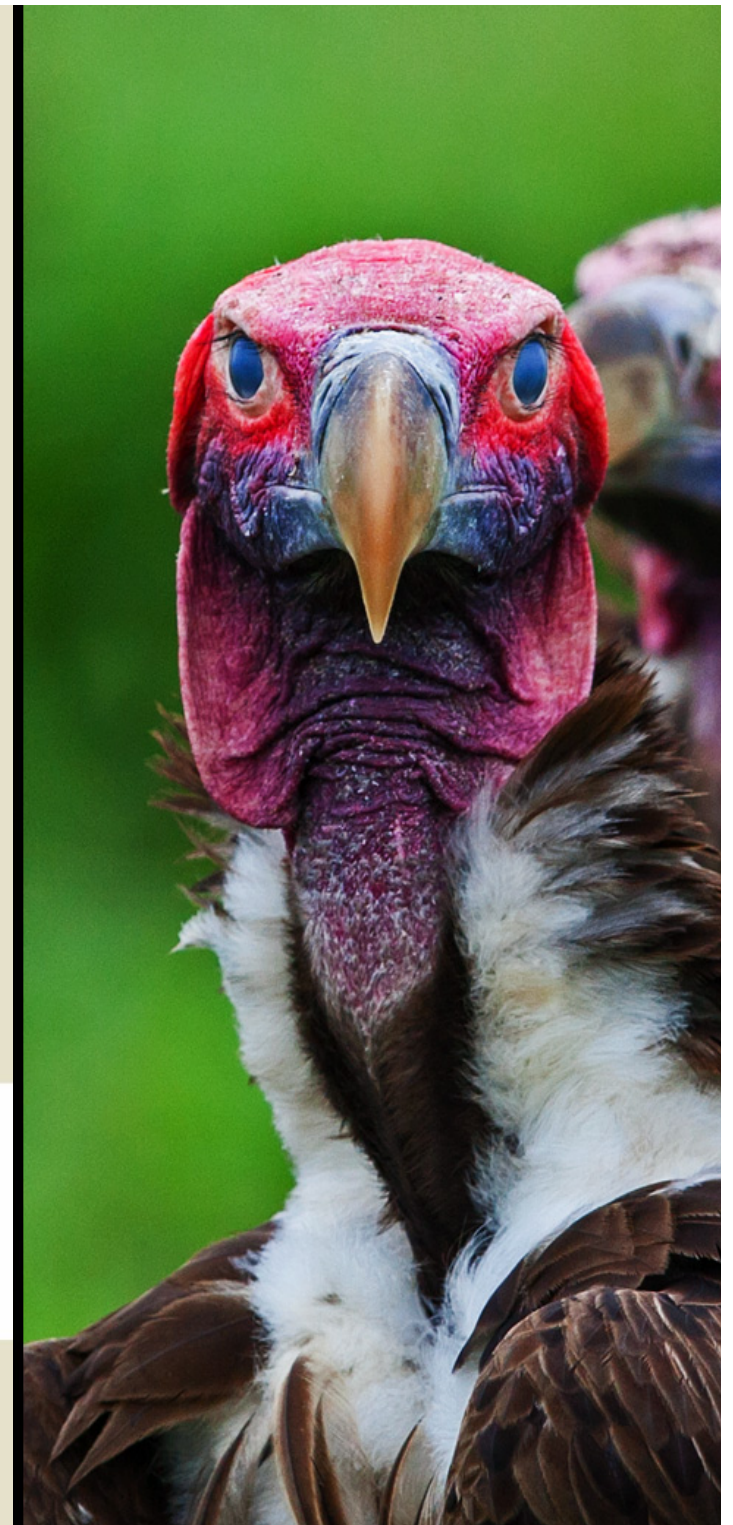


# Feedback on the Regional Workshops and Vulture MsAP Draft 1 – February 2017

André Botha  
Overarching Coordinator – Vulture Multi-species Action  
Plan

*Middle East Regional Workshop,  
Sharjah, UAE*

Vulture Multi-species





### African Regional Workshop

- Ngor Diarama Hotel, Dakar, Senegal
- 18-21 October 2016
- 54 Delegates



**Maasai Mara Game Reserve  
April 2012**

# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

## LETTER

### Another Continental Vulture Crisis: Africa's Vultures Collapsing toward Extinction

Darcy Ogada<sup>1</sup>, Phil Shaw<sup>2</sup>, Rene L. Beyers<sup>3</sup>, Ralph Buij<sup>4</sup>, Campbell Murn<sup>5</sup>, Jean Marc Thiollay<sup>6</sup>, Colin M. Beale<sup>7</sup>, Ricardo M. Holdo<sup>8</sup>, Derek Pomeroy<sup>9</sup>, Neil Baker<sup>10</sup>, Sonja C. Kruger<sup>11</sup>, Andre Botha<sup>12</sup>, Munir Z. Virani<sup>13</sup>, Ara Monadjem<sup>14</sup>, & Anthony R. E. Sinclair<sup>15</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho, 83709, USA and National Museums of Kenya

<sup>2</sup> School of Biology, University of St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9TH, UK and Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation Technology, P.O. Box 44, Kabale, Uganda

<sup>3</sup> Biodiversity Research Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

<sup>4</sup> Department of Animal Ecology, Alterra Wageningen University and Research Centre, Droevendaalsesteeg

<sup>5</sup> Hawk Conservancy Trust, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 8DY, UK and Centre for Wildlife Assessment and Conservation, University of Reading, Berkshire, RG6 6AS, UK

