CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Conservation of the Black Harrier in South Africa

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): March, 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

The Black Harrier Project (BHP) represents a legitimate and largely successful attempt to deliver holistic, applied conservation benefits from a taxon specific, academic study. The BHP core team of raptor biologists have been drawn out of their focused 'comfort zone' into a more systemic appreciation of conservation issues and how to solve them. We, in turn, have gone some way to raising the profile of animals in general, and birds and raptors specifically, in the scheme of Fynbos ecology and conservation. While we may have overestimated our capacity to locate and monitor harrier nests on one hand, and to communicate with and enthuse conservators and landowners on the other, we HAVE substantially increased knowledge and understanding of the size, resource requirements and conservation status of the Black Harrier in the Cape Floristic Region (CFR), and made significant progress in establishing the harrier as an icon for lowland fynbos conservation, and demonstrating its value as an indicator of the conservation value of renosterveld fragments.

Some tasks we set ourselves – the formal establishment of a network of harrier monitors, the publication of papers on nesting habitat selection in harriers, the effects of habitat fragmentation on the distribution of harrier pairs,and the utility of harriers as biodiversity indicators in lowland renosterveld, and the production of an interpretive poster on harriers and fynbos habitats - are still in the process of completion, and will be finalized during the course of 2006.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

***Project Purpose**:* The conservation status of (i) the Black Harrier and (ii) lowland habitat fragments is improved by raising general awareness of key environmental issues in the CFR, generating real understanding of these issues through scientific research, and building capacity to sustain this initiative by formal education, and by involving and informing relevant elements of civil society.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	

Awareness: by the completion of the project, over 30% of landowners in the Swartland and Overberg regions, and all nature conservators (privated and public reserve managers) in the CFR, recognize the Black Harrier as a unique and valuable natural asset, integral to the proper management and conservation of lowland fynbos and renosterveld habitats	While we do not have accurate information on the total number of landowners actually reached, over 2000 harrier information brochures were produced and distributed to all conservators and all conservancy representatives in the CFR, and doubtless many brochures were passed on from them to landowners. In addition, all of the many landowners we dealt with in the course of fieldwork were given these brochures. We also gave many talks on the BHP to interest groups, conservancy meetings and at the Fynbos Forum in each funded year of the study, and published numerous semi-popular articles on aspects of the project in local newspapers, farming and birding periodicals, and produced and circulated a BHP newsletter. All this communication was geared towards raising awareness of harriers, and harrier and habitat conservation, among as broad a spectrum of the CFR community as possible.
Understanding: By the completion of the project, the relationship between the welfare of Black Harrier populations and the welfare of lowland habitat fragments is clarified (in terms of harrier surveys across all vegetation and land use types, and monitoring of harrier breeding biology at >150 active nests) and clearly communicated to all relevant land owners, conservators and land management agencies	We surveyed all areas of the CFR for nesting harriers, and developed a clear picture of habitat affiliations in the breeding component of the population. We located and monitored about 100 nests in the CFR, and another 30+ nests in Namaqualand and the Northern Cape. In the lowlands we located a small number (<10) nests in renosterveld or lowland fynbos fragments, and generated data around these sites in order to quantify the relationship between the presence or absence of breeding harriers and the net biodiversity value of habitat fragments. The analysis of these data is not yet complete, although preliminary assessments of the relevant botanical information by staff at CREW suggest that lowland fragments occupied by breeding harriers contain twice as many rare and endemic plant species as those not occupied by harriers. Once these analyses have been finalized, the resulting scientific paper will inform a Black Harrier poster, which will be distributed as widely around the CFR as possible, to all relevant target venues, organizations and individuals.
CAPACITY: By the completion of the project at least 20 landowners and 10 bird club members are actively involved in annual harrier surveys and monitoring, and at least 4 students have worked on aspects of Black Harrier biology as part of their post-graduate education	The project has perhaps performed weakest in this area. Three students worked on aspects of the research as part of their post-graduate education, while at least four others worked as volunteer field assistants. Bird club members proved very difficult to involve in the project, and only 10 emerged as temporary participants, and one or two might possibly contribute in future. Strangely, landowners were probably the easiest to develop as participants; 15 or so became involved at some stage, but only five or six are likely to fulfill a longer-term function. Meetings are planned for April/May 2006 to formally establish networks of observers for future monitoring, administered by CapeNature, and in

