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**SUMMARY OF THE CONSERVATION PLAN FOR VULTURES IN  
WEST AFRICA**

*(Prepared by the Coordination Unit of the Memorandum of Understanding on the  
Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Memorandum of  
Understanding on Birds of Prey))*

Summary:

Summary of Action for the Conservation of Vultures in West Africa  
(2023–2043).



# Summary

# WEST AFRICAN VULTURE CONSERVATION

ACTION PLAN 2023 - 2043



# Key Excerpts from the West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan 2023-2043

This document reproduces key excerpts of / from the West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan 2023-2043

## Executive Summary

In October 2022, 32 stakeholders from 12 West African States gathered in Abuja, Nigeria for a three-day workshop to develop the West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan (WAVCAP). The plan was needed to respond to the imminent threat posed by belief-based use, i.e. use of whole vultures or their body parts for believed medicinal or mystical purposes. The workshop was facilitated by the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) and was based on an internationally recognised core set of Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps, with a focus on maximising collaboration and consensus- building among the stakeholders involved.

This WAVCAP focuses on six species of vulture found in West Africa: Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), Lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*), Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*), White-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*), White-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*). The Action Plan focuses on 16 nations, 14 of which are members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo, with Cameroon and Chad included. Cases of vultures killed, and their parts traded for belief-based use have been reported in all these nations, with some, such as Nigeria and Benin, serving as regional "hubs" for cross-border vulture trading.

The WAVCAP is a subregional Action Plan to guide West African states in reducing the risks posed to these six vulture species. By 2043 it is hoped that the WAVCAP will have resulted in vulture population recovery to sustainable levels, protected by effective legal frameworks and living in a healthy environment, in harmony with people.

Removing threats to a level where vulture populations can recover will be a complex and lengthy process. It will involve the implementation of the actions contained in this plan, learning from their impact and adapting accordingly, so that future actions can be more effective and efficient.

The 2043 vision is supported by a seven-year Action Plan, designed to tie in with the completion of the existing Convention on Migratory Species Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (CMS Vulture MsAP) in 2029. It is expected that more action planning will be necessary beyond this point to realise the 2043 vision and that such planning will benefit the lessons learnt globally from the implementation of the 2017-2029 CMS Vulture MsAP.

The WAVCAP includes five strategic goals each with its own required set of actions. These goals focus on reducing killing and consumption of vultures for belief-based use and reducing the threat posed by unintentional killing across the subregion, in particular, using poisons. These goals recognise the

cross-border nature of trade in these species and aim to substantially reduce it, resulting in the stabilisation and then recovery of vulture populations across the subregion. The Action Plan recognises the need for clear and purposeful governance to ensure its effective implementation, and the formation of both national and subregional committees (each with their own focal points) to realise this end.

## **Vision**

By 2043, vulture populations across West Africa have achieved sustainable levels, are protected by effective legal frameworks, and live in a healthy environment in harmony with people.

## **Background and approach**

### **1.1 Background**

The West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan (WAVCAP) focuses on six species of vulture that occur across West Africa (Table 1), all of which are threatened with extinction, mainly due to trade for belief-based use.

Incidents of mass vulture killings and cases of their body parts being traded for use in belief-based use have been documented in all these countries, with some - such as Nigeria and Benin - representing important regional 'hubs' for cross-border vulture trade (Buij, et al., 2016).

In January 2020, more than 2,000 hooded vultures were found dead in Guinea-Bissau, many of which had had their heads removed (Henriques, et. al., 2020). This event was not isolated, but one of multiple incidents of vulture mass mortalities linked to poisoning and subsequent removal of body parts for belief-based uses across the subregion. The CMS Vulture MsAP identifies killing for trade in belief-based use as being a primary driver of vulture population declines across West Africa. The plan goes further to state that poisoning is, '...by far the most significant threat...' facing vulture species globally (Botha et al., 2017).

The need for action to reduce the imminent threat posed to vultures within West Africa through trade for belief-based use was the primary motivation for the development of the current WAVCAP. It will support achieving Objective 4 of the CMS Vulture MsAP, 'To reduce and eventually to halt the trade in vulture parts for belief-based use'; thereby contributing to Objective 1 of the CMS Vulture MsAP, 'To achieve a significant reduction in mortality of vultures caused unintentionally by toxic substances used (often illegally) in the control and hunting of vertebrates'; and Objective 10, 'To substantially reduce levels of direct persecution and disturbance of vultures caused by human activities, including actions to better understand the motivations behind persecution, and to identify approaches that could mitigate this threat'. In addition, the WAVCAP is designed to contribute to achieving Objective 11, 'To support vulture conservation through cross-cutting actions that contribute to addressing knowledge gaps.' These objectives recognise that unintentional killing of vultures (again primarily using poisons) is an additional threat to vultures within West Africa, where efforts to remove predatory species such as big cats or feral dogs, indirectly contribute to vulture mortality.

The WAVCAP is a subregional plan, designed to guide actions within and between countries in West Africa in their efforts to curb the threats to these six vulture species. The WAVCAP is directed towards the realisation of a 2043 vision for West African vultures.

This vision recognises that removing threats to a level at which vulture populations can stabilise and recover will be a lengthy process, involving the implementation of actions contained within this plan and learning from their impacts so future actions can be increasingly effective and efficient.

Under the 2043 vision sits a seven-year (2023-2029) suite of goals (with associated actions) designed to tie in with the completion of the existing CMS Vulture MsAP in 2029. It is assumed that further action-planning will be required after this point to realise the 2043 vision and such planning will benefit from learning and improvement gained through implementation of the 2017-2029 CMS Vulture MsAP.