<sup>6</sup> Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France

<sup>7</sup> Department of Biology, University of York, Wentworth Way, York, UK

<sup>8</sup> Division of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA

<sup>9</sup> Department of Biological Sciences, Makerere University, P.O. Box 7298, Kampala, Uganda

<sup>10</sup> Tanzania Bird Atlas, P.O. Box 1605, Iringa, Tanzania

<sup>11</sup> Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife, P.O. Box 13053, Cascades, 3202, South Africa

<sup>12</sup> Endangered Wildlife Trust, Private Bag X11, Modderfontein, 1645, South Africa

<sup>13</sup> The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho, 83709, USA, and National Museums of Kenya

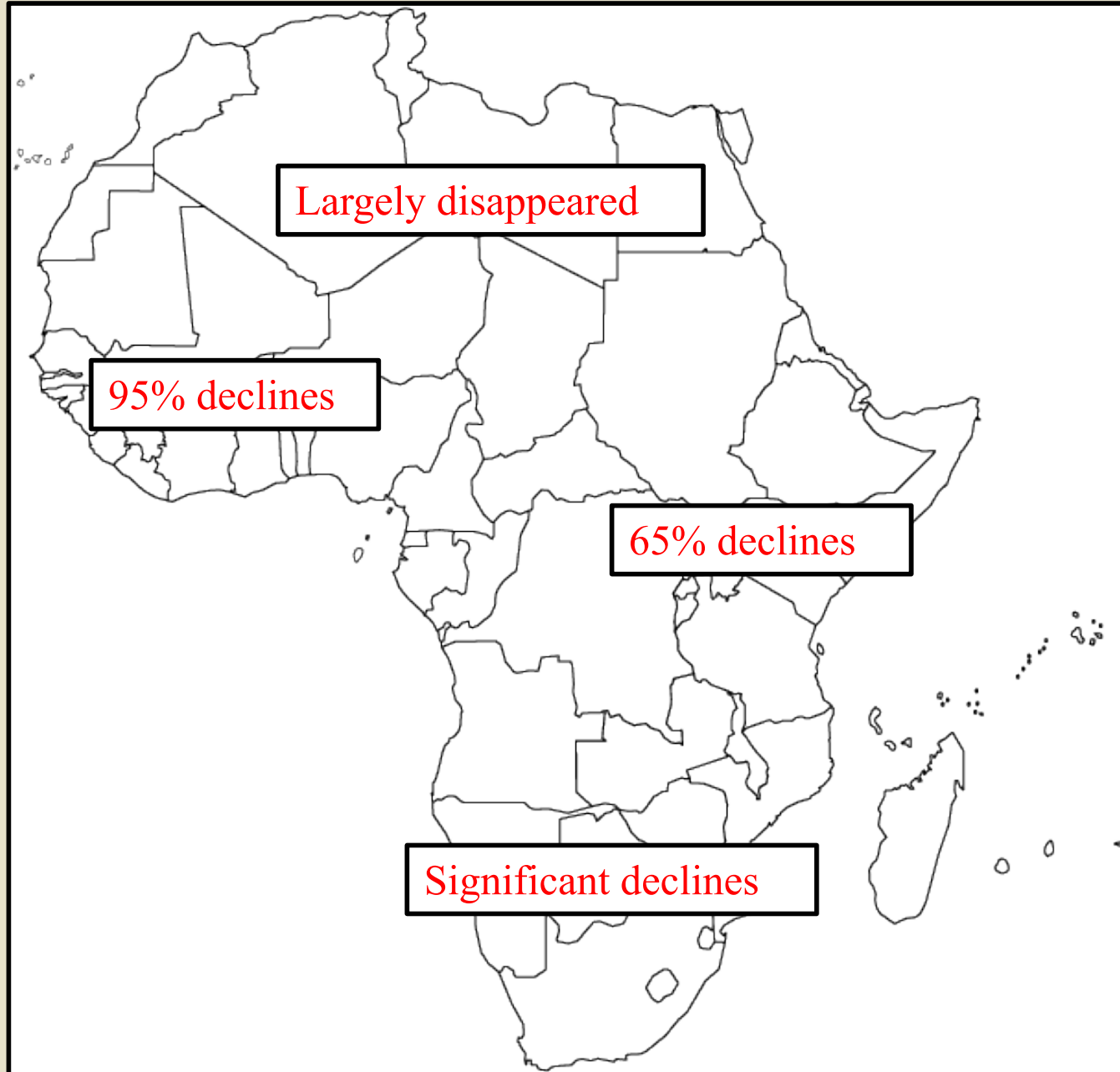
<sup>14</sup> Department of Biological Sciences, University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni, Swaziland

<sup>15</sup> Beaty Biodiversity Research Centre, University of British Columbia, 6270 University Boulevard, Vancouver

March/April 2016, Volume 9, Issue 2

Editor-in-Chief: Edward T. Game  
Senior Associate Editors: Mark W. Schwartz, Phillip Levin, and Harini Nagendra





# October 2015

## IUCN uplisted 6 species of African Vulture



7 out of 11 species are endangered or critically endangered  
one species is likely extinct





