



RAPTORS
MOU

Vulture Multi-species Action Plan Implementation

Andre Botha

Co-chair: IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group

Overarching Coordinator: CMS Vulture MsAP

*Fourth Meeting of the Raptors MOU Technical Advisory Group
13 - 15 December 2021*

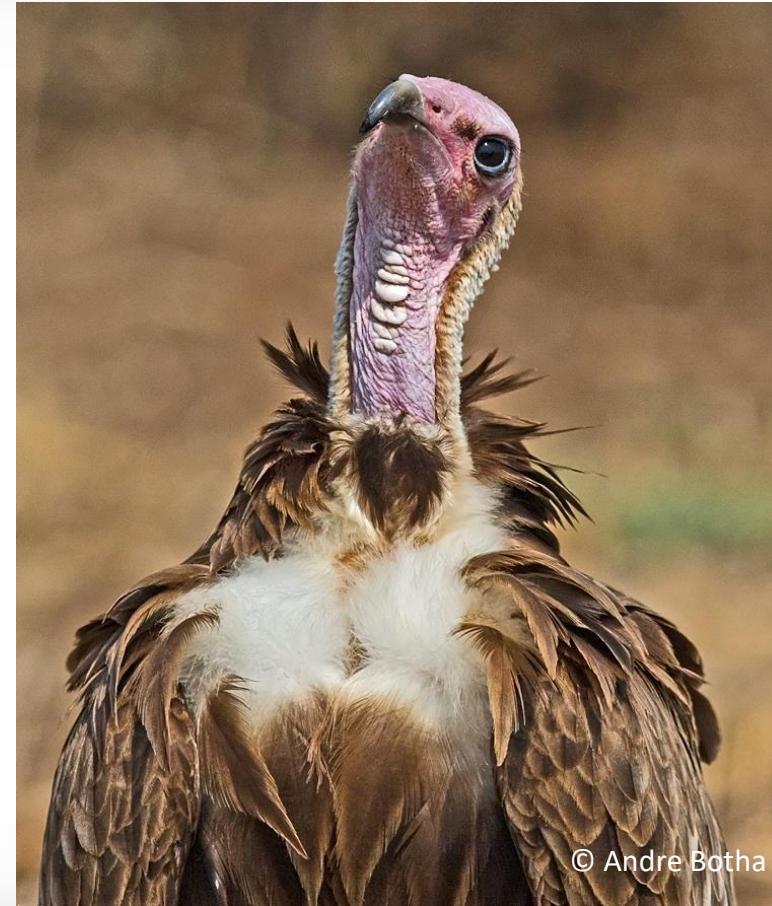
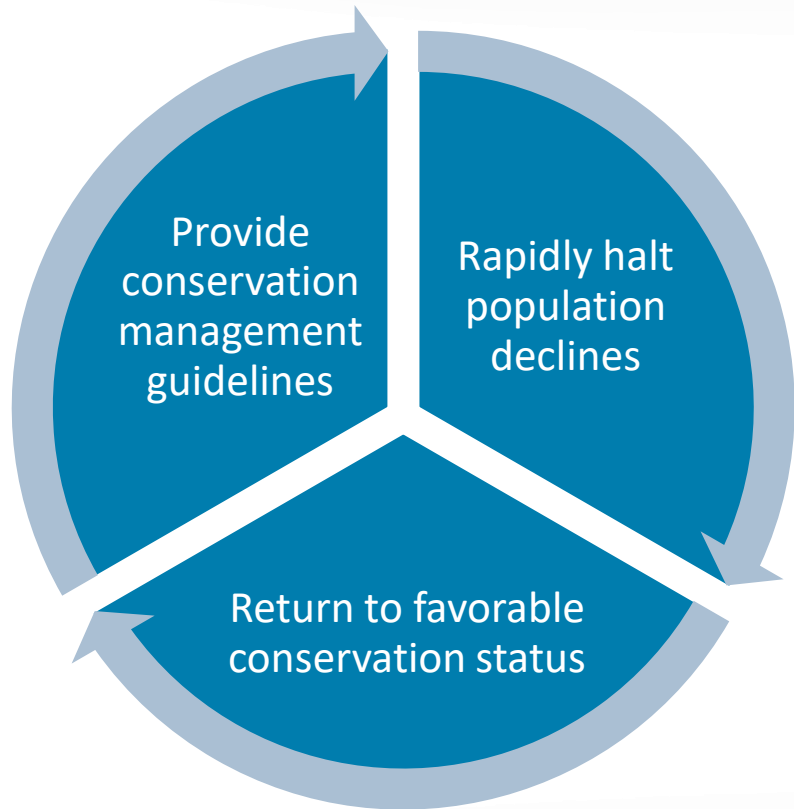


Background: Vulture MsAP



- Adopted at CMS COP12 – Res. 12.10
- Timeframe 2017 – 2029
- 15 species of Old World Vultures
- 128 countries
- Framework for Action

