

REPORT OF THE MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES (VULTURE MSAP)

 $6^{TH} - 9^{TH}$  February 2017, Sharjah, UAE















### ORGANIZED BY:

**VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (VCF)** 

COORDINATING UNIT OF THE CONVENTION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS) RAPTORS MOU

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### DATE AND PLACE OF THE WORKSHOP:

 $6^{\text{TH}} - 9^{\text{TH}}$  of February 2017, Sharjah Emirate, United Arab Emirates

### PHOTOS USED IN THE REPORT PROVIDED BY:

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### 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.

### **AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

THE OVERALL AIM 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;
- 3. TO PROVIDE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL RANGE STATES COVERED BY THE VULTURE MSAP.

The process adopted to develop the Vulture MsAP involved organization of four Regional Action Planning Workshops, one for each region: Africa; Asia; Europe Central Asia; and, the Middle East.

### Purpose of the Workshop

This Workshop was one of four Regional Workshops that aimed to gather the information necessary to develop a comprehensive Vulture MsAP covering 15 (of 16) Old World vulture species, under the auspices of the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MoU.

THE MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL WORKSHOP COVERED THE FIVE VULTURE SPECIES THAT OCCUR IN THE REGION, NAMELY BEARDED VULTURE (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Cinereous (Black) Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and Lapped-Faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*). The geographic scope of this Regional Workshop included 16 Range States within the Middle East (See **Map 1** below).

MAP 1: GEOGRAPHIC RANGE COVERED BY THE MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL COMPONENT OF THE VULTURE MSAP



The overall aim of the Workshop was to develop a key regional component of a comprehensive strategic conservation Action Plan focussed on this geographic ranges of these five Eurasian vulture species, to promote concerted, collaborative and coordinated international actions. This Workshop was slightly different to the previous three Regional Workshops because most of the Middle East countries had already been represented at the European Regional Workshop (26-30 October 2016). Accordingly, a significant amount of information had already been gathered which allowed more detailed review to better understand the status, threats and specific conservation actions required in the Middle East.

#### WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- REVIEW AND ENHANCE EXISTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATUS OF THE FIVE SPECIES OF OLD WORLD VULTURES THAT OCCUR IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION;
- NDERSTAND DEEPLY THE REASONS FOR VULTURE DECLINES, AND THE POSSIBLE MECHANISMS FOR THEIR RECOVERY; AND,
- DEVELOP AND AGREE ON A STRATEGIC AND FOCUSED APPROACH TO VULTURE RECOVERY EFFORTS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST REGION OF THE VULTURE MSAP.

### APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The Middle East Regional Workshop was organized from the  $6^{TH}$  -  $9^{TH}$  February, 2017 in Sharjah Emirate, UAE. It formed an integral part of the  $18^{TH}$  Sharjah International Conservation Forum for Arabia's Biodiversity (SICFAB 2017).

THE LOGISTICS SUCH AS INVITATIONS, TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND VISA ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS WAS EFFICIENTLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE SICFAB 2017 ORGANIZATIONAL TEAM WITH EPAA, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE COORDINATING UNIT OF THE CMS RAPTORS MOU AND THE VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION.

### PREPARATORY WORK (QUESTIONNAIRE)

A WEB-LINK TO AN ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE WAS CIRCULATED IN MID-AUGUST 2016 WHICH SOUGHT TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIOLOGY, STATUS AND THREATS TO THE VULTURE SPECIES THAT OCCUR IN EACH REGION (AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE WITH CENTRAL ASIA).

THE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES PROVIDED VALUABLE DATA FOR MOST OF THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES (SEE MAP 2) COMING FROM 13 SEPARATE CONTRIBUTORS (SEE TABLE 1).

MAP 2: QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES RELEVANT FOR THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES



Table 1: List of contributors from the Middle East — Questionnaire responses

Country	Name and surname	Organization		
Едүрт	Mohmaed Ibrahim Habib	RED SEA ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SPORTS		
	OSAMA EL-GEBALY	EEAA / MSB project		
İSRAEL	Ohad Hatzofe	NATURE AND PARKS AUTHORITY, ISRAEL		
İRAN	Alireza Hashemi	TARLAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY		
JORDAN	Tareq Emad Qaneer	THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATIO OF NATURE		
	Laith El-Moghrabi	ECOConsult		
Saudi Arabia	Mohammed Shobrak	TAIF UNIVERSITY		
Syrian Arab Republic	Ahmad Aidek	MINISTRY OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND ENVIRONMENT		
	ITRI LEVENT ERKOL	Doğa Derneği (BirdLife Turkey)		
Turkey	Elif Yamaç	Anadolu University		
	Ilker Ozbahar	NATURE RESEARCH SOCIETY		
11 A F	SALIM JAVED	Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi		
United Arab Emirates	Shakeel Ahmed	Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi		

