CMS Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures

Asian Regional Workshop Report

29–30 November 2016

Mumbai, India

Organized by:

- Chris Bowden – Asian Regional Coordinator, CMS Vulture MsAP & Globally Threatened Species Officer & SAVE Programme Manager, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife International - UK)
- Jose Tavares – Workshop Facilitator, CMS Vulture MsAP & Director of the Vulture Conservation Foundation

Organizational team members and Group facilitators:

- Nick P. Williams – Head of the Coordinating Unit of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia – Raptors MoU.
- Andre Botha – Overarching Coordinator, CMS Vulture MsAP
- Jovan Andevski – European Regional Coordinator, CMS Vulture MsAP & Vulture Conservation Foundation
- Campbell Murn – Workshop Facilitator, Head of Conservation & Research, Hawk Conservancy Trust

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Date and venue:

29–30 November 2016, Mirador Hotel, Mumbai, India

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Purpose of the Workshop

Introduction

In November 2014, Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) adopted [Resolution 11.14 'Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways'](), which established the mandate to develop a Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP), under the auspices of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU). Following consultation with the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group, BirdLife International, Vulture Conservation Foundation and other specialists, the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU drafted a [Project Charter]() for the development of the Vulture MsAP.

Conservation actions for such mobile and wide-ranging species as vultures can only be effective if implemented across international political boundaries at the flyway scale, which requires a broad collaborative approach and the engagement of all Range States. From the outset, the Coordinating Unit committed to ensuring that the Vulture MsAP will be developed based on genuine consultations with representatives of Range States, partners, key stakeholders and the general public.

The overall aim of the Vulture MsAP is to develop a comprehensive strategic Action Plan covering the whole geographic ranges (at least 124 countries) across Africa, Asia, and Europe of 15 species of Old World vultures to promote concerted, collaborative and coordinated international conservation actions.

The objectives of the Vulture MsAP are:

1. To rapidly halt current population declines in all species covered by the Vulture MsAP;
2. To reverse recent population trends to bring the conservation status of each species back to a favourable level; and,
3. To provide conservation management guidelines applicable to all Range States covered by the Vulture MsAP.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of the Workshop was to bring together government representatives, vulture specialists and other stakeholders to gather the information necessary to develop the Asian regional component of the Vulture MsAP, covering all nine old world vulture species that occur in the region. The necessary information includes species status, threats and conservation solutions.

The species included are:
- Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*)
- Egyptian Vulture *(Neophron percnopterus)*
- Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*)
- Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*)
- White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)
- Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*)
- Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*)
- Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

- Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)

Synergies with the SAVE consortium

Particularly dramatic vulture population declines across South Asia were first noticed in the mid-1990s and the primary cause was identified in 2003: high adult mortality as a result of residues of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), diclofenac, used to treat domestic livestock. Significant attention has been given to resolving this immediate threat, along with other NSAIDs more recently being found to be toxic to vultures. In February 2011, this resulted in the formation of the 'Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction' (SAVE) consortium which has held annual meetings each November since then, and now consists of twenty NGO and Government partners from five key countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Pakistan). An important focus of SAVE meetings since 2014 has been the development and annual review of an agreed regional Vulture Recovery Plan (*A Blueprint for the Recovery of South Asia's Critically Endangered* Gyps *Vultures*). Although restricted to the five countries and three species, this scientifically focused initiative was the logical starting point for expansion to the wider geographical and species scope of the Vulture MsAP.

With the above background in mind, the annual SAVE meeting including the usual updating of the *Blueprint* was held immediately before the Vulture MsAP Workshop. This year's SAVE meeting featured an increased level of engagement with Government drug regulation officials than had happened before. Mumbai was selected as the meeting location in order to facilitate Government attendance.

The Vulture MsAP Workshop followed on from the SAVE meeting and incorporated all nine vulture species occurring in the region and their respective Range States. Holding these meetings back-to-back, enabled synergies to be realised both in terms of resource use and knowledge transfer. Twenty five of the participants who attended the SAVE meeting remained to contribute to the Vulture MsAP Workshop. This provided a unique opportunity for the significant knowledge, skills and experience developed over a decade by SAVE to be shared at the Vulture MsAP Workshop and effectively reaping benefits for both initiatives.

Preparatory work

Questionnaires were used to gather key information about the biology, status and threats for each of the nine species in each Range State. The Questionnaire format and questions were adapted from those used in Africa and Europe, and shared with vulture experts and National Contact Points for the Raptors MoU and CMS Focal Points. These were sent out from late September 2016. Respondents were encouraged to complete separate responses for each species or were given the option to combine for all species if they felt that was appropriate. Most but not all respondents provided combined comments.

At the time the Workshop was held, 25 completed questionnaires had been received, and another 19 were submitted afterwards. The information gathered was used to inform the discussions but due time constraints a full analysis of the completed Questionnaires was not possible until after the Workshop. The number of Questionnaires received per species and from which countries is presented in Table 1. A blank Questionnaire is included at Annex 5. Completed Questionnaires are archived by both BirdLife International and the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU.

Table 1: Vulture MsAP: Asian Regional Questionnaires received per species and country. Numbers and countries in brackets refer to Questionnaires received post-Workshop.

Species	No of Responses	Countries
Bearded Vulture	5	Iran, China (Xinjiang and Tibet), Mongolia, Pakistan, Afghanistan
Egyptian Vulture	6	Pakistan, Iran, China (Xinjiang and Tibet), Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan
Red-headed Vulture	3	Myanmar, Cambodia, Nepal
Himalayan Vulture	2	Nepal, Afghanistan
White-rumped Vulture	8	India (3), Myanmar, Nepal (2), Cambodia, Pakistan
Indian Vulture	6	India (4), Nepal, Pakistan
Slender-billed Vulture	5	India, Nepal (2), Myanmar, Cambodia
Griffon Vulture	4	Iran, China (Xinjiang and Tibet), Bangladesh, Afghanistan
Cinereous Vulture	5	Iran, Mongolia (2), Bangladesh, Afghanistan
Total	**44**	**Full country list:** **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (Xinjiang and Tibet), India, Iran, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan**

Workshop Participants

A total of 37 participants attended from 7 countries (Annex 1, Table 2). There was a predominance of Indian delegates, but within India there was a very wide geographical spread of participation from ten states. Most Range States where vultures occur in significant numbers were represented. The breakdown of country representation is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Range States represented at the Asian Regional Workshop

Range State	Number of representatives
Bangladesh	3
Cambodia	3
India	16
Iran	2
Nepal	2
Thailand	1
South Asia including Pakistan (external[1])	6
Facilitation/CMS/Africa/external	4
Total	37

Note: [1] Non-Pakistani but with strong national knowledge

Questionnaire responses were also received from two key countries not represented at the Workshop: **China** and **Afghanistan.** Delegates from **Myanmar** and **Bhutan** were originally booked to attend but unfortunately both had to withdraw at a late stage due to other commitments. **Pakistan** was covered by one external participant (see note on Table 1) and Questionnaires, and will be further incorporated via anticipated participation at the forthcoming Overarching Workshop. There were challenges

relating to the time required for visa applications for some participants which affected particularly delegates from Pakistan and China who were unable to attend. Participants were from Government institutions, universities and a range of NGOs.