	collaboration with SANParks, the FitzPatrick Institute, and a small number of private individuals, hopefully including some landowners and bird club members.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.
On the awareness front, we had more success in reaching conservation-minded people than those that are indifferent or antagonistic to environmental issues. We were particularly successful in developing our own understanding of harrier biology and conservation. We developed some meaningful and lasting capacity. Overall, the project was successful in terms of achieving its intended objectives and performance indicators.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?
No.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs*: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: AWARENESS & CAPACITY: A comprehensive network is established of harrier-friendly landowners in the Swartland and Overberg regions, and of nature conservators throughout the CFR, and enlisted to do ongoing annual surveys and monitoring of Black Harrier nests in their respective areas.	This was achieved at an informal level, particularly among the managers of the conservancy strip along the West Coast between Koeberg NR and the West Coast National Park, in the De Hoop, De Mond and Overberg Test Range area on the south coast, and in the central Overberg among private owners of large renosterveld fragments. More structured monitoring groups are planned at least for the former two areas. Meetings are scheduled for April/May 2006 to formally establish networks of observers for future monitoring, administered by CapeNature, in collaboration with SANParks, the FitzPatrick Institute, and including a small number of private individuals, hopefully including some landowners and bird club members.
1.1. All nature conservators and conservancies in the CFR and at least 100 independent landowners in each of the Overberg and Swartland regions are AWARE of the nature and objectives of the Black Harrier Project by the completion of the first year of the study.	This was achieved by the production and distribution of >2000 BHP brochures.
1.2. All nature conservators in the CFR representative members of all conservancies and at least 25 independent landowners in each of the Overberg and Swartland regions are REGISTERED and INFORMED participants in the Black Harrier Project by the completion of the second year of the study.	'Registration' took the form of response to the BHP brochure as an interested party, or cooperation with fieldworkers. We received responses or some form of cooperation from the majority of formal conservators, relatively few conservancies, and about 30-40 private landowners across the CFR.

1.3. By the completion of the study, nature conservators in all regions of the CFR, representative members of >50% of conservancies, and at least 15 landowners in each of the Overberg and Swartland regions, are ACTIVELY INVOLVED in data collection for the Black Harrier Project	We obtained some form of participation from a number of conservators – from simply reporting harrier sightings, to detailing staff to survey areas for birds and nests, to active participation in surveying, mapping and monitoring nests. We got little, if any, buy-in from conservancies (probably because we did not target this community for specific attention), and we got about 15 landowners involved, and about 5-6 are committed to some form of active involvement in future.
Output 2: Understanding: A Black Harrier database is compiled and maintained, comprising information on all nest locations, annual breeding performance and habitat affiliations. This database is linked to the WCNCB State of Biodiversity database, and ultimately contributes to the work of the WNCB's Conservation Planning Unit	A database has been set up containing all harrier nest site and breeding success information for the period 2000-2005. This will be passed on to Kevin Shaw at CapeNature for inclusion in the SOB project, as well as for ongoing update and maintenance in years to come, once conditions and protocols for future monitoring and administration of the project have been finalized at meetings in April/May 2006.
2.1 By the end of the first year of the study, a field data collection protocol is established for distribution to all landowners, conservators, birders and biologists participating in Black Harrier survey and monitoring work.	Field data collection protocol established.
2.2 By the end of the first year of the study, a Black Harrier database is designed, including all information fields relevant to annual surveying and monitoring of harrier nests and any additional data required by the SOB	Database designed.
2.3 By the end of the second year of the study, the Black Harrier database includes the results of harrier surveys of at least 100 habitat fragements distributed across both the Overberg and Swartland regions	Database includes surveys of at least 100 habitat fragments.
2.4 By the completion of the study, the Black Harrier database includes information for at least 150 Black Harrier nest sites across the CFR	Database includes information for about 100 Black Harrier nests across the CFR.
Output 3: Understanding: A practical management document is produced that objectively evaluates the Black Harrier as an indicator species for renosterveld and lowland fynbos conservation, and stipulates on pro-harrier (and prohabitat) management practices. This document is distributed to	Data collection for this aspect of the project was completed only at the end of year 3. Analysis of these data is currently underway. Write-up of the results will be done by mid-year, and dissemination will take the form of a talk at the Fynbos Forum, a formal scientific paper, and a harriers and lowland habitat poster for distribution to conservators, conservancies and landowners.

