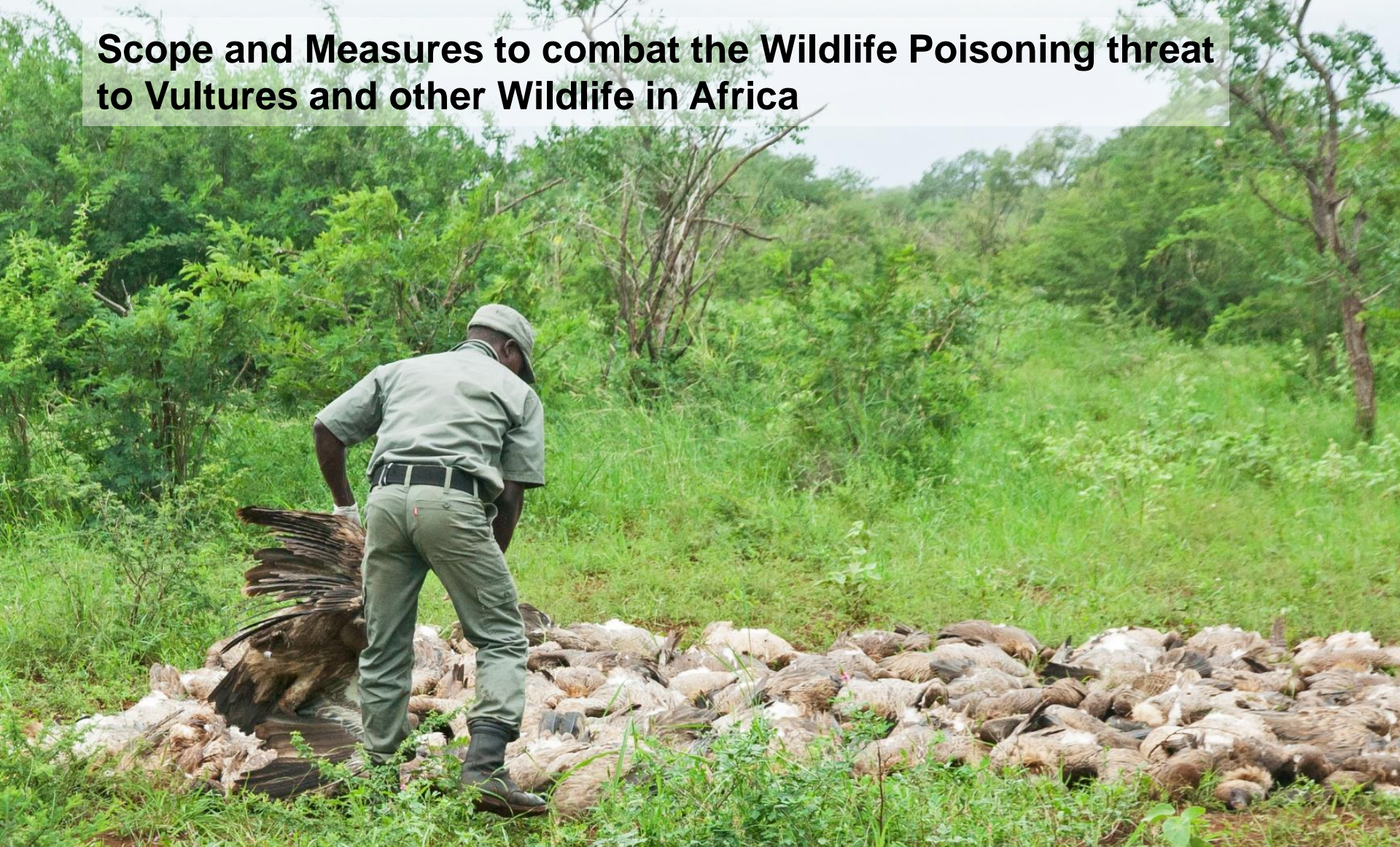


Scope and Measures to combat the Wildlife Poisoning threat to Vultures and other Wildlife in Africa



By:
André Botha,
Overarching Coordinator: CMS Vulture MsAP
Manager: Vultures for Africa Programme, Endangered Wildlife Trust
18th of February 2020 - CMS CoP13 Vulture Poisoning Side-event

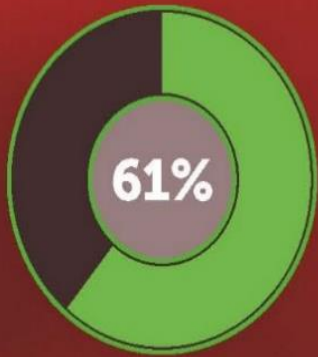


Africa holds **11** species of Vulture
7 are on the edge of extinction. **6** occur only in Africa.



WHAT THREATENS AFRICA'S VULTURES?

Percentages are only representative reasons for recorded deaths.
Other important threats, as yet hard to quantify, such as habitat reduction, disturbance at nesting sites and reduced food availability are not illustrated



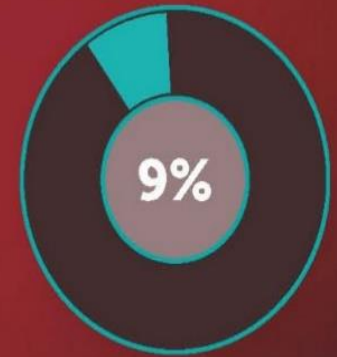
POISONING

- › Poisoning as a result of human-wildlife conflict where vultures are incidental victims.
- › Intentional poisoning by ivory poachers not wanting to be found by rangers.



PERSECUTION

- › For body parts used in traditional medicine.
- › Also involves the use of poison.