## **1.2 Approach**

In January 2020, the Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Vulture Specialist Group approached the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) to request support in developing a plan to counter the threat posed by trade for belief-based use to vultures within West Africa. At this point, an Organising Team consisting primarily of vulture conservation biologists from within West Africa, was formed to design the planning process. The first step in the process was to collate information on the state of knowledge about direct persecution of vultures, primarily for belief-based use, and indirect poisoning. This resulted in the development of the West African Vulture Persecution Threat Analysis Report. The global COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges in bringing a broader group of stakeholders together to develop a plan of action based on this report. However, in October 2022, 32 stakeholders from 12 countries across West Africa convened for a three-day strategy development workshop organized by BirdLife International and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation in Abuja, Nigeria.

The workshop was facilitated by the IUCN SSC CPSG and was based on an internationally-recognised core set of Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps, focused on maximising collaboration and consensus-building between the stakeholders involved.

## **1.3 Threats**

West Africa has experienced the most significant vulture population crash across the continent (Ogada et al., 2016), although exact population size and distribution estimates at regional and national scales is at best imperfect. Threats to African vulture species in general are diverse and multiple, including susceptibility to habitat conversion for agro-pastoral systems; loss of wild ungulates leading to reduced availability of carrion; and hunting for human consumption (Ogada et al., 2016). Vultures are also poisoned (Odino et al., 2014) as a perceived pest directly and killed indirectly through the provision of poison carcasses to target species such as feral dogs and other predators (e.g. Mullie et al., 2017). Of particular concern is the growing threat posed by direct human persecution, which often involves poisoning, including for belief-based use.

Although not restricted to occurrences in West Africa (Ogada et al., 2016), intentional poisoning of vultures, primarily for belief-based use, has been documented in: Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Senegal. A variety of poisons are employed in killing vultures, including insecticides such as carbofuran lindane, nicotine powder and pesticides such as strychnine and warfarin.

At the centre of the belief-based use are the traditional practitioners and healers. Both could use vulture parts in their professional practice. Farmers and hunters are a primary group believed to be involved in vulture killing though others (including traditional healers) also participate in the practice

(Williams et al., 2021). The selling of vultures or vulture parts is believed to involve men aged between 25-45 years old (coinciding with the demographic group that is often most active as hunters and where the greatest financial need may be) (Williams et al., 2021; Atuo and O'Connell, 2015). Several cultural groups have been documented to be involved in trading vultures or vulture parts for belief-based use. Medicinal traders involved often seem to inherit the profession from their parents pointing to the importance of generational linkages.

A range of vulture parts are sold, including heads, legs, eggs, feathers, bones and even faeces, in the belief they can cure a variety of ailments be they physical, mental and spiritual in nature. The use of vulture parts for such purposes seems to be common knowledge, particularly in countries such as Nigeria. There is evidence of significant cross-border trade in vulture parts (Rondeau and Thiollay, 2004; Buij et al., 2016; UNEP/WCMC, 2021). For example, there appears to be movement of vultures and vulture parts from Ghana to Nigeria (Gbogbo, 2016), and from Niger, Benin, Sudan, Cameroon and Chad into Nigeria (UNEP/WCMC, 2021).

The analysis by the UNEP-WCMC (UNEP/WCMC, 2020) indicates that the CITES documented trade of wild caught vultures in the decade 2009-2018 from this region is very limited and involves only Cameroon, Ghana and Togo. The only commercial reported trade within the region involved 12 vultures traded between Togo and Ghana. These numbers do not match the number of vultures reported for sale at many markets across the region (e.g., Buij et al., 2016) nor the evidence of international trade within the region. The killing and sale of vultures for belief-based use is fuelled by demand based on widespread belief and the high financial returns that can be achieved (e.g. Deikumah, 2020). The value of vultures in the trade has increased significantly in recent years (UNEP/WCMC, 2021). A lack of alternative livelihood options (Atuo and O'Connell, 2015), limited access to modern healthcare systems and a lack of relevant laws or law enforcement collectively provide the conditions in which the trade can flourish.

## Thematic Goals 2023-2029 and Actions

Presented below are the thematic goals and related actions to be undertaken to achieve the desired directional change in vulture populations in West Africa.