# Critically Endangered







# Endangered



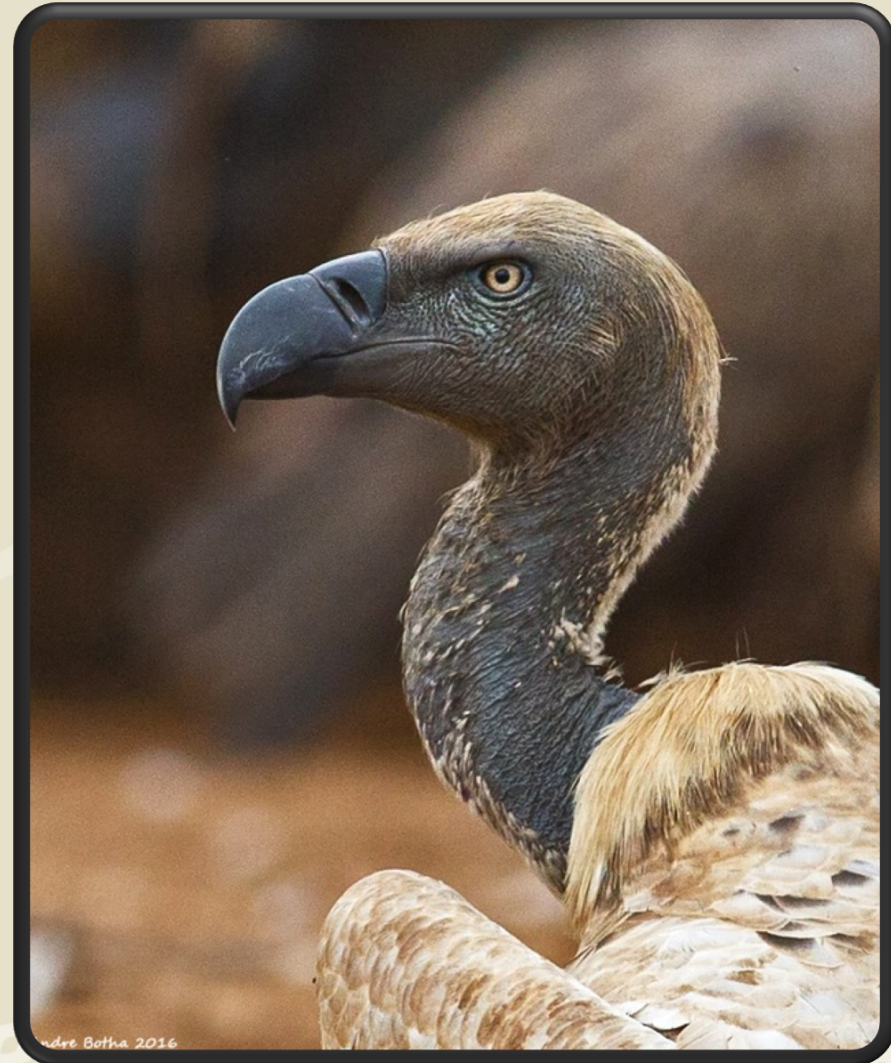


## **African Regional Workshop**

- 48 range states
- Representation from 21 states
- 54 delegates

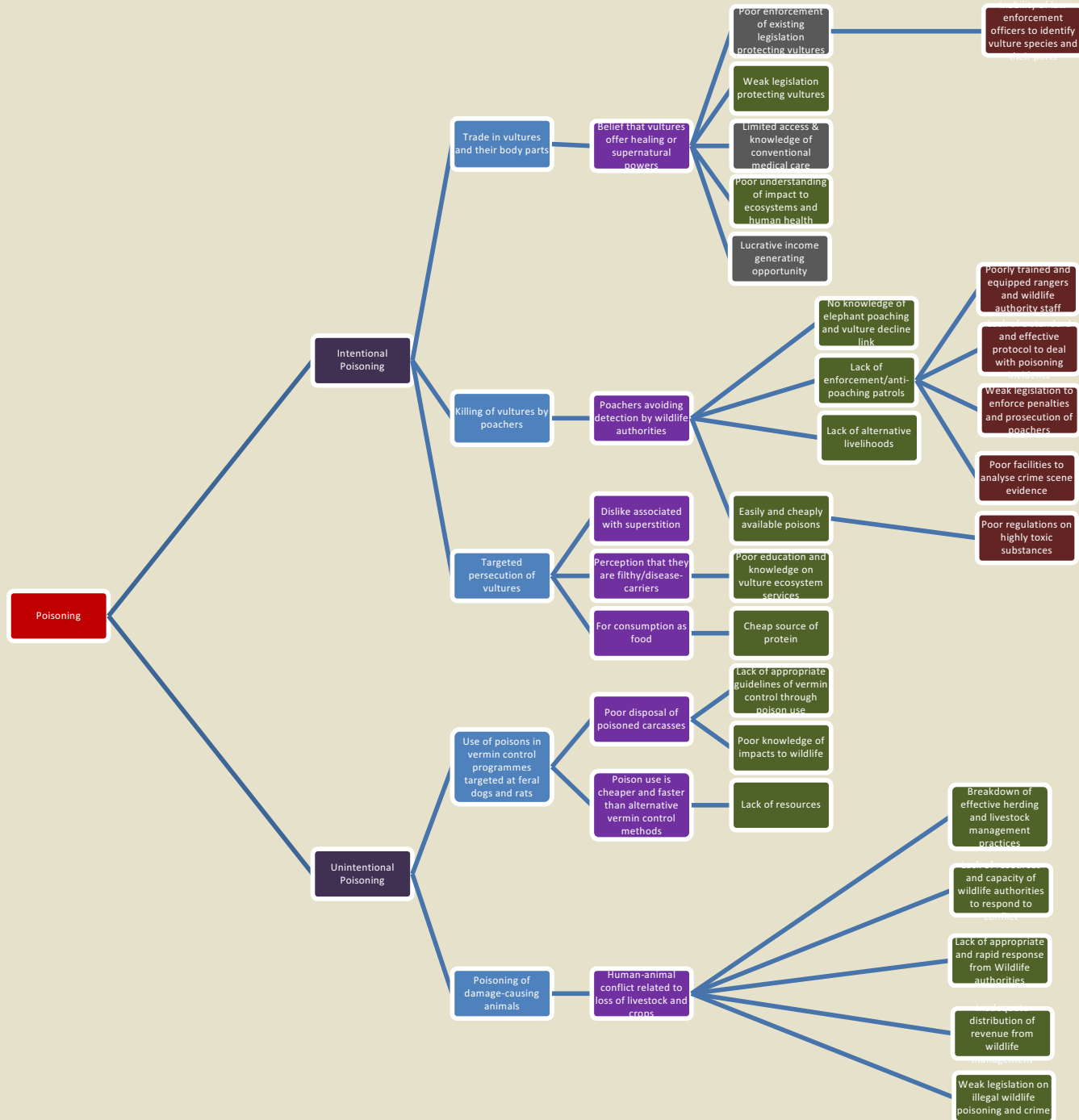
# Agenda

- **Day 1** - 20 Presentations – African Vultures & Threats
- **Day 2** - Background, Aim & Overall objectives
- **Day 2** - Ranking & categorization of threats
- **Day 3** - Results, Actions, Timescale & Responsibilities
- **Day 4**
  - Policies, Legislation
  - Action plans & Strategies
  - Gap areas – monitoring, research & conservation action
  - African regional coordination



## Main Threats Affecting All Species by Sub-region





## Ranking of threats based on discussions

1. Unintentional (Secondary) Poisoning
2. Targeted Vulture Poisoning
3. Electrocution on power poles
4. Habitat loss / Degradation & Fragmentation
5. Decline of food availability
6. Collisions with infrastructure & vehicles

## **Targeted vulture poisoning**

- Belief-based use
- Sentinel poaching
- Persecution