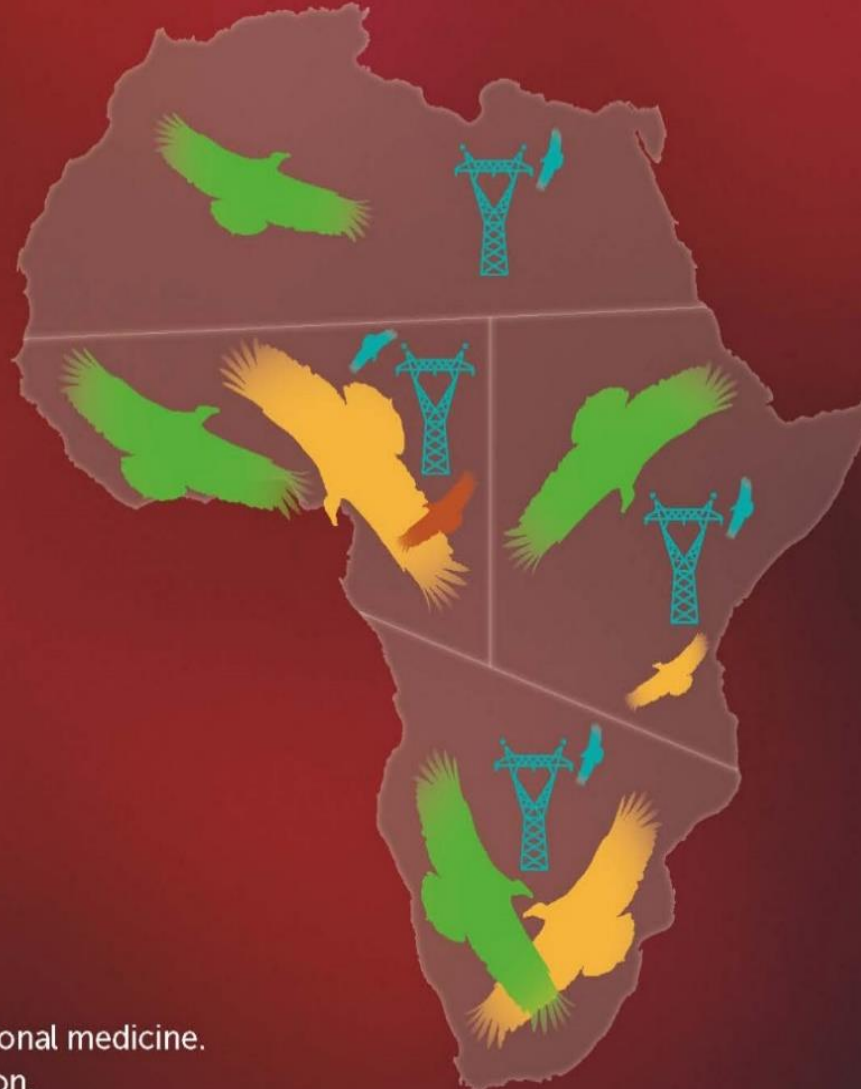
ELECTROCUTION & COLLISION

With poorly-planned powerlines, windfarms and roads. Increasing threat with investment in development.

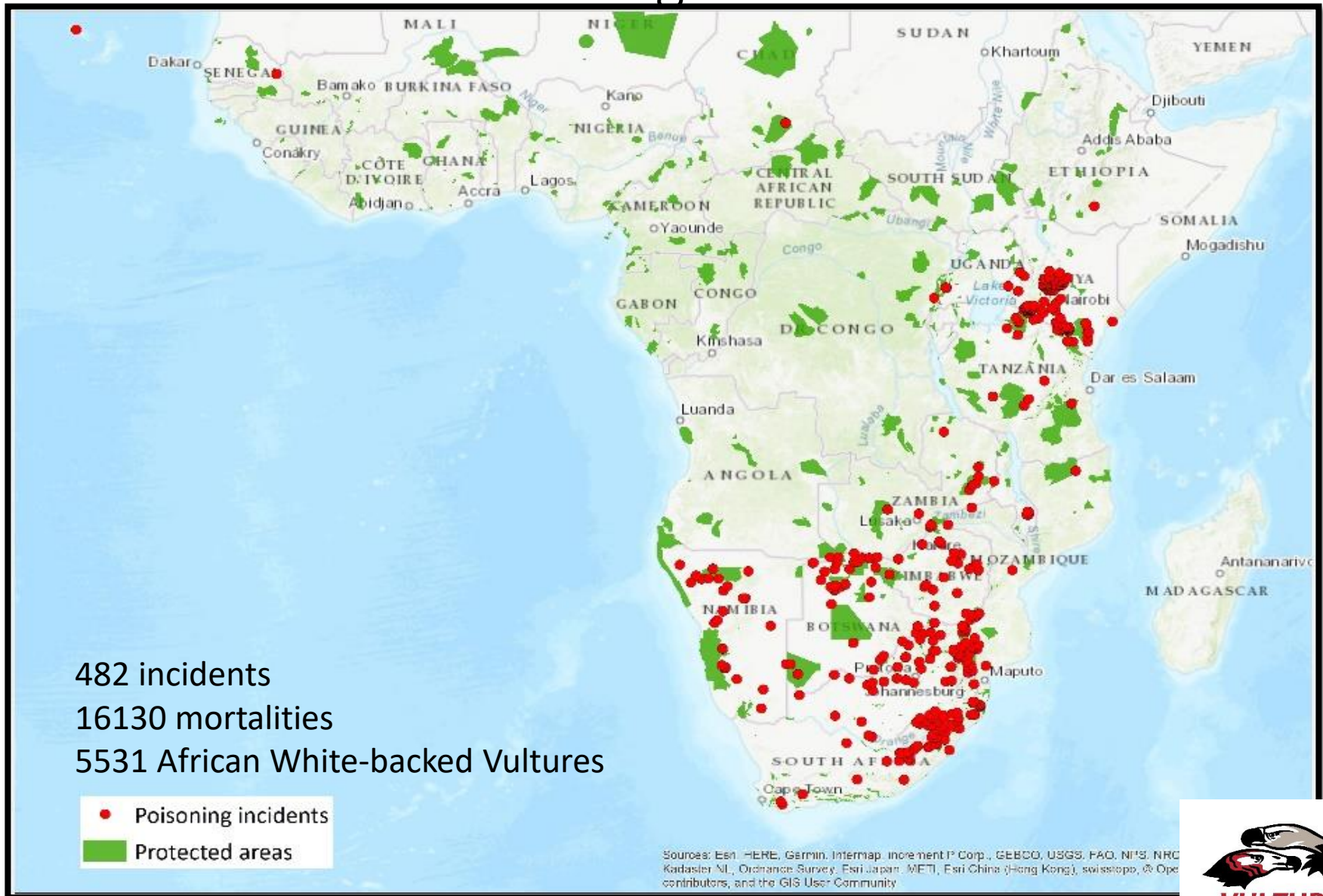


OTHER RECORDED KILLING

People are potentially eating poisoned vultures.