Thematic Goal 1: Reduce intentional killing of vultures linked to illegal take, use and trade			
Action	Timeline	Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)	Measure of success
1.01. Undertake an analysis of national legislations to identify and address gaps in the protection of vultures, including building on existing work from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), and prepare model legislation for States to use.	2024 - 2029	BirdLife International partners* National organisations & institutions, ICCWC regional hubs (Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire), CMS	Availability of report outlining gaps and how to address them per country.  Availability of draft model law.
1.02. Transpose into national legal frameworks existing international requirements that prohibit the take of CMS Appendix I species and the illegal or unsustainable trade in vultures.	2024 - 2029	Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (Senegal), CITES*, Judiciary, Customs, forestry officers	Number of West African countries considered fully compliant with CMS and CITES regulations.
1.03. Adopt regulations at regional level (e.g., through ECOWAS, West African Economic and Monetary Union [UEMOA]) that prohibit the national trade in vultures and vulture parts in West African States.	By 2027	Department of Environment at ECOWAS*, Ministries of Environment, NGOs, ICCWC	Number of new regulations adopted by regional organisations or bodies.
1.04. Enact regulations at national level to ensure that any unsustainable domestic take, use or trade in vultures is prohibited and complies with any applicable regional and international requirements.	2024 - 2029	National Governments*, CMS	Number of West African countries prohibiting unsustainable domestic take, use and trade.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators</b> <i>(*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</i>	<b>Measure of success</b>
1.05. Identify areas important for Vultures.	2024 - 2026	BirdLife International partners*, National NGOs, The Peregrine Fund, research institutes, Habitat INFO	List of important areas for vultures published.
1.06. Provide legal protection for the areas important for vultures.	2026 - 2029	National Governments*	All sites identified as areas important for vultures receive legal protection.
1.07. Establish Community Vulture Action Groups for monitoring the species and enforcing safe zones.	Starting 2023	Ghana Butchers Association* + other institutions to be identified at national level	Number of groups established per country.
1.08. Establish national vulture monitoring taskforces with the remit to track illegal practices and empowered to apply the law.	2025 - 2026	West Africa Bird Studies Association*, national wildlife authorities, police, border security, Interpol, customs, opinion leaders, repentant traders and defaulters	Availability of taskforce per country Increase in the number of cases dealt with.
1.09. Build the capacity of relevant authorities (e.g., judiciary, customs, police, inspectors, and others) in curbing illegal vulture take, use and trade and build national capacity to identify specimens in use or trade.	2023 - 2026	Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja)*, Forestry Commission (Ghana)*, ICCWC*, Local, national NGOs and researchers, police, custom officers, wildlife and forestry officers, BirdLife International partners, Vulture Conservation Fund, conservation practitioners	Number of trainings conducted per country.  Availability and degree of distribution of a vulture specimens identification manual, per country.  Evolution in the number of seizures per country.
1.10. Develop a regional database with information on the traditional practitioners and healers who use vulture specimens for belief-based practices.	By 2026	Association of Traditional Practitioners of (Ghana)*, Association of Traditional Practitioners in other nation states	Availability of database for each country.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators</b> <i>(*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</i>	<b>Measure of success</b>
1.11. Raise awareness within traditional practitioners and healers concerning legislation that regulates take, use and trade in vultures.	Starting 2023	SOS-Forêts (Côte d'Ivoire)*, SOS Savane (Benin)*, Environmental NGOs, national ministries of environment, media	Number of awareness-raising meetings held with traditional practitioners and healers per country.  Number of traditional healers engaged/ informed.
1.12. Raise awareness of traditional practitioners and healers on the detrimental impact of belief-based use on the long-term presence of vultures in the subregion.	2023 - 2027	Association of Traditional Practitioners of (Ghana)*, Association of Traditional Practitioners in other nation states	Number of awareness campaigns per country.
1.13. Conduct studies on the effectiveness of treatments based on vulture parts.	2023 - 2029	LEBA (University of Ouagadougou)*, NCF* University of Cape Coast*, Laboratory of Applied Ecology (LAE)*, University of Abomey-Calavi*, other national universities and research institutes	Research findings published and shared with traditional practitioners and healers.
1.14. Identify in collaboration with communities (including traditional practitioners and healers) sustainable alternative livelihoods for those that take, trade in and use vultures.	2024 - 2029	NCF*, University of Cape Coast*, Association of Traditional Practitioners (Ghana)*, researchers, associations of traditional practitioners, development organisations	Availability of research studies/ reports on the situation in each country.
1.15. Work with communities (including traditional practitioners and healers) that take, trade in and use vultures to implement the identified sustainable alternative livelihoods.	2024 - 2029	NCF*, University of Cape Coast*, Association of Traditional Practitioners (Ghana)*, Snail Farmers Association, farmers, BirdLife International partners, other national universities, Beekeepers Association, associations of traditional practitioners	Number of alternative livelihood projects per country in relation to number of communities that would need to benefit from them.
1.16. Establish baseline data on the status of vulture populations using comparable methodologies and undertake population viability studies.	2023 - 2026	Ghana Wildlife Society*, University of Cape Coast*, researchers, BirdLife International partners, NCF, wildlife authorities	Availability of population baseline data per country.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators</b> <i>(*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</i>	<b>Measure of success</b>
1.17. Monitor the trends in vulture populations using comparable methodologies.	2023 - 2029	Ghana Wildlife Society*, University of Cape Coast*, other national universities/ GWD/ GWS/ NGOs/FC + similar organizations in all range states	Number of comparable monitoring assessments per species and per country.
1.18. Map markets where vultures and their parts are sold and identify the extent, scope, trends, supply chain and routes of vulture trade across the subregion.	2023 - 2025	Ghana Wildlife Society*, University of Cape Coast*, University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin)*, Biodiversity Conservation Laboratory*, NANGUI ABROGOUA University*, LAE*, LEBA (University of Ouagadougou)*, NCT*, other national universities/ GWD/ GWS/ NGOs/FC + similar organizations in all range states, government institutions	Availability of reports on the status, extent, scope, trends, supply chain and routes of vulture each country.
1.19. Establish a database on vulture poisoning incidents related to belief-based use in West Africa and ensure link made to the African Wildlife Poisoning Data Base.	By 2025	LEBA (University of Ouagadougou)*, NCT*, University of Cape Coast*, LEA*, University of Abomey-Calavi*, SOS Savane (Benin)*, other national universities and research institutes in member countries, NGOs, government institutions	Database established.  Evolution in the number of incident entries over time.
1.20. Institute a Save the West African Vultures Small Grants Fund, financed by Range States to support student projects addressing vulture take, use and trade.	2023 - 2029	University of Cape Coast*, BirdLife International partners, NGOs, governments, grant awarding bodies	Grant Fund established Amount of funds raised.  Number of student projects supported.