Organisation and Facilitation

The Workshop was facilitated by Jose Tavares, Director of the Vulture Conservation Foundation. Chris Bowden, Globally Threatened Species Officer & SAVE Programme Manager, RSPB, and Asian Regional Coordinator for the Vulture MsAP, provided strategic guidance to the whole event and linkages to the SAVE meeting. He also handled the logistic arrangements for both meetings, with assistance from Bombay Natural History Society and the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MoU. Significant support, primarily as working-group facilitators or rapporteurs, was provided by Jovan Andevski, Andre Botha, Campbell Murn and Nick P. Williams.
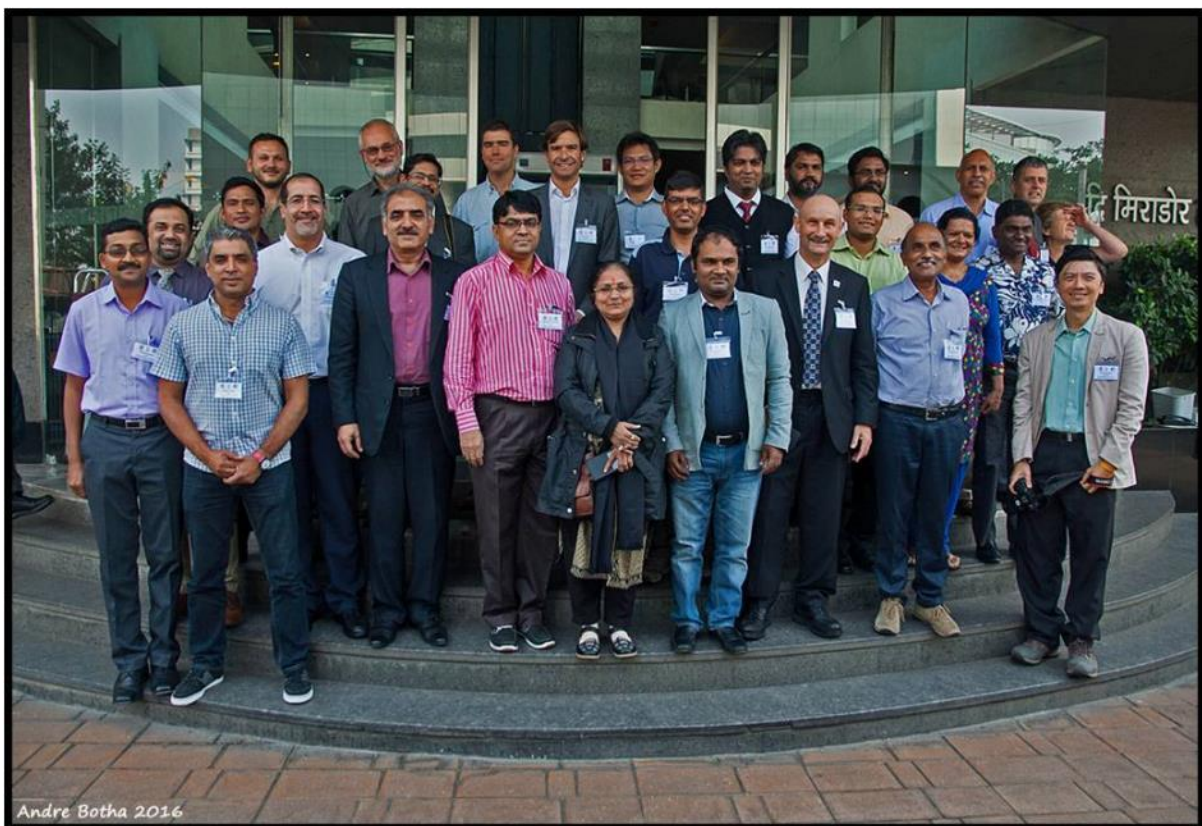
Figure 1: Participants of CMS Vulture MsAP Asian Regional Workshop

Venue and logistics

The CMS Vulture MsAP Asian Regional Workshop was held in Mumbai, India, at the Mirador Hotel from 29 – 30 November, 2016

Thanks to financial sponsorship received from the Government of Switzerland and Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, most of the workshop costs (venue, catering and travel costs of non-SAVE participants) were met by the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MoU, under a Small-scale Funding Agreement to BirdLife International.

Considerable cost savings were made by the organisation of the MsAP workshop back to back with the SAVE meeting. In addition, the coordinator's costs and travel of participants also attending the SAVE meeting were covered by RSPB under their programme of support to Asian vulture conservation.

Signing Ceremony

After the Opening Remarks, a formal Signing Ceremony was held where the co-chairs of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Vulture Specialist Group (VSG), namely Andre Botha (Africa), and Chris Bowden (Asia) signed the CMS Raptors MoU to formalise the VSG as a Co-operating Partner. Nick P. Williams was present to represent the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MoU.

Approach and methodology

The Workshop began with a short series of introductory scene-setting talks (See Agenda, Annex 2), followed by short presentations of the primary and potential threats based on all information collected to date, and delivered by selected speakers with recent relevant experience within the region for the topics concerned.

Several workshop and feedback sessions took up the rest of the meeting, using a participatory approach, with break-out groups and feedback in plenary with opportunities for discussion, to ensure opportunities for inputs from all participants. Results were captured electronically in tabular or note form, and collated by the facilitators and the Asian Regional Coordinator for compilation into the regional component for the Vulture MsAP.

Workshop

Summary of the Workshop

A brief, day-by-day summary of the proceedings is presented below, followed by more detail on the main topics. See Annex 2 for the Workshop Agenda.

Day 1: Context and initial threat analysis

The first day started with a series of presentations introducing the CMS Vulture MsAP process, then an update on the other Regional Workshops (in Africa and Europe) that had recently taken place, and explaining how this Workshop fitted in to allow inputs from all concerned. It then moved on to highlighting the main initiatives currently in place and the state of knowledge for each of the nine species occurring in the region. It should be noted that West Asia/the Middle East, will be treated in a separate Workshop, and parts of central Asia were already incorporated into the European Regional Workshop. See Annex 3 for PDF files of the presentations, Annex 4 for workshop photos, and Annex 6 for a summary of information gathered through Questionnaires, including the BirdLife species range maps.

Following a plenary discussion, four main sets of threats were agreed for treatment in more detail in break-out groups. Participants (and a Facilitator) were allocated ensuring regional representation in each group. The four threats considered by the break-out groups were:

1. NSAIDs
2. Poisoning (non-NSAIDs)
3. Electrocution & Collision (including with vehicles and energy infrastructure)
4. Other threats – Food shortage/kite flying (also considered briefly under 3, above)

The initial task was to clearly define the threat, and priorities for each sub-region if not applicable for the entire region (as appropriate). This was then reported back to plenary for further inputs and discussion.

Day 2: Action planning and conclusions

Each category of threat considered during Day 1 was narrowed down to focus and develop separate problem trees for each of the following priorities:

1. NSAIDs
2. Poisoning (non-NSAIDs)
3. Electrocution
4. Food shortage

The results of these sessions will form the basis of the threat analysis in the Asian regional component of the Vulture MsAP. The facilitating team then presented a summary of the group work (Table in Annex 6) to plenary after lunch. There were some further discussions of this and concluding remarks. This session included a summary of the relative priorities of threats between the sub-regions (Map in Annex 7) covered by the Workshop.

