

African-Eurasian vultures: Distribution, status, population and knowledge gaps

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Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*



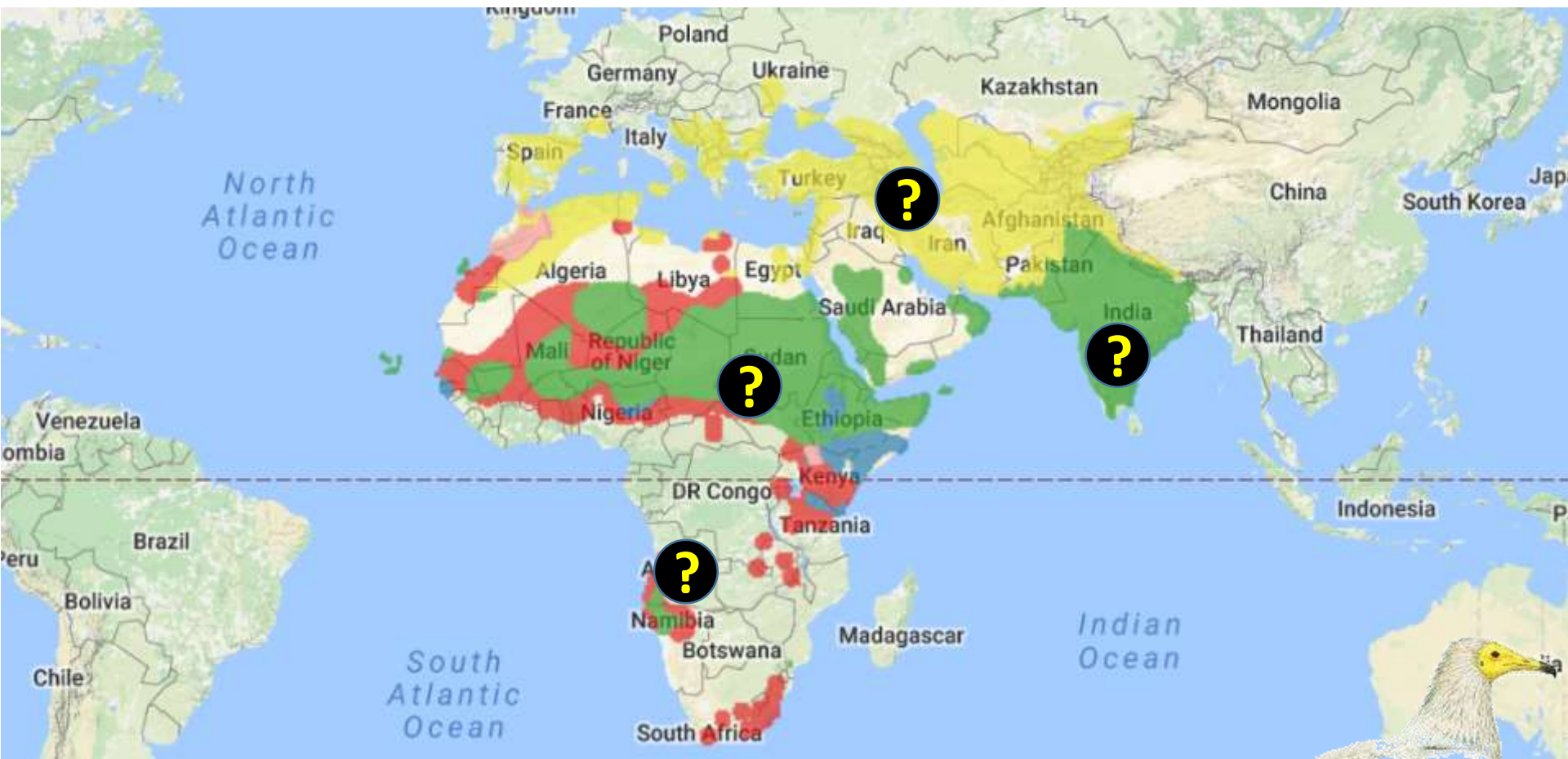
Population 2,000-10,000 (1,300-6,700 mature)

Decreasing

Key gaps in knowledge

- Status in main Asian range
- Persistence of small populations in Africa

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*



Population 18,000-57,000

Decreasing

New analysis in Flyway Action Plan (Balkans, Middle East, C Asia breeders)

Key gaps in knowledge:

- Status in Africa (esp Sahel belt) and residents in India; M East/C Asia.