- Bush-meat/Culling

## **Unintentional (secondary) poisoning**

- Human-animal conflict
- Damage-causing animal control
- Rodent control
- Retaliatory killing

# What is Sentinel Poisoning?



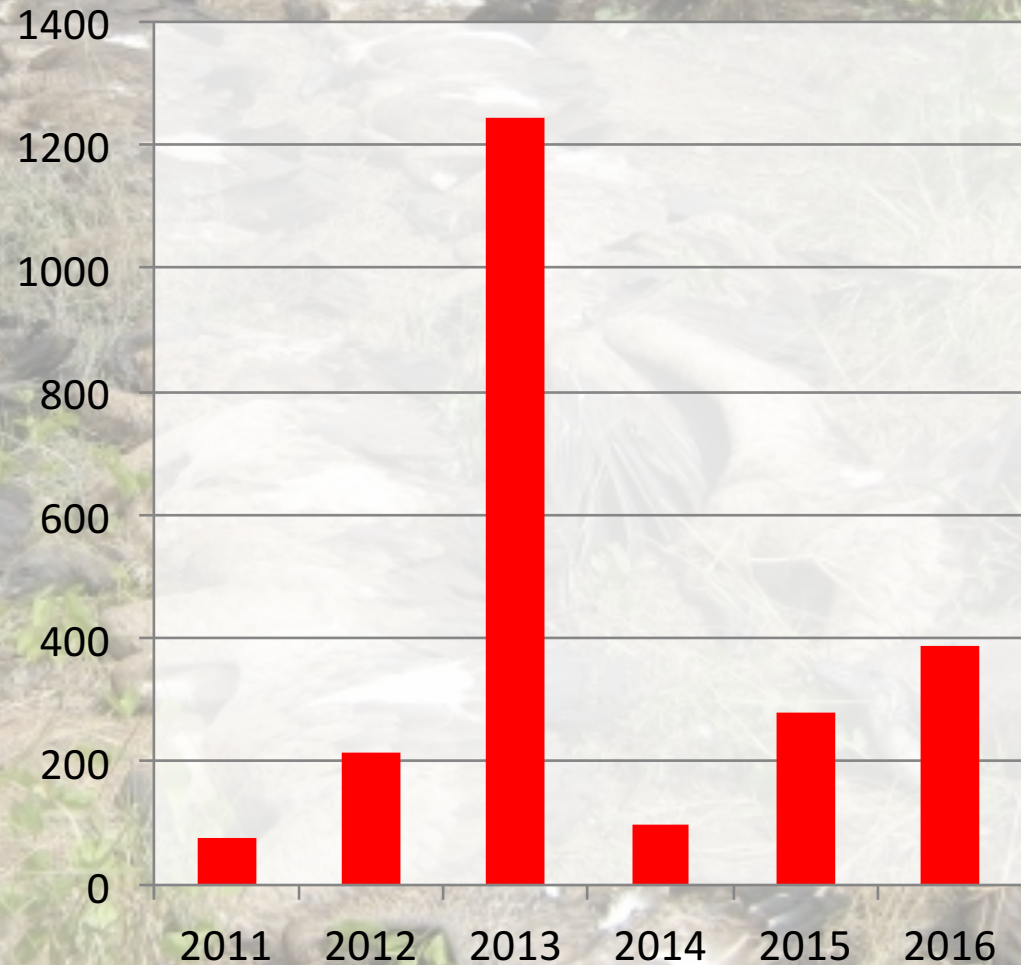


# Poaching-related Incidents & Losses (Southern Africa)

## Recent incidents in southern Africa:

- Mozambique – 76 birds (June 2011)
- Zimbabwe – 174 birds (August 2012)
- Mkhuze, South Africa – 41 birds (Nov 2012)
- Mozambique – 84 birds (May 2013)
- **Namibia – 400-500 birds June 2013**
- Zambia – 302 birds (Oct 2013)
- Zimbabwe – 219 birds (Oct 2013)
- Imfolozi, South Africa – 37 birds (Nov 2013)
- Hoedspruit, Limpopo – 65 birds (May 2015)
- Botswana – 40 birds (June 2015)
- Mozambique – 42 birds (July 2015)
- Kruger National Park, South Africa – 44 birds (September 2015)
- Letaba Ranch, South Africa – 22 birds (November 2015)
- Kruger National Park, South Africa – 110 birds (February 2016)
- Zambia – 106 birds (May 2016)
- Kruger National Park – 22 birds (May 2016)
- Botswana (August 2016) – 150 birds

