Annex 1) gives a baseline of the levels of HWC and wildlife poisoning on the Mara side of the project.

**Reviewer Comment:** The Rapid Response Protocol is never explained, so it is unclear what this means and how significant it is for reducing mortality;

**BirdLife Response:** Rapid Response Protocol is a series of standard steps when wildlife poisoning occurs to deal with incidents as quickly as possible, stop any further poisoning of scavengers, decontaminate the poisoning scene, securing the evidence at the scene and treatment of surviving animals. The ability to save any animals at the scene depends on the effectiveness of the protocol. This may include having drugs commonly used to treat poisoned animals and providing safe handling and transport boxes for injured wildlife. Nature Kenya has experience with this and from August 2019 to December 2022 managed to save 12 vultures from dying post poisoning. Reducing mortality is twofold; the first one is saving affected species that have been poisoned but not dead. The second one is preventing further poisoning. Vultures feed in large numbers and it is important to remove the carcass as soon as possible to prevent further poisoning of scavengers. [Up to 100 vulture deaths prevented by rapid response to poisoning - BirdLife International.](#)

The RRM training (Annex 12) provides a good overview of the mechanism.

**Reviewer comment:** *the logic in terms of reducing medicinal use of vultures is not necessarily convincing, nor is it clear what proportion of mortality this represents;*

**BirdLife Response:** The paper by Ogada et al, Another Continental Vulture Crisis: Africa's Vultures Collapsing toward Extinction gives details on the summary of the contribution of belief-based use of African vultures. Using mortality data gathered between 1961 and 2014, the contribution of BBU was 29%. The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), working with BirdLife International, and supported, in part, by the A.G. Leventis Foundation, have conducted detailed surveys to understand the magnitude of the threat to vultures posed by illegal trade in Nigeria. This has been done alongside strong education and advocacy campaigns spanning the last three years. In addition to this advocacy, capacity building of Law Enforcement Agencies has strengthened enforcement of existing laws. NCF have engaged traditional healers, traders, religious leaders and government agencies, who have all resolved to support measures to combat vulture trade and have also collectively agreed to a 10-point plan for action to address trade. In addition to this commitment, stakeholders especially traditional healers' associations developed a *Guide to Plant-based Alternatives to Vulture and Parts in Traditional Medicine Practice*, promoting its use among their members to help fill knowledge gaps on plant-based alternatives (PbA). This process of learning (understanding, demand, the role of influencers and enforcement) and implementing the lessons learned. The BBU context changes from region to region, the work in Tanzania will be important if further developing interventions

**Reviewer Comment:** *there is a lack of clarity around how livelihoods income benefits would be realised;*

**BirdLife Response:** Livelihood benefits will be delivered in two ways: 1) reduced livestock losses 2) livelihoods training and direct livelihoods supports and 3) microfinancing (CRF) investments in livelihoods. 1) Nature Kenya is constructing bomas in areas that are known hotspots for livestock losses to wildlife. By reducing losses, owners are likely to realise value out of their livestock when they sell them. The losses

for the first 10 households erecting bomas has been quantified to be an average 250 USD per household per year. Reducing this loss would see farmers earn more from their livestock. 2) Livelihoods training and direct supports: Trainings and direct supports (e.g. provision of a well, beekeeping equipment) are based on consultations with the target beneficiaries. More information on the trainings and supports are outlined in the report. 3) CRF investments: The CRF provides financing to carry out livelihood projects at very low interest rates. The CRF beneficiaries (mostly women) also undergo training in business and entrepreneurship to make sure that their enterprises are sustainable.

**Reviewer Comment:** *there is some confusion about the number of beneficiaries*

**BirdLife Response:** In Tanzania, 200 gain additional income from the livelihoods support linked to the revolving fund (reaching 1,380 household members). In Kenya, 100 householders / 1,200 people benefit from installation of improved bomas and take up of other HWC reduction techniques. Distinction is those benefitting from livelihoods supports and microfinance versus those benefitting from bomas.

**Reviewer comment:** *there is no explanation of whether the bomas will need maintenance to maintain their effectiveness or how the project will be sustained;*

**BirdLife Response:** The construction of the bomas was done through a careful selection (See Annex 7). One of the key criterion used was that the owner had reported livestock depredation in the past. Another key factor was the willingness of the owner to meet some of the costs through material/ labour provision as part of the commitment of getting the boma. During the course of the project as part of making sure the bomas are effective, owners will be encouraged to inspect them regularly and maintain them, as needed. It is in the best interest of the owners to maintain the bomas in order to protect their valuable livestock.

**Reviewers Comment:** *more explanation of the wider landscape drivers and a clearer theory of change would have been helpful;*

**BirdLife Response** The project theory of change is a component of an Africa wide theory of change and vulture conservation strategy (Annex 43 for more information on the drivers and the strategy. Please see Annex 48 for the project Theory of Change. For the Mara Serengeti landscape and the project sites, we have identified two of the primary drivers of vulture poisoning. However, we work, with others, on wider issues, such as mortalities from collisions and electrocutions and loss of habitat.

**Reviewers Comment:** *there is a lack of clear baseline information; To be addressed in year 1 - hopefully.*

**BirdLife Response:** The first year has enabled baselines to be established for a number of Outcome indicators. We have baseline figures for poisoning incidents, based on the poisoning data collection in comparable locations in Kenya. We still need to examine how best to apply these (national versus local incidents)..Setting baselines for the extent of belief-based use is part of the project. Work has begun, but it will require trust to be built and various methods to be applied.

## 10. Risk Management

The project has not encountered any new risks since inception, outside of those listed in the project document and Risk Register. The project partners contributed to the completion of the Risk Register. The exercise was an important part of internal reflection in terms of assessing risk. This was then collated into one document. Review of the Risk Register needs to be incorporated into regular Steering Group meetings.

**Fiduciary Risks-** The project partners are well run organisations with a full complement of staff in place to make sure the project is being implemented effectively. BirdLife International successfully recruited two new staff members to replace staff who have moved on to other opportunities. Both project partners have implemented Darwin projects before. Nature Kenya, in particular, is experienced in financial management of Darwin projects. Given that Nature Tanzania is a relatively young organisation that's recently joined the BirdLife Partnership, a physical visit was made to their offices by the BirdLife Finance Officer in March to check on finance procedures and adherence to project requirements.

**Safeguarding Risks-**

The Safeguarding policies are part of the subcontract packages with each of the project partners. The importance of safeguarding and the ethical delivery of the project was reiterated as part of the project inception process. A Safeguarding Webinar was provided for BirdLife staff to articulate, in detail, the components of BirdLife's Safeguarding policies to ensure they are integrated into project activities. Applying these policies will be the subject of a Steering Group meeting in Year 2, examining, in particular, issues of confidentiality, particularly when addressing illegal activities; ensuring there are mechanisms for complaints and whistleblowing, and exploration of ways to ensure that delegated decision making (e.g. with respect of the Revolving Fund) adheres to ethical principles and project objectives.

**Delivery Chain Risks-** The risk register was completed in November 2022. An update of the report will be done in Year 2.

## 11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project has not been significantly changed over the past year and appears to be on target to deliver the expected Outputs. Some refinements have been made to delivery and some challenges have been identified for improvement in Year 2.



Three members of BirdLife staff moved on to other positions (Vulture Conservation Coordinator, Senior Vulture Conservation Manager, IBA Officer). However, their transition was well managed and excellent, experienced staff have been recruited to the positions (Vulture Conservation Coordinator has been redrawn to be Preventing Extinctions Coordinator). A Change Request regarding the staff changes will be submitted very shortly.

It has been challenging to engage women in leadership positions within the project site in Tanzania. It is expected that women will be well represented amongst project beneficiaries. However, we would like to explore ways to ensure they have a more prominent role in decision-making.

In recognition of the challenges of collecting data on numbers and drivers of belief-based use of vultures, we will be reviewing the data collected to identify any significant gaps or flaws that may seriously impact the project.

Similarly, in recognition of the challenge of evaluating attitude change and behaviour change, as well as the potential of the project increasing the level of reporting of poisoning (thereby resulting in more poisoning reported, rather than poisoning occurring), we will be holding a M&E focused meeting in Year 2.

## 12. Sustainability and legacy

As of the end of Year 1, we expect the project to be sustained, in line with the proposal. E.g. through the establishment of ongoing working relationships and self-sustaining community groups and the continuation of livelihood activities and a micro-finance mechanism developed during the project. The communication, advocacy and dissemination activities in Year 2 and 3 will, however, be of vital importance if the anti-poisoning strategies (e.g. bomas) are to be significantly scaled up.

The project will share the data and knowledge gathered, e.g. through using public databases (World Bird and Biodiversity Database, including IBA/KBA data) and through sharing knowledge with vulture specialists and government agencies.

During inception meetings in Makao WMA, it was recommended that schools be used to raise awareness about the project to engage young people and make them future conservationists (Annex 29). In Masai Mara, model predator-proof bomas were installed as an example for livestock farmers to adopt and reproduce to reduce HWC incidents in bomas (Annex 15). The community can learn from these models and continue to protect their livestock even after the project's conclusion. In addition, the established CRF system will provide continuous support to Makao WMA communities by offering loans that encourage sustainable businesses.

## 13. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative was publicized and acknowledged in meetings, workshops, and training sessions in the Masai Mara and Makao WMA. Nature Tanzania is producing awareness creation materials such as T-shirts, posters, stickers, banners, and brochures with logos (BirdLife International, the Darwin Initiative/UK Aid, and Nature Tanzania). Darwin Initiative has also been acknowledged in posts and publications on official social media accounts and the Nature Tanzania website. Nature Kenya ensured appropriate branding using the Darwin Initiative logo in publicity was done (Annex 9, [Link 1](#)), in publicity videos (Link). In addition, Nature Kenya tagged Darwin Initiative Twitter when communicating @UKBFs. The project did not refer explicitly to UK Aid during year 1. However, we have now obtained permission to use the UK Aid logo and will attempt to use the Darwin and UK Aid branding, where appropriate in the coming years.

## 14. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes (Annex 47)
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	BirdLife International: The Legal and Risk Manager, Georgie Godby is the safeguarding lead for BirdLife. Safeguarding contacts at project level would be the Project Lead or a described set of alternates (Line Manager, Human Resources Manager, Member of the Global Leadership Team):  Nature Kenya; Carol Kabilu Nature Tanzania: Emmanuel Mгимwa
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes/No [If yes, please provide date and details of training] Yes. Training on BirdLife International Safeguarding Policies, January 2023. We don't have details for all focal points listed.

What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	<p>Past: 7% [at least 2] Planned: 17% [3]</p> <p>Project Steering Group members have been taken through BirdLife's safeguarding policy. However, formal training will be provided to more members of the project team and to new staff in year 2.</p>
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	<p>Within the implementation period, there have been no safeguarding issues related to the project to report. The project partners are required by their subcontract and encouraged to make sure any such issues are reported and dealt with in a timely and effective manner.</p> <p>Ensuring that these policies are understood and fully complied with requires cascading to staff, partners, volunteers etc. and training. For the project, there is a plan to devote time in the second year to examining this issue to ensure that the policies are well understood, and that key project staff are appropriately trained.</p>
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so, please specify.	<p>Project partners submit quarterly reports to the BirdLife secretariat will make plans to make sure that safeguarding issues are checked on and updated as part of this process, checking if reports have been made and should there be any pending issues, they are dealt with speedily.</p> <p>Safeguarding and Gender and Inclusion will become standing items on the Steering Group Meeting agenda, so that these matters are better integrated into operations.</p> <p>More members of the project team will receive formal training, including through the Safeguarding Training Resource developed by BirdLife's Partnerships, Community and Capacity Development Team. The training was developed for BirdLife's Forest Programme, but attendance was open to all. Sadly, we did not maintain records of everyone that attended.</p> <p>The project will include information gathering on training for project staff in the coming years.</p>

## 15. Project expenditure

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				

Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199,676</b>	<b>194,632</b>	<b>3%</b>	

**Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

**16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

The Darwin Initiative funded project being delivered by BirdLife International and its partners, Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania is only in its first year, but the project is well on the way to delivering scalable approaches to address the crisis facing African vultures. The project is working towards an overall goal of delivering *Integrated and evidence-based approaches to reduce wildlife mortality from poisoning and improve livelihoods for communities living adjacent to protected areas in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.*

The project seeks to address the drivers of one of the most significant threats to Critically Endangered and Endangered vulture species in the Mara Serengeti landscape of Kenya and Tanzania. The project is particularly focused on addressing poisoning due to the use of poison to reduce human wildlife conflict and to understand and reduce the use of vulture parts in belief-based trade.

