



Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

Middle East Regional Workshop – Sharjah, UAE

CMS Vulture MsAP

International collaboration to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures



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February 2017 – Middle East Regional Workshop, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

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Why vultures?



- Vultures **under extreme pressure** from a range of human activities
- One of the **most threatened groups** of birds on earth
- **Drastic and widespread vulture population declines** in recent decades
 - catastrophe in Asia in 1990s and African Vulture Crisis now
- IUCN Red List categorizes many species as **‘Critically Endangered’**
- **Multiple threats:** poisoning (direct and indirect), electrocution on power poles, habitat loss, decreasing food availability, fragmentation of remaining populations, illegal killing and taking, human disturbance, collisions with wind turbines and overhead lines, etc.
- Vultures provide **critically important ecosystem services** by cleaning up carcasses and other organic waste in the environment, thus reducing the spread of dangerous diseases such as anthrax and rabies – resulting in **highly significant economic and human health benefits.**

We really can't afford to lose them!

Vulture MsAP – species covered



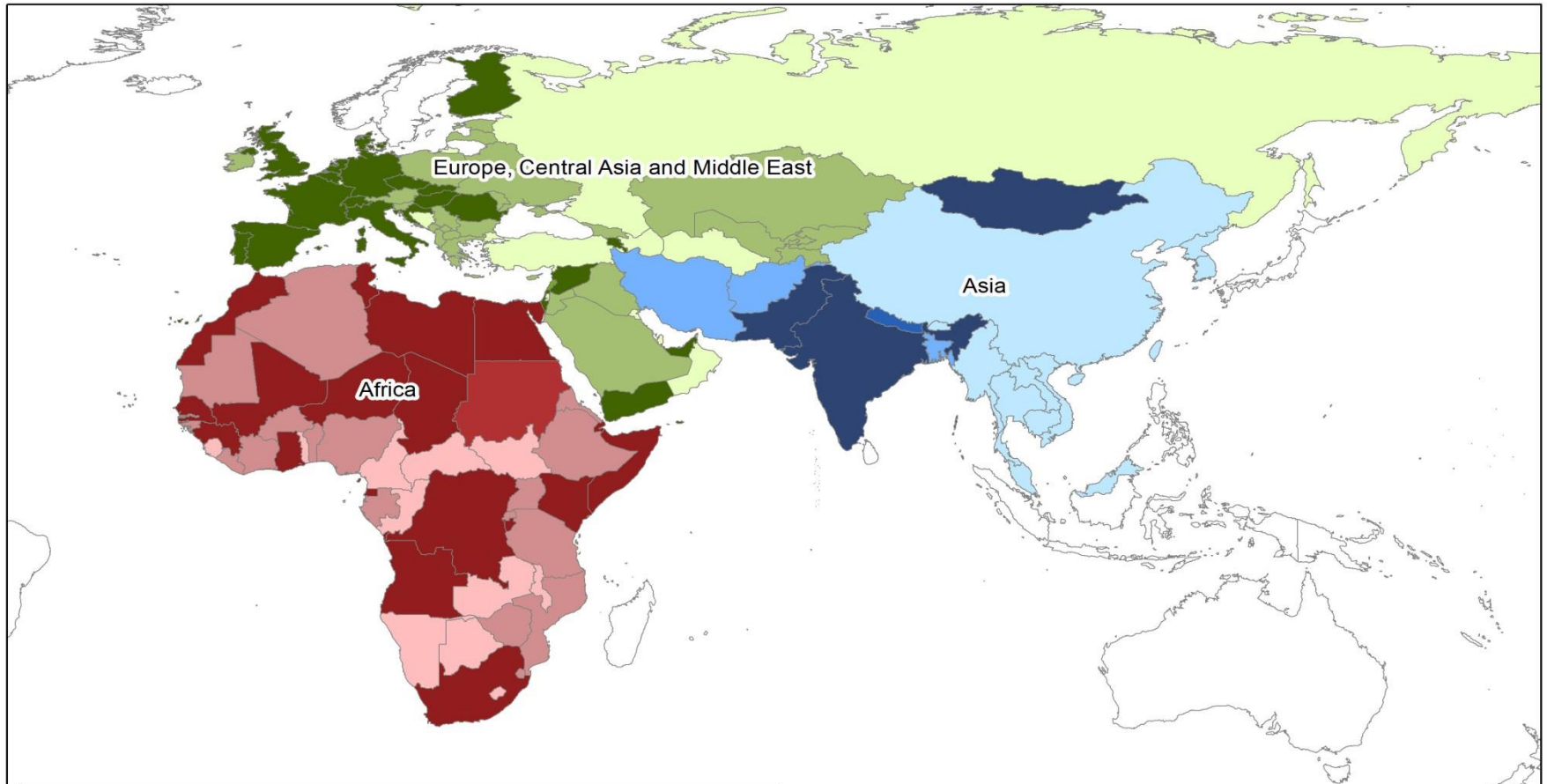
15 (of 16) species classified as Old World vultures