# **VENUE AND LOGISTICS**

THE WORKSHOP TOOK PLACE AT ARABIA'S WILDLIFE CENTRE, SHARJAH — UAE. SEE PHOTO 1



**PHOTO 1:** WORKSHOP VENUE - ARABIA'S WILDLIFE CENTRE, SHARJAH EMIRATE, UAE

# **PARTICIPANTS**

A TOTAL OF 39 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE WORKSHOP, A FULL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED IS AVAILABLE IN **TABLE 2.** 

# TABLE 2: LIST OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS (COUNTRIES AND ORGANSIATIONS REPRESENTED)

COUNTRY	NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL
Austria	MIKE MCGRADY	International Avian Research	MIKEMCGRADY@HOTMAIL.COM
Bahrain	Mubarak Al Dosery	Environment C.	ALDOSERYMUBARAK@GMAIL.COM
Bulgaria	STOYAN NIKOLOV	BULGARIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS	STOYAN.NIKOLOV@BSPB.ORG
EGYPT	OSAMA EL-GEBALY	EGYPTIAN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENCY (EEAA)	OSS.ELGEBALY@YAHOO.COM
IRAN	SADEGH SADEGHI ZADEGAN	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT	SADEGH64@HOTMAIL.COM
Kuwait	Salah Behbehani	THE SCIENTIFIC CENTER KUWAIT	SALAH@TSCK.ORG.KW
Kuwait	Mostafa Mahmoud Ahmed	Kuwait Zoo	MOSTMAHM55@ HOTMAIL.COM
OMAN	Mansoor Al Jadhami	DIWAN OF ROYAL COURT	MHJAHDHAMI@GMAIL.COM
QATAR	Ahmad Al-Razem	AL WABRA WILDLIFE PRESERVE	AHMED@ALWABRA.COM
QATAR	CRAMELL PURCHASE	AL WABRA WILDLIFE PRESERVE	CPURCHASE@ZOOLOGY.UP.AC.ZA
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SAUDI ARABIA	Hamad Alqahtani	SAUDI WILDLIFE AUTHORITY	H.ALQAHTANI@SWA.GOV.SA
Saudi Arabia	Monif AlRoshidi	University of Hail	M.ALRASHIDI@ UOH.EDU.SA
SAUDI ARABIA	MOHAMMED SHOBRAK	University of Taif	SHOBRAK@SAUDIBIRDS.ORG
SOUTH AFRICA	André Botha	Endangered Wildlife Trust	ANDREB@EWT.ORG.ZA
SPAIN	Jovan Andevski	VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	J.ANDEVSKI@4VULTURES.ORG
Turkey	José Tavares	VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	J.TAVARES@4VULTURES.ORG
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UAE	Maria Pesci	Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi	MARIA.PESCI@EAD.AE
UAE	ESMAT ELHASSAN	DUBAI MUNICIPALITY	EEMHASSAN@DM.GOV.AE
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UAE	Giulio Russo	Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife	RAPTOR_UAE@YAHOO.COM
UAE	GERRY WHITEHOUSE-TEDD	ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS AUTHORITY OF SHARJAH	GERRY.WHITEHOUSE@EPAA.SHJ.AE
UAE	Anne Lisa Chaber	WILDLIFE CONSULTANT LLC	ALCHABER@HOTMAIL.COM
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UAE	PETER DICKINSON	SKI DUBAI	ELVINHOW@GMAIL.COM
UAE	JAWAHER ALI AL RASHEED	WASIT WETLAND CENTER	JAWAHERALR_@ HOTMAIL.COM
UAE	Sara Mohamed	WASIT WETLAND CENTER	SARAALNOMAN@HOTMAIL.COM
UAE	KEVIN HYLAND	WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICE	KEVINWPO@EIM.AE
UAE	Panos Azmanis	DUBAI FALCON HOSPITAL	AZMANIS.VET@ GMAIL.COM; PANOS@ DFH.AE
UAE	Lisa Banfield	AL AIN ZOO	LISA.BANFIELD@ ALAINZOO.AE
UAE	GREG SIMKINS	DUBAI DESERT CONSERVATION RESERVE	GREG.SIMKINS@EMIRATES.COM
UAE	PETER ARRAS	Management of Nature Conservation Al Ain	PETER.ARRAS@YAHOO.DE
UAE	Reza Khan	Dubai Safari	DRREZAKHAN@GMAIL.COM
UAE	Lyle Glowka	CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES OFFICE - ABU DHABI	LYLE.GLOWKA@CMS.INT
UAE	NICK P. WILLIAMS	RAPTORS MOU / CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES	NICK.WILLIAMS@CMS.INT
UAE	JENNY RENELL	RAPTORS MOU / CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES	JENNY.RENELL@CMS.INT