<b>Thematic Goal 2: Reduce unintentional poisoning of vultures</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
2.01. List and map the use of toxic substances in poison baits across the subregion.	Starting 2023	University Center of Tenkodogo, Burkina Faso/ Naturama*, UCC, APLORI, NCF, TSU, VERT LABS, hospitals, agriculture extension and veterinarian services, farmers, livestock-owners associations	Number of scientific studies and reports made available on the matter per country.
2.02. Identify toxic substances that require use and trade regulation and assess gaps in such regulation at national level.	Starting 2023	NCF*, researchers	Availability of national-level reports describing methodologies and findings.
2.03. Raise awareness of national agriculture, environment, livestock, health and sanitation authorities on national and international controls in pesticide and veterinary drug use and trade.	Starting 2023	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Wildlife Authorities, vets, law societies, law enforcement and judiciary, ECOWAS	Number of capacitation exercises delivered per country.
2.04. Ensure that the use and trade of identified toxic substances is appropriately regulated at national level, including in compliance with any applicable international conventions and agreements.	Starting 2023	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, National wildlife authorities, vets, law societies, law enforcement and judiciary, ECOWAS	National legislation provides for safe use and trade of toxic substances. National compliance with legal requirements of applicable international conventions and agreements.
2.05. Establish reporting systems for wildlife/national park authorities to monitor and respond to poisoning incidents.	2023 - 2027	GWS*, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, wildlife authorities, vets, Endangered Wildlife Trust/ North Carolina Zoo - people who can train, rehabilitation centres	Availability of systems per country. Number of incidents responded to in relation to number of incidents recorded.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
2.06. Work with ECOWAS to identify and implement stricter international controls in pesticide and veterinary drug use and trade.	Starting 2023	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, wildlife authorities, vets, law societies, law enforcement and judiciary, ECOWAS	Number of regulations on use and trade adopted by ECOWAS.
2.07. Raise awareness on the impacts of poisoned bait to vultures and other scavengers.	2024	BirdLife Partners*, Environmental NGOs, ministries of environment, public works, community associations	Number of awareness campaigns per country.
2.08. Work with farmers and livestock owners to map motivations for retaliation and identify joint solutions.	2023 - 2029	Guinée-Ecologie*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, wildlife authorities, livestock owners, dairy/ poultry farms, cattle rearing, agricultural farmers, local community, key influencers/ trusted voices such as elders, chiefs, pastors	Number of meetings held with farmers and livestock owners per country. Number of human-wildlife conflict resolution committees established per country. Number of cases resolved by each committee.
2.09. Build the capacity of wildlife rangers, veterinarians, local communities, hunter associations, and cattle rearing associations in responding to poisoning incidents.	2023 - 2027	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at action planning workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja), wildlife authorities, Endangered Wildlife Trust, The Peregrine Fund	Number of trainings delivered per country or per subregion. Number of people reached through those trainings.
2.10. Build the capacity of farmers on pesticide use best practice that can avoid unintentional poisoning.	2023 - 2027	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at action planning workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja), wildlife authorities, Endangered Wildlife Trust, The Peregrine Fund, FAO	Number of trainings delivered per country or per subregion. Number of people reached through those trainings.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
2.11. Build the capacity of farmers and livestock keepers on poisoned carcass management and disposal.	2023 - 2027	NCF*, GWS, BirdLife International partners at action planning workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja), Wildlife Authorities, Endangered Wildlife Trust, The Peregrine Fund	Number of trainings delivered per country or per subregion. Number of people reached through those trainings.
2.12. Establish rehabilitation facilities for treating poisoned vultures.	Starting 2023	GWS* plus partners to be identified at the national level	Number of facilities established per country. Number of birds rehabilitated in relation to number of bird arrivals.
2.13. Develop guidance for the establishment of safe vulture feeding stations and their monitoring.	Starting 2023	University of Cape Coast* plus partners to be identified at the national level	Availability of a best-practice manual.
2.14. Establish and manage safe vulture feeding stations.	2024 - 2029	University of Cape Coast*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, wildlife authorities, livestock owners, dairy farms, cattle rearing, poultry farmers, butchers, abattoirs	Number of stations established per country. Number of vultures using the stations per country.
2.15. Work with wildlife management authorities, cattle owners and herders to curb illegal grazing by cattle, including by ensuring appropriate availability and use of livestock corrals and cattle ranching areas.	2023 - 2029	University Center of Tenkodogo, Burkina Faso/ Naturama*, African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA)*, SOS Savane (Benin)*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife partners at workshop, wildlife authorities, livestock owners, dairy/ poultry farms, cattle rearing, agricultural farmers, local community, key influencers/trusted voices such as elders, chiefs, pastors	Number of corrals and ranching areas used in relation to number of available ones per country. Change in the number of cattle depredations.

**Thematic Goal 3: Instate a vulture positive public perception**

Action	Timeline	Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)	Measure of Success
3.01. Define national communication strategies clarifying target audiences, messages and opinion leaders (including religious ones) and tools to deliver the messages.	2024	Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife (Cameroon)*, Research partners to be identified at national level.	Production of communication strategy documents. Availability of final report per country.
3.02. Raise awareness of opinion leaders (including religious ones) on vulture conservation.	2024	Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife (Cameroon)* plus partners to be identified at national level.	Number of meetings held with opinion leaders per country.
3.03. Engage opinion leaders with a view to disseminate public messages on vulture conservation.	2024	Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife (Cameroon)* plus partners to be identified at national level.	Number of opinion leaders engaged per country. Number of awareness exercises carried out per country.
3.04. Raise awareness of vulture hunters, traders and vulture users on the threats posed to vultures by illegal taking, killing, trade and use.	2023 - 2024	NCF*, Forestry Commission (Ghana)*, wildlife authorities, national universities, religion groups, media, security services, WABSA, NCF, SOS, FC.	Number of workshops organised with the relevant stakeholders per country.
3.05. Produce materials and organize events (e.g., International Vulture Awareness Day) to raise awareness of livestock owners, farmers, herders, local communities, hunter associations, and game rangers on: - Ecological value of vultures; - Impact on human life, health and wealth of the disappearance of vultures.	2023 - 2025	University of Cape Coast*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja), local media companies.	Number of materials distributed per country. Number of events completed.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
3.06. Organize community meetings with the help of "town criers" to convey information on the importance of protecting vultures.	2023	Department of Parks & Wildlife Management Wildlife Conservation (Gambia)*, Wetlands International, ECOWAS, BirdLife International partners, IUCN, British Council, GEF, EU, Hawk Mountain - USA.	Number of meetings organized with relevant stakeholders per country.
3.07. Organize annual roadshows or carnival celebrations on vulture conservation.	2023	IBAP-Guinea Bissau* plus partners to be identified at national level.	Number of events organized per country.
3.08. Design and distribute posters and information, education and communication materials.	2023	SOS FORETS (Côte d'Ivoire)*, BirdLife International partners, universities, NABU.	Number of materials distributed per country.
3.09. Implement campaign on vulture conservation on social media.	2023	SOS FORETS (Côte d'Ivoire)*, BirdLife International partners, universities, NABU.	Average numbers of social media engagement per country.
3.10. Work with theatre groups at national and sub-national levels to establish productions that raise awareness on vulture conservation.	2024	NCF*, Conservation clubs, Nollywood.	Number of films, documentaries and theatre pieces produced per country.
3.11. Establish Pro-Vulture School Clubs.	2023 - 2029	NCF*, links to existing organizations in all countries that have nature or science club.	Number of clubs established per country.