<p>Bearded Vulture (<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>) Near Threatened</p>	<p>Himalayan Griffon (<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>) Near Threatened</p>	<p>Cape Vulture (<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>) Endangered</p>
<p>Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>) Endangered</p>	<p>White-rumped Vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>) Critically Endangered</p>	<p>Rüppell's Vulture (<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>) Critically Endangered</p>
<p>Red-headed Vulture (<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>) Critically Endangered</p>	<p>White-backed Vulture (<i>Gyps africanus</i>) Critically Endangered</p>	<p>Cinereous Vulture (<i>Aegypius monachus</i>) Near Threatened</p>
<p>White-headed Vulture (<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>) Critically Endangered</p>	<p>Indian Vulture (<i>Gyps indicus</i>) Critically Endangered</p>	<p>Lappet-faced Vulture (<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>) Endangered</p>
<p>Hooded Vulture (<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>) Critically Endangered</p>	<p>Slender-billed Vulture (<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>) Critically Endangered</p>	<p>Griffon Vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>) Least Concern</p>

Vulture MsAP – Geographic scope



Vulture MsAP Range States and Regions



Legend

Shading as follows: country that is both Party to CMS and Signatory to Raptors MOU (darkest) > country that is only Signatory to Raptors MOU > country that is only Party to CMS > country that is not Party nor Signatory (lightest)



Vulture MsAP – Aim and Objectives

The overall aim: to develop a comprehensive strategic Action Plan covering the whole geographic ranges of 15 species of Old World vultures to promote concerted, collaborative and coordinated international conservation actions

Objective 1: To rapidly halt current population declines in all species covered by the Vulture MsAP

Objective 2: To reverse recent population trends to bring the conservation status of each species back to a favourable level

Objective 3: To provide conservation management guidelines applicable to all Range States covered by the Vulture MsAP

Key challenges

- Massive **geographic scope** - 124 Range States
- Need for governmental and broad **political support** throughout
- Importance of securing engagement from a wide and representative spectrum of **stakeholders**
- Significant **knowledge gaps** in terms of populations status and specific threats, particularly regarding species in Africa
- Requirement to attract **significant financial resources** and in-kind contributions to develop and, ultimately, to implement, the MsAP
- **Timeline very tight** – aiming to finalise Vulture MsAP for presentation at CMS COP12, scheduled to be held in October 2017

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





Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

Workshop purpose, methodology and outcomes

José Tavares, Workshop facilitator

Agenda



Day 1

- Opening presentations, MsAP, methodology and objectives of the workshop
- Context presentations – Middle East vultures - Status, distribution and threats

Day 2

- Group work 1 - Categorisation and prioritisation of threats

Day 3

- Group work 2 – Action planning
- Field trip

Day 4

- Group work 3 - Action planning (cont.)
- Implementation, conclusions and next steps

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)

Status, research and conservation of vultures in Oman

Dr Mike McGrady
Raptor Biologist

Challenges of flyway conservation

The case for the Egyptian Vulture



Dr. Stoyan Nikolov

Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds

BirdLife Bulgaria



LIFE+ project
„The Return of the Neophron“
(LIFE10 NAT/BG/000152)
www.LifeNeophron.eu

Status of Vultures in the Middle East with detailed studies of Lappet-faced and Griffon Vultures in Saudi Arabia




Mohammed Shobrak

Biology Department, Taif University,
Saudi Wildlife Authority, Saudi Arabia



Vulture Multi-species Action Plan



**VULTURE STATUS AND
THREATS IN THE MIDDLE
EAST**
*(QUESTIONNAIRE
RESULTS)*

Bearded Vulture
(Gypaetus barbatus)

Cinereous (Black) Vulture
(Aegypius monachus)

Egyptian Vulture
(Neophron percnopterus)

Griffon Vulture
(Gyps fulvus)

Lappet-faced Vulture
(Torgos tracheliotos)

Jovan Andevski
European Regional Coordinator: CMS Vulture MsAP



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