### **WORKSHOP FACILITATORS**

- Main facilitator: José Tavares
- CO-FACILITATORS: ANDRE BOTHA AND JOVAN ANDEVSKI

# WORKSHOP SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS

• SPEAKERS — PRESENTERS: NICK P WILLIAMS, JOSÉ TAVARES, ANDRE BOTHA, JOVAN ANDEVSKI, MIKE MCGRADY, STOYAN NIKOLOV AND MOHAMMED SHOBRAK.

## **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

### **OPENING CEREMONY**

THE WORKSHOP BEGAN ON TIME AND FOLLOWED THE PUBLISHED AGENDA (ANNEX I). ALL PARTICIPANTS OF SICFAB 2017, INVOLVING THE FOUR DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS: "RED LIST TREES", "PROTECTED AREAS", "VULTURE MSAP" AND "VETERINARY ISSUES" GATHERED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY IN THE ARABIA'S WILDLIFE CENTRE.

WELCOME REMARKS AND THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP WAS PRESENTED BY HER EXCELLENCY HANA SAIF AL SUWAIDI, CHAIR OF EPAA SHARJAH. IN ADDITION, DRS, DAVID MALLON, PHILIP SEDDON, MIKE KNIGHT, GERHARD STEENKAMP AND LYLE GLOWKA GAVE SHORT WELCOMING REMARKS OUTLINING THE CONTEXT AND PURPOSES OF THE FOUR SEPARATE WORKSHOPS.



PHOTO 2: OPENING CEREMONY - ARABIA'S WILDLIFE CENTRE

### **INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS**

THE GOAL OF THE **FIRST DAY** WAS TO SET THE SCENE VIA PRESENTATIONS COVERING: INTRODUCTION TO THE VULTURE MSAP; SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES FROM THE AFRICAN, ASIAN AND EUROPEAN WORKSHOPS; AND, INTRODUCTION INTO THE WORKSHOP PROCESS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONSERVATION STATUS AND THREATS OF VULTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION.

### **OPENING PRESENTATIONS:**

- INTRODUCTION TO THE MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES (VULTURE MSAP), PRESENTED BY NICK P WILLIAMS RAPTORS MOU | CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES. ANNEX II
- FEEDBACK ON THE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS AND VULTURE MSAP, PRESENTED BY ANDRE BOTHA, OVERARCHING COORDINATOR VULTURE MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN. ANNEX III
- Purpose of the workshop. Introduction to methodology, contributions from participants and expected outcomes, presented by the main facilitator José Tavares, Vulture Conservation Foundation. Annex IV

CONTEXT PRESENTATIONS — STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND THREATS OF THE VULTURE SPECIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- Status, research and conservation of vultures in Oman presented by Mike McGrady, International Avian Research. Annex V
- CHALLENGES OF FLYWAY CONSERVATION: THE CASE FOR THE EGYPTIAN VULTURE PRESENTED BY STOYAN NIKOLOV, BULGARIAN SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF BIRDS. ANNEX VI.
- STATUS OF VULTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH DETAILED STUDIES OF LAPPET-FACED AND GRIFFON VULTURES IN SAUDI ARABIA PRESENTED BY MOHAMMED SHOBRAK, TAIF UNIVERSITY SAUDI WILDLIFE AUTHORITY, SAUDI ARABIA. ANNEX VII.

The final presentation for the day introduced the results related to the Middle East countries from the Vulture MsAP Questionnaire:

• Vulture Status and Threats in the Middle East (Questionnaire results), presented by Jovan Andevski, Vulture Conservation Foundation. Annex VIII.

THE KEY OUTCOME FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS DURING THE FIRST DAY WAS A DRAFT LIST OF THREATS TO VULTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO BE USED AS A STARTING POINT FOR THE FOLLOWING DAY (PRIORITIZATION OF THREATS).

At the end of the day, all participants of SICFAB 2017 gathered in Plenary and Each Workshop group presented the outcome of the day's deliberations. The presentation the Vulture MsAP group is available as **Annex IX**.



PHOTO 3: GROUP PHOTO OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL WORKSHOP OF THE VULTURE MSAP

# **SPECIES ACCOUNTS**

This section provides information regarding the status, trend and threats of the five vulture species present in the Middle East countries. Most of this information was collected through the Vulture MsAP online questionnaire, thanks to the responses from 69 vulture experts (12 from the Middle East countries) from 30 range states. Contributors listed in **Table 1**.