all influential decision-makers in conservation planning in the Overberg and Swartland areas	
3.1 By the end of the second year of the project, priority areas for Black Harrier (and lowland habitat) conservation are identified, and corresponding landowners and management/development decision-makers are targeted for exposure to pro-harrier/habitat management literature (possibly in collaboration with the WCNCB Farming Incentives Working Group and the Conservation Farming Project)	Progress in this aspect was slowed by delays in data collection (see above). Once the relationship between harriers and habitat quality and management have been clarified, this information will inform recommendations to managing agencies re prioritizing of future conservation efforts, and possibly on further surveys of breeding harriers as a surrogate for laborious plant and small animal surveys to determine prime properties for stewardship etc.
3.2. By the completion of the study, the results of a quantitative assessment of the Black Harrier's suitability as a surrogate species (indicator/flagship) for lowland habitat conservation is published as a formal scientific paper	See above – paper to be completed by mid-year 2006.
3.3. By the completion of the study, the results of a quantitative assessment of the Black Harrier's suitability as a surrogate species (indicator/flagship) for lowland habitat conservation is summarized into a short booklet for distribution to relevant landowners and management or development decisionmakers. Any proharrier/pro-habitat management protocols will be consistent with those of the Farming Incentives and Conservation Farming initiatives, and communicated to all the targeted stakeholders of CAPE.	See above – poster (rather than booklet) to be produced as a by-product of final analysis and publication.
Output 4: Understanding: The process of identifying and evaluating possible indicator or flagship species for biodiversity monitoring and conservation in the CFR is refined.	The process of identifying and evaluating possible indicator or flagship species for biodiversity monitoring and conservation in the CFR has been refined.
4.1 By the end of the first year of the study, sufficient harrier data have been accumulated on which to base two-three desk-top honours or course masters level projects in 2003	Two honours level projects were completed within the BHP – one in 2004 and one in 2005/6.
4.2. By the end of the second year of the study, two-three honours or course masters level	See above

projects have been completed and submitted for publication on aspects of the harrier project, and sufficient additional data have been accumulated on which is base a further two-three desk-top honours or course masters level projects in 2004	
4.3 By the end of the third year of the study, a further two-three honours or course masters level projects have been completed and submitted for publication on aspects of the harrier project	See above
Output 5: Capacity: At least 5 post-graduate-level projects or theses are completed on aspects of the Black Harrier study, each producing at least one published formal scientific paper and one published semi popular article.	Only three post-graduate-level projects – including one MSc thesis - were completed on aspects of the BHP – producing a total of two published scientific papers , with two more in preparation, and four semi-popular articles.
5.1 By the completion of the study, at least 4 honours or course masters level projects have been completed and submitted for publication on aspects of the harrier project.	See above
5.2. By the completion of the study, at least 1 masters thesis project has been completed and submitted for publication on an aspect of the harrier project.	See above
Output 6: Capacity (sustainability): A sustainable framework for ongoing harrier study and monitoring is established, with data collection protocols in place. This includes the Cape Bird Club (and possibly other bird clubs within the region) as the administrative hub of the study, with bird club members and landowners as the main source of survey data. Academic input is provided by the Western Cape Raptor Research Programme (WCRRP), FitzPatrick Institute, UCT. The WCRRP brief is to monitor and evaluate the quality and validity of the Black Harrier data collected by public participation	Meetings will take place in April/May 2006 to finalize the establishment, composition and administration of this network. It is unlikely that the Cape Bird Club will be central to this process. A more likely scenario is that CapeNature will provide central housing and administration, with field expertise and future research project design and implementation guided by staff at the FitzPatrick Institute, and annual nest survey and monitoring done by staff from these organizations, supplemented by input from a small number of private landowners, birders, conservators that have emerged as champions of the project over the period 2003-2005. It is also possible that the EWT's Birds of Prey Working Group (BoPWG) might provide some central administrative function.
6.1. By the completion of the study, at least 10 CBC and/or other bird club members are actively involved in data collection for the Black Harrier Project.	See above
6.2.	See above. The project will probably be driven by Rob Simmons (FiztPatrick Institute) and Kevin