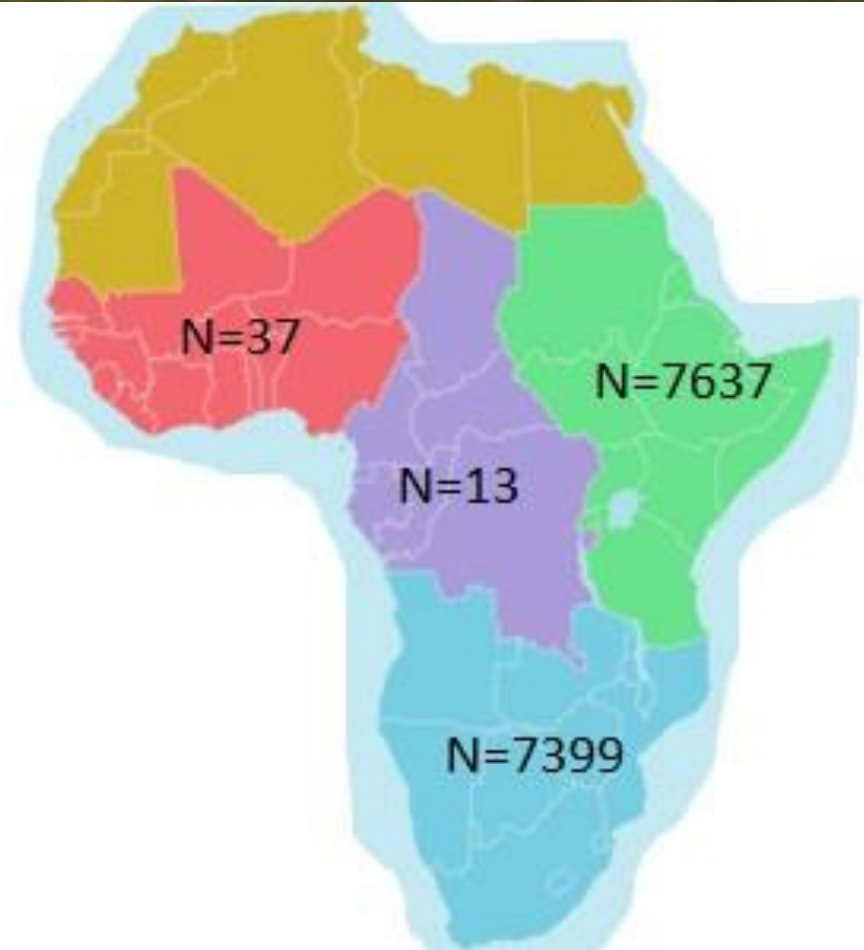
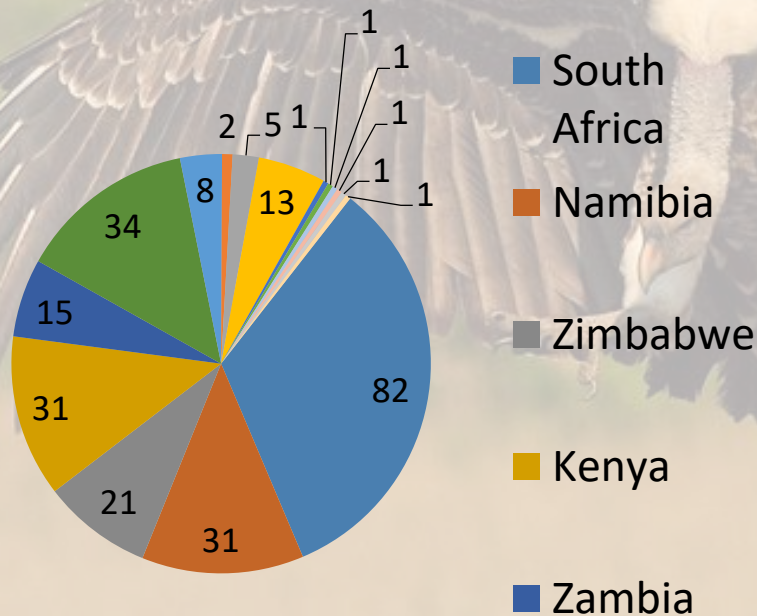