During the first year of a three year project, considerable progress was made. Surveys were conducted and numerous meetings were held to identify ways to reduce wildlife mortality and provide livelihood incentives.

One such intervention involved implementing predator-proof bomas to prevent livestock depredation. Resource conflict, particularly over water, increases human-wildlife conflict. Nature Kenya co-financed the establishment of rainwater harvesting and storage infrastructure in the Masi Mara area. Several recommended supplementary businesses were identified to improve the communities' livelihoods.

In Tanzania, progress was made to understand both the importance of the project site for vultures, and other birds, and the threat posed by poisoning, the demand for vulture parts for belief-based use. One of the approaches to support communities to avoid poisoning and to reduce consumption of vultures in belief-based use, is the development of a community managed microfinance mechanism, the Community Revolving Fund (CRF). The CRF system has been established, and a sub-grant agreement has been signed with Makao WMA to support local business growth, including traditional healers wishing to develop safe and legal alternatives.

Nature Kenya has begun supporting local communities in beekeeping. The lessons learned from this project were and will continue to be used to influence national and county-level policy processes that promote coexistence with wildlife for long-term impact.

The project is still in its early stages, with many activities planned for years 2 and 3, but together with other vulture conservation and anti-poisoning initiatives, it is expected to have a significant positive impact on the conservation status of vultures and the livelihoods of communities in the long term.

[\(Other photos and videos are available. However, more time is needed to find the best quality.\)](#)

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption, country and credit</b>	<b>Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
Image	Reinforced bomas reduce human wildlife conflict in Kenya File attached	Reinforced bomas reduce human wildlife conflict in Kenya (Credit: Nature Kenya)		Yes
Image	Participants of the Poison Response Training in Makao WMA, TZ	Participants of the Poison Response Training in Makao WMA, TZ. Training by North Carolina Zoo as part of a project funded by the UK Darwin Initiative		Yes (I would like to verify this)
Video	Saving Africa's Vultures <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAhx5onusyl&amp;t=338s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAhx5onusyl&amp;t=338s</a>	An informational video on the Africa vulture crisis and efforts to save them was produced and widely shared in 2022		Yes
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Integrated and evidence-based approaches reduce wildlife mortality from poisoning and improve livelihoods for communities living adjacent to protected areas in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem</p>		<p>The efforts by Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania are <u>contributing to the project's overall Impact of -Integrated and evidence-based approaches reduce wildlife mortality from poisoning and improve livelihoods for communities living adjacent to protected areas in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.</u> Surveys were conducted to identify ways to reduce wildlife mortality and provide livelihood incentives. One such intervention involved implementing predator-proof bomas to prevent livestock depredation. Resource conflict, particularly over water, increases human-wildlife conflict. Nature Kenya co-financed the establishment of rainwater harvesting and storage infrastructure in the Masi Mara area. Several recommended supplementary businesses were identified to improve the communities' livelihoods. In Tanzania, progress was made to understand both the importance of the project site for vultures, and other birds, and the threat posed by poisoning, the demand for vulture parts for belief-based use. One of the approaches to support communities to avoid poisoning and to reduce consumption of vultures in belief-based use, is the development of a community managed microfinance mechanism, the CRF. The CRF system has been established, and a sub-grant agreement has been signed with Makao WMA to support local business growth, including traditional healers wishing to</p>	

		<p>develop safe and legal alternatives. Nature Kenya has begun supporting local communities in beekeeping. The lessons learned from this project were and will continue to be used to influence national and county-level policy processes that promote coexistence with wildlife for long-term impact. The project is still in its early stages, with many activities planned for years 2 and 3, but together with other vulture conservation and anti-poisoning initiatives, it is expected to have a significant positive impact on the conservation status of vultures and the livelihoods of communities in the long term.</p>	
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Community livelihoods in the Mara-Serengeti are improved and pressure on wildlife (particularly vultures) reduced through addressing drivers of poisoning, including income losses, linked to human-wildlife conflict and belief based use</p>	<p>By End of Project (EOP):</p> <p>OI_1 ~50% of households (being 100 households/1200 people) in focal area (Narok County) KE are aware of and using alternative, non-lethal HWC mitigation methods e.g. new or improved bomas and better livestock management practices.</p> <p>20 additional households (240 people) in focal area report intention to install or reinforce bomas.</p> <p>OI_2 Livestock losses (in USD) are reduced (livelihoods improved) by 70% in KE for improved bomas compared to unimproved bomas and 20% where other preventive measures are in use.</p> <p>OI_3 Incidents of predator poisoning are reduced by 40% in project focal areas in KE from the baseline.</p>	<p>OI_1 Towards the target of changing awareness and behaviour of 50% of households or 1200 people in the focal area in KE, we used outreach approaches which included market outreach and village level meetings where we reached 6930 people (See Annex 17 &amp; 18). It will not be possible to report on this change until year 3.</p> <p>OI_2 With an aim to reduce livestock losses, construction of 10 improved bomas was done (see Annex 15). Preliminary results show 100% efficacy of improved bomas in preventing livestock losses from wildlife.</p> <p>OI_3 A desktop survey on poisoning incidents in Masai Mara was carried out (See Annex 4) setting the baseline which we will use to assess change during the project implementation period.</p> <p>OI_4 Progress was made to increase awareness of the risks of poison use and to shift attitudes away from poison use and belief-based use of vultures, but far more work is needed.</p>	<p>OI_1 In the next period, Nature Kenya and BirdLife will review the monitoring protocol to capture awareness change of the non-lethal HWC methods and attitudes towards them.</p> <p>OI_1 A further 10 bomas will be installed.</p> <p>OI_1 Other non-lethal HWC methods will be further promoted and monitoring methods reviewed.</p> <p>OI_1 Take up of the bomas will be promoted.</p> <p>OI_2 We will continue to assess the efficacy of improved bomas in reduction of livestock losses and consolidate data from other unimproved bomas to compare change in mitigation of livestock losses to wildlife.</p> <p>OI_3 Enhance reporting of poisoning incidents and respond effectively to poison events through strengthening</p>

	<p>OI_4 50% of sampled households in focal areas in KE and TZ report greater awareness of and appreciation for vultures and awareness of the risk of poison use, and 30% report reduced likelihood to use poison.</p> <p>OI_5 Information on the extent and drivers of belief-based use of vultures in Makao WMA, TZ is increased. A significant proportion (25%) of healers willing to consider using plant-based alternatives.</p> <p>OI_6 Monthly incomes of 200 people (1,380 household members) including 50% women in project areas in TZ are increased by 20% from the baseline as a result of sustainable livelihood development. (supported by a Community Revolving Fund – CRF).</p> <p>OI_7 30% Reduction in vulture (and other wildlife) deaths from poisoning incidents due to implementation of rapid response mechanisms (RRM)in focal areas in KE and TZ</p>	<p>OI_5 Useful information has been gathered on the extent and drivers of belief-based use and traditional healers have been positively engaged. However, more information will be gathered in year 2.</p> <p>OI_6 Towards income improvements in TZ, considerable progress was made on developing the CRF.</p> <p>OI_7 Towards the proposed reduction in mortality when poisoning still occurs, we strengthened Rapid Response Mechanism capacity in the project focal area through training of 358 rangers, scouts and volunteers on implementation of poisoning response protocol (see Annex 23).</p>	<p>the rapid response mechanisms put in place in Masai Mara project area.</p> <p>OI_4 Awareness raising on the value of vultures, the risks of poison use and alternatives will continue.</p> <p>Monitoring protocols will be reviewed to ensure that we can capture changes in awareness and attitudes to vultures and poison risk/use.</p> <p>OI_6 Socioeconomic surveys will be conducted in Makao WMA, TZ.</p> <p>OI_5 Further engagement with traditional healers will continue to build understanding on the extent and drivers of vulture use and begin to build approaches to reduce or eliminate vulture use.</p> <p>OI_6 The CRF will be operational.</p> <p>Advice and support will be provided, alongside access to finance, for sustainable livelihoods in Makao WMA.</p> <p>OI_7 Rapid Response Mechanism teams will be operational in KE and TZ.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b></p> <p>1. Socio-economic drivers and impacts of wildlife poisoning in Mara-Serengeti are understood and inform a range of community-focused interventions.</p>	<p>(Insert agreed Output level indicators)</p> <p>1.1 Before the end of year 1 <b>Workshops</b> in each project area (2 in KE, 1 in TZ) attended by 50 community representatives e.g. local business owners and village chiefs (at least 50% female participants) identify problems faced by local communities and</p>	<p>(Report against the indicators on progress towards achieving the Output)</p> <p>1.1 Nature Kenya organised 19 village level workshops within project focal area which brought together approximately 30 community representatives per village consulting a total of 617 participants (270 men, 347women) community representatives who included administrative chiefs, village elders, youths (see Annex 6). Identification of solutions linked with sustainable livelihood practices was achieved (See Annex 6 pg 5)</p>	

	<p>identify solutions that link sustainable livelihood practices and use of natural resources, specifically HWC and poisoning,</p> <p>1.2 Before the end of year 1, <b>Outreach surveys</b> conducted in ~50% of households in project areas (<b>KE</b>) (approx. 100 households/ 1200 people per site with at least 50% female participants) identify key drivers of wildlife poisoning specific to project areas to align with key socio-economic solutions identified in consultation workshops.</p> <p>1.3 Before the end of year 1, <b>Outreach surveys</b> conducted in Makao WMA, <b>TZ</b> with 4 stakeholder groups (traditional healers, community members, local government authorities and the private sector) covering 20% of the population within the WMA (~500 people), gather socio-economic data, attitudes towards wildlife and extent of and attitudes to belief-based use of vulture parts.</p> <p>1.4 By end of year 1, start of year 2, <b>Vulture conservation models</b></p>	<p>In Tanzania's Makao WMA, a workshop with 56 attendees was held (41% of the participants were women (50% of the community participants) (Annex 7)</p> <p>1.2 Nature Kenya carried out Outreach surveys, using questionnaires assessing responses from 420 households within the project focal areas (Annex 1). The respondents were 48.7% Women and 51.3% Men. As a result of this survey key drivers of wildlife poisoning were identified and documented which were associated to Human Wildlife Conflict, mainly of livestock depredation by wildlife especially large carnivores. Key socio-economic solutions identified included, reinforcement livestock enclosures, improving livestock herding practice; improve accessibility of water and overall rangeland management</p> <p>1.3 Nature Tanzania conducted several outreach activities in Makao Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Tanzania. A team of four people from Nature Tanzania introduced the project to all important stakeholders for the project. Twelve (12) inception meetings were conducted at different levels. The project was introduced at the district level, village levels, and to the management of Makao WMA. These meetings reached 1,003 (470 females and 533 males) community members in ten villages disaggregated by their economic roles and engagements including farmers, pastoralists, traditional healers, and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>16 traditional healers participated in a workshop that was held to collect information about the use of vulture parts in traditional medicine where a plant (locally known as Viloto) was mentioned that it can be used as an alternative for vulture parts.</p> <p>A baseline survey was also conducted where 529 households in 10 villages in Makao WMA (Annex 2) were surveyed where HWC was found to be a common problem caused by predators and crop-raiding wild animals. Different solutions were suggested to deter these animals, such as making noise, using torches, and protecting farms by staying on them. During the 12 project inception meetings 1,003 (470 females and 533 males) were reached. During these HWC challenges were reported, and the need to improve capacity to address HWC was highlighted (Annex 29)</p>
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	<p>for each focal area (KE and TZ) are developed based on analysis of surveys and workshops.</p> <p>1.5 Vulture monitoring is in place. Status of the Important Bird and Key Biodiversity Areas in focal area is updated.</p> <p>1.6 By start of year 2, Feasibility of establishment of Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) in project area is assessed and a set of criteria established.</p>	<p>1.4 Nature Kenya articulated the proposed vulture conservation models for implementation within the project area, informed by the results of outreach survey and community consultative workshops held within the project sites. The vulture conservation model is planned for year 2 in TZ</p> <p>1.5 Baseline vulture population surveys were carried out in the Masai Mara and Makao WMA landscapes, covering a total of 458.2 km through 19 road transects. During the surveys, 408 vultures from 5 different species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, Hooded Vulture, and Palm-nut Vulture) were recorded. In the Masai Mara landscape, 10 road transects covering 326 km were surveyed, resulting in the 195 vultures from 4 species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, and Hooded Vulture) recorded (Annex 84 NK). In Makao WMA, 9 road transects covering 132.2 km were surveyed, resulting in 213 vultures from 4 species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, and Palm-nut Vulture) recorded (<a href="#">Link 1</a>).</p> <p>A feasibility assessment of Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Makao WMA and Mwiba Ranch in Tanzania was conducted. Nature Tanzania employed the Timed Species Count (TSC) method with technical advice from BirdLife International. From the assessment, 159 bird species from 60 families were recorded, including endangered and two endemic species. and estimated stable populations of two endemic species. Makao WMA is a significant site for birds and may qualify for IBA designation. Another assessment is scheduled for August 2023 (Annex 109 NT). In Kenya, an updated Masai Mara Important Bird Area/Key Biodiversity Area Basic Monitoring was achieved, and data were updated in the World Bird DataBase in 2022. The 2021 Kenya Key Biodiversity Area Status and Trend report, which included results from Masai Mara IBA/KBA, was published in October 2022 (<a href="#">Link 1</a>)</p> <p>1.6 Nature Kenya advanced the discussions of viability of establishments of Vulture Safe Zones in the project area. A draft VSZ criteria was developed (Annex 5). A symposium/round table on Vulture Safe Zones was coordinated by BirdLife, including presentations by Nature Kenya, at the Pan African Ornithological Congress (Annex 3)</p>	
<p>Activity</p> <p>1.1.1 Conduct outreach surveys to target households in project areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya to obtain information on key drivers of wildlife poisoning and socioeconomic situation.</p>		<p>(Report completed or progress on activities that contribute toward achieving this Output)</p> <p>1.1.1 Outreach surveys were carried out in 19 villages that fall within the two focal areas reaching 420 households (<b>Annex 2</b>). These villages were; <i>Emurototo-Kawai, Kawai, Mararianta, Olare Orok, Rekeru, Kirok-Olkimitare, Olemoncho; Ilbaan,</i></p>	<p>(Outline what will be carried out in the next period)</p> <p>Outreach surveys have been completed. However, the project will continue to obtain information on the drivers</p>