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The 2043 vision is supported by a seven-year Action Plan, designed to tie in with the completion of the existing Convention on Migratory Species Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (CMS Vulture MsAP) in 2029. It is expected that more action planning will be necessary beyond this point to realise the 2043 vision and that such planning will benefit the lessons learnt globally from the implementation of the 2017-2029 CMS Vulture MsAP.

The WAVCAP includes five strategic goals each with its own required set of actions. These goals focus on reducing killing and consumption of vultures for belief-based use and reducing the threat posed by unintentional killing across the subregion, in particular, using poisons. These goals recognise the

cross-border nature of trade in these species and aim to substantially reduce it, resulting in the stabilisation and then recovery of vulture populations across the subregion. The Action Plan recognises the need for clear and purposeful governance to ensure its effective implementation, and the formation of both national and subregional committees (each with their own focal points) to realise this end.

## **Vision**

By 2043, vulture populations across West Africa have achieved sustainable levels, are protected by effective legal frameworks, and live in a healthy environment in harmony with people.

## **Background and approach**

### **1.1 Background**

The West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan (WAVCAP) focuses on six species of vulture that occur across West Africa (Table 1), all of which are threatened with extinction, mainly due to trade for belief-based use.

Incidents of mass vulture killings and cases of their body parts being traded for use in belief-based use have been documented in all these countries, with some - such as Nigeria and Benin - representing important regional 'hubs' for cross-border vulture trade (Buij, et al., 2016).

In January 2020, more than 2,000 hooded vultures were found dead in Guinea-Bissau, many of which had had their heads removed (Henriques, et. al., 2020). This event was not isolated, but one of multiple incidents of vulture mass mortalities linked to poisoning and subsequent removal of body parts for belief-based uses across the subregion. The CMS Vulture MsAP identifies killing for trade in belief-based use as being a primary driver of vulture population declines across West Africa. The plan goes further to state that poisoning is, '...by far the most significant threat...' facing vulture species globally (Botha et al., 2017).

The need for action to reduce the imminent threat posed to vultures within West Africa through trade for belief-based use was the primary motivation for the development of the current WAVCAP. It will support achieving Objective 4 of the CMS Vulture MsAP, 'To reduce and eventually to halt the trade in vulture parts for belief-based use'; thereby contributing to Objective 1 of the CMS Vulture MsAP, 'To achieve a significant reduction in mortality of vultures caused unintentionally by toxic substances used (often illegally) in the control and hunting of vertebrates'; and Objective 10, 'To substantially reduce levels of direct persecution and disturbance of vultures caused by human activities, including actions to better understand the motivations behind persecution, and to identify approaches that could mitigate this threat'. In addition, the WAVCAP is designed to contribute to achieving Objective 11, 'To support vulture conservation through cross-cutting actions that contribute to addressing knowledge gaps.' These objectives recognise that unintentional killing of vultures (again primarily using poisons) is an additional threat to vultures within West Africa, where efforts to remove predatory species such as big cats or feral dogs, indirectly contribute to vulture mortality.

The WAVCAP is a subregional plan, designed to guide actions within and between countries in West Africa in their efforts to curb the threats to these six vulture species. The WAVCAP is directed towards the realisation of a 2043 vision for West African vultures.

This vision recognises that removing threats to a level at which vulture populations can stabilise and recover will be a lengthy process, involving the implementation of actions contained within this plan and learning from their impacts so future actions can be increasingly effective and efficient.

Under the 2043 vision sits a seven-year (2023-2029) suite of goals (with associated actions) designed to tie in with the completion of the existing CMS Vulture MsAP in 2029. It is assumed that further action-planning will be required after this point to realise the 2043 vision and such planning will benefit from learning and improvement gained through implementation of the 2017-2029 CMS Vulture MsAP.

## **1.2 Approach**

In January 2020, the Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Vulture Specialist Group approached the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) to request support in developing a plan to counter the threat posed by trade for belief-based use to vultures within West Africa. At this point, an Organising Team consisting primarily of vulture conservation biologists from within West Africa, was formed to design the planning process. The first step in the process was to collate information on the state of knowledge about direct persecution of vultures, primarily for belief-based use, and indirect poisoning. This resulted in the development of the West African Vulture Persecution Threat Analysis Report. The global COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges in bringing a broader group of stakeholders together to develop a plan of action based on this report. However, in October 2022, 32 stakeholders from 12 countries across West Africa convened for a three-day strategy development workshop organized by BirdLife International and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation in Abuja, Nigeria.

The workshop was facilitated by the IUCN SSC CPSG and was based on an internationally-recognised core set of Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps, focused on maximising collaboration and consensus-building between the stakeholders involved.

## **1.3 Threats**

West Africa has experienced the most significant vulture population crash across the continent (Ogada et al., 2016), although exact population size and distribution estimates at regional and national scales is at best imperfect. Threats to African vulture species in general are diverse and multiple, including susceptibility to habitat conversion for agro-pastoral systems; loss of wild ungulates leading to reduced availability of carrion; and hunting for human consumption (Ogada et al., 2016). Vultures are also poisoned (Odino et al., 2014) as a perceived pest directly and killed indirectly through the provision of poison carcasses to target species such as feral dogs and other predators (e.g. Mullie et al., 2017). Of particular concern is the growing threat posed by direct human persecution, which often involves poisoning, including for belief-based use.