## Vultures poisoned



## **Electrocution on power poles**

- Electrocution

## **Collisions with infrastructure & vehicles**

- Power-lines
- Communication towers
- Wind turbines
- Vehicle collisions
- Aircraft

- **Habitat loss / Degradation & Fragmentation**

- Loss of trees and cliffs
- Degredation of rangelands
- Human settlement expansion within historical foraging range
- Bush encroachment/afforestation

- **Decline of food availability**

- Reduced availability of livestock carcasses for vultures, commercial vs communal farming
- Decline of wild ungulates
- Improved carcass disposal, e.g. better regulations
- Competition with other scavengers
- Change in cultural practices
- Change in foraging patterns due to different spatial availability of food
- Changes in the use of feeding sites

# Priorities and gaps - monitoring and research

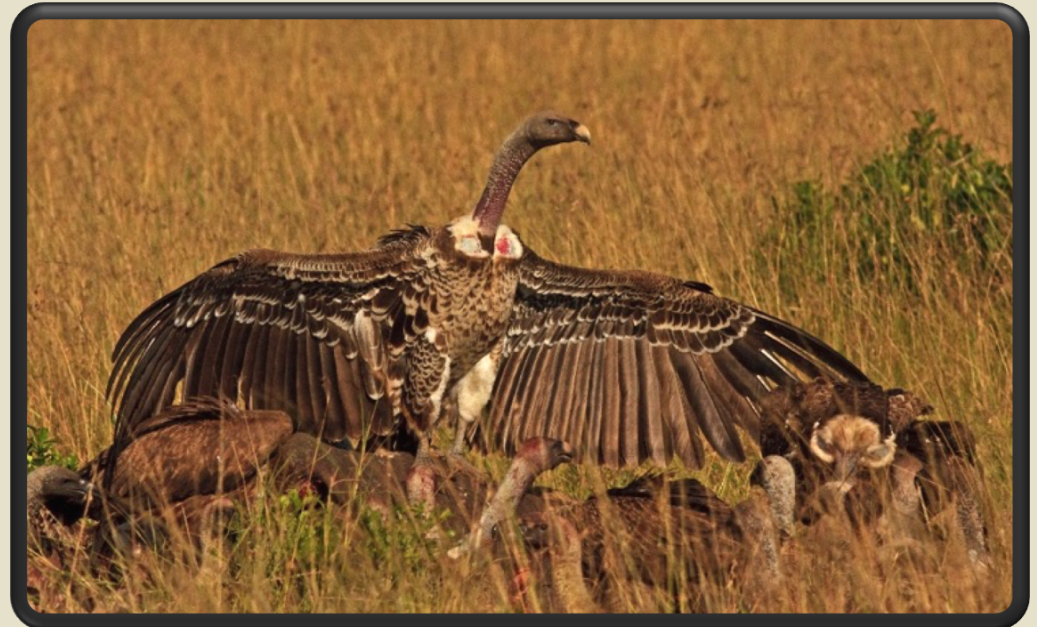


## Plenary discussion

- Suggested focal areas for further research and monitoring
- Gap areas for surveying and monitoring
- Threat assessment and intervention
- Data capture and sharing



- **Group discussions**
- Coordination and implementation in Africa
- Standardisation of monitoring methods and pooling of data



## Lessons learnt from the Week

- First day – 20 presentations that provided good background and set the scene – open to all PAOC delegates
- Preparation and proper briefing of key role-players
- Important to encourage delegates to look at matters from an overall perspective
- Good contact established with a substantial group of delegates from West Africa – gap in Kenya, 2012
- Ditto for North Africa, but to a lesser degree
- Good to see at least some government representation
- Still massive gaps in knowledge and geographical cover
- Challenge is bigger than ever and requires immediate action in terms of most pertinent threats