Nick P. Williams, Head of the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MoU, then explained the next steps in process to develop and finalise the Vulture MsAP, with the overall aim being for it to be finalised for consideration at 12th Conference of Parties to CMS, scheduled to be held in Manila, Philippines in October 2017. He then made some concluding remarks and votes of thanks before formally closing the Workshop.

Conclusions, outcomes and evaluation of results

A wrap-up presentation was made by the Jose Tavares (Lead Facilitator) to summarise the key outcomes from the Workshop and clarify the next steps and conclusions. The main threats were confirmed, together with the high-level actions agreed upon to address them. Key next steps will be to complete the Asian regional component and submit it to the Andre Botha (Overarching Coordinator) for incorporation into the Vulture MsAP.

The Workshop achieved all the desired outcomes, including by generating the information necessary to develop the Asian regional component of the Vulture MsAP. Holding the two meetings (SAVE and Vulture MsAP) back-to-back presented certain organisational challenges but these were far outweighed by the unique opportunity to develop the Asian regional component of the Vulture MsAP in concert with the long-standing and highly successful SAVE initiative. The chance to directly engage a significant number of SAVE participants into the Vulture MsAP process enabled existing knowledge and experience in South Asia to form the basis of efforts to widen the scope of vulture conservation in the region, both in terms of extending the number of species and Range States. Based on its Blueprint, SAVE will continue to maintain momentum and focus on advocacy and action in South Asia regarding NSAIDs. However, all potential threats must be, and are being, considered.

An evaluation questionnaire for the Workshop was circulated to participants by email after the event; 16 participants responded. Sessions or aspects of the Workshop were scored between 1 and 5: 1 = poor, 5 = excellent. The figures presented in Table 3 refer to the percentage of respondents giving

each score between 1 and 5. The overall evaluation was favourable, although several respondents felt that more time was needed. However, this would have potentially involved five consecutive meeting days for some delegates and the associated costs exceeded the budget available to host this Regional Workshop.

Table 3. Evaluation of the Workshop by Participants. The most frequent scores are highlighted.

Score (figures in table are percentages of all respondents)	1	2	3	4	5
	Poor....................Excellent				
GENERAL OVERVIEW					
Overall assessment of the Workshop in achieving its objective	0	0	25	33	42
General assessment					
Organization and logistics	0	0	0	29	71
Working conditions	0	0	8	31	62
Accommodation	0	0	18	27	55
Food	0	0	8	23	69
Overall timeframe of the Workshop: Too short 33%; Sufficient 67%					
AGENDA					
Presentations or sessions on Day 1:					
MsAP process and context (N Williams)	0	0	0	31	69
Review of African & European workshops (A Botha)	0	0	0	31	69
Workshop purpose and methodology (J Tavares)	0	0	0	38	62
Asian context: SAVE & MsAP, + species summaries (C Bowden)	0	0	0	46	54
Introduction to threats: NSAIDs (R Green & T Galligan)	0	0	8	31	62
Introduction to threats: Poisoning (P Sum, S Ranade, A Hashemi)	0	0	17	33	50
Introduction to threats: Collision & electrocution (A Camiña)	0	0	18	36	45
Introduction to threats: food availability (V Prakash & S Phearun	0	8	25	17	50
Introduction to threats: Other threats (A Botha)	0	0	8	42	50
Group sessions on Day 1:					
NSAIDs (J Tavares)	0	0	0	33	67
Poisoning (non-NSAIDs) (A Botha)	0	0	0	50	50
Electrocution (C Murn)	0	0	0	57	43
Other threats (J Andevski)	0	17	17	17	50
Feedback session to plenary	0	0	0	78	22
Group sessions on Day 2:					
Priority actions for NSAIDs	0	0	17	33	50
Priority actions for poisoning	0	0	0	63	38
Priority actions for electrocution	0	0	25	38	38
Priority actions for other threats	0	0	80	20	0
Summary & conclusions from each group (J Tavares)	0	0	11	22	67
Closing remarks & next steps (N Williams	0	0	0	33	67

Annex 1. List of Participants

Country	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Email
Bangladesh	M. Monirul	Khan	University of Dhaka	mmhkhan@hotmail.com
Bangladesh	Sarowar	Alam	IUCN Bangladesh	ABMSarowar.Alam@iucn.org
Bangladesh	Shamim	Ahmed	Prokriti O Jibon Foundation	shamim@pojf.org
Cambodia	Phearun	Sum	BirdLife International Cambodia Programme	phearun.sum@birdlife.org
Cambodia	Masphal	Kry	Cambodia Forest Department	masphalsnu@yahoo.com
Cambodia	Ung	Sam Oeun	Cambodia Ministry of Environment	samoeunu@gmail.com
India	Vibhu	Prakash	Bombay Natural History Society	vibhuprakashmathur@gmail.com
India	Sachin	Ranade	Bombay Natural History Society	sachinranade@yahoo.com
India	Mandar	Kulkarni	Bombay Natural History Society	emperor.mandar@gmail.com
India	Rohan	Shringarpure	Bombay Natural History Society	rohanns789@yahoo.co.in
India	Bharathidasan	Subbaiah	Arulagam (Tamil Nadu)	arulagamindia@gmail.com
India	Satya	Prakash	Neohuman Foundation (Jharkhand)	nhfsatya@hotmail.com
India	Kedar	Gore	Corbett Foundation	kgore@corbettfoundation.org
India	Mohini	Saini	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	mohini@ivri.res.in
India	Amita	Kanaujia	Lucknow University	kanaujia.amita@gmail.com
India	Daulal	Bohara	vulture biologist (Rajasthan)	daulalbohara@yahoo.com
India	Shivangi	Mishra	Lucknow University	mishrashivangi11@gmail.com
India	Nikita	Prakash	Bombay Natural History Society	nikitamathur20@gmail.com
India	Kiran	Srivastava	Asian Raptor Foundation	rrcf@raptors.org.in
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India	Kartik	Shastri	vulture biologist (Gujarat)	kartikgyps@gmail.com
India	Suresh	Kumar	Wildlife Institute of India	suresh@wii.gov.in
Iran	Hamid Amini	Tareh	Department of Environment, Government of Iran	amini_tareh@yahoo.com
Iran	Alireza	Hashemi	Tarlan Birdwatching and Ornithological Group	hashemi.alireza@gmail.com
Nepal	Tulsi	Subedi	Himalayan Nature	program@himalayannature.org
Nepal	Krishna	Bhusal	Bird Conservation Nepal	krishna@birdlifenepal.org

Thailand	Kaset	Sutasha	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand	kasetvet57@yahoo.com
Kenya/S Asia	Munir	Virani	The Peregrine Fund	Virani.munir@peregrinefund.org
UK/S Asia	Chris	Bowden	SAVE/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Chris.bowden@rspb.org.uk
UK/Pakistan	Campbell	Murn	Hawk Conservancy Trust	campbell@hawkconservancy.org
UK/S Asia	Toby	Galligan	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Toby.Galligan@rspb.org.uk
UK/S Asia	Jemima	Parry-Jones	International Centre for Birds of Prey	jpj@icbp.org
UK/S Asia	Rhys	Green	University of Cambridge/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	reg29@hermes.cam.ac.uk
UK/UAE	Nick P.	Williams	CMS Raptors MoU	nick.williams@cms.int
S Africa	Andre	Botha	IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group	andreb@ewt.org.za
Turkey	Jose	Tavares	Vulture Conservation Foundation	j.tavares@4vultures.org
Macedonia	Jovan	Andevski	Vulture Conservation Foundation	j.andevski@4vultures.org