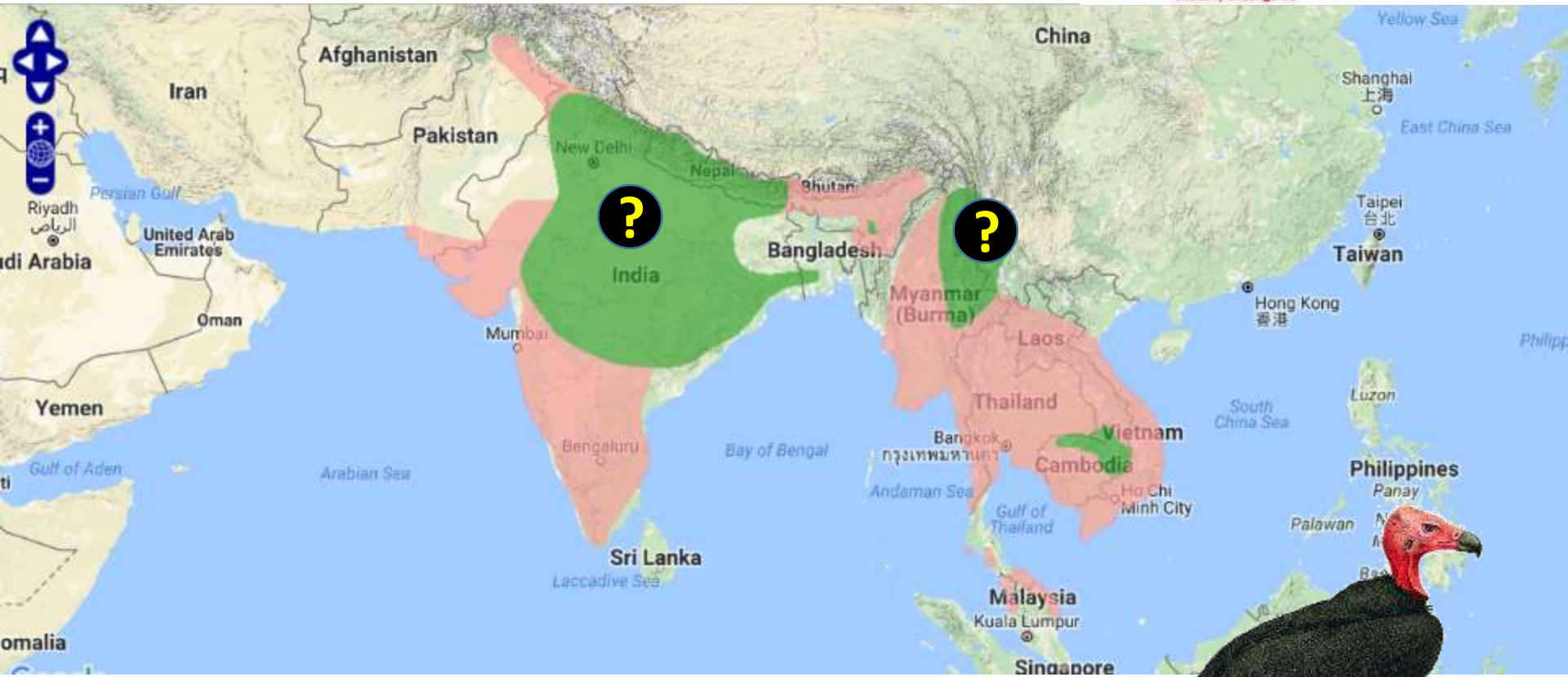


Vulture M&AP

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*



Critically Endangered



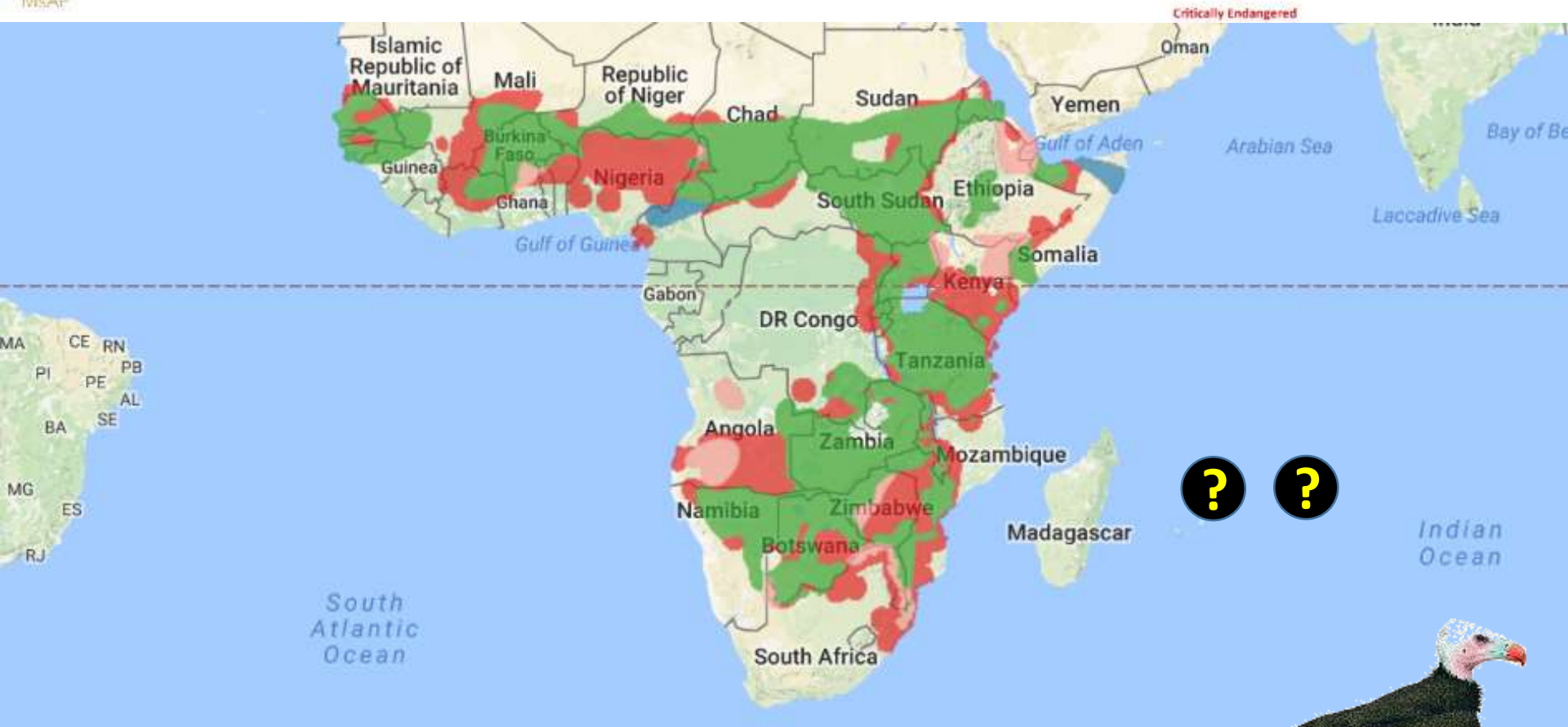
Population 3,500-15,000 (2,500-9,999 mature)