Vulture Multi-species Action Plan



# **Vulture Multi-species Action Plan European Regional Workshop**

**Monfrague National Park, Extremadura, Spain  
26-28 October 2016**

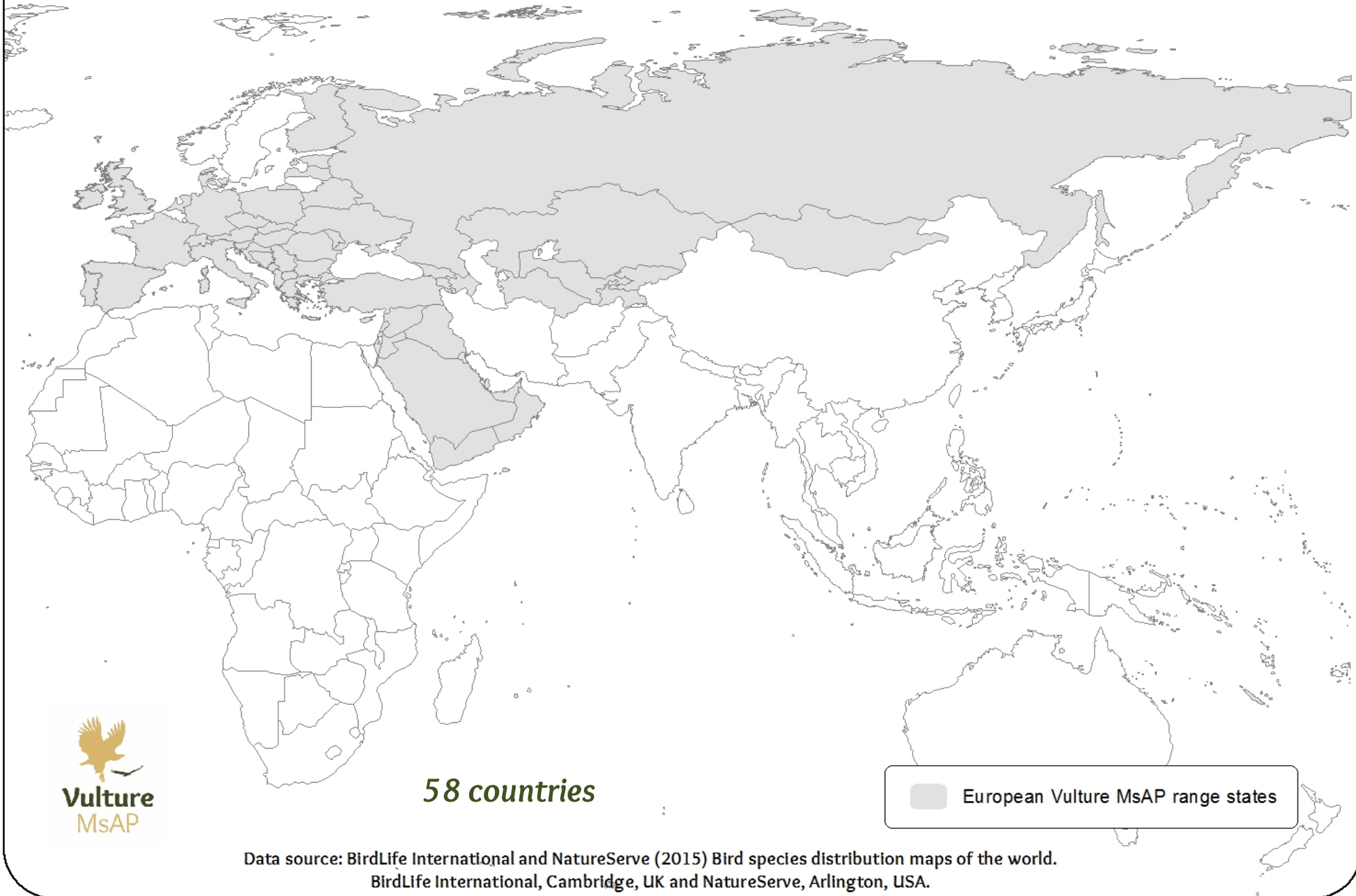




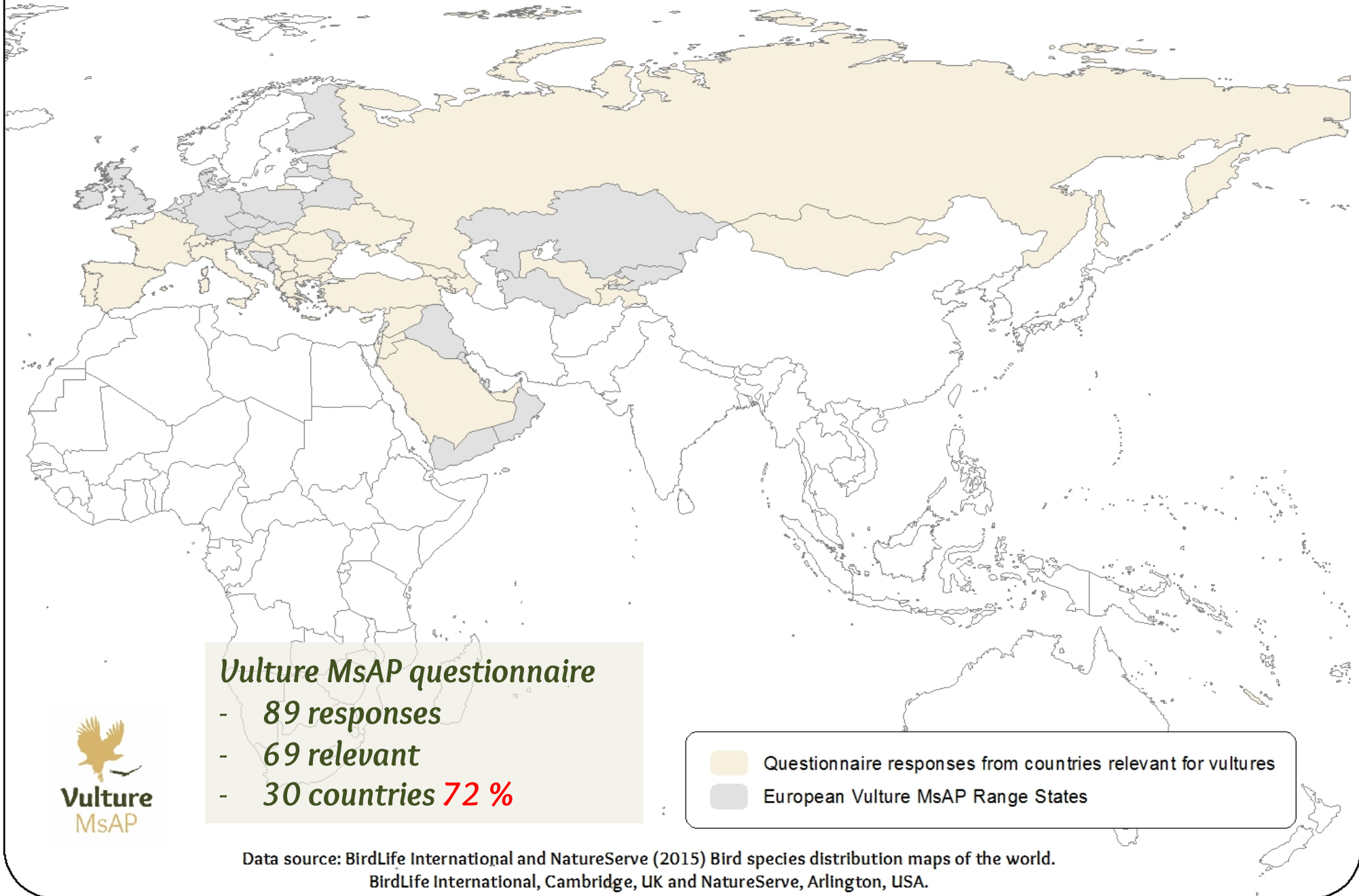
Andre Botha 2016

# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

## European Vulture MsAP range states



# European Vulture MsAP Range States





*70 participants from 50 organizations - 25 countries*

# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan



## Critical/High threats

- Poisoning by poison baits
- Collision with power-lines
- Electrocution
- Collision with wind farms
- Availability of in situ food
- Disturbance
- Habitat loss (nesting sites)

# Overall conclusions



## Main actions

- **Poison baits:**
  - National poisoning database,
  - monitoring poisoning incidents, adequate toxicological screening (labs),
  - training judiciary, create and train anti-poisoning enforcement units,
  - effective livestock management,