By the completion of the study, a suitable personality has been located for e.g. within the ranks of the CBC and/or another local bird club, to take on the management and administration of the civil-society-based harrier monitoring project.	Shaw and Peter Chadwick (CapeNature).
6.3. By the completion of the study, the research objectives and protocols for the future/ongoing civil society-based harrier monitoring project are clearly established with the CBC or another local bird club	See above – these objectives and protocols will be finalized at meetings in April/May 2006.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.
Of necessity, objectives and schedules changed with the progression of the project, and some outputs are still outstanding at the end of the funded life of the project. No additional funding is required to finish and deliver these outputs, and all indications are that they will be completed without further delay or problems. Overall, the project was a success in terms of output delivery.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

The key output not delivered was the shortfall in post-graduate student involvement. This had the effect of increasing the data analysis and write-up role of the BHP staff, and slowing down this process to the extent that some tasks remain uncompleted at the end of the funded life of the project. Ultimately, these tasks will be finished within six months of the end of the BHP, leaving no significant reduction in the overall impact of the project.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

N/A

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)
1. Be careful in selecting the units with which to measure progress and success of the project. For e.g. we used % of landowners, conservators etc made aware of or involved in the project as an indication of the success of our awareness and participation campaigns. This required us to know (a) how many of each grouping there were in the CFR, and (b) how many of these we had reached. Both are very difficult figures to obtain – (b) proved all but impossible.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)
2. Although we did OK in our awareness campaigning, we probably could have done much better by (a) networking more effectively with other CEPF/CAPE projects operating in the same region as ours, and (b) retaining some kind of professional help with 'marketing' the project.

3. While we achieved all our objectives in our specific area of training and expertise – science/ecology/ research/raptor biology – we struggled in the awareness and participation side of the project, and generally overestimated our ability to get civil society involved. In retrospect, while we learned a lot by getting involved in this sphere of conservation, we probably should have based our initial proposal more on our known strengths, and less in areas where we could not guarantee delivery. Where we had to juggle time allocations for fieldwork and data collection *vs* communication and public participation issues, we generally favoured the former.

4. In this kind of project, it is probably better to strive to develop a small network of self-driven observers and monitors, than to try to establish a broader net, consisting of more individuals, but without the essential self-sufficiency and motivation. One or two committed enthusiasts can gather more, more reliable, higher quality information, without constant pushing and encouragement.

5. Feedback is a very important ingredient in the recipe for an effective public participation project.

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
WWF-SA; Table Mountain Fund	A	SAR 77 000	For the period 2005/6

Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:

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

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

The project will continue in the future on two fronts: firstly with the further establishment and activities of the BHP monitoring network (as discussed above), and with further investigation of the Black Harrier as an indicator in lowland fynbos and renosterveld, on the back of the very

promising, preliminary publication to be produced on this issue by mid-year 2006. The former would involve collaboration with the EWT (BoPWG), CapeNature, SANParks and others, while the latter would involve some collaboration with NBI, SANBI and others. While there may some complementary funding for this work from these collaborators, the future of the BHP will definitely require additional, baseline funding of its own. Application for this funding will be made by Rob Simmons of the BHP in the near future.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I strongly recommend that a future request for baseline funding for ongoing work on the Black Harrier in the CFR be supported.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.
Yes **YES**
No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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