Decreasing or ?stabilising

Key gaps in knowledge

- More detailed range following declines
- Status in Myanmar/China
- Movements

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*



Population 5,500 (3,685 mature), decreasing (-96% over 3 generations)

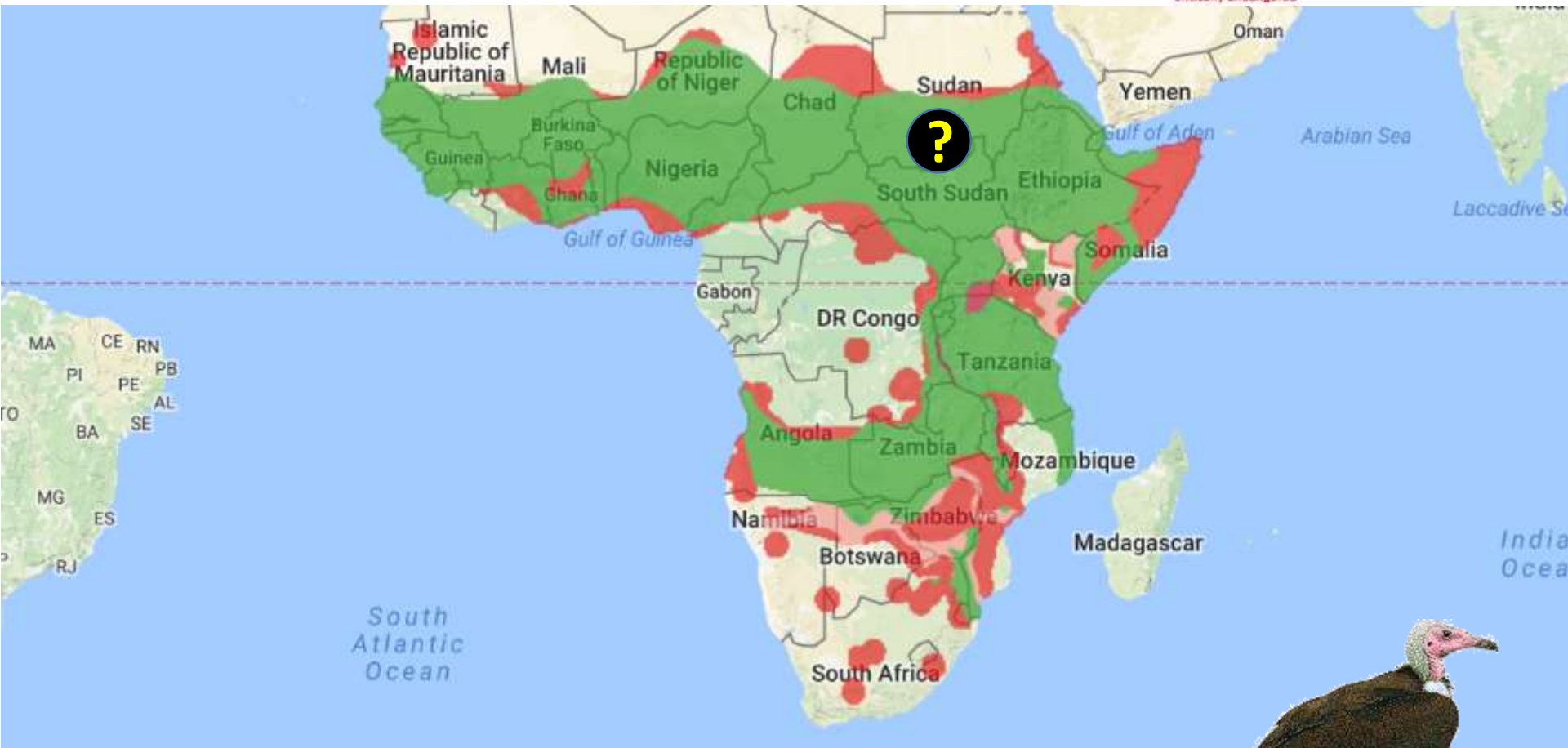
Note strong dependence on Protected Areas

Key gaps in knowledge:

- Ranging behaviour and understanding of fragmentation impacts
- Detailed distribution information



Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

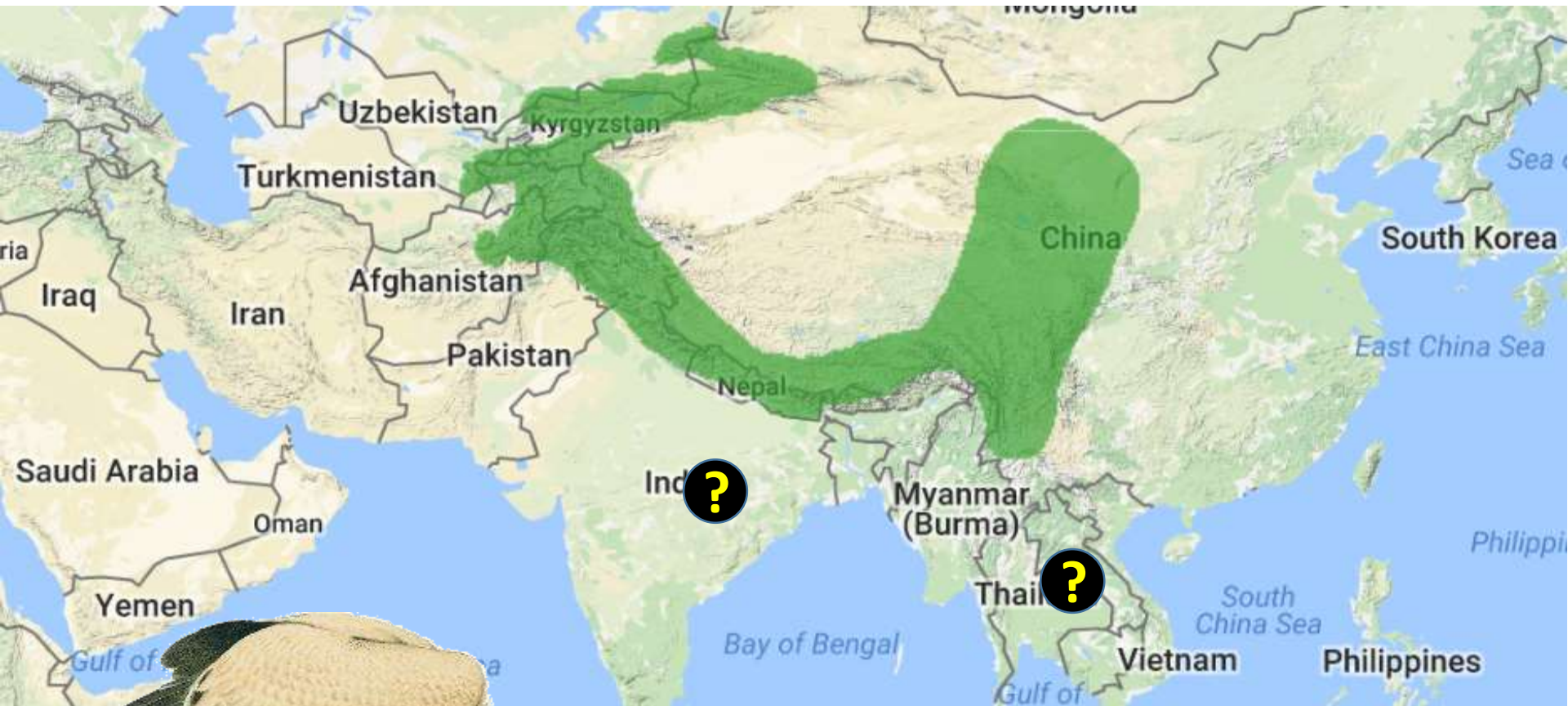


Population max 197,000, decreasing (-83% over 3 generations)

Key gaps in knowledge:

- Precise distribution and population, esp. in Sahel





Population 66,000-334,000, stable?/uncertain

Key knowledge gaps:

- Population and trends: currently very imprecise
- Movements into S and SE Asia: extent and numbers of birds