African Wildlife Poisoning Database



Data submission per Country

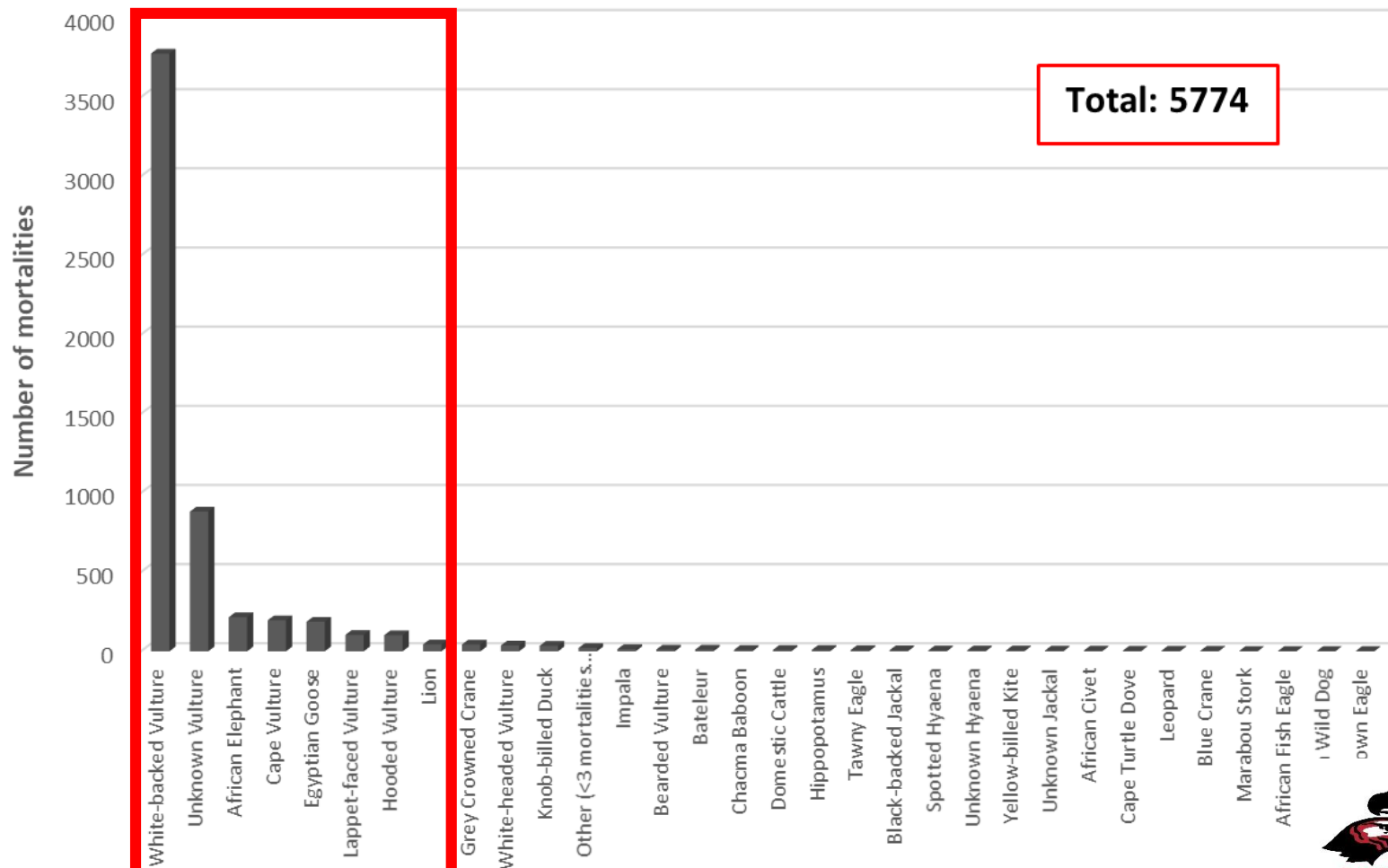
**Data from 14 Countries
(No of records)**



Huge gaps – especially West/Central Africa

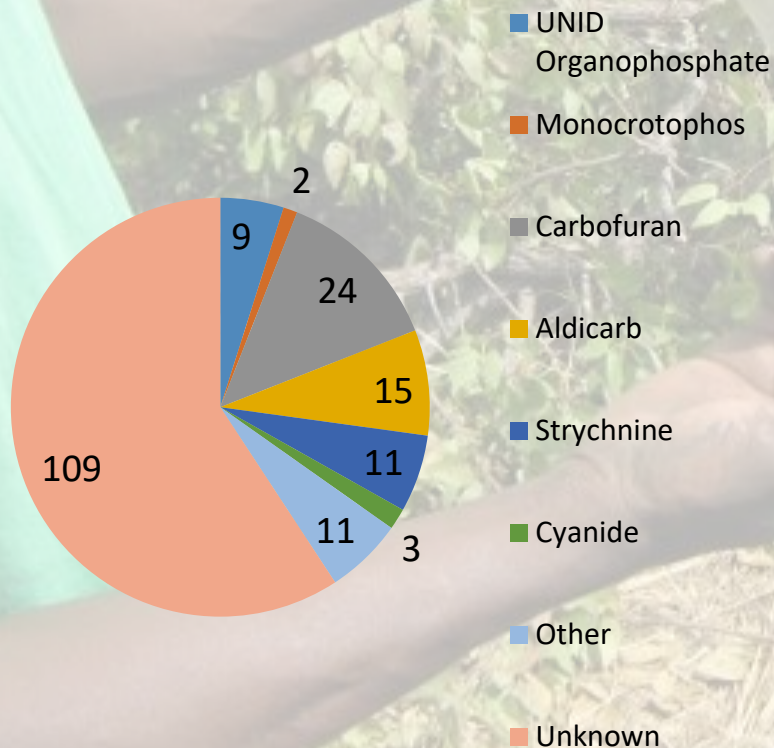
Mortalities per Species

Wildlife mortalities in Southern Africa from 2010-2019



Substances used

Substances



- Sampling often inadequate
- Samples poorly preserved
- Advanced decomposition
- Transportation and permits
- Equipment and skill lacking
- Laboratory facilities
- Customs regulations
 - harmful chemicals
 - biological material
- Appropriate analytical tools
- Cost factor
- Can be critical to prosecution

VULTURE POISONING

INTENTIONAL POISONING

Sentinel poisoning



Harvesting of body parts for belief-use/trade



UNINTENTIONAL POISONING

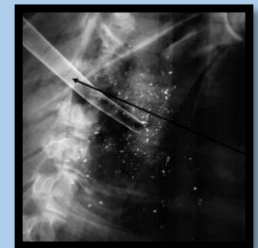
Poisoned “problem carnivores”/crop destroying spp



Feed on animals poisoned for meat/belief-use/skins



Lead containing ammunition

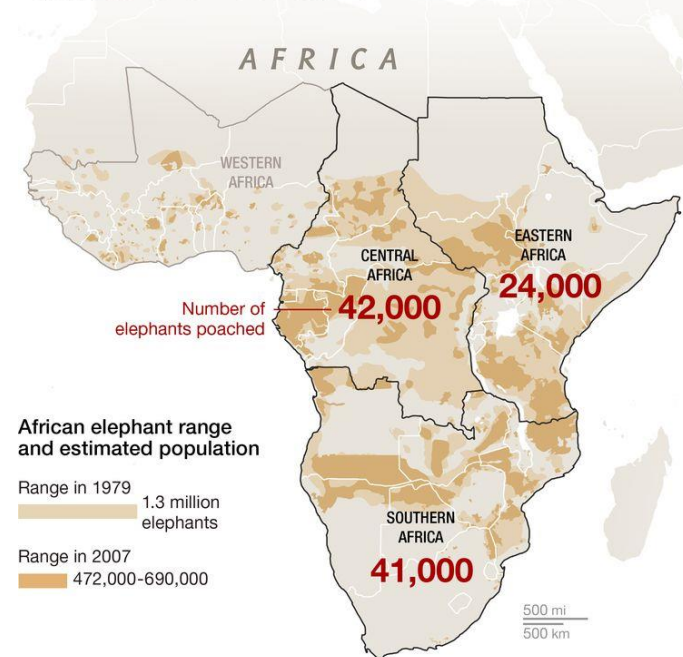


Elephant poaching = vulture poisoning



New Poaching Numbers

More than **100,000** African elephants were illegally poached from 2010 through 2012



African elephant range and estimated population

Range in 1979
1.3 million elephants

Range in 2007
472,000-690,000

Elephant populations in western Africa, representing about 2 percent of the species, were excluded from the study. Regional estimates differ from continental totals because statistical models generated regional and continental estimates separately.