Although not restricted to occurrences in West Africa (Ogada et al., 2016), intentional poisoning of vultures, primarily for belief-based use, has been documented in: Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Senegal. A variety of poisons are employed in killing vultures, including insecticides such as carbofuran lindane, nicotine powder and pesticides such as strychnine and warfarin.

At the centre of the belief-based use are the traditional practitioners and healers. Both could use vulture parts in their professional practice. Farmers and hunters are a primary group believed to be involved in vulture killing though others (including traditional healers) also participate in the practice

(Williams et al., 2021). The selling of vultures or vulture parts is believed to involve men aged between 25-45 years old (coinciding with the demographic group that is often most active as hunters and where the greatest financial need may be) (Williams et al., 2021; Atuo and O'Connell, 2015). Several cultural groups have been documented to be involved in trading vultures or vulture parts for belief-based use. Medicinal traders involved often seem to inherit the profession from their parents pointing to the importance of generational linkages.

A range of vulture parts are sold, including heads, legs, eggs, feathers, bones and even faeces, in the belief they can cure a variety of ailments be they physical, mental and spiritual in nature. The use of vulture parts for such purposes seems to be common knowledge, particularly in countries such as Nigeria. There is evidence of significant cross-border trade in vulture parts (Rondeau and Thiollay, 2004; Buij et al., 2016; UNEP/WCMC, 2021). For example, there appears to be movement of vultures and vulture parts from Ghana to Nigeria (Gbogbo, 2016), and from Niger, Benin, Sudan, Cameroon and Chad into Nigeria (UNEP/WCMC, 2021).

The analysis by the UNEP-WCMC (UNEP/WCMC, 2020) indicates that the CITES documented trade of wild caught vultures in the decade 2009-2018 from this region is very limited and involves only Cameroon, Ghana and Togo. The only commercial reported trade within the region involved 12 vultures traded between Togo and Ghana. These numbers do not match the number of vultures reported for sale at many markets across the region (e.g., Buij et al., 2016) nor the evidence of international trade within the region. The killing and sale of vultures for belief-based use is fuelled by demand based on widespread belief and the high financial returns that can be achieved (e.g. Deikumah, 2020). The value of vultures in the trade has increased significantly in recent years (UNEP/WCMC, 2021). A lack of alternative livelihood options (Atuo and O'Connell, 2015), limited access to modern healthcare systems and a lack of relevant laws or law enforcement collectively provide the conditions in which the trade can flourish.

## Thematic Goals 2023-2029 and Actions

Presented below are the thematic goals and related actions to be undertaken to achieve the desired directional change in vulture populations in West Africa.