	<p><i>Tipilikwani, Molibaany, Ingila, Iseketa, Ngamuriak, Enooronkon, Olesere, Olesere B, Olkumoto, Emurua Dikirr, Ololbormurt.</i></p> <p>The top 5 drivers to wildlife poisoning were identified all associated to Human Willdife Conflict- include <i>Use of weak traditional bomas, Poor/Changing livestock herding practice, Climate Change-Prolonged Drought, Resource Competition between Livestock and Wildlife (Water, Pasture)</i></p>	
<p>Activity</p> <p>1.1.2 Use surveys and desk research to establish baselines for incidents of livestock predation and poisoning incidences in Maasai Mara, Kenya, and repeat surveys at end of project to measure impact. BirdLife and technical assistance consultant to advise on survey content, requirements to meet monitoring needs, other project needs and safeguarding as well as gender and cultural issues. National Partners to implement with project staff.</p>	<p>1.1.2</p> <p>Nature Kenya conducted desktop research to establish the baseline for livestock depredation and poisoning incidents. This research led to the identification of two specific conflict and poisoning hotspots in the Masai Mara landscape, and they were defined as the focus area for the project's intervention (<b>Annex 4</b>).</p>	<p>Review monitoring protocols to ensure these are appropriate, practical and in place.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>1.1.3 End of project surveys will be carried out with a sampling of participants. Details to be developed with advice from monitoring and evaluation consultant and relevant staff.</p>	<p>Not this year</p>	<p>Review monitoring protocols to ensure these are appropriate, practical and in place</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>1.2.1 Conduct stakeholder surveys at the beginning of the project in Makao Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Tanzania on the belief-based use of vultures, believed to be the key driver of vulture poisoning in project area. NT to lead with input from BirdLife and Nigerian Conservation Foundation and BirdLife Zimbabwe (who have conducted similar surveys) and technical assistance on effective survey design from a consultant.</p>	<p>Nature Tanzania conducted a baseline survey in 10 villages of Makao WMA to assess the belief-based use of vultures. The survey covered 529 households, and 16% of respondents confirmed the use of vulture parts for traditional medicine, business, betting, prediction, natural remedies, rituals, and hunting. Additionally, Nature Tanzania held meetings with Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority to discuss vulture conservation and belief-based killings of vultures in Maswa Game Reserve. Reports indicated that each vulture head was sold to traditional healers for about TZS 5,000 (about £2). More</p>	<p>Further survey work in planned for Year 2</p> <p>Analyse results to identify knowledge gaps that need to be filled for next period.</p>

	meetings are planned for the next reporting period. (Annex 2 & 33)	
Activity 1.2.2 End of project surveys will be carried out with a sampling of participants. Details to be developed with advice from monitoring and evaluation consultant and relevant staff.	Year 3	Year 3
Activity 1.3.1 BirdLife and consultants (one for TZ and one for KE/or combine) advise on survey content, requirements to meet monitoring needs, other project needs and safeguarding as well as gender and cultural issues. BirdLife to support survey design and National Partners to implement with project staff.	Birdlife International supported the implementing partners by providing guidance and advice to ensure that the surveys were well-designed and effective in meeting the project's objectives. ( <b>Annex 5, &amp; 30</b> )	Review for any gaps and weaknesses
Activity 1.3.2 Convene workshops in project areas in Kenya and Tanzania to promote discussion with key stakeholders to identify impacts of living with wildlife and to develop activities that the project can support to benefit communities and vultures.	<p>Nature Tanzania conducted several outreach activities in Makao Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Tanzania. Twelve (12) inception meetings were conducted at different levels, reaching 1,003 (470 females and 533 males) community members in ten villages.</p> <p>16 traditional healers participated in a workshop that was held to collect information about the use of vulture parts in traditional medicine.</p> <p>Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania conducted workshops with key stakeholders to promote discussions on suitable and recommended activities that can be implemented to benefit communities and vultures. A total of 673 people were reached in Kenya and Tanzania.</p> <p>In Kenya's Masai Mara, 19 site-based workshops reached 617 people and recommended activities to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and enhance community resilience, including reinforcing livestock</p>	Further workshops/meetings with key stakeholders will continue

	<p>bomas and exploring best livestock herding practices (Annex 6).</p> <p>In Tanzania's Makao WMA, a workshop with 56 attendees (41% of the participants were women (50% of the community participants)) highlighted challenges and potential solutions. (Annex 7 &amp; 34).</p>	
<p>Activity</p> <p>1.4.1 Consolidate outputs from workshops and surveys in each project country to develop a site-specific model for priority anti-poisoning and vulture conservation interventions that has strong buy-in from communities. BirdLife to coordinate so that models are coherent and comparable, but National Partners to design.</p>	<p>A vulture conservation model / approach was developed for the project area in Kenya and is already being implemented.</p> <p>The details of the model/approach in Tanzania will be finalised in year 2 where more engagement and trust building is needed.</p>	<p>Implementation of the model in Kenya</p> <p>Development and implementation of the model in Tanzania</p> <p>BirdLife to review models to ensure they are comparable and in line with the project goals.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>1.5.1 Conduct baseline and follow up vulture population surveys in the project area. These will include nesting vulture census and road counts. Feed data into BirdLife Database and share with other interested parties. These will supplement existing monitoring undertaken by The Peregrine Fund and Kenya Birds of Prey Trust – adding to the body of data. This is particularly lacking in Tanzania.</p> <p>1.5.2 Conduct an update assessment of the Important Bird Area/Key Biodiversity Area (IBAs/IBAs) in the focal area (both are IBAs) to assess status and update relevant species data.</p>	<p>Activity 1.5.</p> <p>Baseline vulture population surveys were carried out in the Masai Mara and Makao WMA landscapes, covering a total of 458.2 km through 19 road transects. During the surveys, 408 vultures from 5 different species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, Hooded Vulture, and Palm-nut Vulture) were recorded. In the Masai Mara landscape, 10 road transects covering 326 km were surveyed, resulting in the 195 vultures from 4 species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, and Hooded Vulture) recorded (Annex 8). In Makao WMA, 9 road transects covering 132.2 km were surveyed, resulting in 213 vultures from 4 species (White-backed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, and Palm-nut Vulture) recorded (Annex 9).</p> <p>Activity 1.5.2</p> <p>A feasibility assessment of Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Makao WMA and Mwiba Ranch in Tanzania was conducted. Ntaure Tanzania employed the Timed Species</p>	<p>Consolidate the basic monitoring results and publish the 2022 Kenya KBAs Status and Trends Report for Kenya.</p> <p>Conduct the follow up IBA assessment, proceed with designation, if it qualifies.</p> <p>Update the World Bird and Biodiversity Database</p>

	<p>Count (TSC) method with technical advice from BirdLife International. From the assessment, 159 bird species from 60 families were recorded, including endangered and two endemic species. and estimated stable populations of two endemic species. Makao WMA is a significant site for birds and may qualify for IBA designation. Another assessment is scheduled for August 2023 (Annex 10). In Kenya, an updated Masai Mara Important Bird Area/Key Biodiversity Area Basic Monitoring was achieved, and data were updated in the World Bird DataBase in 2022. The 2021 Kenya Key Biodiversity Area Status and Trend report, which included results from Masai Mara IBA/KBA, was published in October 2022 (Link 1)</p>	
<p>Activity  1.6.1 Scope potential for establishing Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) that could be established e.g. focal areas that integrate anti-poisoning - RRM and other threat mitigation actions, thus creating safe havens for vultures.</p> <p>1.6.2 Develop criteria for VSZs in East Africa during RRM workshops and training, and community engagement using criteria developed for southern Africa as an adaptive model. BirdLife Vulture Manager to draft this, in consultation with Partners and with advice from other regions and external experts.  Establishment of VSZ, if feasible, would be outside the scope of this project.</p>	<p>Activity 1.6.1</p> <p>During the reporting period, Nature Tanzania and Nature Kenya assessed the viability of establishing Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) in Tanzania and Kenya.</p> <p>In Tanzania, 17 sites were identified as important for vulture conservation, and 22 people were trained on Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) to respond to vulture poisoning incidents. 35 RRM kits were provided to WMA rangers, along with essential equipment for implementing the anti-poisoning protocol (Annex 12). In Kenya, a scoping exercise was conducted to develop a criteria package of key components to consider for establishing VSZs, including areas for wildlife anti-poisoning awareness, human-wildlife conflict mitigation practices, and community participation in wildlife conservation (Annex 11). The</p>	<p>Further discussion and evaluation of the application of VSZ in East Africa. Criteria to be reviewed and finalised.</p>

		<p>implementation of VSZ approaches in Africa was also discussed during the PAOC held in Zimbabwe in November 2022, where contributions from Kenya were presented (Annex 3).</p> <p>Activity 1.6.2</p> <p>The development of criteria and decision on viability of VSZs, although begun in Year 1, will be concluded in year 2.</p>	
<p><b>Output 2.</b></p> <p>Vulture conservation models, incorporating livelihood improvements are implemented in the focal areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya and Makao WMA, Tanzania. (directly benefitting ~1,700 people, reaching 15,000).</p>	<p>(Insert <b>agreed</b> Output level indicators)</p> <p>2.1 By end of yr 2, 300 community members (150 per area and at least 50% women) are trained/informed about <b>conservation friendly business development</b> in the Maasai Mara.</p> <p>2.2 By EOP, <b>20 predator-proof bomas</b> (representing 10 % of <i>bomas</i> or 15% of livestock owners) are erected in the 2 project focal areas in Narok County, Maasai Mara, Kenya. Promotion encourages an <b>additional 20</b> livestock owners to commit to installing bomas post project.</p> <p>2.3 By EOP 3, 80 households in the 2 project focal areas in Kenya receive advice on <b>non lethal predator mitigation / husbandry advice</b></p> <p>2.4 a. By end of year 2, <b>8 market outreach events</b> in 2 hotspot areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya and in Makao WMA, Tanzania, reaching out to &gt;50% of households in both sites (~15,000</p>	<p>(Report against the indicators on progress towards achieving the Output)</p> <p>2.1 With an aim to train 300 community members about conservation friendly business models, profiling of potential community beneficiaries organised in groups was carried out in Y1 (see Annex 13). Profiling of 24 potential community led organisations that would be recipients of training and capacity building of strengthening these nature-based businesses was done.</p> <p>2.2 Targeting by EOP to construct 20 predator proof bomas- a beneficiary selection criteria was developed (Annex 14), and Nature Kenya identified 10 beneficiaries whose boma/livestock enclosures were be improved by end of Y1 in project focal areas (Annex 15)</p> <p>2.3 Targeting 80 households in project focal areas receive advice on non-lethal predator mitigation/ husbandry advice, by end of Y1 a total 2430 people (Approximately 243 household) were reached through 36 village level meetings on improved livestock husbandry advice (see Annex 18)</p> <p>2.4 Aiming to reach 8 markets through outreach events by end of Y2, Nature Kenya carried out 6 Market outreach events in 6 local markets reaching 4500 community members in the 2-hotspot area of Masai Mara (Annex 17).</p>	