White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*

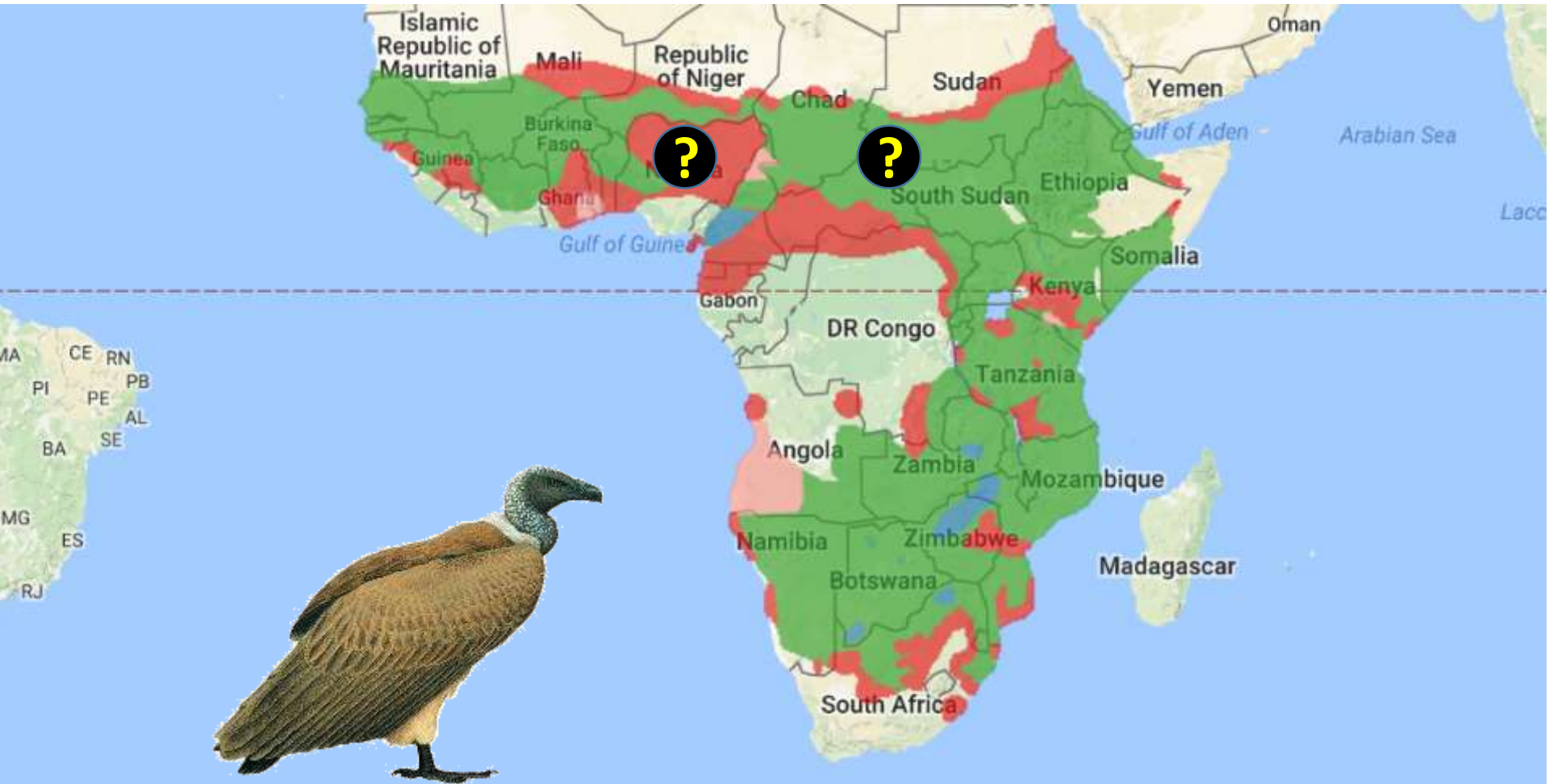


Population 3,500-15,000 (2,500-9,999 mature)

?stable (after crash)

Key knowledge gaps:

- Precise distribution following declines
- Status in Afghanistan and Iran



Population 270,000, decreasing (-90% over 3 generations)

Key gaps in knowledge:

- Precise distribution and population, esp. in Sahel and W Africa (?extinct in Nigeria)

Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*

Critically Endangered



Population 45,000, stable? (after crash)

Key knowledge gaps:

- Precise population and distribution following declines



Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*

Critically Endangered



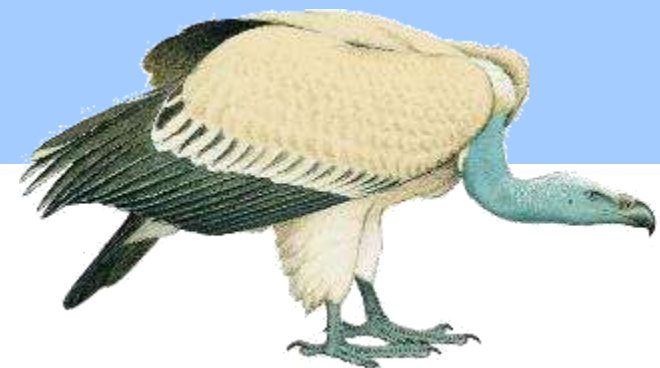
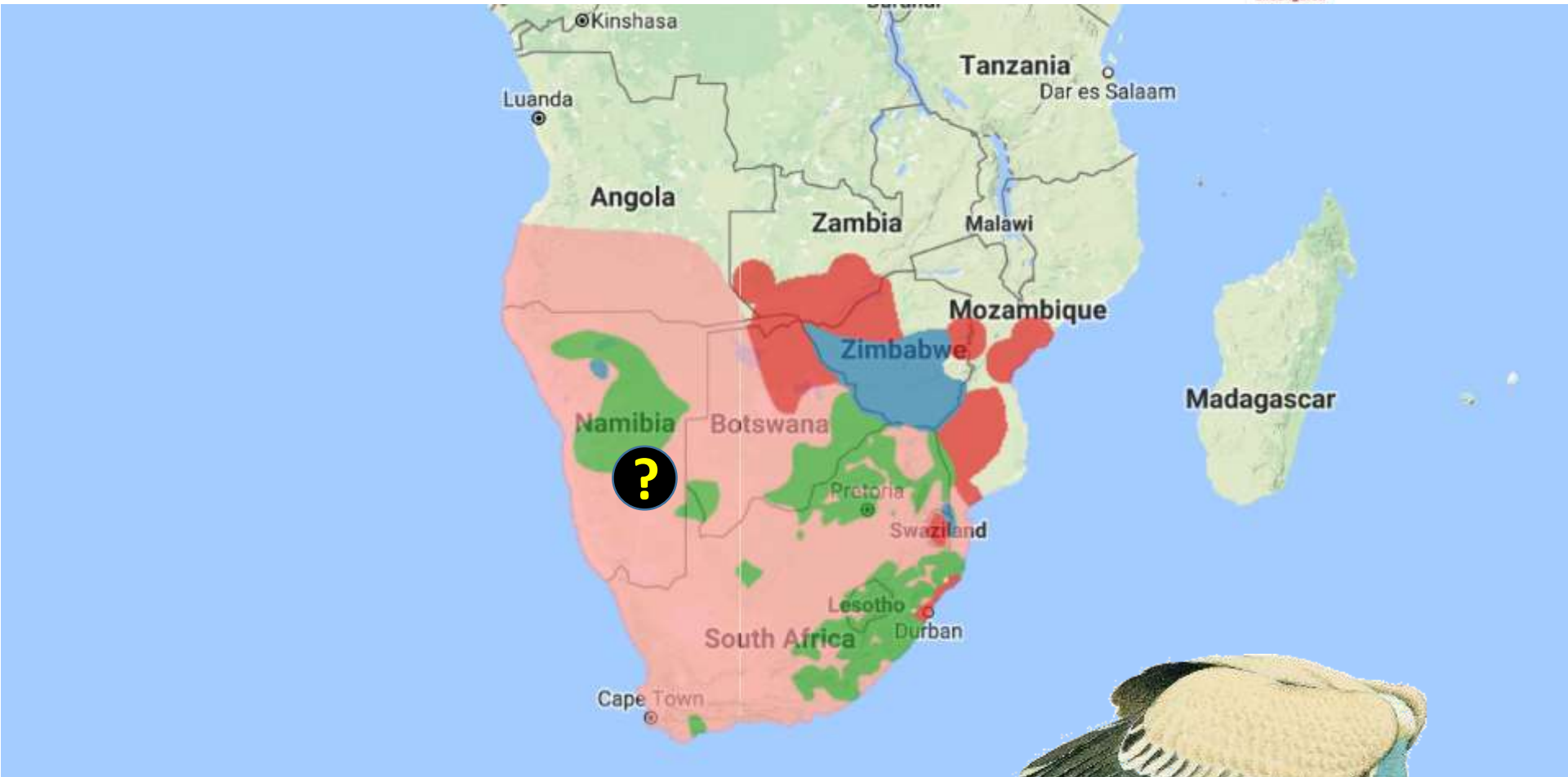
Population 1,500-3,750, decreasing or ?stable (after crash)