Thematic Goal 1: Reduce intentional killing of vultures linked to illegal take, use and trade			
Action	Timeline	Collaborators <i>(*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</i>	Measure of success
1.01. Undertake an analysis of national legislations to identify and address gaps in the protection of vultures, including building on existing work from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), and prepare model legislation for States to use.	2024 - 2029	BirdLife International partners* National organisations & institutions, ICCWC regional hubs (Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire), CMS	Availability of report outlining gaps and how to address them per country.  Availability of draft model law.
1.02. Transpose into national legal frameworks existing international requirements that prohibit the take of CMS Appendix I species and the illegal or unsustainable trade in vultures.	2024 - 2029	Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (Senegal), CITES*, Judiciary, Customs, forestry officers	Number of West African countries considered fully compliant with CMS and CITES regulations.
1.03. Adopt regulations at regional level (e.g., through ECOWAS, West African Economic and Monetary Union [UEMOA]) that prohibit the national trade in vultures and vulture parts in West African States.	By 2027	Department of Environment at ECOWAS*, Ministries of Environment, NGOs, ICCWC	Number of new regulations adopted by regional organisations or bodies.
1.04. Enact regulations at national level to ensure that any unsustainable domestic take, use or trade in vultures is prohibited and complies with any applicable regional and international requirements.	2024 - 2029	National Governments*, CMS	Number of West African countries prohibiting unsustainable domestic take, use and trade.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators</b> <i>(*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</i>	<b>Measure of success</b>
1.05. Identify areas important for Vultures.	2024 - 2026	BirdLife International partners*, National NGOs, The Peregrine Fund, research institutes, Habitat INFO	List of important areas for vultures published.
1.06. Provide legal protection for the areas important for vultures.	2026 - 2029	National Governments*	All sites identified as areas important for vultures receive legal protection.
1.07. Establish Community Vulture Action Groups for monitoring the species and enforcing safe zones.	Starting 2023	Ghana Butchers Association* + other institutions to be identified at national level	Number of groups established per country.
1.08. Establish national vulture monitoring taskforces with the remit to track illegal practices and empowered to apply the law.	2025 - 2026	West Africa Bird Studies Association*, national wildlife authorities, police, border security, Interpol, customs, opinion leaders, repentant traders and defaulters	Availability of taskforce per country Increase in the number of cases dealt with.
1.09. Build the capacity of relevant authorities (e.g., judiciary, customs, police, inspectors, and others) in curbing illegal vulture take, use and trade and build national capacity to identify specimens in use or trade.	2023 - 2026	Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja)*, Forestry Commission (Ghana)*, ICCWC*, Local, national NGOs and researchers, police, custom officers, wildlife and forestry officers, BirdLife International partners, Vulture Conservation Fund, conservation practitioners	Number of trainings conducted per country.  Availability and degree of distribution of a vulture specimens identification manual, per country.  Evolution in the number of seizures per country.
1.10. Develop a regional database with information on the traditional practitioners and healers who use vulture specimens for belief-based practices.	By 2026	Association of Traditional Practitioners of (Ghana)*, Association of Traditional Practitioners in other nation states	Availability of database for each country.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators</b> <i>(*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</i>	<b>Measure of success</b>
1.11. Raise awareness within traditional practitioners and healers concerning legislation that regulates take, use and trade in vultures.	Starting 2023	SOS-Forêts (Côte d'Ivoire)*, SOS Savane (Benin)*, Environmental NGOs, national ministries of environment, media	Number of awareness-raising meetings held with traditional practitioners and healers per country.  Number of traditional healers engaged/ informed.
1.12. Raise awareness of traditional practitioners and healers on the detrimental impact of belief-based use on the long-term presence of vultures in the subregion.	2023 - 2027	Association of Traditional Practitioners of (Ghana)*, Association of Traditional Practitioners in other nation states	Number of awareness campaigns per country.
1.13. Conduct studies on the effectiveness of treatments based on vulture parts.	2023 - 2029	LEBA (University of Ouagadougou)*, NCF* University of Cape Coast*, Laboratory of Applied Ecology (LAE)*, University of Abomey-Calavi*, other national universities and research institutes	Research findings published and shared with traditional practitioners and healers.
1.14. Identify in collaboration with communities (including traditional practitioners and healers) sustainable alternative livelihoods for those that take, trade in and use vultures.	2024 - 2029	NCF*, University of Cape Coast*, Association of Traditional Practitioners (Ghana)*, researchers, associations of traditional practitioners, development organisations	Availability of research studies/ reports on the situation in each country.
1.15. Work with communities (including traditional practitioners and healers) that take, trade in and use vultures to implement the identified sustainable alternative livelihoods.	2024 - 2029	NCF*, University of Cape Coast*, Association of Traditional Practitioners (Ghana)*, Snail Farmers Association, farmers, BirdLife International partners, other national universities, Beekeepers Association, associations of traditional practitioners	Number of alternative livelihood projects per country in relation to number of communities that would need to benefit from them.
1.16. Establish baseline data on the status of vulture populations using comparable methodologies and undertake population viability studies.	2023 - 2026	Ghana Wildlife Society*, University of Cape Coast*, researchers, BirdLife International partners, NCF, wildlife authorities	Availability of population baseline data per country.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators</b> <i>(*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</i>	<b>Measure of success</b>
1.17. Monitor the trends in vulture populations using comparable methodologies.	2023 - 2029	Ghana Wildlife Society*, University of Cape Coast*, other national universities/ GWD/ GWS/ NGOs/FC + similar organizations in all range states	Number of comparable monitoring assessments per species and per country.
1.18. Map markets where vultures and their parts are sold and identify the extent, scope, trends, supply chain and routes of vulture trade across the subregion.	2023 - 2025	Ghana Wildlife Society*, University of Cape Coast*, University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin)*, Biodiversity Conservation Laboratory*, NANGUI ABROGOUA University*, LAE*, LEBA (University of Ouagadougou)*, NCT*, other national universities/ GWD/ GWS/ NGOs/FC + similar organizations in all range states, government institutions	Availability of reports on the status, extent, scope, trends, supply chain and routes of vulture each country.
1.19. Establish a database on vulture poisoning incidents related to belief-based use in West Africa and ensure link made to the African Wildlife Poisoning Data Base.	By 2025	LEBA (University of Ouagadougou)*, NCT*, University of Cape Coast*, LEA*, University of Abomey-Calavi*, SOS Savane (Benin)*, other national universities and research institutes in member countries, NGOs, government institutions	Database established.  Evolution in the number of incident entries over time.
1.20. Institute a Save the West African Vultures Small Grants Fund, financed by Range States to support student projects addressing vulture take, use and trade.	2023 - 2029	University of Cape Coast*, BirdLife International partners, NGOs, governments, grant awarding bodies	Grant Fund established Amount of funds raised.  Number of student projects supported.