Annex 2: Workshop Agenda

Time	Lead	Topic	Length of time
		Day 1 – 29 November	
08.30		Registration/Coffee	30
		Opening ceremony	
09.00		Opening Remarks from Bombay natural History Society (Vibhu Prakash), Indian Government (Suresh Kumar), CMS Raptors MoU (Nick P Williams) and SAVE (Chris Bowden)	25
09.25		Signing Ceremony: Vulture Specialist Group of IUCN Species Survival Commission signing MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in African and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)	5
		Opening presentations	
09.30	N P Williams	CMS Vulture MsAP: Context and Approach	20
09.50	A Botha	Review of African and European Workshops	20
10.10	J Tavares	Purpose of the workshop. Introduction to the methodology. Expected outcomes and expected contribution from the participants	20
10.30		Questions & Discussion	10
10.40		Coffee break	20
		Asian Vultures – Context presentations – status	
11.00	C G R Bowden	Other Action Plans relevant for Asian vultures, and specifically the MsAP and how SAVE and the SAVE Blueprint have been developed so far.	20
11.20	C G R Bowden	Asian vultures: distribution range, trends, status and the current conservation responses underway.	30
11.50		Questions & Discussion	10
		Asian Vultures – Context presentations – threats	
12.00	R E Green T H Galligan	Introduction to key threats – diclofenac & other NSAIDs	15
12.15	P Sum S Ranade A Hashemi	Introduction to key threats – poisoning (non-NSAIDs) – experience from Cambodia, Assam (India) & Iran	15
12.30	A Camiña	Introduction to key threats – collision & electrocution (video presentation) + additions from the floor	15
12.45	V Prakash P Sum	Introduction to key threats – food availability Experience from India and Cambodia	15

13.00	A Botha	Introduction to the full range of threats and potential threats – including food shortage & kite flying	15
13.15		Questions & Discussion	15
13.30		Lunch	90
Group work – categorisation and prioritisation of threats			
15.00	Facilitators: J Tavares A Botha C Murn J Andevski	4 groups defining threats & priorities by area for more detailed treatment & devpt of problem tree: 1. NSAIDs 2. Poisoning (non-NSAIDs) 3. Electrocution 4. Other threats – Food shortage/kite flying	120
17.00		Reporting back to plenary – by all four groups + discussion	60
18.00		End of the day – & Cricket or Football match (tbc)..	

Day 2 – 30 November

09.00	J Tavares	Recap on Day 1	15
Group work – action planning			
09.15	J Tavares	Group work 2: problem analysis: threats and root cause	15
09.30 (with coffee break)	Facilitators: J Tavares A Botha C Murn J Andevski	Group work 2: Decisions on what should be the priority actions to develop for each group of threats Developing: Objectives, Results and Actions	210
13.30		Lunch	90
15.00	J Tavares	Group work 2: Feedback session from all four groups with summaries and problem trees. Discussion & decisions on what should be the priority actions to develop for each group of threats with proposed regional segregation.	60
16.00		Coffee break	30
Conclusions & Next steps			
16.30	J Tavares	Reporting to plenary + Discussion Final conclusions	70
17.40	N P Williams	Next steps & closing remarks	20
18.00	N P Williams CGR Bowden	Close the workshop & vote of thanks	5

Annex 3: Presentations

To access all presentations in PDF format please visit: here.

Annex 4: Photos from the Workshop

To access photos from the workshop please click here.

Annex 5: Blank Questionnaire

Circulated in advance of the Workshop to Government officials, vulture specialists and other stakeholders in all 12 Range States in the region covered by the Vulture MsAP.

CMS Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP) – Asian Range Questionnaire

This questionnaire is one of the three questionnaires (covering Africa, Asia and Europe) being used to gather key information about the biology, status and threats for each of the 15 species covered by the Vulture MsAP – i.e all Old World vultures.

Here we are gathering information about the nine Asian vulture species, and your input is being requested specifically for any or all of the following species where you have direct knowledge/experience:

1. Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*),
2. Bearded Vulture *(Gypaetus barbatus),*
3. Cinereous (previously known as the Black or Monk Vulture) *(Aegypius monachus),*
4. Red-headed Vulture (previously known as King or Pondicherry Vulture) (*Sarcogyps calvus*),
5. Griffon Vulture (previously known as Eurasian Griffon) (*Gyps fulvus*),
6. Himalayan Vulture (previously known as Himalayan Griffon Vulture) (*Gyps himalayensis*),
7. White-rumped Vulture (previously known as Oriental White-backed Vulture) (*Gyps bengalensis*),
8. Indian Vulture (previously known as Long-billed Vulture) (*Gyps indicus*)
9. Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*).

Please use one Questionnaire per species, and insert the name here: _____.

Alternatively, if all your answers are identical, please list all the species to which this Questionnaire applies: _____.

Your inputs will be incorporated into the first draft of the Asian component of the Vulture MsAP, which will be discussed at the Regional Workshop to be held in Mumbai, India 29-30 November 2016.

If you have relevant scientific expertise for any of the above species, regarding threats, biological information or conservation actions, we would appreciate you spending some time to fill in the following questionnaire (please do this for each species separately unless you can specify that your input applies equally to a group of species, in which case use the multi-species form specifying which species it covers) and send it to the Regional Coordinator, Mr. Chris Bowden Chris.Bowden@rspb.org.uk, **by 15 October 2016**.

We encourage liaison with other experts in your country, and note that at least for the South Asian countries, the SAVE Blueprint document provides an important starting point. We do however recognise the need to broaden this to a wider geographical reach within Asia, and also to covering all nine vulture species. Although many threats apply across all vulture species, this process provides the opportunity to add in threats that could otherwise be missed from relying entirely on the SAVE Blueprint.

The Vulture MsAP is a tool and an opportunity for more effectively delivering the conservation of all vulture species – many of which face severe and increasing threats to their future survival.

Contact Form:

Country:	
Date:	
Organization:	
Data Compiler:	
Name (*Title + first + family*):	
Address:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	

Please list the names of contributing experts and their affiliations below:

Contributor's Name	Affiliation

1 – BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

1.1. Population status and trends

NOTES TO AID COMPLETION OF THE TABLES BELOW:

- **Estimated breeding population size / Population Min - Max**: *For breeding ('season' column), figures are usually given in pairs; for other seasons (***Observed /***
  estimated numbers during migration / wintering – non-breeding birds*), figures are given in individuals.* Specify if pairs or individuals (the same unit will be used for
  all breeding range countries).
- **Season:** *Breeding, Migration, Non breeding visitors (wintering)*
- **Data quality**:
  - **Good (G) =** *Reliable or representative quantitative data are available through complete counts or comprehensive measurements for the whole period
    and country.*
  - **Medium (M)** = *Only incomplete quantitative data are available through sampling or interpolation.*
  - **Poor (P)** = *Poorly known with no quantitative data are available and with guesses derived from circumstantial evidence.*
  - **Unknown (U)** = *information on quality not available*.
- **Trends in the last 10 years**.
    If possible, **calculate the actual trend in % (% population decline in last 10 years)** <u>or</u> use the following categories:
  - **Large decline** (>=30%), **Moderate decline** (10-29%), **Small decline** (0-9%),
  - **Stable** (<10% decline and <10% increase),
  - **Small increase** (0-9%), **Moderate increase** (10-29%), **Large increase** (>=30%),
  - **Unknown** (insufficient data).
- **References:** *Refer to the number of respective sources listed in Section 5.*
- Alternatively, if **data is not available**, please state so.