	<p>people) to raise awareness of value of vultures and stop/reduce wildlife poisoning.</p> <p>b. By EOP, <b>20 community/village level barazas and 5 village general assemblies</b> are held, reaching at least 500 people with key messages/topics for vulture conservation about their value and key threats.</p> <p>c. By EOP, 1000 copies of <b>vulture awareness information posters/leaflets</b> are shared with schools and posted in public areas etc. reaching ~10,000 people. <b>Radio broadcasts</b> reaching very large audience.</p> <p>2.5 By EOP, <b>&gt;50 traditional healers in Makao and their respective associations</b> are engaged and their awareness raised on the values of vultures, the need to conserve them and find alternatives to using vulture body parts that can be supported by the CRF e.g. using and farming plant-based alternatives.</p> <p>2.6 By the end of year 2 <b>business support training and advice</b> is provided to 200 people (60% women) from Makao WMA on sustainable local livelihoods that can be supported by the CRF, linked to biodiversity /environmental commitments. To include basic small business skills, examination of options: poultry, bees, micro renewables,</p>	<p>Targeting to undertake 20 community/village level barazas by EOP reaching at least 500 people with key messages on vulture conservation, a total 36 village level barazas were convened collaboratively with village elders and local chiefs reaching 2430 people with key messages of vulture conservation (Annex 18).</p> <p>Nature Kenya produced 300 copies of information poster on improved livestock herding practices (Annex 16) which were shared in public areas. Also, used local radio broadcast covering important global days like World Wildlife Day (Annex 32). Nature Tanzania is planning to commemorate the Preparation Vulture Awareness Day in September 2023 where awareness materials such as posters, T-shirts and banners will be used.</p> <p>2.5 Nature Tanzania conducted a workshop that converge 16 traditional healers from Meatu district. The 16 traditional healers represent 10.7% of the total 149 registered healers from Makao WMA. During the workshop, the traditional healers discussed the uses of vulture parts. (Annex 19)</p> <p>2.6 Nature Tanzania has recruited a socio-economic consultant to support training and advice that is scheduled to be carried out during the second year of the project.</p>
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	<p>crafts, and support to develop chosen options)</p> <p>2.7 a. By end of yr 2, <b>CRF operational procedures</b> are in place (at least 250 people including 50 men, 100 women, 70 youths and 30 traditional healers trained in effective utilization and management of the CRF and its link with/requirements for sustainable resource use.</p> <p>b. By EOP, a total of 200 people including 100 women, 40 men, 50 youths and 10 traditional healers <b>benefitted from the CRF</b>. Their monthly income will increase by 20% as a result of use of CRF and related advice and support..</p> <p>c. By EOP, the <b>CRF is in operation (in line with Terms of Ref) and remains in place</b> and intact beyond the project period. (Anticipate 70 people to receive support from the Fund each year after EOP)</p>	<p>2.7a. A CRF system (including operational procedures in the ToR) has been formed and the CRF ToR has been approved. CRF sub-grant agreement with Makao WMA has been signed. A representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group have been formed. A special bank account for CRF operations has been opened by Makao WMA. The CRF investment fund has been sent to the special bank account for CRF operations in Makao WMA. Call for loan applications have been advertised to target beneficiaries in the project areas. Issuance of loans is expected to be conducted in the second project year after the review and approval of loan applications received by the representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group.</p> <p>Indicator 2.7 b. c. Activities towards the achievement of this Indicator are on track for Year 2.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>2.1.1 Conduct focused entrepreneurial workshops in the project focal areas in the Maasai Mara to promote voluntary investment in livestock protection and supplemental businesses that are compatible with wildlife management.</p> <p>This will include advice on herd size, daytime herd supervision, deterrents, high risk areas, best practices used elsewhere. It will also demonstrate cost benefits of boma strengthening (fully fortified and cheaper partially fortified option). Use local people as advocates.</p>	<p>(Report completed or progress on activities that contribute toward achieving this Output)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.1</p> <p>Informed by results of the community outreach survey in Kenya in Activity 1.1.1, businesses that align with wildlife management were suggested including, beekeeping, beadwork, table banking/revolving fund, improved livestock breeds, organised milk trading, and poultry rearing. A scoping activity was then conducted to determine potential beneficiaries in the project's focal areas,</p>	<p>(Outline what will be carried out in the next period)</p> <p>Provide training and/or signposting to other resources for the profiled community groups on supplemental businesses options identified and HWC reduction techniques. Advocate the take-up of livestock management techniques that are compatible with wildlife management.</p>



	<p>resulting in the identification of 24 community groups. <b>(Annex 13)</b>. To further explore the implementation of community-led Nature Based businesses, Nature Kenya organized a focused entrepreneurial workshop which involved documenting the strengths, weaknesses, and obstacles encountered.</p>	
<p>Activity</p> <p>2.2.1 Apply the criteria for boma selection, which include that the boma is in an area at high risk for predation and where the household is willing to contribute a share of the cost and labour to install it (to encourage ownership) and to make a commitment to not use poison illegally or inappropriately, and to participate in awareness raising/monitoring activities.</p> <p>2.2.2 Identify 20 bomas, and implement improvement methods at selected boma sites in partnership with beneficiary household.</p> <p>2.2.3 Provide training so that others can reproduce bomas.</p> <p>2.2.4 Put in place boma effectiveness monitoring.</p>	<p>Activity 2.2.1</p> <p>Nature Kenya developed a criterion for selecting bomas/enclosures, which involved identifying bomas that were at a high risk of livestock depredation based on the number of livestock that were killed, as well as determining the willingness of the household to share in the cost of construction (Annex 14).</p> <p>Activity 2.2.3</p> <p>The construction of the bomas was done with an aim to demonstrate, by example, that mitigation of livestock losses can be achieved at an affordable cost. Further awareness raising to encourage take-up is planned for Year 2 and 3.</p> <p>Activity 2.2.4</p> <p>Nature Kenya established a successful boma monitoring system, in which local community champions/volunteers worked alongside project field officers to monitor the effectiveness of the bomas, reporting on any incident reported by the beneficiary. To date no livestock has been killed from the 10 bomas/enclosures constructed.</p>	<p>Apply the identification criteria to identify additional beneficiaries to reach the target number in line with the project objectives. The criteria will also identify communities/herders to target for advocacy to adopt improved bomas for themselves.</p> <p>Target to construct an additional 10 predator proof bomas in the project focal areas</p> <p>Advocacy to encourage take up of the reinforced bomas more widely</p> <p>We will strengthen the capacity of at least 4 local artisans through skills share on how to construct the bomas</p> <p>Monitoring will be applied at all 20 bomas.</p> <p>We will seek to roll out the use of camera traps to document visitation by predators assessing the effectiveness of the boma in mitigation livestock depredation</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>2.3.1 Organise awareness-raising market outreach events, radio broadcasts, and print communication materials to reach out to key stakeholders to reduce</p>	<p>Activity 2.3.1</p> <p>Nature Kenya conducted a series of awareness creation events across the</p>	<p>Nature Kenya will continue to implement awareness raising events and actions.</p>

<p>poisoning behaviours and influence negative attitudes towards wildlife and vultures. Using the project's vulture volunteers, village elders and popular local figures and the Masaai Mara Wildlife Ambassadors.</p>	<p>Masai Mara Landscape and developed communication materials such as improved livestock herding practices (Annex 16), which were used during these events. 6 market outreach events led by Masai Mara Wildlife Ambassadors reached 4500 members of the community (Annex 17). There were 36 village-level meetings held in collaboration with village elders and vulture volunteers, reaching 2430 community members (1027 men and 1403 women) across 36 villages (Annex 18). To increase the dissemination of information on wildlife poisoning and promote attitude change in the community, Nature Kenya marked both the global World Wildlife Day and International Vulture Awareness Day, which were covered through local radio broadcasts (Annex 32).</p>	<p>Nature Tanzania is planning to commemorate the Preparation Vulture Awareness Day in September 2023 where awareness materials such as posters, T-shirts and banners will be used.</p> <p>As part of our M&amp;E review, we will explore the best means to monitor and measure awareness and attitude change.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>2.4.1 Conduct workshops with traditional healers in Makao WMA, Tanzania to discuss how to best address the use of vulture parts for belief-based use, including potential alternatives e.g. plant-based products and livelihood alternatives. These may be eligible for CRF financing.</p>	<p>Activity 2.4.1</p> <p>During the reporting period, a workshop was held with traditional healers, which brought together 16 out of 149 registered healers from the Meatu district, representing 10.7% of traditional healers from Makao WMA (Annex 19). The workshop included two traditional healers from each of the ten villages forming the Makao WMA, who represented others. The traditional healers mentioned drivers of belief-based use of vulture parts which are used in traditional medicine for business betting, prediction for a bright future, natural remedy, and rituals. The use of a locally known as Viloto as an alternative to vulture body parts was also discussed. While the scientific name and IUCN conservation status of the plant could not be identified, a sample of the plant will be collected for analysis, possibly at the Institute of Traditional Medicine of</p>	<p>Further engagement with traditional healers is planned for the next period to build trust, gather more information on the extent and drivers of vulture use, understand more about the readiness to reduce or stop the use of vultures, potential for alternatives.</p>

	<p>Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and/or Botany Department of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) (Annex 19), and the attendance signed sheets are included in (Annex 20).</p>	
<p>Activity</p> <p>2.5.1 Conduct business support and entrepreneurship training workshops in Makao WMA to build communities' capacity (especially women) to develop sustainable local livelihoods, including those that could be supported by the CRF.</p> <p>Topics will depend on the outcome of the earlier workshops and surveys, but will likely include livestock husbandry techniques to reduce predation (and increase incomes) plus small business ideas and planning e.g. poultry rearing, micro solar and cookstove enterprises, and local craft development.</p>	<p>Activity 2.5.1</p> <p>A Community Revolving Fund (CRF) was established, and a socio-economic consultant was engaged to provide support for the project's socio-economic aspects. The consultant is currently conducting entrepreneurship training workshops in the Makao WMA, aimed at enhancing the capacity of the communities (especially women) to develop sustainable local livelihoods. The baseline survey conducted on the project site (Annex 2) revealed that farming is the primary socio-economic activity at 45% followed by pastoralism at 33%. . Additionally, other activities such as tailoring, conservation, beekeeping, salt extraction, and fishing are also conducted.. Based on this information and additional data to be collected by the socio-economic consultant, entrepreneurship training workshops will be organized, focusing on the business options approved by the Loan Advisory Group, after the establishment of CRF. The workshop will be conducted between May and June 2023. It will be facilitated by the hired socio-economic consultant in collaboration with Meatu district and the project. The socio-economic trainings will be linked with the CRF and aim to provide training for business ideas to be supported by CRF, to ensure the success of livelihoods and the sustainability of CRF.</p>	<p>Based on the year 1 surveys, discussions as part of the set-up of the CRF, and supported by a socioeconomic consultant, business support and training will be provided to develop local livelihoods, including those that could be supported by the CRF.</p>