Overall Goal

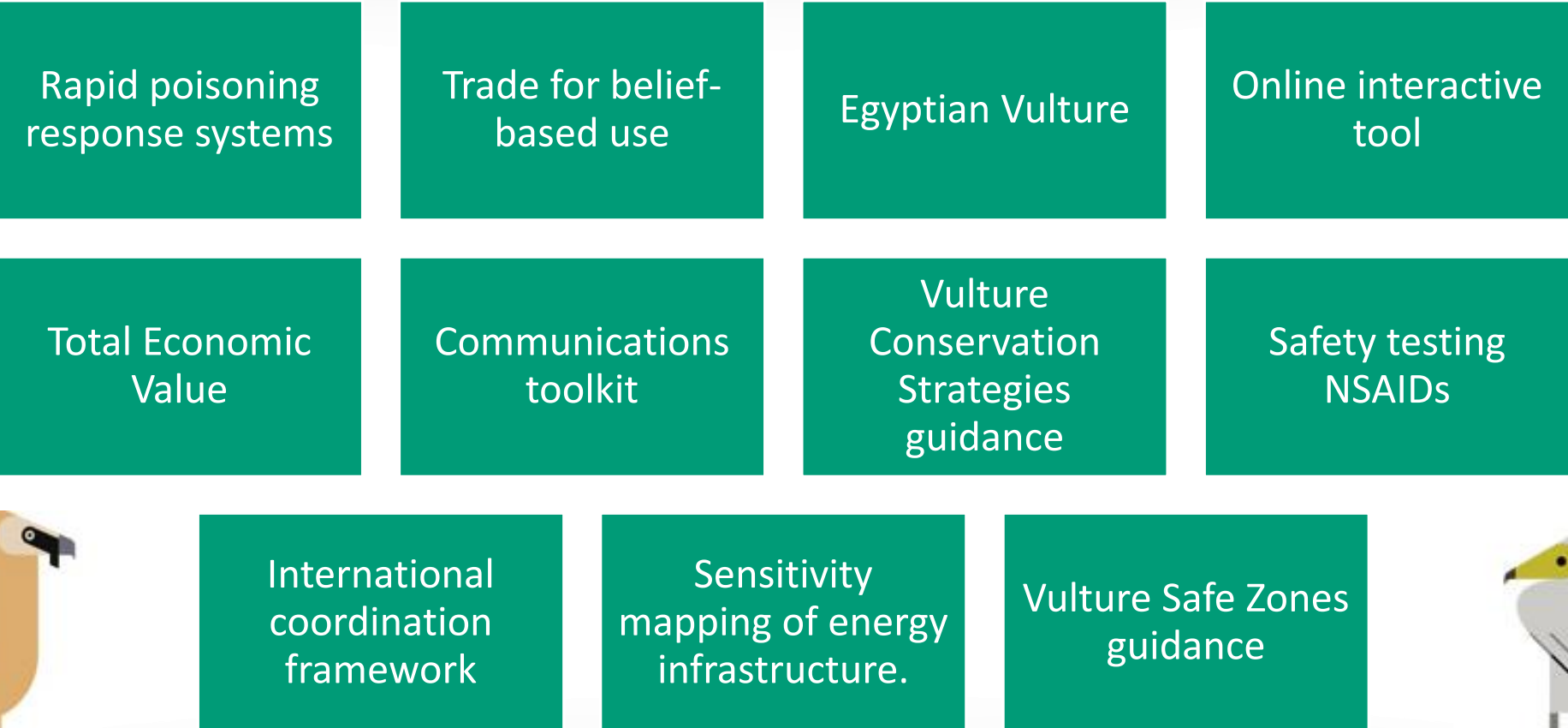


Vulture MsAP Strategic Implementation Plan

- Implementation roadmap
- Overview of ongoing activities (2018 survey)
- Higher implementation in Africa and Europe
- 11 Flagship Projects