Table 1.1a **Breeding status, population size and trend of the [species] in your country.**

Breeding	Observed breeding pairs	Data Quality	Estimated breeding population size	Data Quality	Breeding population trend in the last 10 years	References
Yes (regular/occasional)/Extinct as breeder (year)/ No	*Number (year of the latest survey)*		*Number (year of the latest estimate)*			

Table 1.1b **Migration status (wintering) or movements (non-breeding individuals) of the [species] in your country.**

*Please complete this table only if there is regular migration of movements of non-breeding individuals detected in your country.

Migration / movements of non-breeding individuals	Observed numbers during migration/movements per year	Data Quality	Estimated minimum numbers during migration per year	Data Quality	Trend in the numbers of passage individuals in last 10 years	References
Yes (regular/occasional)/ No	*Individuals (year of the latest survey)*		*Individuals (year of the latest estimate)*			

Table 1.1c **Most important areas or sites in your country*.***

* Please expand table by adding rows as appropriate to numbers of sites

Area or Site name (in English please)	Season	Area or Site size (km²)	Location in the country (coordinates)	Estimated population size Min	Max	Year	Data quality	References

1.1d Distribution range

Please send by email any publications that can provide geographical data regarding the distribution (current or/and historical) range of the species in your country (national or regional data) to Chris.Bowden@rspb.org.uk, the Asian regional coordinator.

1.2. Habitat use and diet

Table 1.2a **Habitat use of the [species] in your country**

Habitat use	References
Please describe the main habitats occupied by the species and indicate if in your country there is any difference in the habitat use (seasonal choice of habitat): • Breeding sites; • Regions of passage and stopover sites; • Non-breeding sites (wintering); • Sites for significant congregations of roosting individuals or floaters (sub-adult and adult non-breeding individuals). Alternatively, if data is not available, please state so.	

Table 1.1b **Diet of the [species] in your country**

Diet	References
Please describe the main diet of the species in your country. Alternatively, if data is not available, please state so.	

1.3. Productivity and survival

Table 1.3a **Productivity of the [species] in your country**

Productivity	References
Please describe the productivity of the species in your country and refer to the year of study (studies on breeding rates (% of population that breed), hatching success, nesting success, and fledging success, or other relevant parameters). Alternatively, if data is not available, please state so.	

Table 1.3b **Survival of the [species] in your country**

Survival	References
Please describe the survival of the species in your country and refer to the year of study, such as studies of rates of annual survival (or mortality), or numbers of recorded deaths).	

Alternatively, if data is not available, please state so.

2 - THREATS

Table 2a **Threats description at population or country level -** *Please refer to the Notes (below) to aid completion of this Table.*

NOTES *to aid completion of this Table below***:**
- ✓ The description of Threats should reflect the actual understanding of the situation regarding the species, according to the latest available knowledge.
- ✓ Threats are not hierarchical, but clustered according to type of effect.
- ✓ Threat score:
    - o **C = Critical:** a factor causing or likely to *cause very rapid declines* (>30% over 10 years);
    - o **H = High:** a factor causing or likely to *cause rapid declines* (20-30% over 10 years);
    - o **M = Medium:** a factor causing or likely to *cause relatively slow, but significant, declines* (10-20% over 10 years);
    - o **Low = Low:** a factor causing or likely to *cause fluctuations*;
    - o **Loc = Local:** a factor causing or likely to *cause negligible declines*;
    - o **U = Unknown:** a factor that is likely to *affect the species but it is unknown to what extent.*

This ranking reflects IUCN extinction risk assessments

Mark with X	Threats	Threat score (mark with X)					
	Select the relevant threats for your country (please specify the region if not relevant for the entire country)	C	H	M	Low	Loc	U
	Poisoning – Accidental (uncontrolled use of pesticides)						
	Comment: Add specific information about this threat or any other useful comment.						
	Poisoning – Intentional (uncontrolled use of pesticides)						
	Comment: Add specific information about this threat or any other useful comment.						
	Poisoning (lead intoxication - ammunition)						
	Poisoning (veterinary diclofenac)						
	Poisoning (veterinary NSAIDs other than diclofenac – specify which if possible)						
	Hunting - Poaching						
	Decline of domestic livestock/extensive livestock farming(specify)						
	Decline of wild ungulates						
	Stricter sanitary and veterinary regulations						
	Habitat loss / Degradation						

	Collisions with wind turbines						
	Collision with power lines						
	Electrocution on power poles						
	Disturbance from human activities						
	Harvesting/nest robbery						
	Low public and stakeholder awareness						
	Missing or ineffective policies, laws and enforcement						
	Other…						

Table 2a Overview of top 3 threats - *Please follow a descending priority order of threats, starting with the most important.*

• What are the 3 most important threats to the [species] in your country?	• Assess the relative impact on the [species] population? (% score relative to other threats?)	• List the main stakeholder groups associated with the threat and their drivers?

References *(Refer to the number of respective sources listed in Section 4)*

3 – MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

3.1 National Conservation and legal status

3.1a What is the current protection status of the [species] in your country

Protected / not protected

3.1b What is the status of the [species] in your national Red Data Book?

If there is no National Red Book, please state so

3.1c Is the [species] legally protected from harvesting or killing in your country?

Yes / no

3.1d Is the [species] legally protected from intentional/non intentional in your country?

Yes / no

3.1e What is the highest responsible national authority on species conservation in your country?

Please write the name of the institution

3.2 Conservation Status

3.2a What is the conservation status of the [species] in your country?

Options: Not evaluated, Data deficient, Least concern, Near threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically endangered, Extinct in the wild, Is not a listed species or other (if other, please explain).

3.2b The [species] and its habitat receive maximum legal coverage in national legislation?

Yes / no / partly

3.2c Do you have a National Species Action Plan for the [species]?

Yes / no / in development

* If National Species Action Plan is available, could you please send it by email to the regional coordinator at: Chris.Bowden@rspb.org.uk

3.3 Conservation effort

Please include information about targeted projects benefitting the [species] in your country. These should be projects that directly benefit the species or involve general measures that benefit the species.

If there are no projects implemented in your country please go to the next question.

3.3a Please list projects which have already been implemented in your country

include: project title, amount of funding, project duration, project beneficiaries, real or expected impacts of the projects and other comments)

3.3b Please list all the implemented or on-going actions and state the following for each:

- *Short description of action*
- *Coverage (national, regional, local);*
- *Period (started in X – ended in X or on-going);*
- *Responsible organization or expert;*
- *Implementation score (0, 1, 2, 3 & 4) for the current action"*

*Note: Action Implementation Score

0: Not needed/not relevant.
1: Little or no work (0-10%) carried out, (only piecemeal actions, but not part of a strategic approach);
2: Some work started (11-50%), but no significant progress yet;
3: Significant progress (51-75%), but target still not reached;
4: Action fully implemented, no further work required except continuation of on-going work (e.g. in case of monitoring).

3.3c Please list the three most effective conservation actions for the [species] in your country?

action name of species? and why

3.3d Please list the three most ineffective conservation actions for the [species] in your country

action name of species? and why

4. References and Publication

list of key references about the [species] in your country (cross-refer to Table 2a)

Annex 6: Species Accounts (distribution and status)

Maps are based on the IUCN/BirdLife Red List of birds (2016). All information in tables in this section is derived from the Questionnaires. Key: Green, resident; yellow, breeding; blue, non-breeding; red, extinct or extirpated.

