Date: Thursday, July 23

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Place: WWF, Room 1108

Title: Another continental vulture crisis: Africa’s vultures collapsing toward extinction

Summary: Vultures provide critical ecosystem services, yet populations of many vulture species have collapsed worldwide. In Africa, vultures face a range of threats, most significantly poisoning and trade in traditional medicines. In this talk, The Peregrine Fund’s Darcy Ogada will present the first estimates of a 30-year pan-African vulture decline, drawing on results of a collaborative study recently published in the journal *Conservation Letters.* Populations of eight species assessed had declined by an average of 62%; seven had declined by 80% or more over three generations. Of these, at least six appear to qualify for uplisting to Critically Endangered status by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These estimates indicate that declines have occurred on a scale comparable to those seen in Asia, where the ecological, economic, and human costs of vulture decreases are already documented. Dr. Ogada will discuss these trends and threats to vultures, with a focus on her work on vultures in northern Kenya.

Bio: Darcy Ogada is Assistant Director of Africa Programs at The Peregrine Fund. She conducted her PhD research on Mackinder’s eagle owls in Kenya. Most of her current work focuses on the ecology and conservation of vultures and owls, and she is particularly passionate about ending the scourge of wildlife poisoning. Based in central Kenya, she has worked for the Peregrine Fund’s Africa Programs since 2010. Dr. Ogada is co-editor of *Scopus*, East Africa’s peer-reviewed ornithological journal, and chairs the Raptor Working Group of Nature Kenya. She is also a member of the IUCN Vulture Specialist Group.

Photos:

* Ruppell’s vultures fighting at a carcass. Credit: T. de Roy.
* Darcy Ogada about to release Ruppell’s vulture with transmitter. Credit: S. Thomsett.
* Darcy Ogada at O’Lolokwe. Credit: Darcy Ogada.

Another continental vulture crisis: Africa's vultures collapsing toward extinction – slides

7/23/2015

Darcy Ogada

Vultures provide critical ecosystem services, yet populations of many vulture species have collapsed worldwide. In Africa, vultures face a range of threats, most significantly poisoning and trade in traditional medicines. In this talk, The Peregrine Fund’s Darcy Ogada will present the first estimates of a 30-year pan-African vulture decline, drawing on results of a collaborative study recently published in the journal Conservation Letters. Populations of eight species assessed had declined by an average of 62%; seven had declined by 80% or more over three generations. Of these, at least six appear to qualify for uplisting to Critically Endangered status by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These estimates indicate that declines have occurred on a scale comparable to those seen in Asia, where the ecological, economic, and human costs of vulture decreases are already documented. Dr. Ogada will discuss these trends and threats to vultures, with a focus on her work on vultures in northern Kenya.