The species status table in draft version were distributed a week before the workshop and were part of the presentation **Vulture Status and Threats in the Middle East (Questionnaire Results)-annex VIII.** So the workshop participants were able to make comments and fill-in the missing information. List of workshop participants that contributed in completing the status tables is available in **Table 2**.

# **VULTURES SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION**



PHOTO 4: BEARDED VULTURE (GYPAETUS BARBATUS)



**PHOTO 6:** EGYPTIAN VULTURE (NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS)



**PHOTO 5:** CINEREOUS (BLACK) VULTURE (AEGYPIUS MONACHUS)



**PHOTO 7:** GRIFFON VULTURE (GYPS FULVUS)



**PHOTO 8:** LAPPET-FACED VULTURE (TORGOS TRACHELIOTOS)

# BEARDED VULTURE (GYPAETUS BARBATUS)

# TABLE 3: BEARDED VULTURE STATUS AND BREEDING POPULATION ESTIMATES IN MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES

Country	STATUS	BREEDING PAIRS	Q	YEAR(S) OF ESTIMATE	BREEDING POPULATION TREND IN THE LAST 10 YEARS	Q
Bahrain	NON-BREEDING					
EGYPT	BREEDING	2-3	М	2015		
Iran	BREEDING		Р			
IRAQ	BREEDING	20	М	2013		
ISRAEL	EXTINCT		G	2016		
JORDAN	EXTINCT		М	1995		
Kuwait	NON-BREEDING					
LEBANON	NON-BREEDING					
OMAN	NON-BREEDING					
PALESTINE	EXTINCT		Р			
Qatar	NON-BREEDING					
Saudi Arabia	EXTINCT		М	2010		
Syria	EXTINCT		М	2008		
Turkey	BREEDING	160-200	М	2013	DECLINE	М
UAE	NON-BREEDING					
YEMEN	BREEDING					

NO DATA AVAILABLE

Q – data quality: P – poor; M – medium; G – good

# MAIN THREATS FOR THE SPECIES IN ITS GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION RANGE

### MAJOR THREATS:

LEAD INTOXICATION (SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION THROUGH HUNTING WITH LEAD AMMUNITION)

Unintentional poisoning

DISTURBANCES CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITIES

COLLISION WITH POWER LINES /CABLES

### **SECONDARY THREATS:**

PASTORALISM CHANGES DRIVING HABITAT DEGRADATION AND LACK OF FOOD

GENETIC BOTTLENECKS

DIRECT PERSECUTION

## POTENTIAL THREATS:

DICLOFENAC POISONING

WIND FARMS

- COLLISION WITH POWER LINES
- DECLINE OF WILD UNGULATES (LACK OF FOOD)
- HABITAT LOSS
- DISTURBANCE OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES
- Hunting / Poaching

# EGYPTIAN VULTURE (NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS)

# TABLE 4: EGYPTIAN VULTURE STATUS AND BREEDING POPULATION ESTIMATES IN MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES

Country	STATUS	BREEDING PAIRS	Q	YEAR(S) OF ESTIMATE	BREEDING POPULATION TREND IN THE LAST 10 YEARS / VAGRANCY	Q
Bahrain	NON-BREEDING					
Едүрт	BREEDING?				RESIDENT / 80-120 IN PASSAGE	
IRAN	BREEDING	50	Р			
IRAQ						
ISRAEL	BREEDING	50-55	G	2016	STABLE	G
JORDAN	POSSIBLY		Р			
Kuwait	NON-BREEDING				PASSAGE	
LEBANON	NON-BREEDING				PASSAGE	
OMAN	BREEDING				STABLE/INCREASING	
PALESTINE	BREEDING					
QATAR						
Saudi Arabia	BREEDING?		Μ	2012	LARGE DECLINE	Μ
SYRIA	BREEDING	25	Μ	2011		
Turkey	BREEDING	1000-2000	G	2013	DECLINE	G
UAE	POSSIBLY	2-5	Μ	2015		
YEMEN	BREEDING	1900 IND			RESIDENT	Р

NO DATA AVAILABLE

Q - data quality: P - poor; M - medium; G - good

### MAIN THREATS FOR THE SPECIES IN ITS GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION RANGE

### MAJOR THREATS:

- Unintentional poisoning
- FOOD SHORTAGE DUE TO DECLINING WILD AND DOMESTIC UNGULATE POPULATIONS
- ELECTROCUTION AND COLLISION