<p>Activity</p> <p>2.6.1 Establish, through extensive awareness raising and consultation the Terms of Reference for a Community Revolving Fund (CRF) to support conservation friendly livelihoods activities with small loans at low interest.</p> <p>2.6.2 Recruit and train the representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group.</p> <p>2.6.3 Issue loans to support the creation of sustainable alternative livelihood initiatives such as development of plant based alternatives to vulture/wildlife parts in belief based practice, women’s beadwork, poultry farming, production of biogas etc.</p> <p>2.6.4 Ensure that the CRF loans also include clear guidance on the conservation commitments that go with the money (either to support a conservation focused business or to participate in an agreed set of conservation actions).</p> <p>2.6.5 Maintain excellent records on loans and repayments, but also the impact on livelihoods.</p> <p>2.6.6 Continue operation of the CRF after the project end.</p>	<p>Activity 2.6.1</p> <p>The Community Revolving Fund (CRF) system for Makao WMA was established with the participation of all stakeholders through two workshops and three meetings. A total of 16 traditional healers participated in the development of the CRF system, which was based on a zero-draft CRF Terms of Reference (ToR) developed by Nature Tanzania. The CRF ToR was reviewed and approved by the Village General Assemblies of the 10 villages forming the Makao WMA. The representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group, which is also named as the CRF committee, was formed, and trained during the reporting period <b>(Annex 21)</b></p> <p>Activity 2.6.2</p> <p>A training session was conducted for the CRF committee to build their capacity on implementation, ethics, and management of the CRF (Annex 42). A socio-economic consultant has been recruited to support capacity building for the Loan Advisory Group and loan beneficiaries with entrepreneurship skills. A follow-up training with 31 participants including 4 females was also conducted to provide information on how to complete CRF forms (Annex 37), loan agreements, and guarantor agreements (see Annex 35, 38, 39 and 36).</p>	<p>The CRF will be operational, with loans and funded activities monitored</p> <p>Further follow-up training is planned for the representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group in the second year of the project. To support capacity building for the CRF Loan Advisory Group and loan beneficiaries with entrepreneurship skills, a socio-economic consultant has been recruited. The consultant will also identify key linkages between the CRF and vulture conservation to achieve the project's expected objectives and impacts</p> <p>Supported by a consultant, with experience in socioeconomic development and CRF, the project will provide support for livelihood initiatives and the CRF will be operational.</p> <p>Operation of the CRF will be reviewed to support its continuation, long term.</p>
<p><b>Output 3. Etc.</b></p> <p>The impact of poisoning incidents is mitigated by the set up, training and equipping of three Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) anti-</p>	<p>(Insert <b>agreed</b> Output level indicators)</p> <p><b>3.1 Two active anti-poisoning groups</b> (with &gt;25 members each) with 1 in each of the 2 hotspot</p>	<p>(Report against the indicators on progress towards achieving the Output)</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>The project is ahead of schedule to achieve this indicator by Year 2. In Tanzania, Makao WMA, one anti-poisoning group has been formed and trained on responding to</p>

<p>poisoning groups in Kenya and Tanzania</p>	<p>areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya, and 100% of the existing <b>Makao WMA ranger group</b> (50) provided with a 2-day training workshop, response kits and handbooks on implementing the protocol.</p> <p>3.2 80 vulture champions/rangers/enforcement officers from community/conservancy rangers/Makao WMS are supplied with <b>equipment</b> to assist with implementation of Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) and are <b>trained</b> in the <b>protocol</b>.</p> <p>3.3 Three active anti-poisoning groups are operational by EOP, two in Narok County, KE, one in Makao WMA, TZ.</p>	<p>poisoning incidents. This group comprises of 33 (5 females) WMA rangers. In Kenya two active wildlife anti-poisoning groups with a total membership of 35 members in 2 hotspot areas in Masai Mara have had their capacity strengthened.</p> <p>3.2 The project is ahead of schedule to achieve this indicator by Year 2. 509 rangers and enforcement officers from Masai Mara National Reserve and community conservancies in the Masai Mara landscape were trained on application of the national wildlife poisoning response protocol (Annex 13NK). One anti-poisoning group has been formed in Makao WMA comprised of 33 (5 females) WMA rangers. 22 rangers were trained on RRM protocols and have been provided with RRM kits, handouts, and data collection tools to implement the RRM protocol. Additionally, a motorcycle was bought to support implementation of the RRM protocol.</p> <p>3.3 The project is ahead of schedule to achieve this indicator by Year 2. In Makao WMA, Tanzania, one anti-poisoning group of Makao WMA has been formed during the reporting period and some of the rangers received RRM training facilitated by North Carolina Zoo. This anti-poisoning group is now operational and has received equipment to facilitate RRM protocol implementation. In Kenya, there are two active wildlife anti-poisoning groups members in 2 focal areas in Masai Mara. These groups were trained on early detection and reporting wildlife poisoning incidents. As a result of the training, equipment needs assessments was done and procurement of necessary materials done to support implementation of RRM.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1.</p> <p>3.1.1 Implement a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in 2 hotspots in Maasai Mara where coverage is currently poor through the establishment of local anti-poisoning groups.</p> <p>3.1.2 Pilot a small-scale RRM in Makao WMA with an existing ranger group, for responding to wildlife poisoning with the provision of resources and support for implementation e.g. training, response kits, motorbikes, and handbooks.</p>	<p>(Report completed or progress on activities that contribute toward achieving this Output)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.1 Nature Kenya, in partnership with Narok County Government and community conservancies, established a Rapid Response Mechanism, guided by the national rapid response to wildlife poisoning incidents protocols. A network of local anti-poisoning groups was set up with operational WhatsApp accounts with a membership of approximately 35 people spread across the Masai Mara landscape. As result, as first responders, information</p>	<p>(Outline what will be carried out in the next period)</p> <p>Strengthen RRM mechanism through mentorship and training. Ensure reports are used to inform monitoring and evaluation, and future operation of the RRM.</p> <p>The RRM teams will be operational. A further 15 kits will be provided to the teams.</p> <p>Operation of the teams and reports will be monitored for effectiveness and to inform data collection protocols, and to inform the delivery of the project.</p>

	<p>sharing of suspected wildlife poisoning has been achieved. A total of 2 incidents have been reported across the anti-poisoning groups- resulting to 1 rescue of poisoned Bateleur and 2 effective site decontaminations.</p> <p>Activity 3.1.2</p> <p>A Rapid Response Mechanism training towards Vulture poisoning incidence was conducted on the 9th and 10th of February 2023 by Dr. Claire Bracebridge of North Carolina Zoo. The training was attended by 22 individuals, including 16 Village Game Scouts (VGS) from Makao WMA, 3 rangers from Maswa Game Reserve, and 3 from Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA). The training aimed to equip field staff and rangers with the skills to rapidly respond to vulture poisoning incidents. Makao WMA was provided with a total of 35 response kits (RRM) to implement the RRM anti-poisoning protocol, with 10 kits already delivered and the remainder to be delivered in May 2023. In addition, a motorbike was purchased to support vulture conservation activities at Makao WMA, and handouts on vulture conservation and RRM were provided by North Carolina Zoo (Annex 12).</p>	
<p>Activity 3.2.1 In Kenya, provide RRM training to KWS law enforcement officers to strengthen the mechanism and mainstream into operational policies.</p>	<p>3.2.1</p> <p>A total of 358 rangers (80 rangers from Masai Mara National Reserve and 278 rangers from 10 conservancies in Masai Mara landscape) were trained on how to respond to wildlife poisoning incidents (Annex 23). A needs assessment was also carried out to determine essential resources required</p>	<p>Monitor the operation of RRM teams linked to KWS enforcement officers. Identify gaps in knowledge, data sharing and resources. Where needs arise and resources permit, support the law enforcement with equipment/training to enhance RRM</p>

		to reinforce the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).	
Activity	3.3.1 Liaise with other initiatives outside the scope of this project who are involved with training and support RRM capacity in Kenya and TZ so as to target training to hotspot areas where training and resources are not available.	3.3.1 In Kenya, Nature Kenya liaised with similar initiatives outside the scope of this project supporting RRM capacity in Amboseli landscape of Kenya southern rangelands (Annex 24) training 108 rangers from 4 community conservancies and conservation organisations.	Monitor the operation of RRM teams more widely in KE and TZ and liaise with other providers to identify gaps and direct resources to support RRM capacity more widely.
<b>Output 4.</b> Results and lessons are synthesised, shared and promoted to raise NGO capacity for vulture conservation in Africa and to influence practice at national levels in Kenya and Tanzania and pan-African levels	(Insert agreed Output level indicators) By EOP: 4.1 Capacity for vulture conservation is increased through mentoring and sharing of experience between NGOs and joint fundraising including the formation of a BirdLife Vulture Forum and the foundation laid for an East African Poison Network.  4.2 Lessons learnt, project findings, and project outputs shared with BirdLife Partners at annual BirdLife Council of the African Partnership with around 100+ participants and with ornithologists at	(Report against the indicators on progress towards achieving the Output)  4.1 Capacity for vulture conservation has been increased through mentoring and sharing of experience between NGOs and joint fundraising including the production of a vulture conservation video, presentations and workshops linked to PAOC, BirdLife's Pan Africa Council Meeting and the World Congress and at APAC. A BirdLife Vulture Forum was established and the foundation has been laid for an East African Poison Network.  With regards to the target of developing and populating existing repositories of vulture conservation data with documented results and learnings from the project, the project has achieved the following: Work has begun on data collection of vulture numbers, species, locations in Kenya and Tanzania, to provide baseline data for the project, to inform vulture conservation models, and to contribute to the knowledge base on vultures in East Africa. Work has also begun to assess Makao WMA as a potential IBA and in Kenya, an updated assessment of IBAs in the project area was done. These data will, as appropriate, be shared through existing databases (World Bird and Biodiversity Database/WBDD) and through vulture conservation networks.  4.2 Nature Kenya shared lessons learned on community engagement in vulture conservation through a presentation done during the Pan-African Ornithological Conference (PAOC 16) (Annex 25). Nature Tanzania participated in the PAOC conference to gain knowledge about vulture conservation efforts and initiatives taking place in Africa, such as measures to combat poisoning belief-based killings of vultures.	

	<p>the Pan-African Ornithological Conference (PAOC 16) in 2022 with ca. 250 participants, as well as in at least 2 regional and international forums (e.g. BirdLife World Congress and 100 year anniversary in 2022)</p> <p>4.3 Lessons learnt, project findings and project outputs shared with relevant national and regional government authorities including wildlife department, conservancies and Wildlife Management Areas, livestock and agriculture, environment and tourism in Kenya and Tanzania as well as the Sectoral Committee responsible for wildlife and agriculture of the East African Community reaching 300 people.</p> <p>4.4 Lessons learnt, project findings and project outputs disseminated through internal BirdLife communication channels e.g. remote meetings and web-platforms and via external media channels e.g. Darwin newsletter, websites, social media, radio etc reaching 100,000 people in both countries and internationally.</p> <p>4.5 Lessons learnt, project findings and project outputs disseminated through celebrations for International Vulture Awareness Day in project countries reaching 2,000 people.</p> <p>4.6 Recommendations for improvement in policy and legislation</p>	<p>4.3 The BirdLife team began the process of framing an Africa policy review for Africa, including a section on policies in East Africa that most impact vulture conservation. The draft framework will need to be reviewed and completed. Nature Kenya packaged key recommendations towards informing Narok County policy processes like –Masai Mara Ecosystem Management Plan (Annex 26) and County Integrated Development Plan (Annex 27).</p> <p>4.4. The project is on target to meet this indicator by Year 3. BirdLife announced the award on its website <b>Big wins for conservation and livelihoods – thanks to UK’s Darwin Initiative</b> <a href="https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/09/08/big-wins-for-conservation-and-livelihoods-thanks-to-uks-darwin-initiative/">https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/09/08/big-wins-for-conservation-and-livelihoods-thanks-to-uks-darwin-initiative/</a> BirdLife International and has posted updates on its Facebook and Twitter pages. Nature Kenya shared lessons learned through different platforms i.e. YouTube, monthly newsletter, newspapers and radio. Lessons learnt, project findings and project outputs are have been disseminated through Nature Tanzania Newsletters, websites and Nature Tanzania social media (Facebook and Instagram).</p> <p>4.5 Nature Kenya has incorporated project outputs into activities that commemorate important global days like International Vulture Awareness Day. Nature Tanzania is preparing awareness materials such as posters, T-shirts, and banners to commemorate the International Vulture Awareness Day in September 2023.</p> <p>4.6 In Kenya, Nature Kenya provided important recommendations to Narok County through letters, with the aim of guiding the county’s policy formulation processes,</p>
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	<p>concerning vultures and wildlife poisoning provided to the Kenya Wildlife Service and to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, TZ. In KE, this will include suggestive amendment for substance controls/bans and support for development of National Vulture Conservation Action Plan.</p>	<p>including the Masai Mara Ecosystem Management Plan (Annex 26) and the County Integrated Development Plan (Annex 27)</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>4.1.1 Present project findings and lessons learned in national, regional, and relevant international forums. At least one webinar. Advocacy with MEAs, COP meetings, outreach to funders etc. Attendance and presentations by partners on their activities at the BirdLife Council for the African Partnership meeting and Pan African Ornithological Conference, discussions and presentations to the BirdLife Africa Vulture Conservation Forum (BAVCF) and publication on the HATCH learning platform.</p>	<p>(Report completed or progress on activities that contribute toward achieving this Output)</p> <p>Activity 4.1.1</p> <p>BirdLife International, Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania attended the the 15th Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC), hosted this year by BirdLife Zimbabwe. Nature Kenya presented project findings and lessons learned on community engagement in vulture conservation (Annex 25) at PAOC and at the African Protected Area Congress (Annex 28). Both partners participated in BirdLife Africa Vulture Conservation Forum (BAVCF), and the CMS Energy Task Force meetings which includes a strong focus on reducing threats to soaring birds from energy infrastructure. Nature Tanzania attended the (PAOC) to learn about vulture conservation activities and initiatives going on in Africa including anti-poisoning efforts and belief-based killings of vultures. Nature Tanzania is planning to present project findings, lesson learned in the planned 4th TAWIRI Scientific Conference scheduled from 6th to 8th December 2023. All partners participated in the BirdLife Council for the African Partnership meeting in the UK in September, alongside the</p>	<p>(Outline what will be carried out in the next period)</p> <p>The BirdLife Africa Vulture Conservation Forum will include updates on the project progress.</p> <p>A presentation to the BirdLife Development Team by the Preventing Extinctions Manager will support fundraising.</p> <p>We will make presentations to potential donors, range state governments and other stakeholders during year 2.</p> <p>Project partners will engage with national governments to discuss issues related to the project and/or to present the project and/or the issues of vulture conservation, poisoning and belief-based use</p>