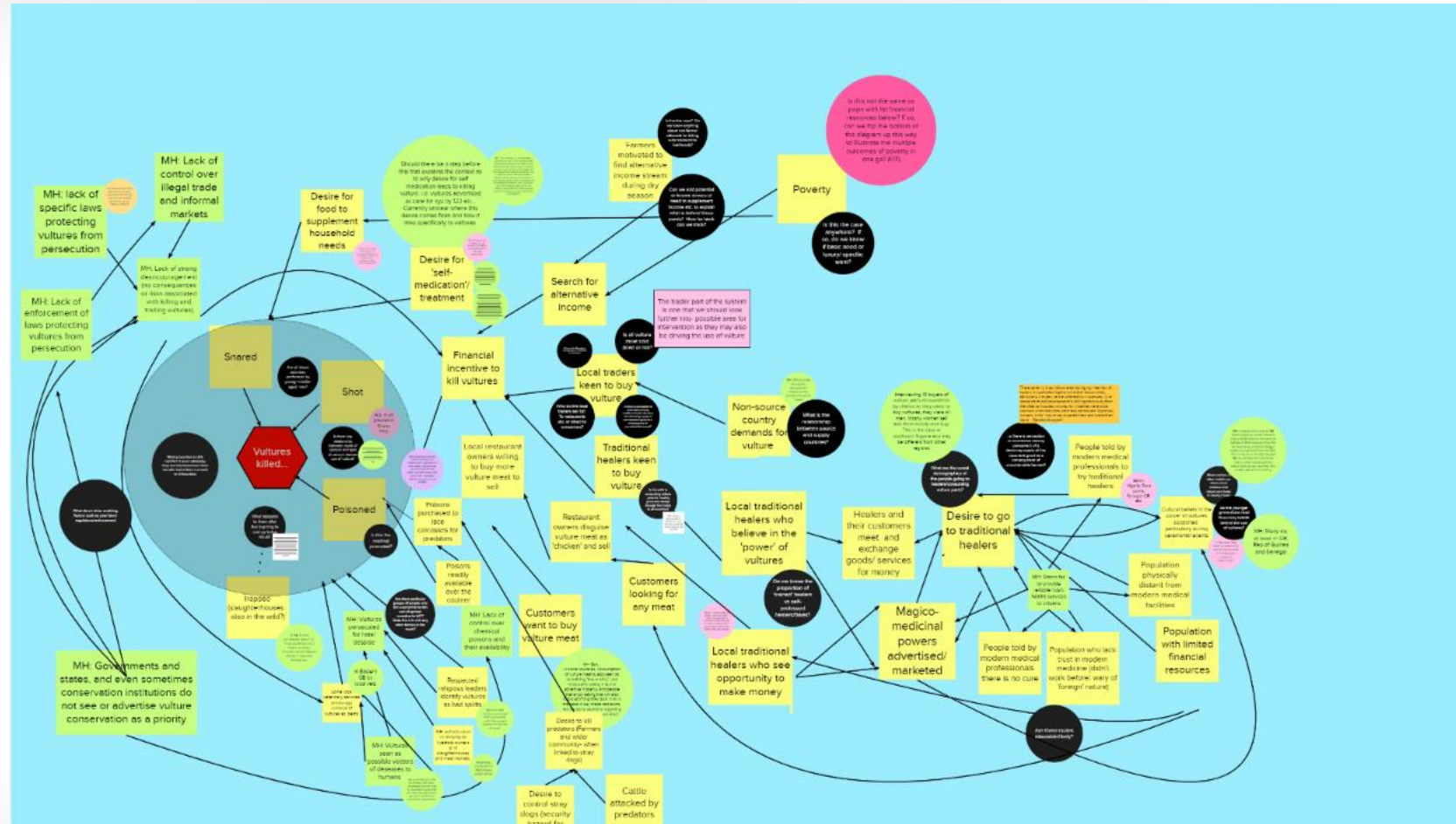


VMsAP Strategic Implementation Plan – Flagship projects



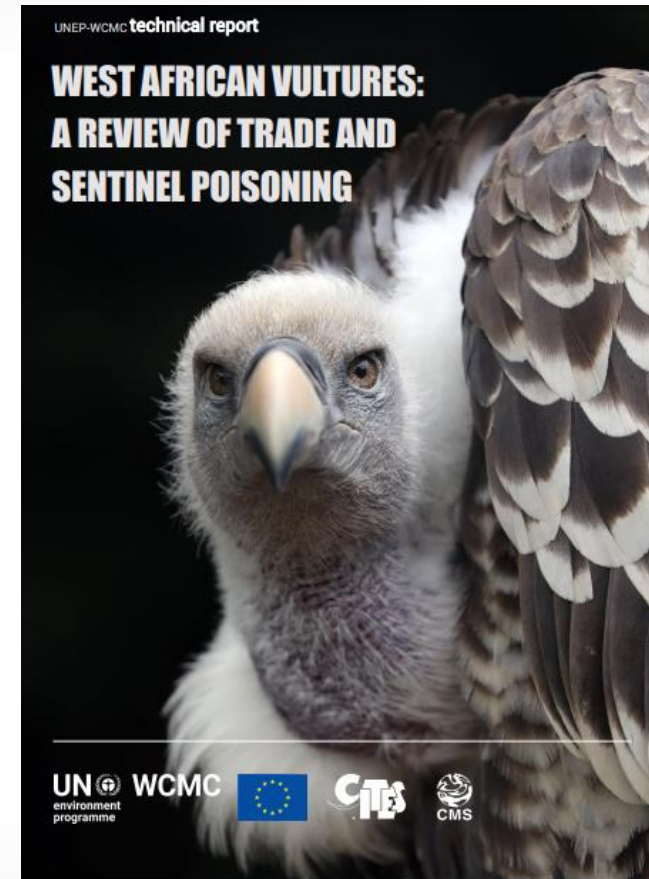
© Scott Partridge

Addressing threats to West African vultures



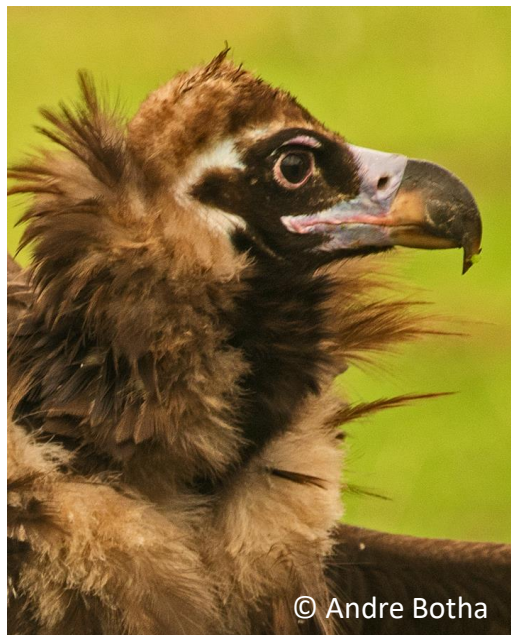
Review of trade and sentinel poisoning for West African Vultures

- CITES Decisions (18.186-192) on West African Vultures
- Six focus species
- Overview of threats and trade
- Legislation
- Recommendations for Animals Committee



Working Group on NSAIDs

- Questionnaire
- Fact Sheet



Questionnaire on Non Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

The common and widespread veterinary use of diclofenac in past decades was the main cause of catastrophic declines in vulture populations across South Asia. However, diclofenac is not the only vulture-toxic Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug (NSAID) in use and thereby killing vultures and other sensitive species. Currently, of 15 scavenging African-Eurasian vulture species, 14 are listed as globally threatened or near-threatened on the IUCN Red List.