## SECONDARY THREATS:

- VETERINARY DRUGS (NSAIDS, ETC.)
- HABITAT LOST AND NEST DESTRUCTION
- DIRECT PERSECUTION

- UNINTENTIONAL POISONING
- COLLISION WITH WIND TURBINES
- COLLISION WITH POWER LINES
- DECLINE OF WILD UNGULATES (LACK OF FOOD) IRAN
- POISONING AT DUMPING SITES LACK OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
- DISTURBANCE
- Hunting / Poaching
- HABITAT LOSS

# CINEREOUS (BLACK) VULTURE (AEGYPIUS MONACHUS)

# Table 4: Cinereous (Black) Vulture status and breeding population estimates in Middle Eastern countries

Country	Status	BREEDING PAIRS	Q	YEAR(S) OF ESTIMATE	BREEDING POPULATION TREND IN THE LAST 10 YEARS	Q
Bahrain	NON-BREEDING					
EGYPT	EXTINCT					
IRAN	BREEDING		Р		WINTERING	
IRAQ	NON-BREEDING					
ISRAEL	EXTINCT		G	2016		
JORDAN	EXTINCT		Р		WINTERING (4IND)	Р
Kuwait	NON-BREEDING					
LEBANON	NON-BREEDING				PASSAGE	
OMAN	NON-BREEDING					
PALESTINE	NON-BREEDING					
QATAR	NON-BREEDING					
Saudi Arabia	NON-BREEDING				WINTERING	
Syria	NON-BREEDING					
Turkey	BREEDING	80-200	М	2013	DECLINE	М
UAE	NON-BREEDING					
YEMEN	BREEDING		Р			

NO DATA AVAILABLE

Q — data quality: P — poor; M — medium; G — good

### MAIN THREATS FOR THE SPECIES IN ITS GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION RANGE

### MAJOR THREATS:

- UNINTENTIONAL POISONING
- FOOD SHORTAGE DUE TO DECLINING WILD AND DOMESTIC UNGULATE POPULATIONS (ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE)
- ELECTROCUTION AND COLLISION

## **SECONDARY THREATS:**

- DIRECT PERSECUTION
- HABITAT LOST AND NEST DESTRUCTION

- POISONING AT DUMP SITES LACK OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
- DECLINE OF WILD UNGULATES (LACK OF FOOD)
- Hunting Poaching
- COLLISION WITH WIND TURBINES
- COLLISION WITH POWER LINES

# GRIFFON VULTURE (GYPS FULVUS)

# TABLE 5: GRIFFON VULTURE STATUS AND BREEDING POPULATION ESTIMATES IN MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES

Country	STATUS	BREEDING PAIRS	Q	YEAR(S) OF ESTIMATE	BREEDING POPULATION TREND IN THE LAST 10 YEARS	Q
Bahrain	NON-BREEDING					
EGYPT	BREEDING	35-40	М	2010	SMALL DECLINE	Μ
IRAN	POSSIBLY		Р			
lraq						
ISRAEL	BREEDING	42	G	2016	DECLINE	G
JORDAN	BREEDING	8-15	G	2014	STABLE	G
Kuwait	NON-BREEDING					
LEBANON	NON-BREEDING				PASSAGE	Μ
OMAN	NON-BREEDING				PASSAGE	Μ
PALESTINE	BREEDING					
QATAR	NON-BREEDING					
Saudi Arabia	BREEDING	3000	М	2015	LARGE DECLINE	Μ
Syria						
Turkey	BREEDING	150-200	Р	2013	SMALL DECLINE	Р
UAE	NON-BREEDING					
YEMEN	BREEDING					

NO DATA AVAILABLE

Q – data quality: P – poor; M – medium; G – good

## MAIN THREATS FOR THE SPECIES IN ITS GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION RANGE

# MAJOR THREATS:

- Unintentional poisoning
- FOOD SHORTAGE DUE TO DECLINING WILD AND DOMESTIC UNGULATE POPULATIONS (ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE)
- ELECTROCUTION AND COLLISION

### **SECONDARY THREATS:**

- DIRECT PERSECUTION
- HABITAT LOST AND NEST DESTRUCTION
- VETERINARY DRUGS (NSAIDS, ETC.)

- COLLISION WITH WIND TURBINES
- COLLISION WITH POWER LINES
- POISONING
- POISONING AT DUMP SITES LACK OF WASTE MANAGEMENT IRAN
- DECLINE OF WILD UNGULATES (LACK OF FOOD)
- Hunting-Poaching

# LAPPET-FACED VULTURE (TORGOS TRACHELIOTOS)

# TABLE 6: LAPPET-FACED VULTURE STATUS AND BREEDING POPULATION ESTIMATES IN MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES

Country	STATUS	BREEDING PAIRS	Q	YEAR(S) OF ESTIMATE	BREEDING POPULATION TREND IN THE LAST 10 YEARS / VAGRANCY	Q
Bahrain	NON-BREEDING					
EGYPT						
IRAN	NON-BREEDING					
IRAQ	NON-BREEDING					
ISRAEL	EXTINCT					
JORDAN	EXTINCT				PASSAGE	
Kuwait	NON-BREEDING				PASSAGE	
LEBANON	NON-BREEDING					
OMAN	BREEDING	50IND	М		30-40% DECLINE	Р
PALESTINE	NON-BREEDING					
QATAR						
Saudi Arabia	BREEDING	500IND	G		STABLE/ 10-20% DECLINE	Р
SYRIA	EXTINCT?					
Turkey	NON-BREEDING					
UAE	BREEDING	2-5IND	М			
YEMEN	BREEDING	40-45IND	М			

NO DATA AVAILABLE

Q – data quality: P – poor; M – medium; G – good

### MAIN THREATS FOR THE SPECIES IN ITS GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION RANGE

### MAJOR THREATS:

- Unintentional poisoning (especially in eastern and southern Africa)
- NEST DISTURBANCE (ESPECIALLY IN ARABIAN PENINSULA)
- TRADITIONAL MEDICINE (ESPECIALLY WESTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA)
- SENTINEL POISONING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

# **SECONDARY THREATS:**

- DECLINING WILD UNGULATE POPULATIONS
- ELECTROCUTION ON PYLONS

# HIGH PRIORITY THREATS FOR THE SPECIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS)

- POISONING USED TO KILL CARNIVORE SPECIES SUCH AS WOLF, HYENA AND ARABIAN LEOPARD
- DISTURBANCE (NEST TREES ARE USED FOR SHELTER FOR LIVESTOCK)
- HABITAT DEGRADATION (CUTTING TREES AND OVERGRAZING)

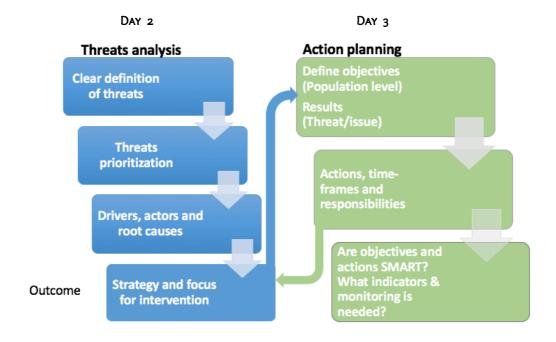
### OTHER THREATS:

• TRAPPING ON TARRED ROADS (MELTED DUE TO HIGH TEMPERATURES)

# **WORKING SESSIONS**

The Workshop process during the second and third days of working sessions involved Threats Analysis and Action Planning. **Figure 1**, summarizes the working process of these two days. This was the same methodology used at the other three Regional Workshops. At this Workshop the results from the European Regional Workshop was used to initiate the working sessions and to stimulate discussions.

### FIGURE 1: WORKING PROCESS FLOW



### THE PARTICIPANTS WERE DIVIDED IN TWO THREATS ORIENTATED WORKING GROUPS:

- 1. POISONING AND DECLINE FOOD AVAILABILITY FACILITATED BY JOSÉ TAVARES
- 2. ELECTROCUTION, COLLISION AND OTHER THREATS FACILITATED BY ANDRE BOTHA AND JOVAN ANDEVSKI

EACH DAY STARTED WITH PRESENTATION FROM THE FACILITATOR (JOSE TAVARES), WHERE THE RESULTS FROM THE PREVIOUS WORKING SESSION/DAY WERE PRESENTED AND INSTRUCTION WERE GIVEN ON WORKING METHODOLOGY FOR THE FOLLOWING SESSION.

- The introductory facilitator presentation for the second day available as **annex X**.
- The introductory facilitator presentation for the third day available as annex XI.

### CATEGORISATION AND PRIORITISATION OF THREATS — BREAK-OUT SESSION

Based on the Questionnaire responses and the outcome of discussions on the first day, two Threats Priority Lists were prepared (one from the Questionnaire results and the other from the presentation of Mohammed Shobrak). Draft Threats Lists prioritizations presented in **Table 7**.