	<p>BirdLife World Congress/100 Year Celebration. This included sharing progress and lessons learned from this and other vulture conservation projects. A case for support document, Helping Vultures Soar Again, was drafted and launched at the World Congress (Annex 43). A number of webinars and presentations were held for BirdLife and external stakeholders on African vulture conservation and educational video was produced. (1) Saving Africa's Vultures – YouTube Nature Kenya has utilized various means of internal communication channels such as YouTube ((20+ Nature Kenya-the EANHS - Videos   Facebook), monthly newsletter (News – Nature Kenya), and newspapers (Link) to share updates on the project. In addition, they have incorporated project outputs into activities that commemorate important global days like International Vulture Awareness Day. As a result of lessons generated by this initiative Nature Kenya developed policy recommendations at county level (Annex 27).</p>	
<p>Activity 4.1.2 Develop or populate existing repositories of vulture conservation data with documented results and learnings from the project</p>	<p>Activity 4.1.2 Work has begun on data collection of vulture numbers, species, locations in Kenya and Tanzania, to provide baseline data for the project, to inform vulture conservation models, and to contribute to the knowledge base on vultures in East Africa. Work has also begun to assess Makao WMA as a potential IBA and in Kenya, an updated assessment of IBAs in the project area was done. These data will, as appropriate, be shared through</p>	<p>Continue to collect data and share with appropriate stakeholders and upload to appropriate repositories, such as the World Bird and Biodiversity Database and African Poison Database</p>

	existing databases (World Bird and Biodiversity Database/WBDD) and through vulture conservation networks.	
<p>Activity</p> <p>4.1.3 Support the development of an East African Anti-Poisoning Network and the continued and improved operation of the African Wildlife Poisoning Database and associated working groups which have been supported by the Band Foundation.</p>	<p>Activity 4.1.3</p> <p>With funding from the Band Foundation, the project supported the early stages of the development of an East African Anti-Poisoning Network. Work continued to improve operation of the African Wildlife Poisoning Database and associated working groups.</p>	<p>BirdLife and project partners will continue to support the East African Anti-Poisoning Network and to engage with the African Wildlife Poisoning Database and associated working groups.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>4.2.1 Disseminate project updates and findings internally and via national and international media channels (newspapers, radio and newsletters). Big push on social media, development of articles and materials, press releases in regional and international media. National level actions as well.</p> <p>4.2.2 Work with NGOs, communities and government to integrate project outputs into celebrations of International Vulture Awareness Day (<a href="http://www.vultureday.org/">http://www.vultureday.org/</a>).</p>	<p>Activity 4.2</p> <p>BirdLife and project partners have published/broadcast project announcements and updates through websites, social media and through media announcements. This included an announcement of the award of this and other Darwin Initiative projects Big wins for conservation and livelihoods – thanks to UK’s Darwin Initiative - BirdLife International</p>	<p>Review project communications to ensure they are on target, at the correct level and presenting the correct messages.</p> <p>All project partners will continue to post project updates on websites and social media, and to publish stories on external media.</p> <p>Nature Tanzania will implement its vulture awareness communications activities in years 2 –3.</p> <p>We will capitalise on existing global days to amplify vulture conservation messaging.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>4.3.1 Develop policy recommendations on use of poisons to kill wildlife including suggestive amendment for substance controls/bans and support Kenya Wildlife service to draft and approve National Vulture Action Plan.</p> <p>4.3.2 Develop a brief review of gaps in existing legislation in Tanzania and develop recommendations for future policy and legislative change concerning</p>	<p>Activity 4.3.1</p> <p>Nature Kenya provided recommendations to Narok County through letters, with the aim of guiding the county's policy formulation processes, including the Masai Mara Ecosystem Management Plan (Annex</p>	<p>Advocacy to promote uptake of recommendations.</p> <p>Policy review in TZ will begin in year 2</p>

<p>vultures and wildlife poisoning alongside advocating for stricter control or banning of substances/chemicals used in wildlife poisoning.</p>	<p>26) and the County Integrated Development Plan (Annex 27)</p> <p>Policy review work in TZ is mostly focused on years 2 and 3</p>	
<p><b>Coordination Activities:</b></p> <p>Project management activities are not included as a Project Output. However, the following activities will take place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Project Steering Group composed of representatives from BirdLife International, Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania. Set up an Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group. An informal Advisory Group will be identified including BirdLife Head of Preventing Extinctions Programme and IUCN Vulture Specialist Group and a dialogue will be maintained with other raptor conservation groups (Peregrine Fund, Kenya Birds of Prey Trust, North Carolina Zoo). The group will not meet or be constituted formerly. However, we will keep them informed as to progress, invite them to events, share findings, and seek guidance as needed.</li> <li>• Staff recruited</li> <li>• Project Kick-Off Meeting with Steering Group and most members of the Project Implementation Team.</li> <li>• Semi-annual Steering Group meetings will be held in addition to more frequent subgroup meetings with the Project Manager and key members of the Project Implementation Team. Most meetings will be held virtually although key members of the project team will meet in-person to gather knowledge and experience.</li> <li>• Detailed workplans developed. Incorporated into Subcontracts with BirdLife.</li> <li>• Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be developed, sub team to meet regularly offline, plus 1 or more site visits.</li> <li>• Gender and Safeguarding Plan will be developed.</li> <li>• Risk assessment and management plan will be updated, as needed.</li> <li>• Project implementation</li> <li>• Project interim and final report.</li> </ul>	<p>(Report completed or progress on activities that contribute toward achieving this Output)</p> <p>The Project Steering Group met, particularly in the early stages of the project (2 meetings in May 2023) A separate M&amp;E group was not formerly established although the Steering Group and wider project team did discuss M&amp;E issues (challenges, any needed changes to the project indicators, evidence collection)</p> <p>A webinar on monitoring and evaluation within project management was developed and run by the Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning Officer for BirdLife. Members of the project team attended. However, the webinar and its materials need to be shared with additional team members and new staff.</p> <p>Contacts with the informal Advisory Group were positive and helpful, including collaboration on the provision of RRF training and the East Africa Anti-Poisoning Network.</p> <p>The project kick off was a series of meetings, including online meetings of BirdLife, Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania. These were followed by meetings with BirdLife and each project partner to develop workplans.</p>	<p>(Outline what will be carried out in the next period)</p> <p>Steering Group meetings will be held at least twice.</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation webinar and guidance materials will be shared with Steering Group members.</p> <p>A M&amp;E review will be conducted, based on the year 1 report, to identify any areas of weakness in the choice of indicators, means of verification, challenges in data collection, and achievement.</p> <p>The BCF Standard Indicators table will be reviewed, based on preliminary completion as part of the Year 1 Report.</p> <p>Project partners will continue to report quarterly to BirdLife and meet with the Project Lead individually.</p> <p>Project activities scheduled for year 2 will be implemented.</p> <p>Change requests will be submitted for staff changes.</p> <p>A budget projection will be completed by November, to allow time to submit any budget change requests.</p> <p>Half yearly and Annual reports will be submitted.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Term Mini Evaluation</li> <li>• End of Project Evaluation</li> </ul>	<p>Each partner held a series of in-person kick-off/induction meetings with project stakeholders.</p> <p>BirdLife Finance Officer visited Nature Tanzania to ensure that finance protocols were in place to manage the project and to provide training.</p> <p>The project steering group met in person and online frequently during the year. Steering Group meetings to discuss project progress, the development of Half Year and Annual Reports were held.</p> <p>A separate monitoring and evaluation plan was not developed as the Project Lead did not want to duplicate the logframe and workplans. However, there is a plan to review the monitoring and evaluation to ensure we will be able to report on the Outcomes and make any adaptations or improvements. This relates more widely to the Vulture Conservation Forum's work on monitoring and evaluation of the BirdLife Africa Vulture Strategy.</p> <p>A Gender and Safeguarding Plan was not developed. However, it was an agenda item in project work planning and review meetings. A webinar on integrating the Safeguarding Policies of BirdLife into projects was developed. Some members of the team attended the webinar, but it will be rolled out/repeated with other project team members and new staff in year 2.</p>	<p>The safeguarding webinar will be shared / adapted for a wider group of the project team.</p> <p>The Risk Register will be reviewed and updated, as needed.</p> <p>A mini mid-term evaluation will be completed by the project team following the half year report.</p>
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**Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)**

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> Integrated and evidence-based approaches reduce wildlife mortality from poisoning and improve livelihoods for communities living adjacent to protected areas in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words) Community livelihoods in the Mara-Serengeti are improved and pressure on wildlife (particularly vultures) reduced through addressing drivers of poisoning, including income losses, linked to human-wildlife conflict and belief based use</p>	<p><b>By End of Project (EOP):</b></p> <p>OI_1 ~50% of households (being 100 households/1200 people) in focal area (Narok County) KE are aware of and using alternative, non-lethal HWC mitigation methods e.g. new or improved bomas and better livestock management practices.</p> <p>20 additional households (240 people) in focal area report intention to install or reinforce bomas.</p> <p>OI_2 Livestock losses (in USD) are reduced (livelihoods improved) by 70% in KE for improved bomas compared to unimproved bomas and 20% where other preventive measures are in use.</p> <p>OI_3 Incidents of predator poisoning are reduced by 40% in project focal areas in KE from the baseline.</p> <p>OI_4 50% of sampled households in focal areas in KE and TZ report greater awareness of and appreciation for vultures and awareness of the risk of</p>	<p>OI_1 Report on number and % of households adopting alternative mitigation measures supported by the project, including description of methods used. <i>Baseline on primary mitigation methods used at beginning of project required.</i></p> <p>Survey to gather evidence of intention/wish to install bomas.</p> <p>OI_2 Economic surveys including livestock losses at the start and end of the project. <i>(Appropriate baseline measures to be assessed for focal areas, but average loss of \$1,870 per annum for unfortified bomas in similar location reported. Loss reduced to 492 USD per annum for fortified bomas. Typical loss to predation is +/- 14% of stock per year.</i></p> <p>OI-3 Baseline and EOP surveys on predator poisoning incidences and HWC plus African Wildlife Poisoning Database.</p> <p>OI-4 Questionnaires and surveys of samples of participants / recipients of education and awareness actions.</p>	<p>National and district governments, park authorities and communities continue to engage on addressing HWC in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem. <i>We think this will hold true based on support expressed, community engagement and success in other areas.</i></p> <p>It is possible to measure change in predator poisoning in a meaningful way not distorted by an increase in reporting. <i>The Poisoning Database is already proving a valuable tool, but gaps in data and increased reporting will skew data. A quantitative assessment may be a challenge over 3 years, but a qualitative assessment can help address the impact of increases in reporting.</i></p> <p>Current economic, social and health factors do not seriously impede progress. <i>The project is designed to increase resilience to economic and social changes. but economic shocks, such as COVID will be factored in.</i></p> <p>Reductions in livestock losses and increases in sustainable livelihoods, coupled with awareness actions lead to the behaviour change anticipated. <i>We expect this to hold true based on similar initiatives elsewhere but must be prepared to adapt.</i></p>