Tables are based only on questionnaires received before or shortly after the workshop, and are thus not a complete source of information and have not been peer-reviewed; they are a summary of information received. Key: Br, breeding; N-br, non-breeding.
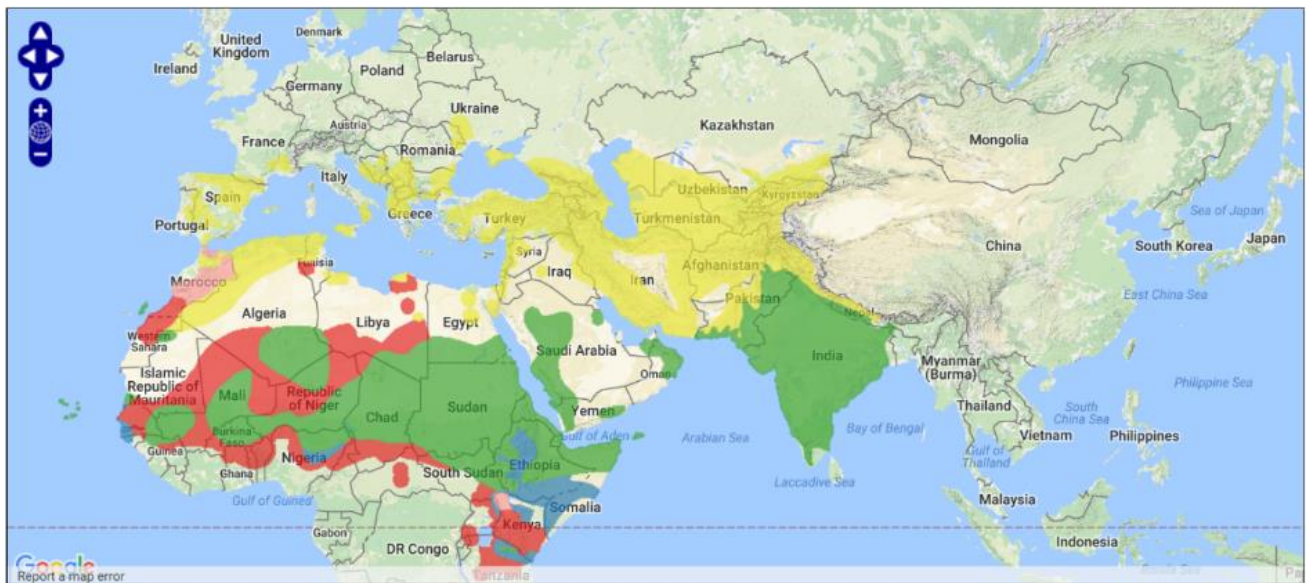
Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* (excluding African and W European range)
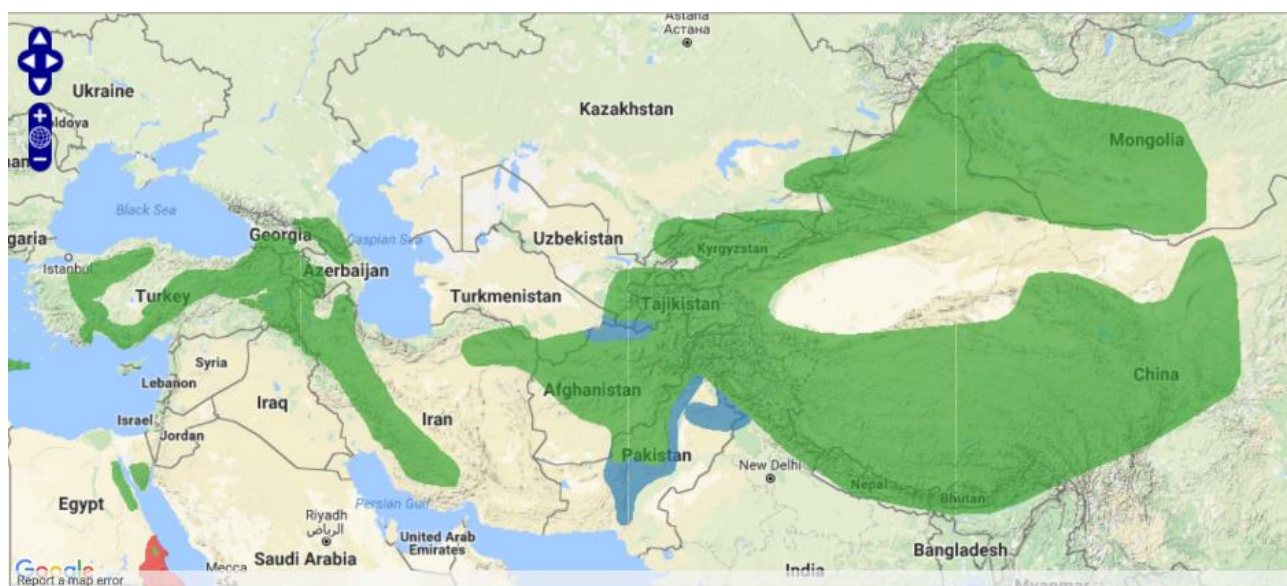
Bearded Vulture biology and conservation status

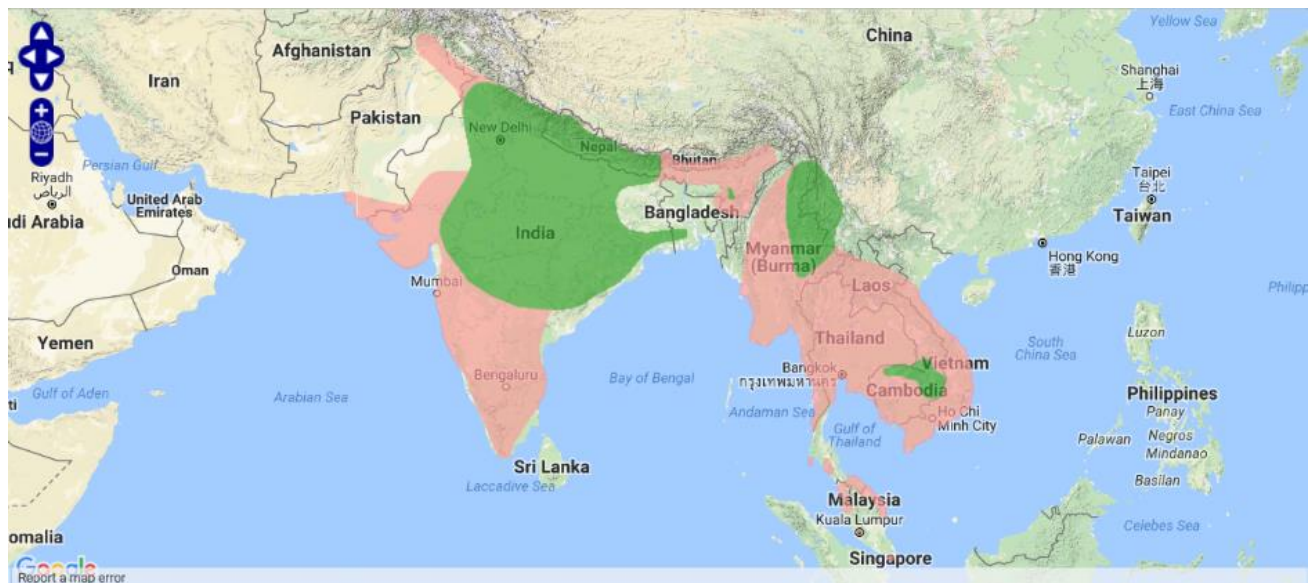| Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
Iran	NA	NA	NA	Br	Yes	Data deficient	No	Food shortage, habitat loss, disturbance, ?poisoning
China (Xinjiang and Tibet)	6900 - 9900	20-30	2015	NA	Yes	NA	No	Poisoning, persecution, habitat loss, disturbance, powerlines and windfarms, (safe) food shortage
Mongolia	NA	500 - 1000	2016	Br	Yes	Vulnerable	No	Food shortage (wild ungulates), disturbance, strict veterinary regulations
Pakistan	NA	NA	NA	Br	Yes	Data deficient	No	Poisoning, NSAIDs, low awareness
Afghanistan	NA	<20	2016	Br	Yes	NA	No	Poaching and nest robbery (firearms), Food shortage (wild ungulates), poisoning (esp. lead)