TABLE 7: DRAFT THREATS LISTS — OUTCOME FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF DAY ONE

THREATS LIST 1	PRIORITY	THREATS LIST 2	PRIORITY
Unintentional (secondary) poisoning	CRITICAL	Unintentional (secondary) poisoning	CRITICAL
Insecticide (locust control + Garb dump) control)	CRITICAL	LACK OF FOOD	CRITICAL
Human Disturbance	CRITICAL	Human Disturbance	CRITICAL
HABITAT LOST OR DEGRADATION (NESTING SITE & OVER GRAZING)	Нісн	HABITAT LOST OR DEGRADATION	CRITICAL
ELECTROCUTION ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE	Меріим	COLLISION ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE	MEDIUM
COLLISION ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE	Меріим	POACHING	MEDIUM
LOSS OF MAMMALIAN PREDATORS (CARNIVORES)	Меріим	ELECTROCUTION ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE	Low
FOOD AVAILABILITY AND SUITABILITY	Меріим		
ROADS ACCIDENTS & MAN MADE STRUCTURE	Low		
Trade	Low		

In this working session the two groups conducted a threat definition, analysis and prioritization (List of Threats, with clear definition and category: Critical, High, Medium, Low, Local, Unknown). The result of the two working groups are summarized in **Table 8** 

TABLE 8: LIST AND PRIORITIZATION OF THREATS TO VULTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THREATS	SCOPE	SEVERITY	TIMING	OVERALL IMPACT
INCIDENTAL POISONING (AGAINST WILDLIFE-PETS)	2	3	3	CRITICAL
ELECTROCUTION	2	3	3	CRITICAL
COLLISION WITH WIRES	2	2	3	Нісн
DESTRUCTION OF HABITAT	2	2	3	Нісн
SHORTAGE OF FREELY AVAILABLE DOMESTICS CARCASSES	2	1	3	Нісн
DISTURBANCE FROM HUMAN ACTIVITIES	1	2	3	Нісн
DECREASE IN FOOD AVAILABLE IN DUMPS	1	1	3	Медіим
POISONING BY RODENTICIDES AT FARMS	1	1	3	MEDIUM
DIRECT PERSECUTION	1	1	3	MEDIUM
CLIMATE CHANGE	3	1	1	Медіим
COLLISION WITH WIND TURBINES	1	1	2	MEDIUM
LEAD POISONING	0			Low
POISONING OF PESTS AT DUMPS	0			Low
COLLISION WITH AIRCRAFT & VEHICLES	0			Low
HARVESTING	0			Low
LOSS OF GENETIC DIVERSITY	0			Low
POISONING BY DICLOFENAC & OTHER VETERINARY	0			Low

THESE OUTCOMES WERE ALSO PRESENTED IN PLENARY AT SICFAB - COPY AVAILABLE AS ANNEX XII.



**PHOTO 9:** Break-out group on collision, electrocution and other threats facilitated by Andre Botha and Jovan Andevski



**PHOTO 10:** Break-out group on poisoning and food availability facilitated by José Tavares

### CONSERVATION ACTIONS PLANNING—BREAK-OUT SESSION

AFTER DEFINING AND CATEGORIZING THE SPECIFIC THREATS, A FRAMEWORK OF ACTIONS WAS DEVELOPED FOR EACH THREAT CONSIDERED TO BE EITHER OF CRITICAL OR HIGH IMPORTANCE. DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED IN THE SAME THREAT-ORIENTATED BREAK-OUT GROUPS, LED BY THE SAME FACILITATORS. THE COLLABORATIVE CONSIDERATION PROCESS ALSO INVOLVED DEFINING A TIME-SCALE AND DETERMINING THE SCOPE, STAKEHOLDERS, INPUTS AND URGENCY TO IMPLEMENT EACH OF THESE ACTIONS.

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS PROPOSED BY THE TWO BREAK-OUT GROUPS FOLLOWS:

#### RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- MANY ACTIONS PROPOSED, INCLUDING OVERLAP BETWEEN MONITORING OF UNGULATES AND VULTURES AT RUBBISH DUMPS, AND OF VULTURES' COLONIES,
- Use of satellite tracking for vultures.

### Poisoning

- LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS;
- CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING (LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, JUDICIAL, FIELD STAFF AT WILDLIFE CENTRES, LABORATORIES AND RUBBISH DUMPS);
- DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF PROTOCOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS;
- IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT OF ANTI-POISON CHAMPIONS,
- GUIDELINES TO SOLVE THE ROOT CAUSES CONTROL OF FOXES AND FERAL DOGS.

### FOOD AVAILABILITY

- SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING STRATEGY;
- PLAN TO IDENTIFY REGIONAL KEY SITES;
- PROMOTE REINTRODUCTION/RESTOCKING WILD UNGULATES AT KEY SITES;
- AWARENESS SEVERAL TARGET GROUPS,
- IMPROVE VULTURE IMAGE IN THE REGION & EXPLAIN UNIQUE ROLE AND VALUE IN TERMS OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.