	<p>poison use, and 30% report reduced likelihood to use poison.</p> <p>OI_5 Information on the extent and drivers of belief-based use of vultures in Makao WMA, TZ is increased. A significant proportion (25%) of healers willing to consider using plant-based alternatives.</p> <p>OI_6 Monthly incomes of 200 people (1,380 household members) including 50% women in project areas in TZ are increased by 20% from the baseline as a result of sustainable livelihood development. (supported by a Community Revolving Fund – CRF).</p> <p>OI_7 30% Reduction in vulture (and other wildlife) deaths from poisoning incidents due to implementation of rapid response mechanisms (RRM) in focal areas in KE and TZ</p>	<p>OI-5 Belief-based use survey and analysis report (current state) and report on engagement in reduction or mitigations (future intention).</p> <p>OI-6 Economic surveys including income / wealth measures and wellbeing indicators at the start and end of the project. <i>(Baseline to be updated for focal area, but is ~\$22/mo/household, \$17 men, \$9 women. Household size is 6.9)</i></p> <p>OI-7 Poisoning incident reports where RRM is used compared to where it is not. <i>Poisoning data mortalities per incident for Kenya and TZ (~38 deaths (14 vultures) per incident versus mortalities per incident within RRM operation.</i></p> <p>OI-3 and 7 will contribute to and access the following: Data from the African Wildlife Poisoning Database (AWPD) and also from national records of poisoning incidents. Data from other conservation stakeholders working in the area.</p>	<p>Traditional healers in Makao WMA show willingness to consider using alternatives to animal parts. Plant alternative choices are not threatened species. <i>We think this will hold true based on success in Nigeria – but this is very much an information gathering and pilot action, so we must be prepared to adapt. Reach out to botanist experts/Red Lists to check threatened species.</i></p> <p>The CRF does not support activities damaging to the environment. <i>This will hold true as the Terms of Reference will include restrictions on what can be funded and the obligations of recipients.</i></p> <p>COVID 19 travel restrictions do not prevent the implementation of the project or distort results. <i>Adaptive management will prepare for and address this. The focus on in-country staff also reduces this risk. Measurement of indicators may need to factor in economic impacts.</i></p> <p>Project staff are aware of any emerging issues resulting from new, legal bushmeat markets in TZ. <i>Staff will monitor development of this.</i></p> <p>The project results in more capacity, interest and resources for sustainability and scaling up by multiple stakeholders in the region. <i>We think the training, provision of resources, awareness raising and dissemination will support this. Ongoing participation in AWPD. WhatsApp group, and the emerging East African Poisoning Network will help to mainstream this approach.</i></p>
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<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>1. Socio-economic drivers and impacts of wildlife poisoning in Mara-Serengeti are understood and inform a range of community-focused interventions.</p>	<p>1.1 Before the end of year 1 <b>Workshops</b> in each project area (2 in KE, 1 in TZ) attended by 50 community representatives e.g. local business owners and village chiefs (at least 50% female participants) identify problems faced by local communities and identify solutions that link sustainable livelihood practices and use of natural resources, specifically HWC and poisoning,</p> <p>1.2 Before the end of year 1, <b>Outreach surveys</b> conducted in ~50% of households in project areas (<b>KE</b>) (approx. 100 households/ 1200 people per site with at least 50% female participants) identify key drivers of wildlife poisoning specific to project areas to align with key socio-economic solutions identified in consultation workshops.</p> <p>1.3 Before the end of year 1, <b>Outreach surveys</b> conducted in Makao WMA, <b>TZ</b> with 4 stakeholder groups (traditional healers, community members, local government authorities and the private sector) covering 20% of the population within the WMA (~500 people), gather socio-economic data, attitudes towards wildlife and extent of and attitudes to belief-based use of vulture parts.</p> <p>1.4 By end of year 1, start of year 2, <b>Vulture conservation models</b> for each focal area (KE and TZ) are developed based on analysis of surveys and workshops.</p>	<p>1.1 Workshop reports (disaggregated by location, occupation and gender).</p> <p>1.2 Outreach survey reports (disaggregated by location, occupation and gender).</p> <p>1.3 Survey reports (disaggregated by location, stakeholder group and gender), to include a map of hotspot areas for belief-based use if feasible.</p> <p>1.4 Proposal document with models for socio-economic improvement and</p>	<p>Workshops and surveys gather information from a representative sample. <i>Workshops may be split into smaller groups to meet COVID restrictions and encourage participation of women and other groups.</i></p> <p>Government agencies in both countries continue willingness to cooperate and engage in addressing illegal wildlife poisoning. <i>We think this will hold true due to advocacy experience of national partners and govt. strategies</i></p> <p>Stakeholders continue willingness to engage in project activities and address drivers for wildlife poisoning. <i>We think this will hold true if project outputs are achieved.</i></p> <p>Traditional healers are willing to provide information on belief-based use. <i>(See earlier comment. Also, surveys will be conducted in such a way as to maintain trust – involve community members, anonymizing, using small groups or individual interviews, backed up by market surveys).</i></p>
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<p><b>Output 2.</b> Vulture conservation models, incorporating livelihood improvements are implemented in the focal areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya and Makao WMA, Tanzania.(directly benefitting ~1,700 people, reaching 15,000).</p>	<p>2.5 By end of yr 2, 300 community members (150 per area and at least 50% women) are trained/informed about <b>conservation friendly business development</b> in the Maasai Mara.</p> <p>2.6 By EOP, <b>20 predator-proof bomas</b> (representing 10 % of <i>bomas</i> or 15% of livestock owners) are erected in the 2 project focal areas in Narok County, Maasai Mara, Kenya. Promotion encourages an <b>additional 20</b> livestock owners to commit to installing bomas post project.</p> <p>2.7 By EOP 3, 80 households in the 2 project focal areas in Kenya receive advice on <b>non lethal predator mitigation / husbandry advice</b></p> <p>2.8 a. By end of year 2, <b>8 market outreach events</b> in 2 hotspot areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya and in Makao WMA, Tanzania, reaching out to &gt;50% of households in both sites (~15,000 people) to raise</p>	<p>2.1 Workshop report (disaggregated by location, occupation and gender), including details of priority business opportunities.</p> <p>2.2 Criteria for boma selection. Database of bomas receiving interventions, including location, criteria match evaluation, demographic information of household members, (inc. gender), description of boma improvement technique applied and incidents of livestock predation for each boma (occurring at night when livestock are inside boma).</p> <p>2.3 Reports of guidance provided and audience, including feedback.</p> <p>2.4 a. b. Reports from 8 market outreach events, 20 barazas, 5 village general assemblies and 20 school visits from both project sites. Reports will include location information, photos, signed participant list (inc. gender)</p>	<p>Local communities are receptive to engagement in non-lethal methods of predator control acknowledging that livelihood improvement methods can help alleviate losses from HWC. <i>We think this will hold true if project outputs are achieved.</i></p> <p>Communities provide accurate information on incidents of livestock predation. <i>We think this will hold true due to careful selection, training and prep. Will need to adjust for increasing in reporting.</i></p> <p>Bomas are the primary or preferred method for livestock protection in project areas. <i>We think this will hold true due to focal area selection.</i></p> <p>Boma designs will protect against attacks from all predator species. <i>We think this will hold true due to boma improvements matched to requirements</i></p> <p>Making communities more aware of vultures, wildlife and poisoning will cause people to reconsider attitudes and behaviours. <i>We think this will hold true based on experience</i></p>

	<p>awareness of value or vultures and stop/reduce wildlife poisoning.</p> <p>b. By EOP, <b>20 community/village level barazas and 5 village general assemblies</b> are held, reaching at least 500 people with key messages/topics for vulture conservation about their value and key threats.</p> <p>c. By EOP, 1000 copies of <b>vulture awareness information posters/leaflets</b> are shared with schools and posted in public areas etc. reaching ~10,000 people. <b>Radio broadcasts</b> reaching very large audience.</p> <p>2.5 By EOP, <b>&gt;50 traditional healers in Makao and their respective associations</b> are engaged and their awareness raised on the values of vultures, the need to conserve them and find alternatives to using vulture body parts that can be supported by the CRF e.g. using and farming plant-based alternatives.</p> <p>2.8 By the end of year 2 <b>business support training and advice</b> is provided to 200 people (60% women) from Makao WMA on sustainable local livelihoods that can be supported by the CRF, linked to biodiversity /environmental commitments. To include basic small business skills, examination of options: poultry, bees, micro renewables, crafts, and support to develop chosen options)</p> <p>2.9 a. By end of yr 2, <b>CRF operational procedures</b> are in place (at least</p>	<p>and curriculum details/key messages.</p> <p>c. Awareness poster/leaflets and children’s educational materials. Programme description and audience estimates for radio broadcasts.</p> <p>2.5 Workshop reports from traditional healer workshops (disaggregated by location and gender).</p> <p>2.6 Workshop reports from business support workshops (disaggregated by location and gender).</p>	<p>Training in business entrepreneurship will lead to community members implementing ideas and improving livelihoods in ways that do not negatively impact wildlife. <i>We think this will hold true based on previous experience, aided by an intention to maintain a relationship with the communities to support further intervention.</i></p> <p>Traditional healers show willingness to consider using alternatives to animal parts and/or adopting alternative livelihood practices. <i>See earlier comment</i></p> <p>Communities will participate in and sustain the CRF after project duration.  <i>We think this will hold true based on previous experience (e.g. in Lake Natron, TZ)</i></p>
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	<p>250 people including 50 men, 100 women, 70 youths and 30 traditional healers trained in effective utilization and management of the CRF and its link with/requirements for sustainable resource use.</p> <p>b. By EOP, a total of 200 people including 100 women, 40 men, 50 youths and 10 traditional healers <b>benefitted from the CRF</b>. Their monthly income will increase by 20% as a result of use of CRF and related advice and support..</p> <p>c. By EOP, the <b>CRF is in operation (in line with Terms of Ref) and remains in place</b> and intact beyond the project period. (Anticipate 70 people to receive support from the Fund each year after EOP)</p>	<p>2.7 a. Developed and approved procedures and guidelines for the CRF scheme; signed participant lists and training reports.</p> <p>b. Beneficiary reports (disaggregated by gender, age and occupation)</p> <p>c. Final report on CRF and ongoing plan of operation.</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.</b> The impact of poisoning incidents is mitigated by the set up, training and equipping of three Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) anti-poisoning groups in Kenya and Tanzania</p>	<p>3.4 <b>Two active anti-poisoning groups</b> (with &gt;25 members each) with 1 in each of the 2 hotspot areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya, and 100% of the existing <b>Makao WMA ranger group</b> (50) provided with a 2-day training workshop, response kits and handbooks on implementing the protocol.</p> <p>3.5 80 vulture champions/rangers/enforcement officers from community/conservancy rangers/Makao WMS are supplied with <b>equipment</b> to assist with implementation of Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) and are <b>trained</b> in the <b>protocol</b>.</p> <p>3.6 Three active anti-poisoning groups are operational by EOP, two in</p>	<p>3.1 Report on Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) for Kenya and report of pilot RRM in Tanzania. Map of area coverage of Rapid Response network including specific locations of hotspots, trainings and placement of response kits</p> <p>3.2 No. of issued certifications from 2-day Rapid Response training and list of people recruited into RRM/anti-poisoning groups.</p>	<p>Communities and Governments are willing to take action against wildlife poisoning and its drivers.</p> <p>Government authorities are willing to integrate Rapid Poison Response into their policies.</p> <p>Rapid Response Groups continue to reduce vulture and other wildlife deaths at poisoning incidents. <i>We think this will hold true as it works elsewhere, including in other parts of the project area.</i></p> <p>Communities and Governments are willing to consider and provide feedback on piloting alternative new approaches to vulture conservation e.g. VSZs.</p>