<b>Thematic Goal 2: Reduce unintentional poisoning of vultures</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
2.01. List and map the use of toxic substances in poison baits across the subregion.	Starting 2023	University Center of Tenkodogo, Burkina Faso/ Naturama*, UCC, APLORI, NCF, TSU, VERT LABS, hospitals, agriculture extension and veterinarian services, farmers, livestock-owners associations	Number of scientific studies and reports made available on the matter per country.
2.02. Identify toxic substances that require use and trade regulation and assess gaps in such regulation at national level.	Starting 2023	NCF*, researchers	Availability of national-level reports describing methodologies and findings.
2.03. Raise awareness of national agriculture, environment, livestock, health and sanitation authorities on national and international controls in pesticide and veterinary drug use and trade.	Starting 2023	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Wildlife Authorities, vets, law societies, law enforcement and judiciary, ECOWAS	Number of capacitation exercises delivered per country.
2.04. Ensure that the use and trade of identified toxic substances is appropriately regulated at national level, including in compliance with any applicable international conventions and agreements.	Starting 2023	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, National wildlife authorities, vets, law societies, law enforcement and judiciary, ECOWAS	National legislation provides for safe use and trade of toxic substances. National compliance with legal requirements of applicable international conventions and agreements.
2.05. Establish reporting systems for wildlife/national park authorities to monitor and respond to poisoning incidents.	2023 - 2027	GWS*, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, wildlife authorities, vets, Endangered Wildlife Trust/ North Carolina Zoo - people who can train, rehabilitation centres	Availability of systems per country. Number of incidents responded to in relation to number of incidents recorded.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
2.06. Work with ECOWAS to identify and implement stricter international controls in pesticide and veterinary drug use and trade.	Starting 2023	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, wildlife authorities, vets, law societies, law enforcement and judiciary, ECOWAS	Number of regulations on use and trade adopted by ECOWAS.
2.07. Raise awareness on the impacts of poisoned bait to vultures and other scavengers.	2024	BirdLife Partners*, Environmental NGOs, ministries of environment, public works, community associations	Number of awareness campaigns per country.
2.08. Work with farmers and livestock owners to map motivations for retaliation and identify joint solutions.	2023 - 2029	Guinée-Ecologie*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, wildlife authorities, livestock owners, dairy/ poultry farms, cattle rearing, agricultural farmers, local community, key influencers/ trusted voices such as elders, chiefs, pastors	Number of meetings held with farmers and livestock owners per country. Number of human-wildlife conflict resolution committees established per country. Number of cases resolved by each committee.
2.09. Build the capacity of wildlife rangers, veterinarians, local communities, hunter associations, and cattle rearing associations in responding to poisoning incidents.	2023 - 2027	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at action planning workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja), wildlife authorities, Endangered Wildlife Trust, The Peregrine Fund	Number of trainings delivered per country or per subregion. Number of people reached through those trainings.
2.10. Build the capacity of farmers on pesticide use best practice that can avoid unintentional poisoning.	2023 - 2027	NCF*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at action planning workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja), wildlife authorities, Endangered Wildlife Trust, The Peregrine Fund, FAO	Number of trainings delivered per country or per subregion. Number of people reached through those trainings.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
2.11. Build the capacity of farmers and livestock keepers on poisoned carcass management and disposal.	2023 - 2027	NCF*, GWS, BirdLife International partners at action planning workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja), Wildlife Authorities, Endangered Wildlife Trust, The Peregrine Fund	Number of trainings delivered per country or per subregion. Number of people reached through those trainings.
2.12. Establish rehabilitation facilities for treating poisoned vultures.	Starting 2023	GWS* plus partners to be identified at the national level	Number of facilities established per country. Number of birds rehabilitated in relation to number of bird arrivals.
2.13. Develop guidance for the establishment of safe vulture feeding stations and their monitoring.	Starting 2023	University of Cape Coast* plus partners to be identified at the national level	Availability of a best-practice manual.
2.14. Establish and manage safe vulture feeding stations.	2024 - 2029	University of Cape Coast*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, wildlife authorities, livestock owners, dairy farms, cattle rearing, poultry farmers, butchers, abattoirs	Number of stations established per country. Number of vultures using the stations per country.
2.15. Work with wildlife management authorities, cattle owners and herders to curb illegal grazing by cattle, including by ensuring appropriate availability and use of livestock corrals and cattle ranching areas.	2023 - 2029	University Center of Tenkodogo, Burkina Faso/ Naturama*, African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA)*, SOS Savane (Benin)*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife partners at workshop, wildlife authorities, livestock owners, dairy/ poultry farms, cattle rearing, agricultural farmers, local community, key influencers/trusted voices such as elders, chiefs, pastors	Number of corrals and ranching areas used in relation to number of available ones per country. Change in the number of cattle depredations.

**Thematic Goal 3: Instate a vulture positive public perception**

Action	Timeline	Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)	Measure of Success
3.01. Define national communication strategies clarifying target audiences, messages and opinion leaders (including religious ones) and tools to deliver the messages.	2024	Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife (Cameroon)*, Research partners to be identified at national level.	Production of communication strategy documents. Availability of final report per country.
3.02. Raise awareness of opinion leaders (including religious ones) on vulture conservation.	2024	Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife (Cameroon)* plus partners to be identified at national level.	Number of meetings held with opinion leaders per country.
3.03. Engage opinion leaders with a view to disseminate public messages on vulture conservation.	2024	Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife (Cameroon)* plus partners to be identified at national level.	Number of opinion leaders engaged per country. Number of awareness exercises carried out per country.
3.04. Raise awareness of vulture hunters, traders and vulture users on the threats posed to vultures by illegal taking, killing, trade and use.	2023 - 2024	NCF*, Forestry Commission (Ghana)*, wildlife authorities, national universities, religion groups, media, security services, WABSA, NCF, SOS, FC.	Number of workshops organised with the relevant stakeholders per country.
3.05. Produce materials and organize events (e.g., International Vulture Awareness Day) to raise awareness of livestock owners, farmers, herders, local communities, hunter associations, and game rangers on: - Ecological value of vultures; - Impact on human life, health and wealth of the disappearance of vultures.	2023 - 2025	University of Cape Coast*, GWS, NCF, BirdLife International partners at workshop, UCC, APLORI, TSU, Federal Ministry of Environment (Abuja), local media companies.	Number of materials distributed per country. Number of events completed.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Collaborators (*nominated action lead within WAVCAP workshop)</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
3.06. Organize community meetings with the help of "town criers" to convey information on the importance of protecting vultures.	2023	Department of Parks & Wildlife Management Wildlife Conservation (Gambia)*, Wetlands International, ECOWAS, BirdLife International partners, IUCN, British Council, GEF, EU, Hawk Mountain - USA.	Number of meetings organized with relevant stakeholders per country.
3.07. Organize annual roadshows or carnival celebrations on vulture conservation.	2023	IBAP-Guinea Bissau* plus partners to be identified at national level.	Number of events organized per country.
3.08. Design and distribute posters and information, education and communication materials.	2023	SOS FORETS (Côte d'Ivoire)*, BirdLife International partners, universities, NABU.	Number of materials distributed per country.
3.09. Implement campaign on vulture conservation on social media.	2023	SOS FORETS (Côte d'Ivoire)*, BirdLife International partners, universities, NABU.	Average numbers of social media engagement per country.
3.10. Work with theatre groups at national and sub-national levels to establish productions that raise awareness on vulture conservation.	2024	NCF*, Conservation clubs, Nollywood.	Number of films, documentaries and theatre pieces produced per country.
3.11. Establish Pro-Vulture School Clubs.	2023 - 2029	NCF*, links to existing organizations in all countries that have nature or science club.	Number of clubs established per country.