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* (excluding Southern African range)

Egyptian Vulture biology and conservation status

Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
Pakistan	NA	NA	2016	Br	Yes	Not evaluated	No	Habitat loss, Disturbance, Low awareness
Iran	NA	50*	NA	Br	Yes	Endangered	No	Poisoning, Electrocution, food shortage
China (Xinjiang and Tibet)	20 -100	20-30	2015	NA	Yes	NA	No	Human disturbance, Poisoning, Electrocution, food shortage
Nepal	1000	9	2016	NA	No	Endangered	Yes	Poisoning, NSAIDs, food shortage, habitat loss, disturbance and forest fires
Bangladesh	NA	NA	2016	N-br	Yes	Data deficient	Yes	?
Afghanistan	NA	<10	2016	Br	Yes	NA	No	Decline of wild ungulates (food shortage), poisoning (esp. lead)

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*

Red-headed Vulture biology and conservation status

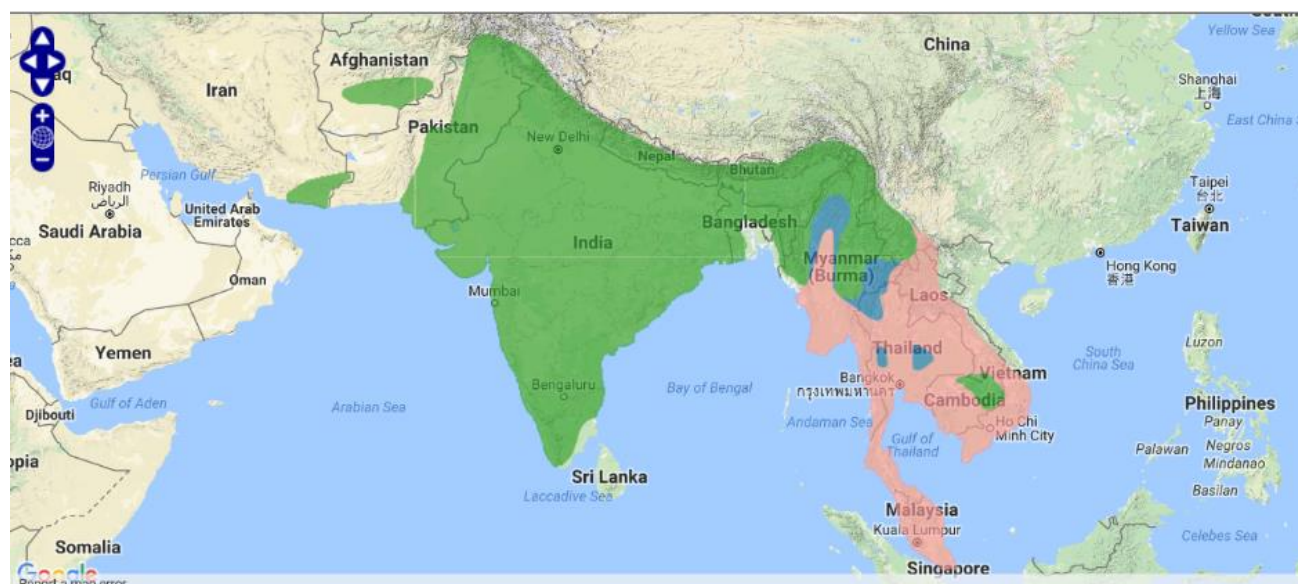| Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
Myanmar	NA	3-5	2015	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	No	Poisoning, Food shortage (livestock), low awareness
Cambodia	42-153	6	2016	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	Secondary poisoning, habitat loss, disturbance, food shortage (livestock)
Nepal	500	4	2016	Br	No	Critically endangered	Yes	Poisoning, NSAIDs, food Shortage, habitat loss (incl. nest trees), electrocution

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

Himalayan Griffon biology and conservation status

Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
Nepal	10000	67	2016	Br	No	Vulnerable	Yes	NSAIDs, food shortage (livestock), poisoning, disturbance, electrocution
Afghanistan	NA	NA	2016	Br	Yes	NA	No	Poaching and nest robbery, food shortage (wild ungulates), poisoning (esp. lead), hunting

White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*

White-rumped Vulture biology and conservation status

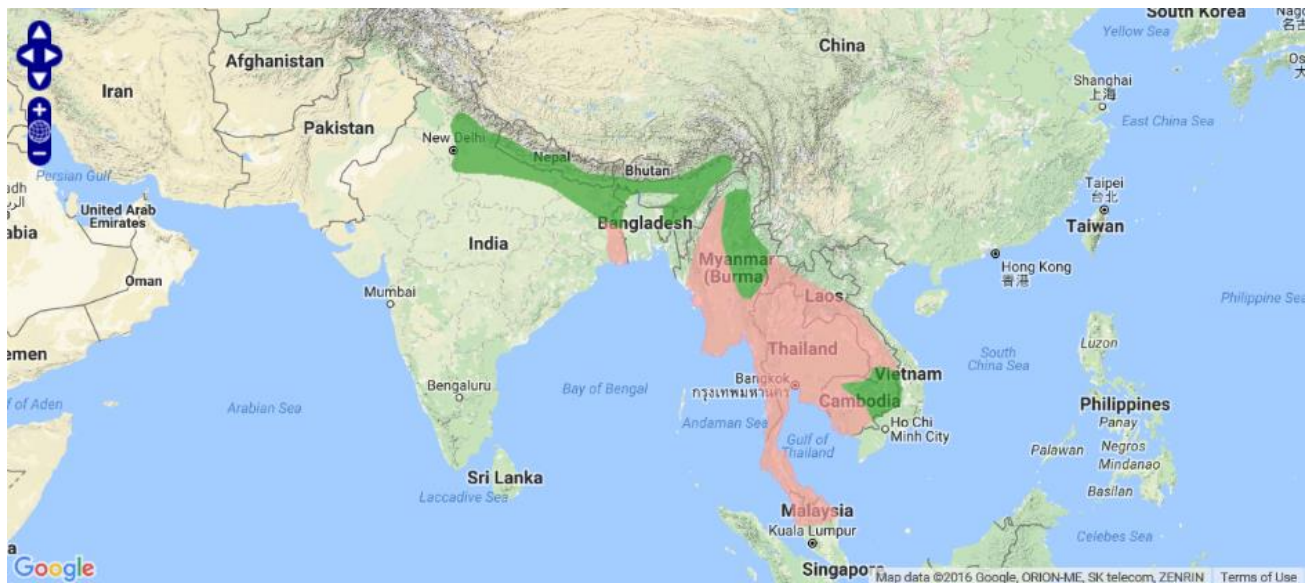| Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
India (1)	150-200	40	2016	Br	Schedule 1	Sceduale 1	Yes	NSAIDs, food shortage (livestock), poisoning
India (2)	NA	NA		Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs
India (3)	30	NA	2005	NA	Yes	Critically endangered	No	Weak policy, low enforcement, persecution (shooting, poisoning, netting, banding and capture), low awareness
Myanmar	NA	3-5	2015	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	No	Poisoning, food shortage (livestock), low awareness
Nepal (1)	NA	NA		Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs
Nepal (2)	2000	356	2016	Br	No	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs, food shortage (livestock), habitat loss (nest trees)
Cambodia	NA	4	2016	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	Incidental poisoning, Habitat loss, food shortage (livestock)
Pakistan	NA	27	2016	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	In prep	NSAIDs, habitat loss (nest trees)

Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*

Indian Vulture biology and conservation status

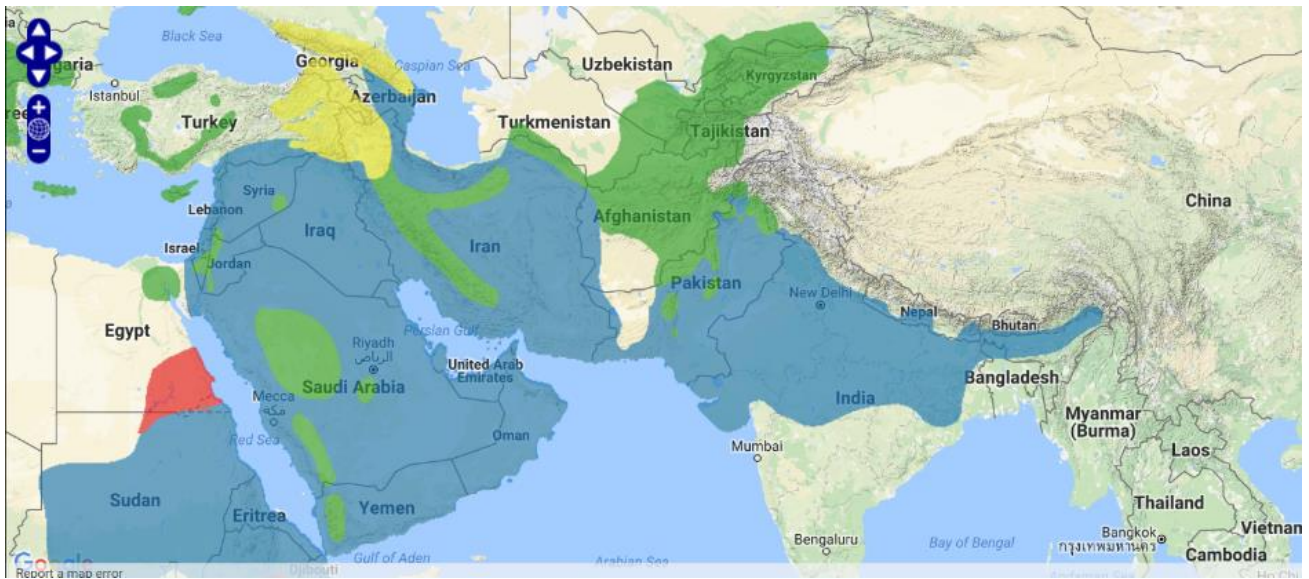| Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
India (1)	NA	NA	2008	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	No	Habitat loss, food shortage (livestock) , tourism disturbance
India (2)	NA	NA		Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs
India (3)	NA	46	2016	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs, habitat loss, secondary poisoning (pesticides)
India (4)	NA	8	2016	Br	Schedule 1	Sceduale 1	Yes	NSAIDs, food shorage (livestock), poisoning
Nepal	NA	NA		Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs
Pakistan	681	147	2016	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs, habitat loss, weak policy and enforcement

Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*

Slender-billed Vulture biology and conservation status

Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
India	NA	NA		Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs
Nepal	NA	NA		Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs
Myanmar		3-5	2015	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	No	Poisoning, food shortage (livestock), low awareness
Cambodia	104	12	2014	Br	Yes	Critically endangered	Yes	Seconday poisioning, habitat loss, disturbance, food shortage (livestock)
Nepal	50	2	2016	Br	No	Critically endangered	Yes	NSAIDs, food shortage (livestock), habitat loss (nest trees)

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* (map shows Asian, including Middle East, range only)

Griffon Vulture biology and conservation status

Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
Iran	NA	NA	NA	Br	Yes	Least concern	NA	Poisoning, food shortage, habitat loss
China (Xinjiang and Tibet)	100-300	20-30	2015	NA	Yes	NA	No	Persecution, poisoning, food shortage, collision/electrocution (power lines)
Bangladesh	NA	NA	2016	N-br	Yes	Least concern	Yes	?
Afghanistan	NA	NA	2016	NA	Yes	NA	No	Poaching and nest robbery, food shortage (wild ungulates), poisoning (esp. lead), hunting

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Cinereous Vulture biology and conservation status

Country	Country Population	Breeding pairs	Year of Last Estimate	Status	Protected	Conservation status	Action Plan	Identified top threats
Iran	NA	NA	NA	Br	Yes	Near threatened	No	Poisoning, food shortage
China (Xinjiang and Tibet)	9000-15000	20-30	2015	NA	Yes	NA	No	Disturbance, (safe) food shortage, poisoning, NSAIDs
Mongolia	NA	5000-7000	2016	Br	No	Least concern	No	Disturbance, collisions (powerlines and wind turbines)
Bangladesh	NA	NA	2015	N-br	Yes	Near threatened	Yes	Food shortage (migration), disturbance, low awareness
Mongolia	NA	NA	NA	Br	No	Least concern	No	Habitat loss, low awareness, no or unfavourable policy, law and enforcement
Afghanistan	NA	NA	2016	NA	Yes		No	Poaching and nest robbery, food shortage (wild ungulates), poisioning (esp. lead)

Annex 7: Main threats to Asian Vultures

Threats were identified, categorised and mapped by sub-region as follows.

Threats	Scope	Severity	Timing	Total
Poisoning by NSAIDS	3	3	3	9
Incidental poisoning	2	2	3	7
Electrocution	2	1	3	6
Collision with wires	2	1	3	6
Kite strings	1	2	3	6
Collision with vehicles (including aircraft)	1	1	3	5
Loss of nest sites	1	1	3	5
Collision with trains	1	1	3	4
Intentional poisoning	1	1	2	4
Collision with wind turbines	0	0	1	0
Climate change	0	0	1	0
Direct persecutiõn	0	1	3	0
Food availability	0	3	3	0
Disturbance	0	1	3	0
Diffuse poisoning	3	0	1	0
Poisoning by contaminated food	2	0	1	0
Poisoning by other vet drugs	0	0	1	0

Figure 2: Preliminary Asia Regional Threat Map