Graphic: National Geographic (2014)



Poisoned carcasses



Poaching-related Incidents & Vultures Mortalities Southern Africa

Incidents in southern Africa (2011-present:

- 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)
- Botswana – 326 birds (Nov 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 – 105 birds (May 2016)
- Zimbabwe – 94 birds (May 2017)
- Zambia – 165 birds (December 2017)
- Mozambique – 103 birds (February 2018)
- Zambia – 162 birds (December 2018)
- Kruger National Park – 250+, 3 incidents (Jan-Dec 2019)
- **Botswana – 537 birds (June 2019)**

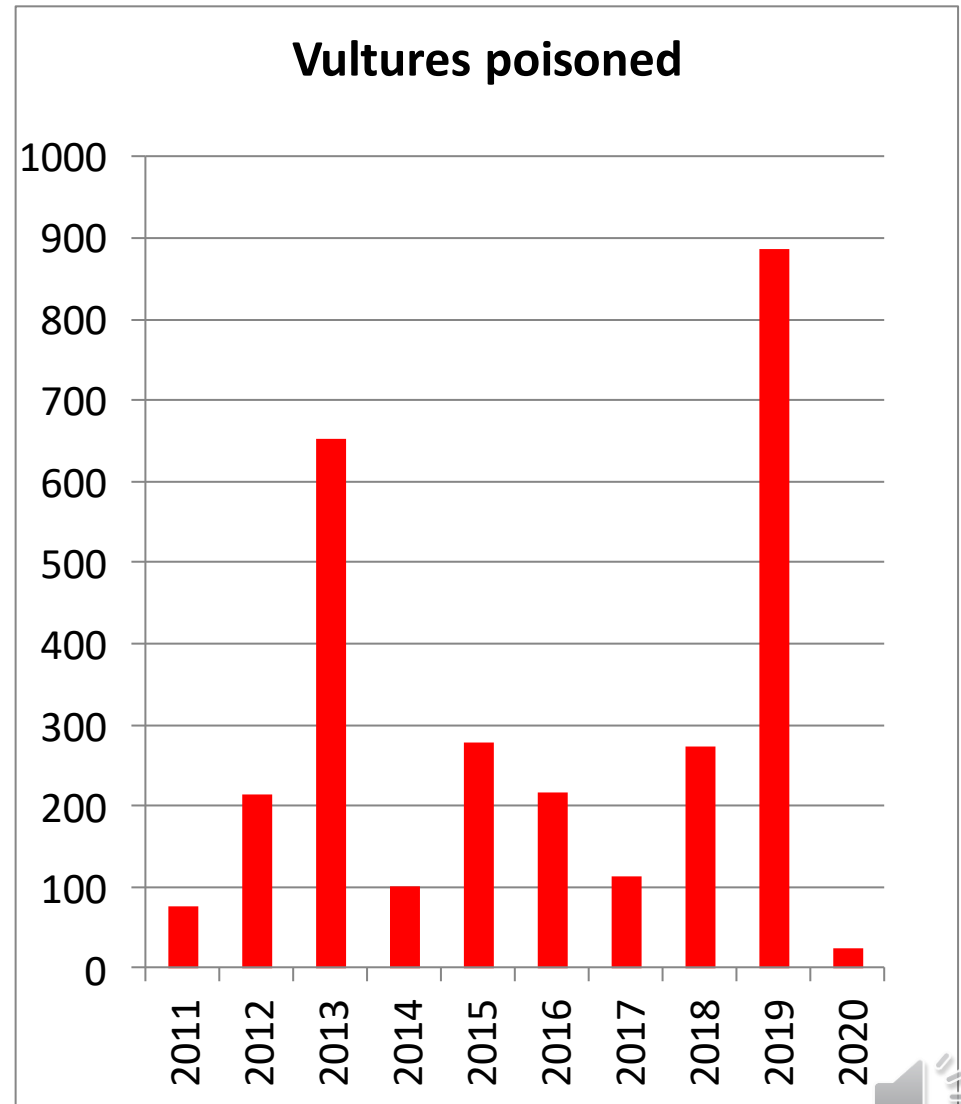




Image: Raptors Botswana



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June 28, 2019

An Unprecedented Disaster

POACHERS IN BOTSWANA DEAL A TREMENDOUS BLOW TO ENDANGERED VULTURE SPECIES

by Dr. Graeme Patterson, Vice President for Field Conservation

Last week, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in Botswana announced the deliberate mass poisoning of vultures by ivory poachers in the northern part of the country close to Chobe National Park. An unprecedented number of endangered and critically endangered vultures—537 to be exact—were killed after feeding on elephant carcasses laced with poison. This incident is a massive blow to the vulture populations in Botswana and of

Subscribe

Be among the first to hear the latest animal updates, important stories and details about all the fun happening around Denver Zoo.

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Tags

[Botswana](#), [Conservation](#), [Vultures](#)