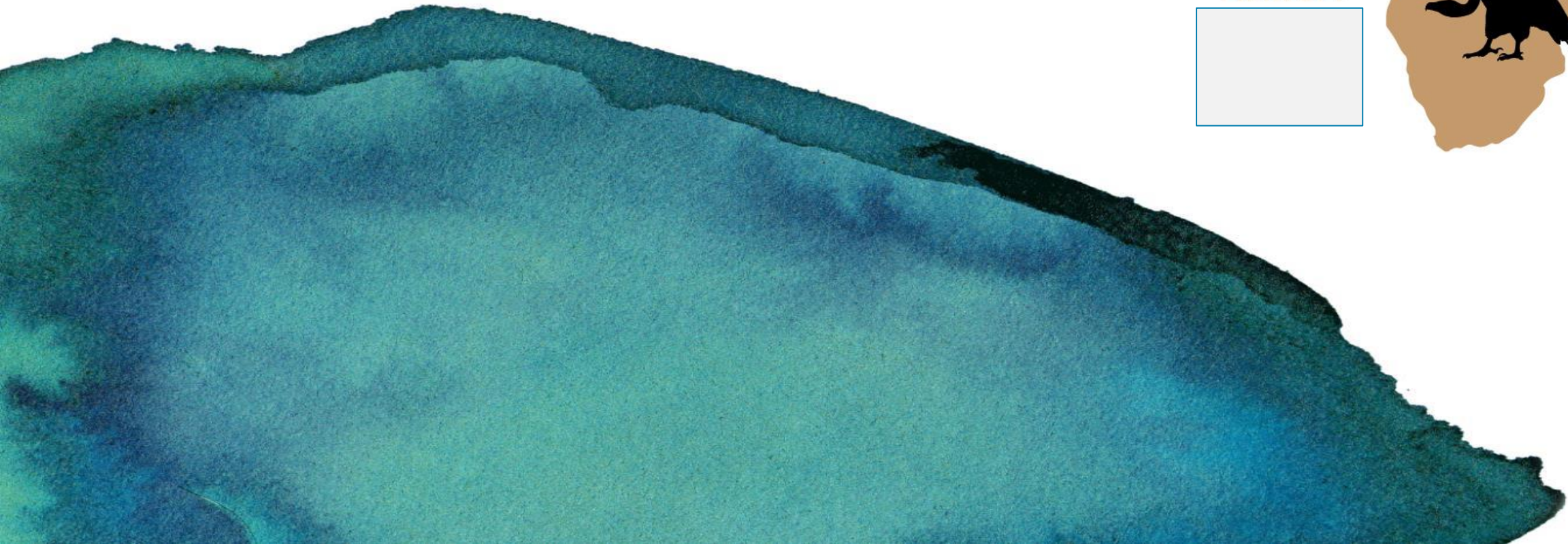
Next steps and Gaps

- Framework for coordination
- Mid term review 2023
- Fundraising
- Awareness raising



© Scott Partridge

Progress report on Implementation in Africa



Vulture Conservation Action Plans

- **Completed**
- Zimbabwe – 2019

- **In process**
- Botswana
- South Africa
- Zambia
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Rwanda

- **Much more needs to be done – greater engagement from other Range States needed**
- **Often depends on an in-country champion or organization to drive the process**

Poisoning – an ever-present threat

Continues to have a significant impact and exacerbated by:

- Range of HWC and other drivers
- Ready access to a range of HHP's
- Poor knowledge and enforcement of legislation and controls
- Public ignorance – risk to human life and environmental impact
- Livelihood incentives provided by trade in a range of wildlife parts
- No clear patterns – difficult to predict and combat
- **Several large-scale incidents – different drivers**
- June 2019 - Botswana – 537 vultures, 5 spp – sentinel poisoning, ivory trade
- February-March 2020 – Guinea-Bissau - >2000 vultures – Belief-based use
- July 2020 – Zambia - >800 vultures – sentinel poisoning - meat & ivory poaching
- 2015-2021 – South Africa – northern KNP – >500 vultures, range of other wildlife incl. lion – sentinel poisoning, belief-use trade, malicious intent