  - improve compensation schemes
- **Poison agro-chemicals:**
  - Toxicological screening

# Overall conclusions



## Main actions

- **Vet drugs:** Screening; ban diclofenac if it enters food chain
- **Lead poisoning:** Awareness raising (hunters)
- **Research:** Census 2017/2018-2026/2027

# Overall conclusions



## Main actions

- Collision with windfarms:
  - sensitivity mapping and planning for new windfarms,
  - exclusion areas,
  - communication on alternatives
- Electrocutation:
  - sensitivity mapping,
  - correction of pylons,
  - improved use new pylons on new lines, maintenance of corrected pylons,
  - monitoring protocols,
  - capacity building and comms/poliy/advocacy strategy





# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan



**Hotel Mirador, Mumbai, India  
29-30 November 2016  
37 delegates**

# **Vulture Multi-species Action Plan Asian Regional Workshop**



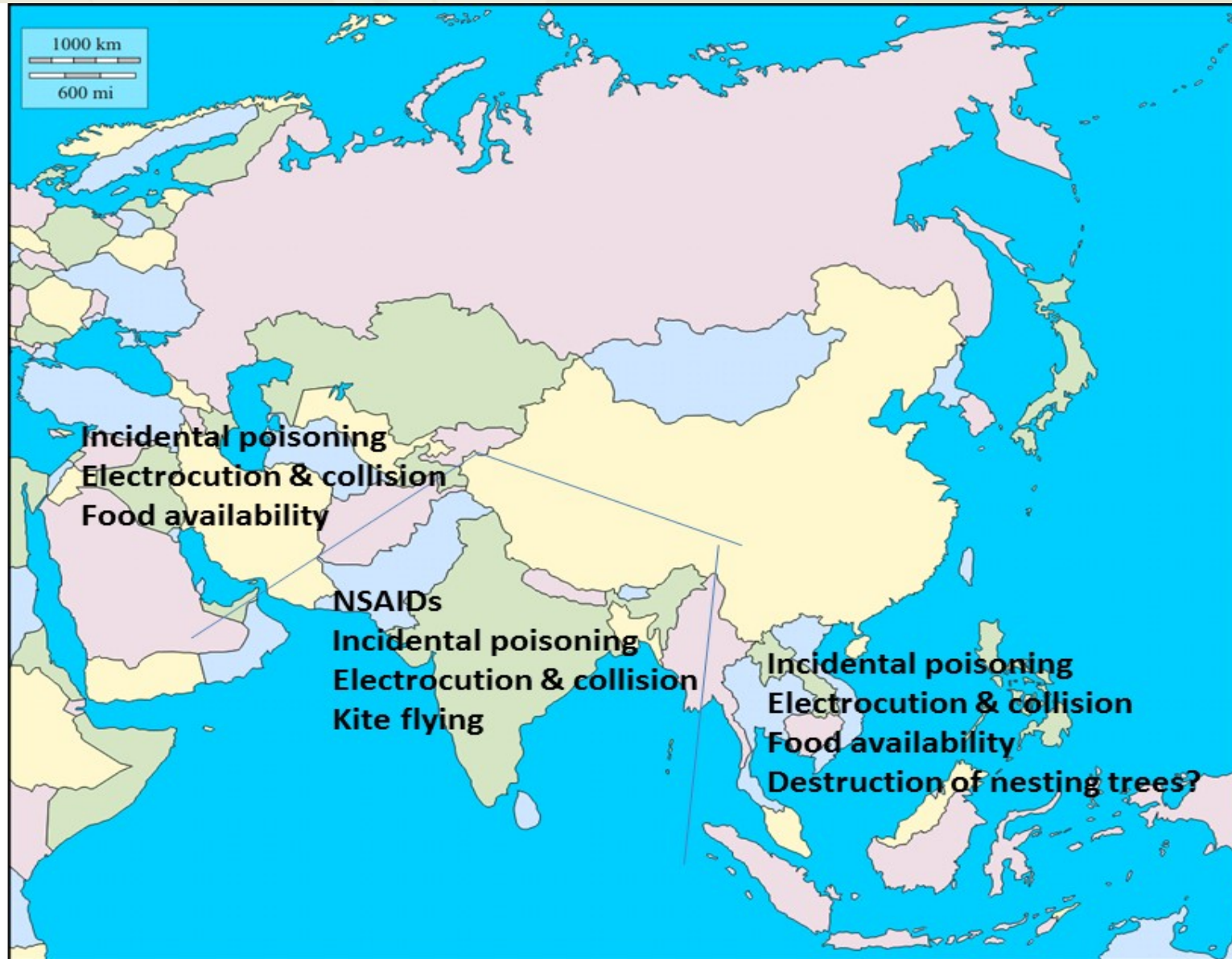
# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan



## Critical and important threats

- Poisoning with NSAIDS
- Incidental poisoning
- Collision with lines
- Electrocution
- Availability of food
- Kite flying

Species Action Plan



# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

# Overall conclusions – Results we want to obtain

## **Threat: Poisoning with NSAIDS**

- Mortality of vultures by NSAIDS reduced + occurrence of toxic NSAIDS reduced + threat of NSAIDS recognised across the region

## **Threat: Incidental poisoning**

- Reduce the mortality factor of poisoning below 0,1 PBR

## **Threat: Electrocutation**

- New poles with adequate design and old poles retrofitted to reduce mortality in blackspots

## **Threat: Food availability**

- Livestock and wild origin safe food availability increased, improved legislation and knowledge

## **Overall conclusions – priority actions**

### **Main actions proposed Poisoning with NSAIDS**

- Monitoring of NSAIDs in vulture food and vultures
- Improve availability of effective Meloxicam (Bangladesh & Nepal) & reduce price Meloxicam
- Secure withdrawal Ketoprofen & Aceclofenac
- Test toxicity potentially toxic + safe drugs
- Advocacy to maintain ban multidose diclofenac (India) + promote ban other countries
- Public-awareness-communication and advocacy – target groups: livestock owners, pharmacists, vets, gov. agencies, etc.

# Overall conclusions

## Main actions proposed incidental poisoning:

- Assessment, monitoring & database
- Identify hotspots, priority areas for action
- Awareness programmes
- Review and improve legislation
- Improve law enforcement & investigation
- Tagging of birds



# Overall conclusions



## Main actions proposed Electrocutation

- Influence Int. Development funding organizations to resource vulture safe zones in their projects
- Raise awareness on governments and companies to electrocution, including available solutions
- Provide guidelines and best practice to relevant agencies
- Adequate EIA processes on planning electricity grid
- Get data on electrocution across the region – national risk assessments
- Insulate and mitigate blackspots

# Overall conclusions

## Main actions proposed food availability

- Stimulate Traditional Farming Practices (SE Asia)
- Engage and Support GauShallas (cattle Shelters) and Panjra Poles to make available NSAID free carcasses for vultures (South Asia)
- Prepare standardized and protocol-based supplementary feeding
- Food availability study (SA)
- Re Active Dumping for safe feeding of vultures
- Improve protection for wild ungulates
- At policy level all potential vulture food should be considered in existing and new legislation

## Overall impressions from the Asian Regional Workshop

- Local-level effects, country focus, species focus sometimes present
- Many people that were capable of stepping away and seeing the big picture
- Good engagement from several countries in spite of relatively little turn out
- Countries not represented should also submit their inputs
- Substantive data on species status and populations lacking for many countries
- Lack of evidence with regard to some threats and their impact
- SAVE Workshop and meetings immediately before RWS were beneficial and provided good context of the SAVE Blueprint and actions against NSAIDs in South Asia
- MsAP should not undermine momentum of SAVE advocacy plans in South Asia, so communication needs to be balanced,
- BUT, we can not ignore other potential threats
- It was a big ask – trying to identify continent-wide solutions with a relatively underrepresented and limited group.
- Action planning for all identified threats could not be completed
- A period of two days was too little time for what needed to be done.



# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

## Developments following the Asian Regional Workshop

- Submission of Workshop reports to CU
- Completion and submission of regional components:
  - Africa – 24 December 2016
  - Europe – 6 January 2017
  - Asia – 6 January 2017
- 16 January 2017 - Rough draft circulated to CU and Coordinators
- 31 January 2017 – Draft 1 circulated for comment to:
  - Members of the Steering Group of the Vulture Working Group
  - Participants pre-Registered to attend the Overarching Workshop
  - Members of the Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MoU
- Deadline – 14 February 2017



# Vulture MsAP

**Convention on Migratory Species  
Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve  
African-Eurasian Vultures**

**1<sup>st</sup> Draft**

**31 January 2017**



## **Contents**

1. Multi-species Action Planning for Vultures – background and approach
2. Geographic and taxonomic scope
3. Biological species assessments
4. Threat narrative and assessment
5. Stakeholders and collaborators
6. Policies, legislation and relevant Action Plans
7. Framework for Action
8. International Coordination and Action Plan Implementation
9. References
10. Annexes

# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

# Middle East Regional Workshop

- We are here to validate and qualify the Middle East component of the Vulture MsAP
- All input received from questionnaires and during discussions at the Workshop will be considered and consolidated.
- Vulture MsAP Draft 1 will be updated for the Overarching Workshop (16-18 February 2017)



# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan



**Thank you for your Participation!**



**Vulture Multi-species Action Plan**