# **ELECTROCUTION & COLLISIONS WITH ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Implementation of CMS COP7 Resolution 7.21
- MONITORING PROTOCOLS AND IMPLEMENTATION
- DETERMINE IMPACT ACROSS THE REGION
- SENSITIVITY MAPPING
- PLANNING AND ROUTING EIA's
- RETROFITTING AND USE OF SAFE STRUCTURES
- Making structures more visible
- INVOLVING UTILITIES MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES
- DEVELOP AND PROMOTE COST-BENEFIT MODELS
- INVESTIGATE NEW TECHNOLOGY WITH LESS IMPACT ON SOARING BIRDS (WIND-TURBINES)

## DISTURBANCE AND LOSS OF NESTING SITES

- IDENTIFY AND MAP SENSITIVE SITES FOR PROTECTION
- IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT SITES SENSITIVE ZONING/BUFFERS
- ALTERNATIVE METHODS WOOD FOR FUEL, SHELTER
- Create suitable habitat planting of trees, grazing regimes
- VULTURES CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PERMITTING IN SENSITIVE ZONES

The summary presentation with the outcomes of the day which was presented at a plenary session of SICFAB 2017 is available as **Annex XIII**.

## Discussion

THE LAST WORKING SESSION (DAY 4) WAS DEDICATED TO PRESENTING THE RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOP AND OPENING PLENARY DISCUSSIONS ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS THAT WERE HIGHLIGHTED OVER THE PREVIOUS THREE WORKING DAYS.

- On-going vulture conservation projects that overlap with the Vuture MsAP
- SYNERGIES WITH EXISTING CMS OR OTHER MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES
- COORDINATION STRUCTURES TO IMPLEMENT THE VULTURE MSAP
- ENGAGING GOVERNMENTS IN IMPLEMENTATION
- MONITORING AND EVALUATION
- FUNDRAISING: IDENTIFY POSSIBLE DONORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION
- COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

AFTER THE SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE THREATS ON THE FIVE SPECIES ACROSS THEIR MIDDLE EASTERN RANGE, THE MOST CRITICAL THREATS WERE IDENTIFIED AS:

- Unintentional poisoning through the use of poison baits to kill predators or other wildlife
- COLLISION WITH POWERLINES AND OTHER INFRASTRUTURE
- ELECTROCUTION
- COLLISIONS AT WIND FARMS
- FOOD AVAILABILITY

# Overall priority threats to the five vulture species throughout their ranges (consolidated in the Vulture MsAP):

- Unintentional poisoning and electrocution are common threats to all four regions as priority threats
- AVAILABILITY OF FOOD PRIORITY THREAT IN AFRICA AND EUROPE, AND TO SOME EXTENT IN MIDDLE EAST, LESS SO IN ASIA
- POISONING WITH NSAIDS AS PRIORITY THREAT PARTICULAR TO ASIA
- TARGETED POISONING AS A PRIORITY THREAT PARTICULAR TO AFRICA
- COLLISION WITH WIND FARMS AS A PRIORITY THREAT PARTICULAR TO EUROPE
- DISTURBANCE SEEMS TO BE A RELATIVELY MORE IMPORTANT THREAT IN MIDDLE EAST THAN IN OTHER REGIONS

### **ANNEXES**

THE ANNEXES LISTED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE AT: <a href="http://www.cms.int/raptors/en/document/annexes-report-vulture-msap-middle-east-regional-workshop">http://www.cms.int/raptors/en/document/annexes-report-vulture-msap-middle-east-regional-workshop</a>

ANNEX I - PROGRAM OF 18TH SHARJAH INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM FOR ARABIA'S BIODIVERSITY

ANNEX II - VULTURE MSAP: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION TO CONSERVE AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES - NICK P. WILLIAMS

ANNEX III - FEEDBACK FROM THE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS AND 1ST DRAFT VULTURE MSAP - ANDRE BOTHA

Annex IV - Facilitation presentation, Day 1: Workshop purpose, methodology and outcomes - José Tavares

ANNEX V - STATUS, RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF VULTURES IN OMAN - MIKE MCGRADY

ANNEX VI - CHALLENGES OF FLYWAY CONSERVATION: EGYPTIAN VULTURE - STOYAN NIKOLOV

ANNEX VII - STATUS OF VULTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST - MOHAMMED SHOBRAK

Annex VIII - Vulture status and threats in the Middle East: Questionnaire results - Jovan Andevski

ANNEX IX - FEEDBACK TO PLENARY, DAY 1

ANNEX X - FACILITATION PRESENTATION, DAY 2 - JOSÉ TAVARES

ANNEX XI - FACILITATION PRESENTATION, DAY 3 - JOSÉ TAVARES

ANNEX XII - FEEDBACK TO PLENARY, DAY 2

ANNEX XIII - FEEDBACK TO PLENARY, DAY 3

ANNEX XIV - FEEDBACK TO PLENARY, DAY 4