	Narok County, KE, one in Makao WMA, TZ.	3.3 Detail of group members, follow up and activities (including recording and attendance at poisoning events)	<i>We think this will hold true based on experience elsewhere</i>
<p><b>Output 4.</b> Results and lessons are synthesised, shared and promoted to raise NGO capacity for vulture conservation in Africa and to influence practice at national levels in Kenya and Tanzania and pan-African levels</p>	<p>By EOP:</p> <p>4.1 <b>Capacity for vulture conservation</b> is increased through mentoring and sharing of experience between NGOs and joint fundraising including the formation of a BirdLife Vulture Forum and the foundation laid for an East African Poison Network.</p> <p>4.2 <b>Lessons learnt</b>, project findings, and project outputs shared with BirdLife Partners at annual <b>BirdLife Council of the African Partnership</b> with around 100+ participants and with ornithologists at the <b>Pan-African Ornithological Conference (PAOC 16)</b> in 2022 with ca. 250 participants, as well as in at least 2 <b>regional and international forums</b> (e.g. <b>BirdLife World Congress</b> and 100 year anniversary in 2022)</p> <p>4.3 <b>Lessons learnt</b>, project findings and project outputs shared with relevant <b>national and regional government authorities</b> including wildlife department, conservancies and Wildlife Management Areas, livestock and agriculture, environment and tourism in Kenya and Tanzania as well as the Sectoral Committee responsible for wildlife and agriculture of the East African Community reaching 300 people.</p>	<p>4.1 Number of vulture initiatives in Tanzania (+2), number of staff in Nature Tanzania with vulture experience (+3). New vulture networks and structures functioning (+2).</p> <p>4.2 Presentations, audience and report of BirdLife Africa CAP meeting, from PAOC 16, from World Congress and other forums.</p> <p>4.3 Online repository with documented results and learnings from the project and distribution list.</p>	<p>Lessons learnt will result in rolling out of successful actions to more areas. <i>We think this will hold true as there is a growing audience for this material</i></p> <p>Lessons learnt are adaptable or applicable to other contexts across the continent and beyond. <i>We think this will hold true although adaptations will likely be needed</i></p> <p>BirdLife and Partners are in a position to influence government into adopting policies and laws to support vulture conservation. <i>We think this will hold true due to track record although we recognise that policy changes can take time and implementation (resources) will also be needed.</i></p>

	<p>4.4 <b>Lessons learnt</b>, project findings and project outputs disseminated through <b>internal BirdLife communication channels</b> e.g. remote meetings and web-platforms and via <b>external media channels</b> e.g. Darwin newsletter, websites, social media, radio etc reaching 100,000 people in both countries and internationally.</p> <p>4.5 <b>Lessons learnt</b>, project findings and project outputs disseminated through <b>celebrations for International Vulture Awareness Day</b> in project countries reaching 2,000 people.</p> <p>4.6 Recommendations for <b>improvement in policy and legislation</b> concerning vultures and wildlife poisoning provided to the Kenya Wildlife Service and to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, TZ. In KE, this will include suggestive amendment for substance controls/bans and support for development of <b>National Vulture Conservation Action Plan</b>.</p>	<p>4.4 Media report on coverage and reach.</p> <p>4.5 Report on Vulture Awareness Day</p> <p>Policy brief on legislation gaps concerning vultures and wildlife poisoning in Tanzania and suggested amendment for substance controls/bans on substances used for poisoning wildlife in Kenya. Kenya National Vulture Conservation Action Plan developed and approved,</p>	
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**Activities** (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

1.1.1 Conduct outreach surveys to target households in project areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya to obtain information on key drivers of wildlife poisoning and socioeconomic situation.

1.1.2 Use surveys and desk research to establish baselines for incidents of livestock predation and poisoning incidences in Maasai Mara, Kenya, and repeat surveys at end of project to measure impact. BirdLife and technical assistance consultant to advise on survey content, requirements to meet monitoring needs, other project needs and safeguarding as well as gender and cultural issues. National Partners to implement with project staff.

1.1.3 End of project surveys will be carried out with a sampling of participants. Details to be developed with advice from monitoring and evaluation consultant and relevant staff.

1.2.1 Conduct stakeholder surveys at the beginning of the project in Makao Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Tanzania on the belief-based use of vultures, believed to be the key driver of vulture poisoning in project area. NT to lead with input from BirdLife and Nigerian Conservation Foundation and BirdLife Zimbabwe (who have conducted similar surveys) and technical assistance on effective survey design from a consultant.

1.2.2 End of project surveys will be carried out with a sampling of participants. Details to be developed with advice from monitoring and evaluation consultant and relevant staff.

1.3.1 BirdLife and consultants (one for TZ and one for KE/or combine) advise on survey content, requirements to meet monitoring needs, other project needs and safeguarding as well as gender and cultural issues. BirdLife to support survey design and National Partners to implement with project staff.

1.3.2 Convene workshops in project areas in Kenya and Tanzania to promote discussion with key stakeholders to identify impacts of living with wildlife and to develop activities that the project can support to benefit communities and vultures.

1.4.1 Consolidate outputs from workshops and surveys in each project country to develop a site-specific model for priority anti-poisoning and vulture conservation interventions that has strong buy-in from communities. BirdLife to coordinate so that models are coherent and comparable, but National Partners to design.

1.5.1 Conduct baseline and follow up vulture population surveys in the project area. These will include nesting vulture census and road counts. Feed data into BirdLife Database and share with other interested parties. These will supplement existing monitoring undertaken by The Peregrine Fund and Kenya Birds of Prey Trust – adding to the body of data. This is particularly lacking in Tanzania.

1.5.2 Conduct an update assessment of the Important Bird Area/Key Biodiversity Area (IBAs/IBAs) in the focal area (both are IBAs) to assess status and update relevant species data.

1.6.1 Scope potential for establishing Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) that could be established e.g. focal areas that integrate anti-poisoning - RRM and other threat mitigation actions, thus creating safe havens for vultures.

1.6.2 Develop criteria for VSZs in East Africa during RRM workshops and training, and community engagement using criteria developed for southern Africa as an adaptive model. BirdLife Vulture Manager to draft this, in consultation with Partners and with advice from other regions and external experts. Establishment of VSZ, if feasible, would be outside the scope of this project.

2.1.1 Conduct focused entrepreneurial workshops in the project focal areas in the Maasai Mara to promote voluntary investment in livestock protection and supplemental businesses that are compatible with wildlife management.

This will include advice on herd size, daytime herd supervision, deterrents, high risk areas, best practices used elsewhere. It will also demonstrate cost benefits of boma strengthening (fully fortified and cheaper partially fortified option). Use local people as advocates.

2.2.1 Apply the criteria for boma selection, which include that the boma is in an area at high risk for predation and where the household is willing to contribute a share of the cost and labour to install it (to encourage ownership) and to make a commitment to not use poison illegally or inappropriately, and to participate in awareness raising/monitoring activities.

2.2.2 Identify 20 bomas, and implement improvement methods at selected boma sites in partnership with beneficiary household.

2.2.3 Provide training so that others can reproduce bomas.

2.2.4 Put in place boma effectiveness monitoring.

2.3.1 Organise awareness-raising market outreach events, radio broadcasts, and print communication materials to reach out to key stakeholders to reduce poisoning behaviours and influence negative attitudes towards wildlife and vultures. Using the project's vulture volunteers, village elders and popular local figures and the Masai Mara Wildlife Ambassadors.

2.4.1 Conduct workshops with traditional healers in Makao WMA, Tanzania to discuss how to best address the use of vulture parts for belief-based use, including potential alternatives e.g. plant-based products and livelihood alternatives. These may be eligible for CRF financing.

2.5.1 Conduct business support and entrepreneurship training workshops in Makao WMA to build communities' capacity (especially women) to develop sustainable local livelihoods, including those that could be supported by the CRF.

Topics will depend on the outcome of the earlier workshops and surveys, but will likely include livestock husbandry techniques to reduce predation (and increase incomes) plus small business ideas and planning e.g. poultry rearing, micro solar and cookstove enterprises, and local craft development.

2.6.1 Establish, through extensive awareness raising and consultation the Terms of Reference for a Community Revolving Fund (CRF) to support conservation friendly livelihoods activities with small loans at low interest.

2.6.2 Recruit and train the representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group.

2.6.3 Issue loans to support the creation of sustainable alternative livelihood initiatives such as development of plant based alternatives to vulture/wildlife parts in belief based practice, women's beadwork, poultry farming, production of biogas etc.

2.6.4 Ensure that the CRF loans also include clear guidance on the conservation commitments that go with the money (either to support a conservation focused business or to participate in an agreed set of conservation actions).

2.6.5 Maintain excellent records on loans and repayments, but also the impact on livelihoods.

2.6.6 Continue operation of the CRF after the project end.

3.1.1 Implement a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in 2 hotspots in Maasai Mara where coverage is currently poor through the establishment of local anti-poisoning groups.

3.1.2 Pilot a small-scale RRM in Makao WMA with an existing ranger group, for responding to wildlife poisoning with the provision of resources and support for implementation e.g. training, response kits, motorbikes, and handbooks.



3.2.1 In Kenya, provide RRM training to KWS law enforcement officers to strengthen the mechanism and mainstream into operational policies.

3.3.1 Liaise with other initiatives outside the scope of this project who are involved with training and support RRM capacity in Kenya and TZ so as to target training to hotspot areas where training and resources are not available.

4.1.1 Present project findings and lessons learned in national, regional, and relevant international forums. At least one webinar. Advocacy with MEAs, COP meetings, outreach to funders etc. Attendance and presentations by partners on their activities at the BirdLife Council for the African Partnership meeting and Pan African Ornithological Conference, discussions and presentations to the BirdLife Africa Vulture Conservation Forum (BAVCF) and publication on the HATCH learning platform.

4.1.2 Develop or populate existing repositories of vulture conservation data with documented results and learnings from the project

4.1.3 Support the development of an East African Anti-Poisoning Network and the continued and improved operation of the African Wildlife Poisoning Database and associated working groups which have been supported by the Band Foundation.

4.2.1 Disseminate project updates and findings internally and via national and international media channels (newspapers, radio and newsletters). Big push on social media, development of articles and materials, press releases in regional and international media. National level actions as well.

4.2.2 Work with NGOs, communities and government to integrate project outputs into celebrations of International Vulture Awareness Day (<http://www.vultureday.org/>).

4.3.1 Develop policy recommendations on use of poisons to kill wildlife including suggestive amendment for substance controls/bans and support Kenya Wildlife service to draft and approve National Vulture Action Plan.

4.3.2 Develop a brief review of gaps in existing legislation in Tanzania and develop recommendations for future policy and legislative change concerning vultures and wildlife poisoning alongside advocating for stricter control or banning of substances/chemicals used in wildlife poisoning.

#### **Coordination Activities:**

Project management activities are not included as a Project Output. However, the following activities will take place.

- Establishment of Project Steering Group composed of representatives from BirdLife International, Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania. Set up an Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group. An informal Advisory Group will be identified including BirdLife Head of Preventing Extinctions Programme and IUCN Vulture Specialist Group and a dialogue will be maintained with other raptor conservation groups (Peregrine Fund, Kenya Birds of Prey Trust, North Carolina Zoo). The group will not meet or be constituted formerly. However, we will keep them informed as to progress, invite them to events, share findings, and seek guidance as needed.
- Staff recruited
- Project Kick-Off Meeting with Steering Group and most members of the Project Implementation Team.
- Semi-annual Steering Group meetings will be held in addition to more frequent subgroup meetings with the Project Manager and key members of the Project Implementation Team. Most meetings will be held virtually although key members of the project team will meet in-person to gather

knowledge and experience.

- Detailed workplans developed. Incorporated into Subcontracts with BirdLife.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be developed, sub team to meet regularly offline, plus 1 or more site visits.
- Gender and Safeguarding Plan will be developed.
- Risk assessment and management plan will be updated, as needed.
- Project implementation
- Project interim and final report.
- Mid-Term Mini Evaluation
- End of Project Evaluation

### **Annex 3: Standard Indicators**

BirdLife has begun aligning its project indicators with the Standard Indicators. However, the work is not complete. When we have finished, we will update with the Year 1 totals and apply the Indicators for Year 2.


### Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark with an asterisk (\*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

#### 16.1.1. Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. People who attended training on CBD Reporting Standards	E.g. Number of officials from national Department of Environment who attended training on CBD Reporting Standards	People	Men	20			20	60
E.g. DI-C17	E.g. Articles published by members of the project team	E.g. Number of unique papers published in peer reviewed journals	Number	None	1			1	4

### Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Status & Trends	Report	Paul Gacheru, James Mutunga, Timothy Mwinami, Benard Ngoru, Linus Kariuki, Harron Wanjohi, Ronald Mulwa, James Mwang'ombe, Paul Matiku, 2022	Men	Kenyan	Nature Kenya	

### Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	Yes
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes. Done
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	Yes
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	