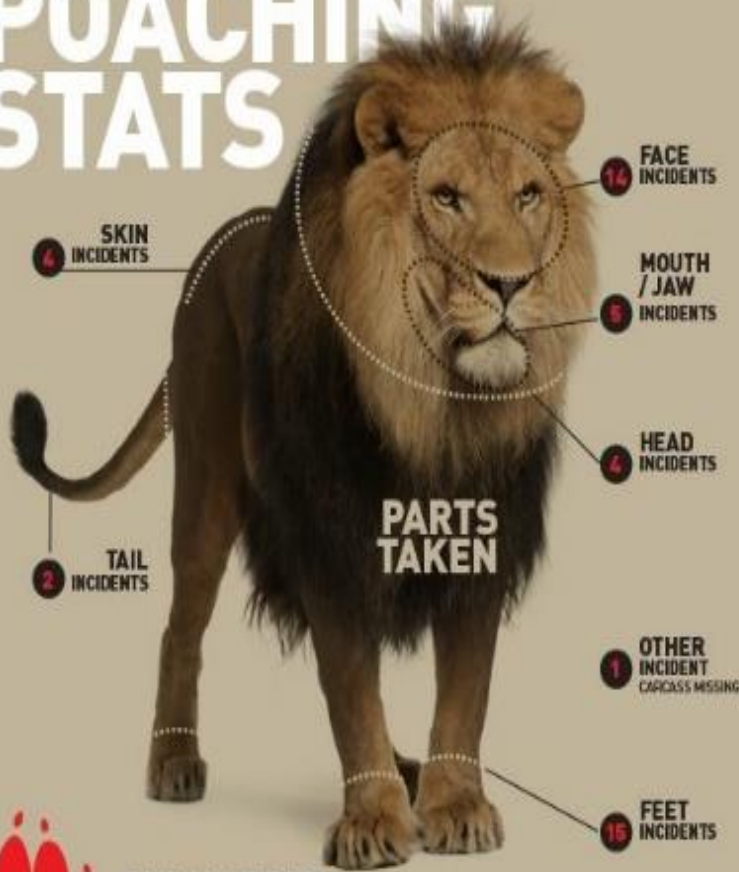
SHARE



Immediate aftermath?

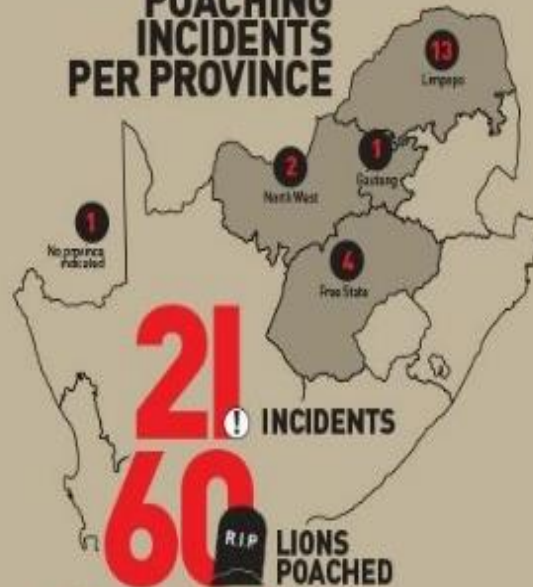


CAPTIVE LION POACHING STATS



ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST
Protecting forever, together.

CAPTIVE POACHING INCIDENTS PER PROVINCE



POACHING METHOD
100% POISONED



LION FACTS

3,000

WILD LIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

6,000

CAPTIVE LIONS IN 70 FACILITIES



CAPTIVE LIONS KEPT FOR

COMMERCIAL TRADE
CUB PETTING INTERACTIONS
LION BONE TRADE
CAPTIVE HUNTING



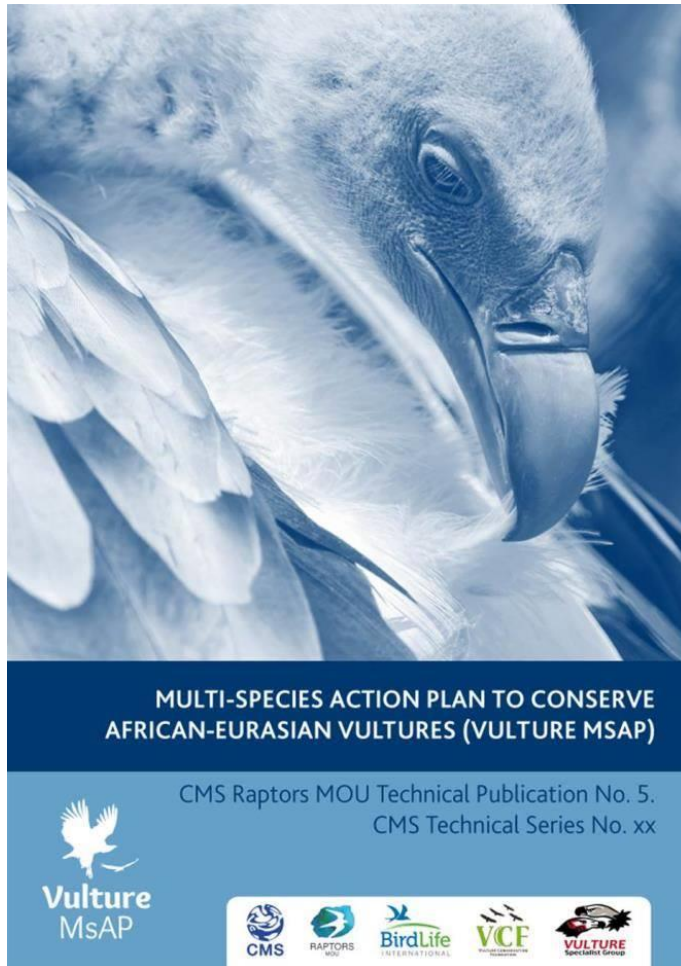
LION BODY PARTS USED

AFRICAN AND EASTERN MEDICINE AND RITUALS

(Obtained from various open source media reports), June 2016-July 2018.



The EWT-HCT-UR Partnership



- Aims to ensure the implementation of appropriate conservation actions as reflected in the CMS Vulture MsAP within southern Africa as well as identified gap areas within Africa and the Vulture MsAP range.
- Work towards **reducing the impact of wildlife poisoning on wildlife** in the region, i.e. focus wider than vultures only.

