



# THE PEREGRINE FUND

## WORLD CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY

CONSERVING  
BIRDS OF PREY  
WORLDWIDE  
SINCE 1970

16<sup>th</sup> August 2018

### To Whom It May Concern

#### **Training of conservation rangers/scouts in the management of poisoning incidents of wildlife – Kenya and Tanzania September 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 – Swara Plains Acacia Camp Athi River**

Although the intentional killing of wildlife by means of poisoning is very difficult to prevent, the impact of individual poisoning events in terms of the losses of wildlife can be reduced through rapid response and immediate action to prevent further losses and contamination of the environment. At the same time as securing and stabilising a poisoning site, it is essential to collect appropriate evidence for possible prosecution should the perpetrators of such acts be apprehended. Both effective poison site management and the collection of samples from such incidents require particular knowledge, skills and equipment. It is also imperative that due consideration and training to ensure the safety of the individuals involved is ingrained in this process. Apart from reactive capability, knowledge of the drivers, methods and substances used in wildlife poisoning events also enable conservation and law enforcement staff on the ground to proactively be on the look-out for substances and possible perpetrators and, through effective legal intervention, prevent incidents where wildlife is poisoned.

### Proposal

With support from the Whitley Fund for Nature and our partners The Endangered Wildlife Trust, in partnership with The Hawk Conservancy Trust and the University of Reading (UK), we would like to offer our support to rangers, law enforcement staff and other interested parties with regard to the above by assisting with the training of key staff within relevant organisations to manage poisoning incidents as effectively as possible. Training covers both theoretical and practical aspects and is conducted on-site requiring at least three working days per training session. The following aspects are covered as per the standard protocols which have been drafted by the EWT and its partners over more than 20 years of addressing poisoning incidents in southern Africa:

An overview of wildlife poisoning and its impact on species

- Signs and symptoms of wildlife poisoning
- Information on chemicals commonly used
- Safety of staff and basic equipment required
- Scene investigation and collection of samples
- Assessment of mortalities (Species, age, sex, etc)

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- Legal process and relevant legislation
- Emergency treatment and evacuation of live specimens from the scene
- Sterilization of the scene to prevent further poisoning
- Data capture and dissemination
- Poisoning Intervention Planning (SOP's)

Our partners have since 2015 conducted such training to more than 1400 people in 8 countries across southern and East Africa and consider East Africa as a critically important area in this regard. Based on the information in our African Wildlife Poisoning database, wildlife poisoning is particularly pertinent in Kenya and Tanzania and we would be very keen to work with conservation-, law enforcement- and veterinary staff in these and other relevant areas through training and skills development to reduce the impact of this threat on wildlife. The following aspects are worth noting:

- **Training programme** - A copy of a standard training programme used during a training workshop is attached herewith for your information.
- **Training trainers** - In addition to the training of staff, we are also keen to identify individuals during training who are suitable candidates to train as trainers and who can use the training material we have to further increase capacity within their area of operation by training others in this regard.
- **Poisoning response kits** – while conducting training, we also conduct a needs assessment with regard to the number of poisoning response kits (PRK's) required by stakeholders in a particular area and then endeavour to find the resources to procure and issue said kits to relevant nodes where they can be used to good effect.
- **Funding** – the partnership continuously attempts to procure funding to cover some, if not all the costs, to present the training in target areas, but also can present training on invitation should institutions have the financial resources to cover the costs thereof themselves. We would be happy to discuss relevant costs with you depending in your needs and circumstances.

For your consideration and decision. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



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Vice President and Global Director for Conservation Strategy