Addressing the Threat of Poisoning

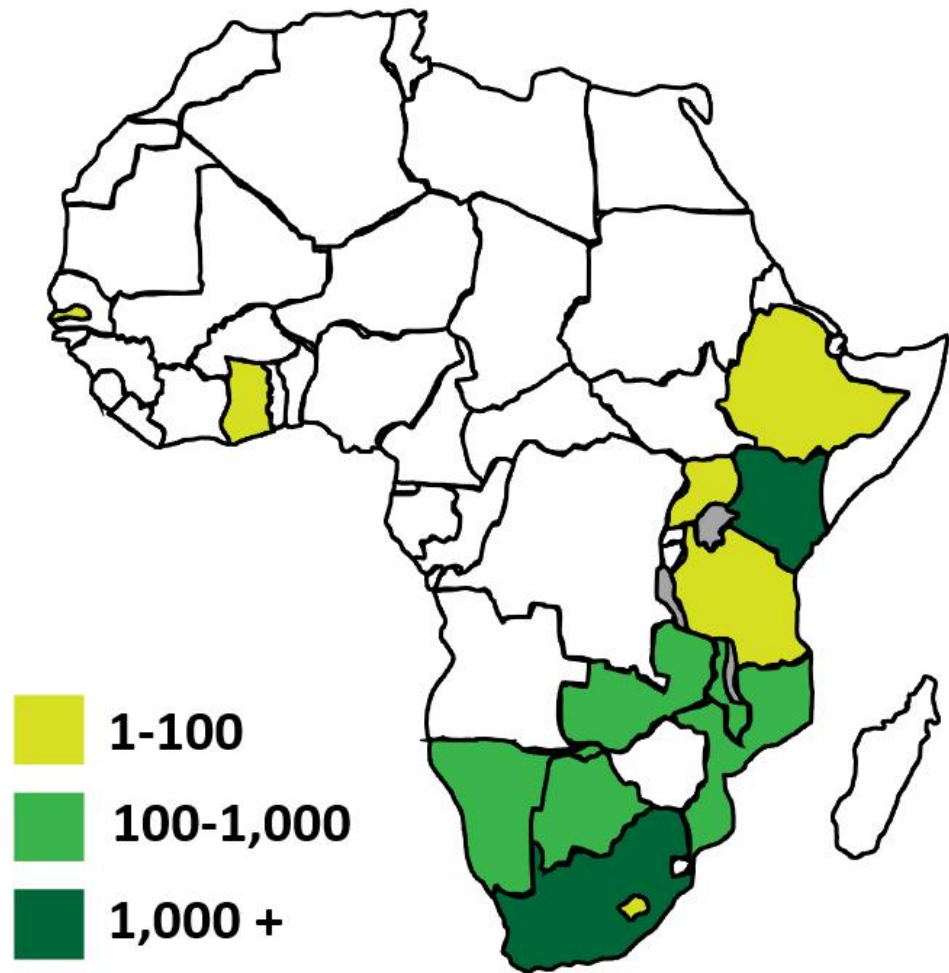
Range of Interventions

- Wildlife Poisoning Intervention & Response – Protocols and Training
- Improved reporting and data capture – AWPDB
- Establishment of effective networks using a range of technologies
- Early warning systems using tracked vultures and other wildlife
- Improved sampling and analysis – limited roll-out, potentially much wider use
- National/Regional Lead Task Team – SADC
- Poisoning Sniffer Dog capacity

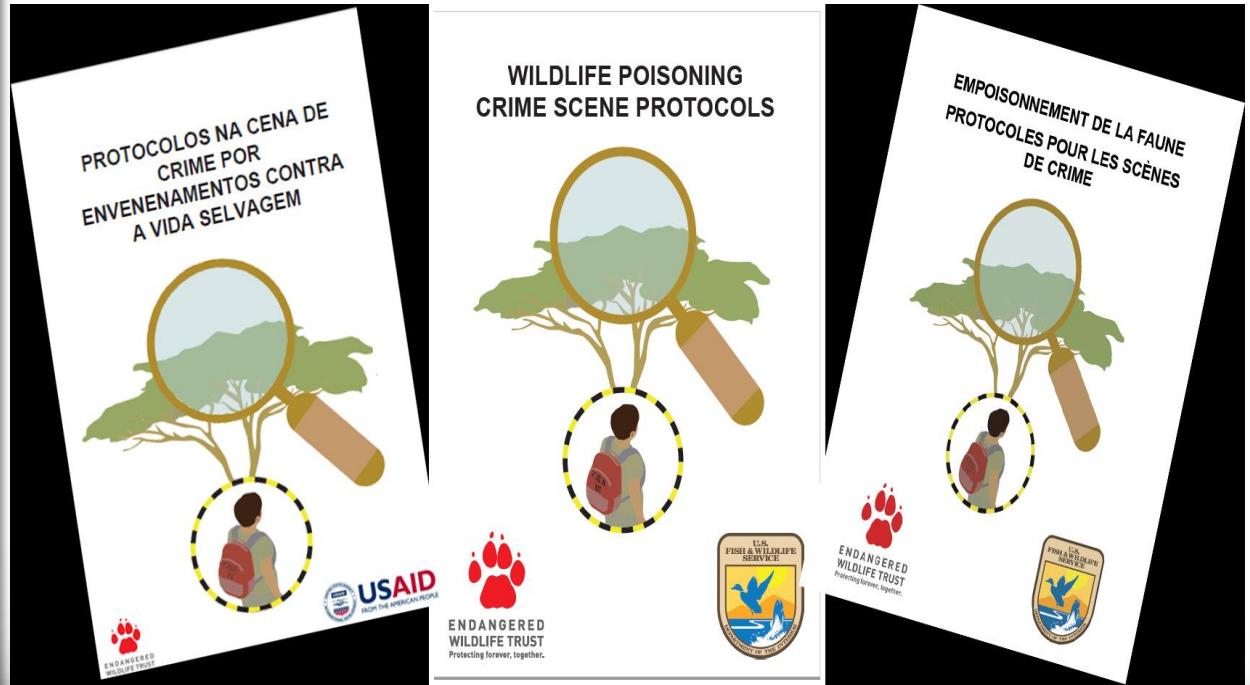
Wildlife Poisoning Response Training: 2017 - present