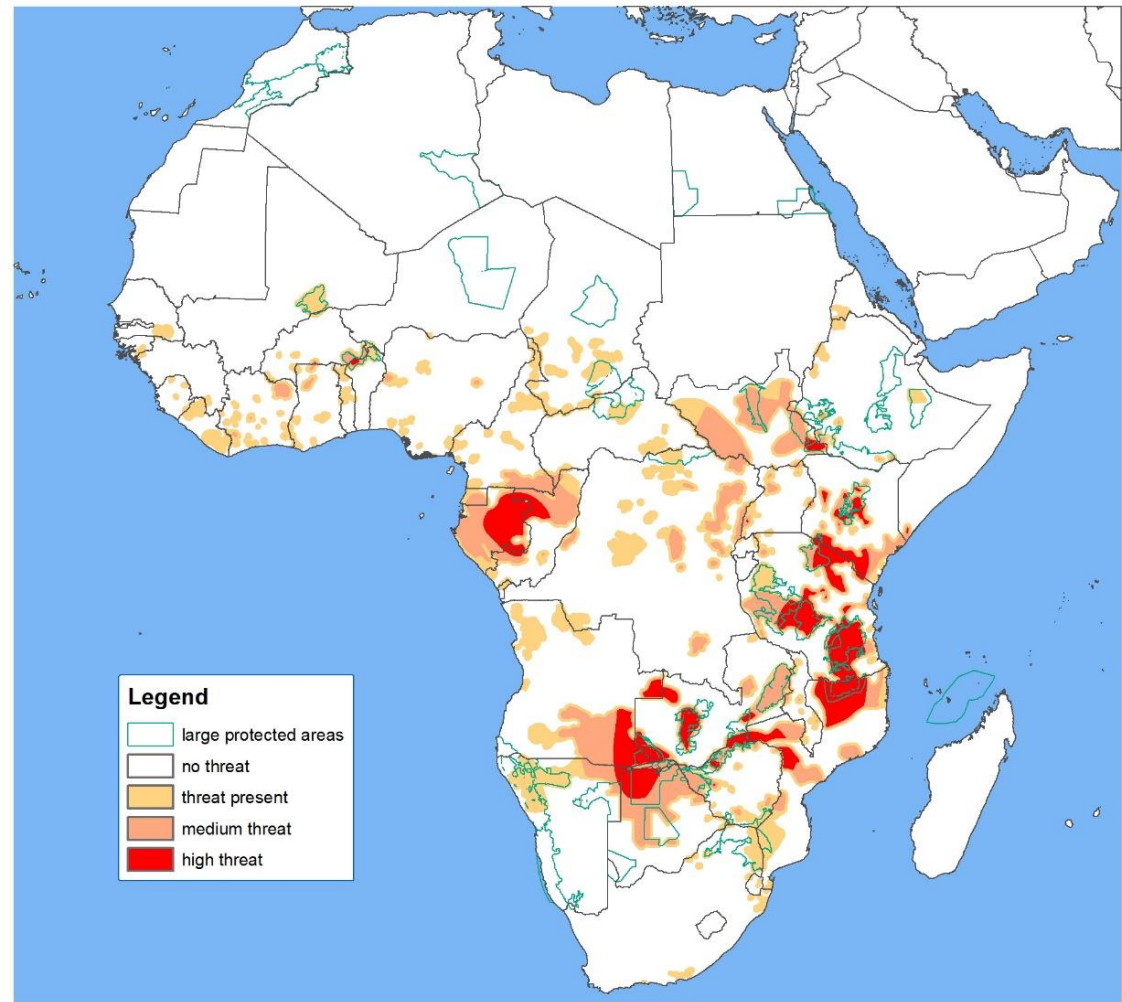


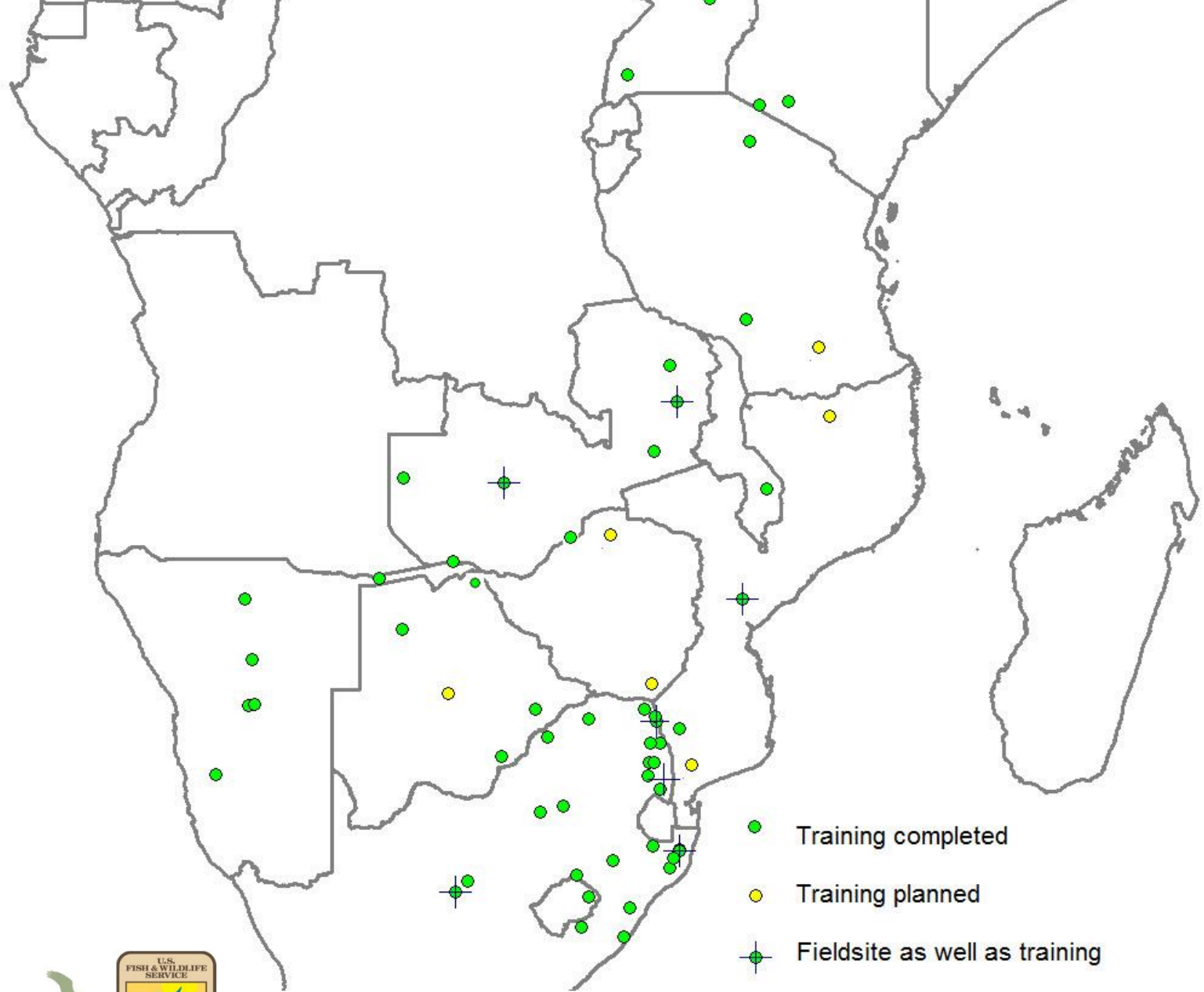
Wildlife Poisoning Response Training

- Wildlife Poisoning – Scope, drivers, methods and substances used
- Identifying a poisoned animal/bird
- Scene management and investigation
- Collection of samples and other evidence
- Wildlife rescue and emergency first-aid
- Decontamination of scene
- Legal process – prosecution and follow-up
- Human health concerns – muthi & food
- Poisoning Response Planning (SOP)
- Data capture and dissemination
- **Training trainers – expanding the skills base!**



Recognised Wildlife Poisoning Hotspots According to the CMS Vulture MsAP 2017





Summary of WPRT: 2017-present

Country	Training Events	Female	Male	African	Other	Total
Zambia	7	24	134	145	13	158
Mozambique	2	3	20	20	3	23
Tanzania	3	3	55	54	4	58
Botswana	4	27	91	113	4	117
Lesotho	1	5	17	20	2	22
Malawi	3	1	94	90	5	95
Kenya	2	8	61	58	11	69
Namibia	10	130	192	255	67	321
Uganda	2	9	37	46	0	46
South Africa	45	297	795	741	344	1063
Total	75	491	1482	1521	452	1973



Kenya – expansion and successes

- 2 Training Workshops facilitated by VfA
 - November 2016 (34)
 - September 2018 (32)