Key knowledge gaps:

- Precise distribution following declines
- Status in Myanmar

Cape Vulture *Gyps coprotheres*

Endangered

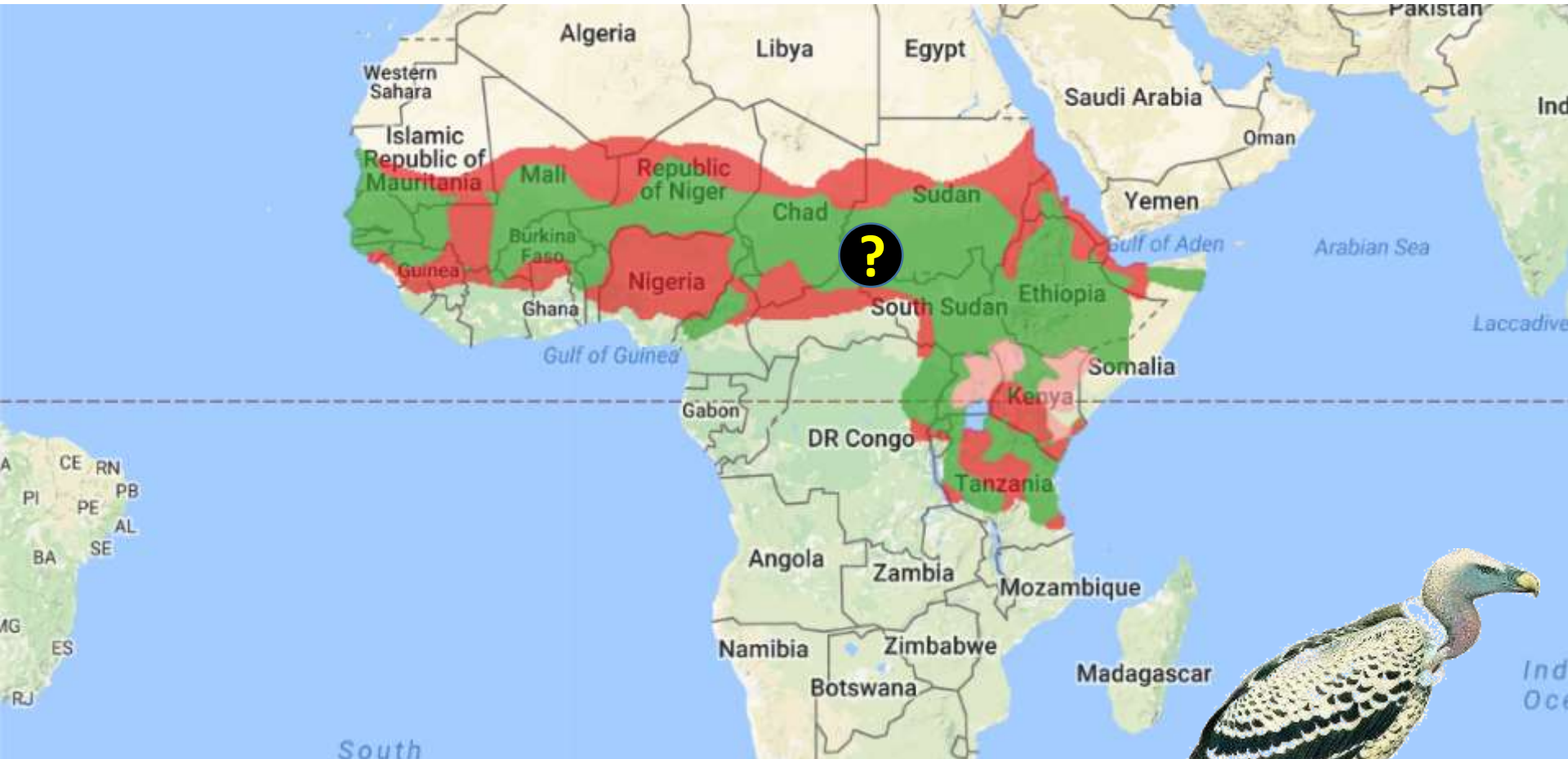


Population 4,700 pairs (9,400 mature ind.)

Stable or increasing (but -92% over 3 generations)

Key gaps in knowledge:

- Status of populations outside core areas in South Africa



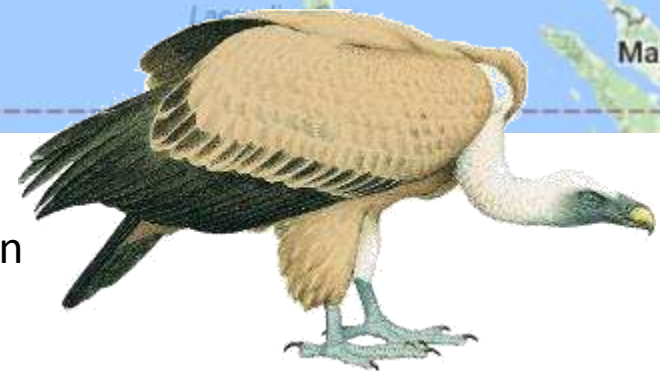
Population 22,000 individuals (estimated in 1992)

Decreasing (-97% over 3 generations)

Key gaps in knowledge:

- Precise distribution and population, esp. in Sahel
- Movements

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*



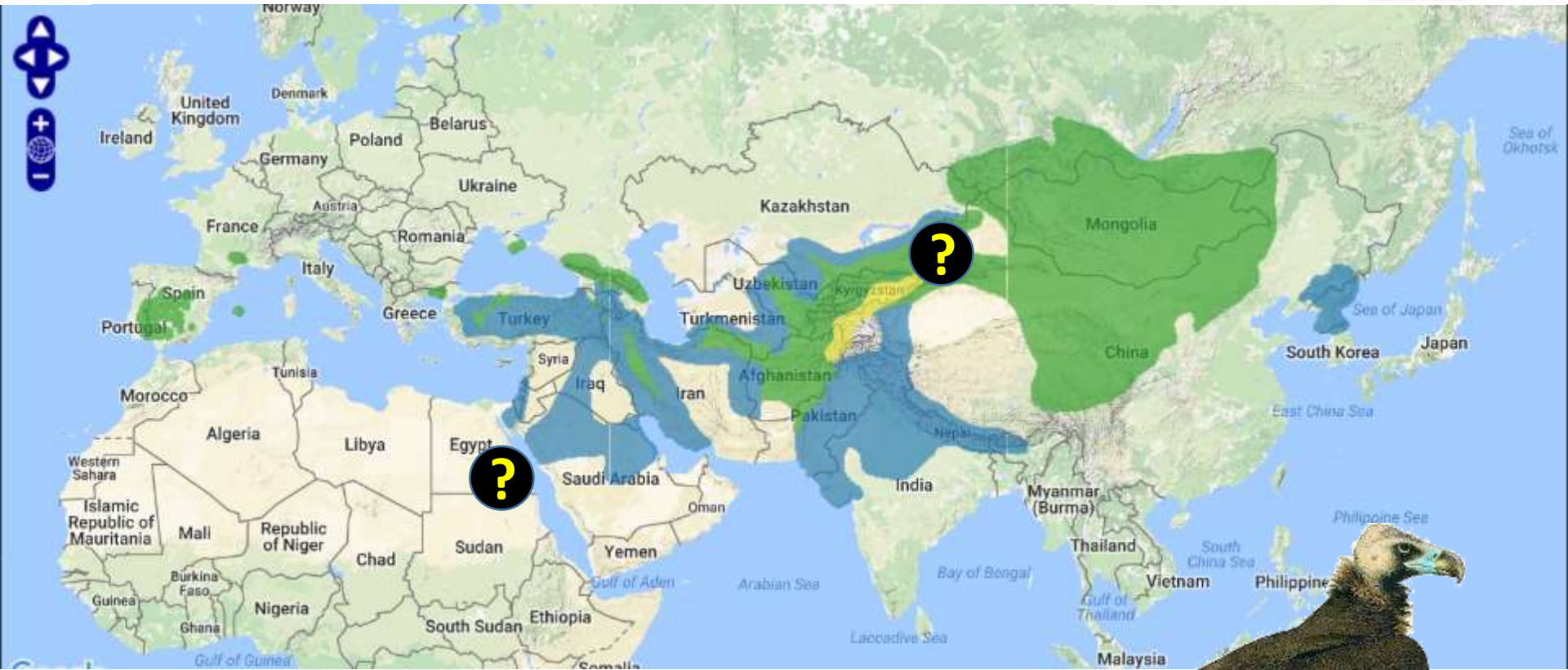
Population 80,000-120,000, increasing

A key species for generating optimism on vulture conservation

Key gaps in knowledge:

- Status in Middle East and C Asia
- Status and precise range of non-breeding birds in Africa, Asia and Middle East

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*



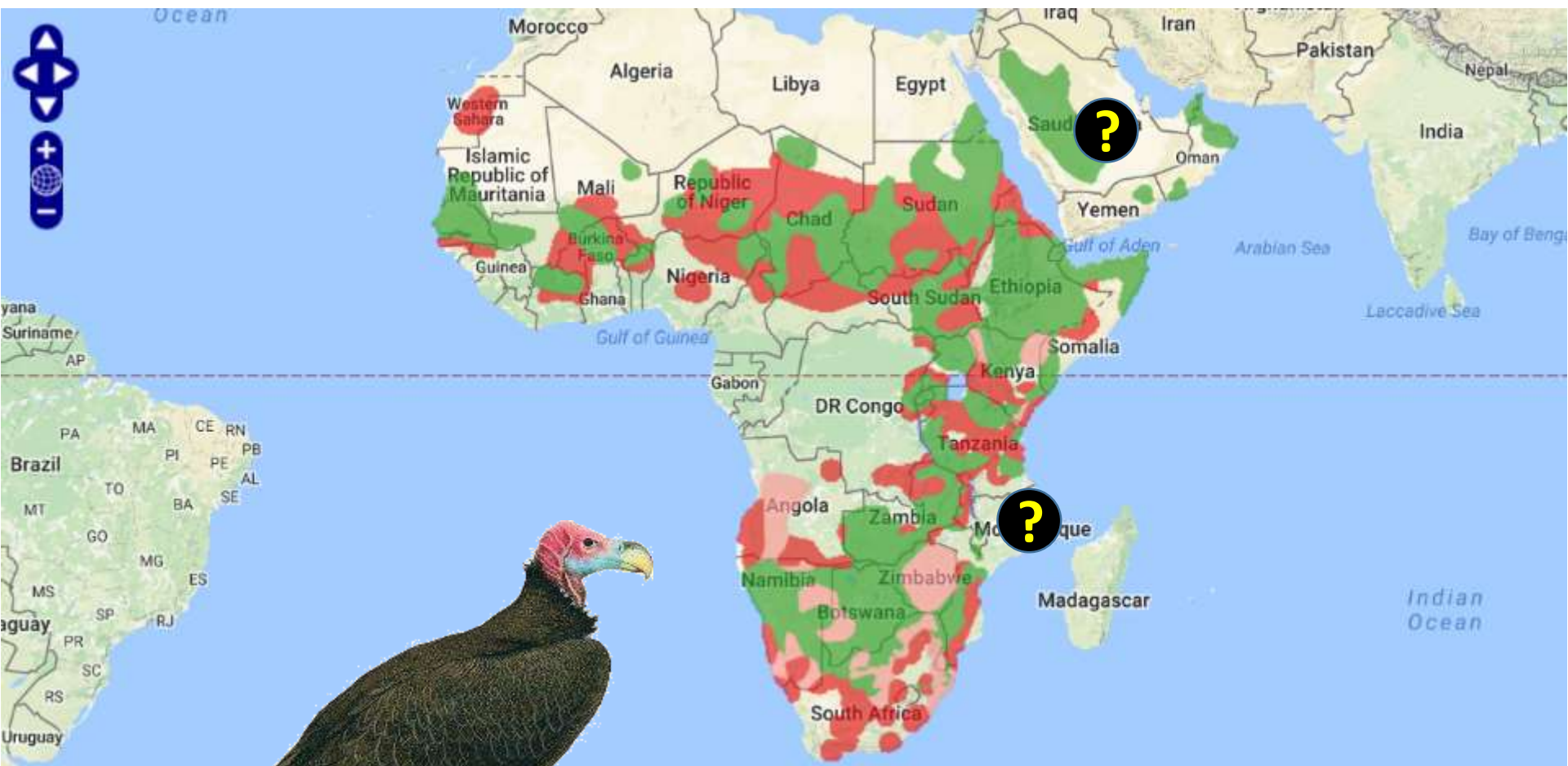
Population 15,600-21,000, stable/slightly increasing

Updates to come in Flyway Action Plan

Key knowledge gaps:

- Populations in Asia
- Status in Africa – not a regular visitor?

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*



Population 8,500 (estimated in 1992)
decreasing (-80% over 3 generations)

Key gaps in knowledge:

- Apparent gaps in distribution: genuine?
- Status in Middle East (known after ME w/s?)

Summary remarks

Asia and Middle East: 10 species, 5 endemic. Threat: 4 CR, 2 EN, 3 NT, 1 LC

- Catastrophic declines in S Asia (fastest of any bird ever recorded) but now stabilising at low level
- In SE Asia, same species had largely disappeared earlier, but relict populations persist centred on N Cambodia
- C Asian and Middle Eastern populations mostly faring better

Africa: 9 species, 5 endemic. Threat: 4 CR, 3 EN, 1 NT, 1 LC

- Another vulture crisis affecting previously abundant species
- Slower declines than in Asia, but ongoing and largely uncontrolled
- Vast areas with little or no recent data
- No monitoring baselines over most of range

Europe: 4 species, none endemic. Threat: 1 EN, 2 NT, 1 LC

- Some remarkable increases and successful reintroductions
- Declines especially in E Europe