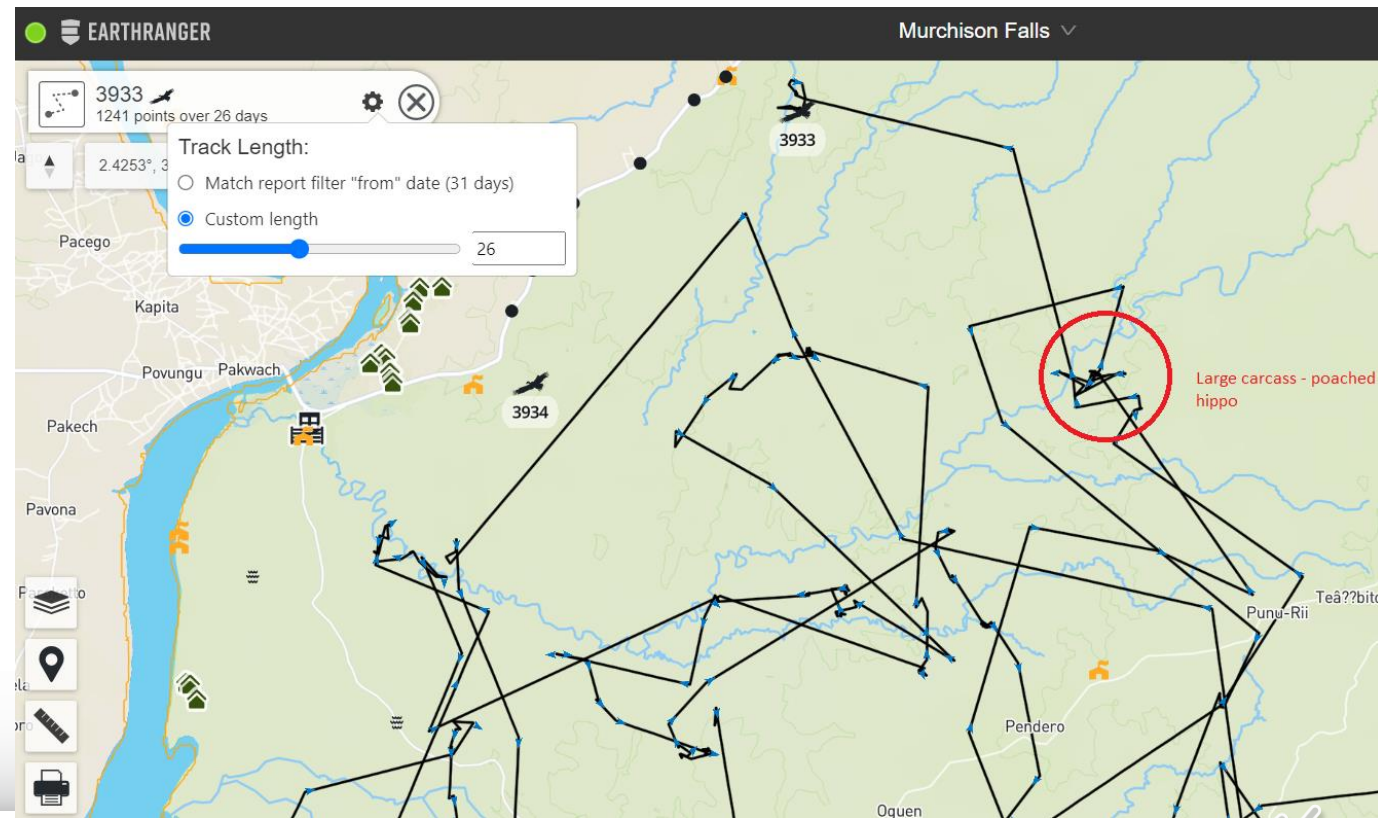
Country	Training Events	Female	Male	African	Other	Total
Zambia	10	30	204	221	13	234
Mozambique	8	5	159	160	4	164
Tanzania	3	3	55	54	4	58
Botswana	8	38	150	176	11	170
Lesotho	4	26	63	87	3	90
Malawi	4	10	166	162	14	176
Kenya	222	1054	1980	3003	11	3014
Namibia	10	130	192	255	67	321
Uganda	4	16	73	87	1	88
Ethiopia	1	1	5	6	0	6
The Gambia	1	3	9	12	0	12
Ghana	1	0	2	2	0	2
South Africa	65	492	1519	1543	489	1980
Total	339	1808	4577	5768	617	6385