- Development of training teams
 - Northern Kenya
 - Maasai Mara
 - SE Kenya
 - KWS Training Academy – drafting training curriculum
- Training presented
 - 60 interventions
 - 1400+ learners
- Expanded to Tanzania and Uganda in 2019/20



What are the impacts of mass-mortality events?

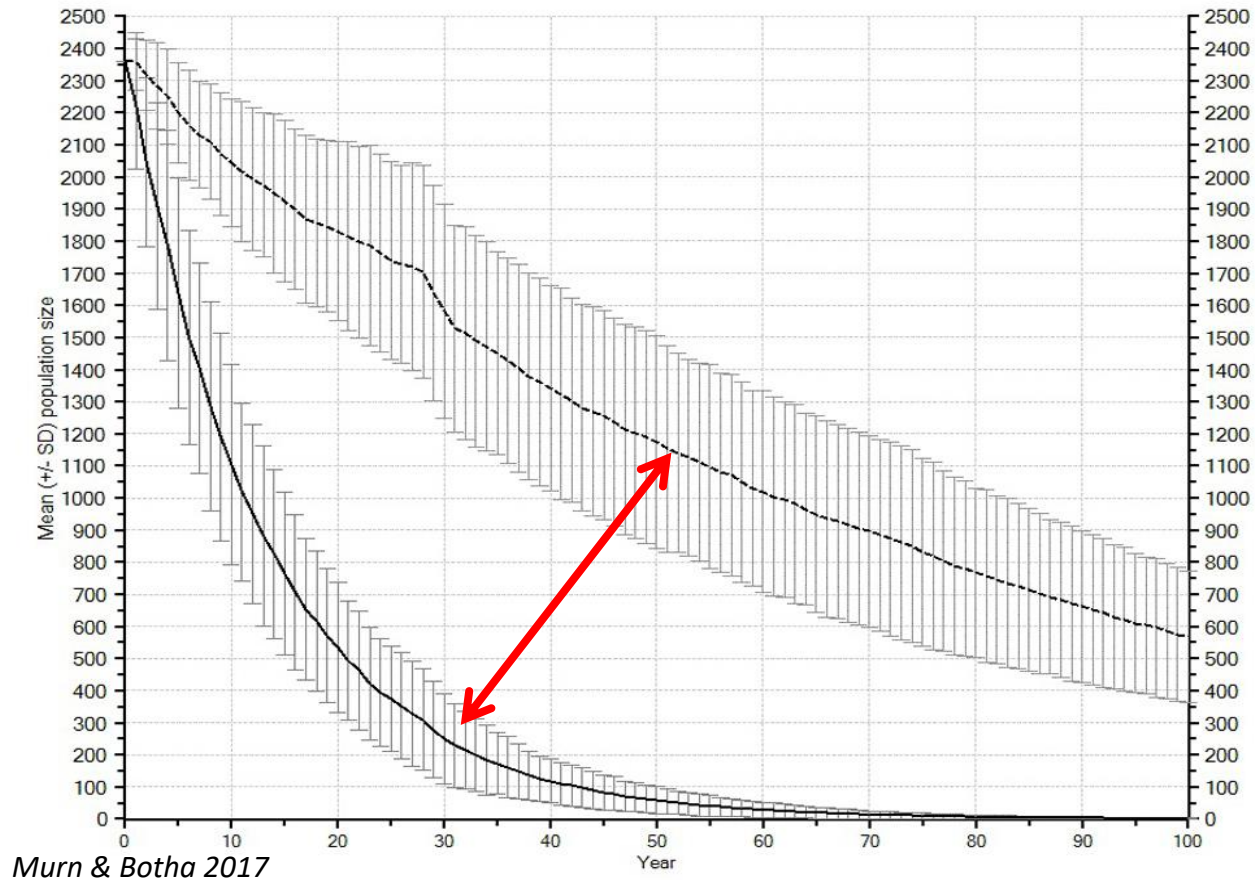


A clear and present danger: impacts of poisoning on a vulture population and the effect of poison response activities

CAMPBELL MURN and ANDRÉ BOTHA



Measuring Impact



Murn & Botha 2017



Additional measures

- Human-Wildlife Conflict interventions
- Promotion of integrated pest management
- Establish communication networks – report incidents, share expertise & relevant information
- Early warning systems – tracking of a range of species
- Updates – protocols and methods
- Consumption - Assessment of toxicological threat
- Legislation & penalties – Improvement and supporting engagement
- Wildlife Poisoning Response Planning (SOP's)



More Information & Contact details

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- Co-chair: IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group
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