Post-training support

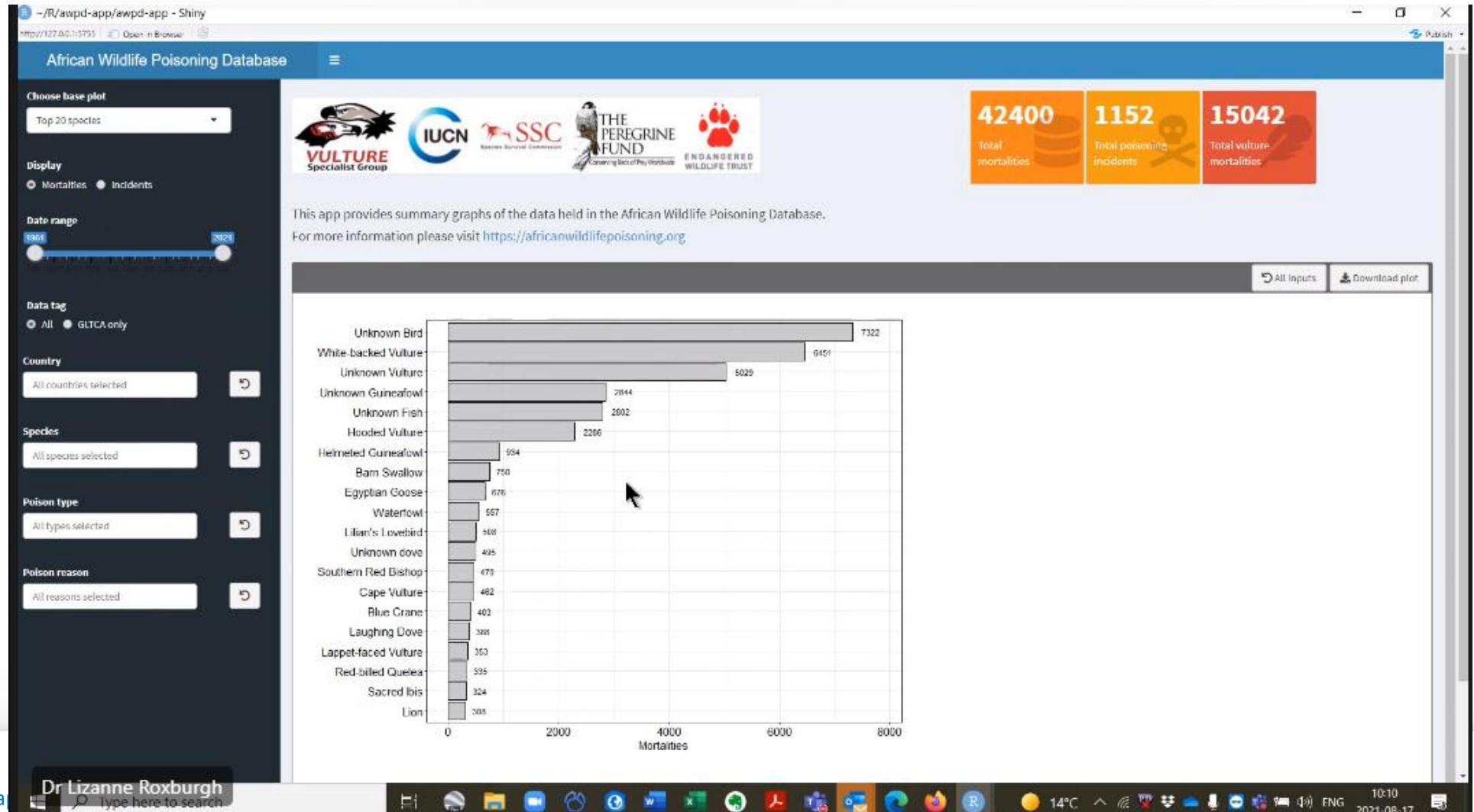


Early Warning Systems



Want to know more?

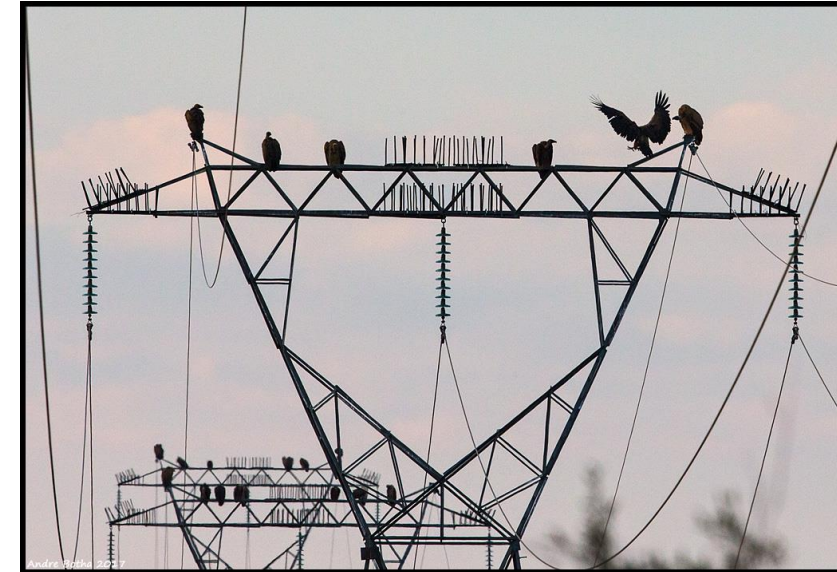
<https://awpd.cloud/>



Vultures and Energy

Expanding networks and old technology

- Millions of kms of potentially lethal power-line infrastructure
- Limited monitoring and assessment of impact
- Power Africa and other expansion plans
- Renewable energy generation – wind & solar
- Pre-construction assessment and decision-making processes
- Not much incentive to look at alternative technology- safer to soaring birds
- **Positive engagements**
- World Bank-Power Africa engagement
- Eskom-EWT partnership model - Ethiopia, Malawi, Botswana, Rwanda, Zambia
- IUCM Med office – Morocco & elsewhere in North Africa
- Djibouti, etc.



Vulture Safe Zones

Different concepts and principles apply across the range

- January 2019 – Workshop involving various stakeholders
- **Existing VSZ's** – Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe
- Acknowledge different criteria for varying in-country scenarios
- Accommodate the life-style and great mobility exhibited by African vultures
- **Since Jan 2019** – South Africa (5), Mozambique
- **September 2021** – First cross-border African VSZ – Botswana-Zimbabwe-South Africa
- Still an evolving process that might not be effective everywhere



Research & Monitoring – Filling Knowledge Gaps

Development of In-country skills and capacity

- Kenya – The Peregrine Fund, Nature Kenya etc.
- Botswana – Raptors Botswana, BirdLife Botswana
- Zambia – BirdWatch Zambia, EWT, ZCP, Luambe Conservation, African Parks
- Zimbabwe – BirdLife Zimbabwe, others
- Mozambique – EWT, Boise State, Gorongosa, WCS (Niassa), GLTFCA
- Namibia – Vultures Namibia, NARREC
- Uganda – VCF, UWA, EWT
- Malawi – LWT, EWT, African Parks
- Rwanda – African Parks, EWT
- Tanzania – Grumeti Fund, TAWIRI, WCS
- Ethiopia – ENHS, Hawkwatch, etc
- Western Sahel – SCF, African Parks, others
- North Africa – IUCN Med, VCF, BirdLife partners, others
- West Africa – Various BirdLife Africa partners, others

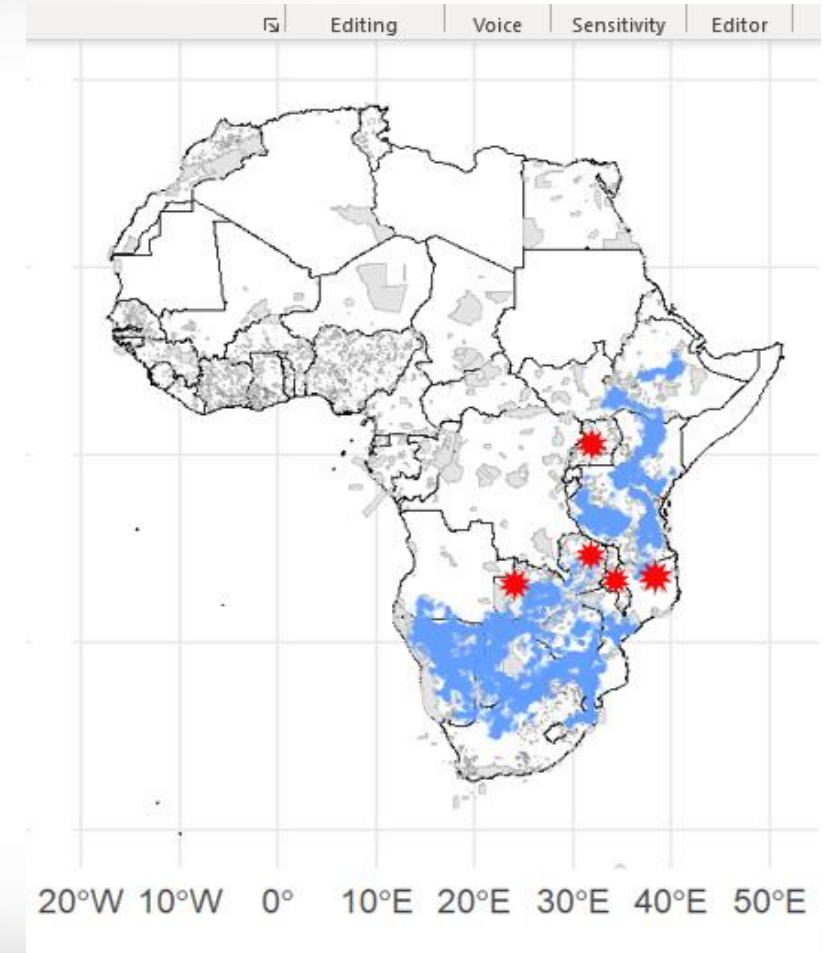
Research & Monitoring – Filling Knowledge Gaps

Applied research and publications

- Significant number of projects and studies completed or under way
- Publications – 20-30 per year since 2017
- Increased use of technology
- Assessment of research methods – adapt approaches
- Increase interest and participation by African students in SADC
- Keeping track of pubs, theses, studies, etc?
- Much more needs to be done – answer pertinent questions

Challenges

- Resources
- Bureaucracy and Red tape
- Political instability and security issues
- Competing with a range of highly charismatic species
- Ignorance or apathy from stakeholders



Thank you for your attention!

