

# Introduction and Review of the Draft Vulture MsAP

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***Overarching Workshop,  
Toledo, Spain – 16.2.2017***



**Convention on Migratory Species  
Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve  
African-Eurasian Vultures**

**1<sup>st</sup> Draft**

**31 January 2017**



**Vulture Multi-species Action Plan**

# Questionnaire responses prior to Regional Workshops



## CMS Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP)

### Questionnaire

(draft version 24.8.16)

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

Here we are gathering information about the 10 African vulture species, and your input is being requested specifically for any of the following species where you have direct knowledge/experience:

1. Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*),
2. Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*),
3. White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*),
4. White-headed Vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*),
5. Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*),
6. Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*),
7. Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)
8. Rüppell's Vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*),
9. Cape Vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*) and
10. Eurasian Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*).

## Questionnaire components

- Completed per species
- Provide appropriate references for information/data provided where possible
- **Contacts and Overall Assessment**
  - Contact details
  - Contributors (level of expertise)
  - Assess quality of information/data provided

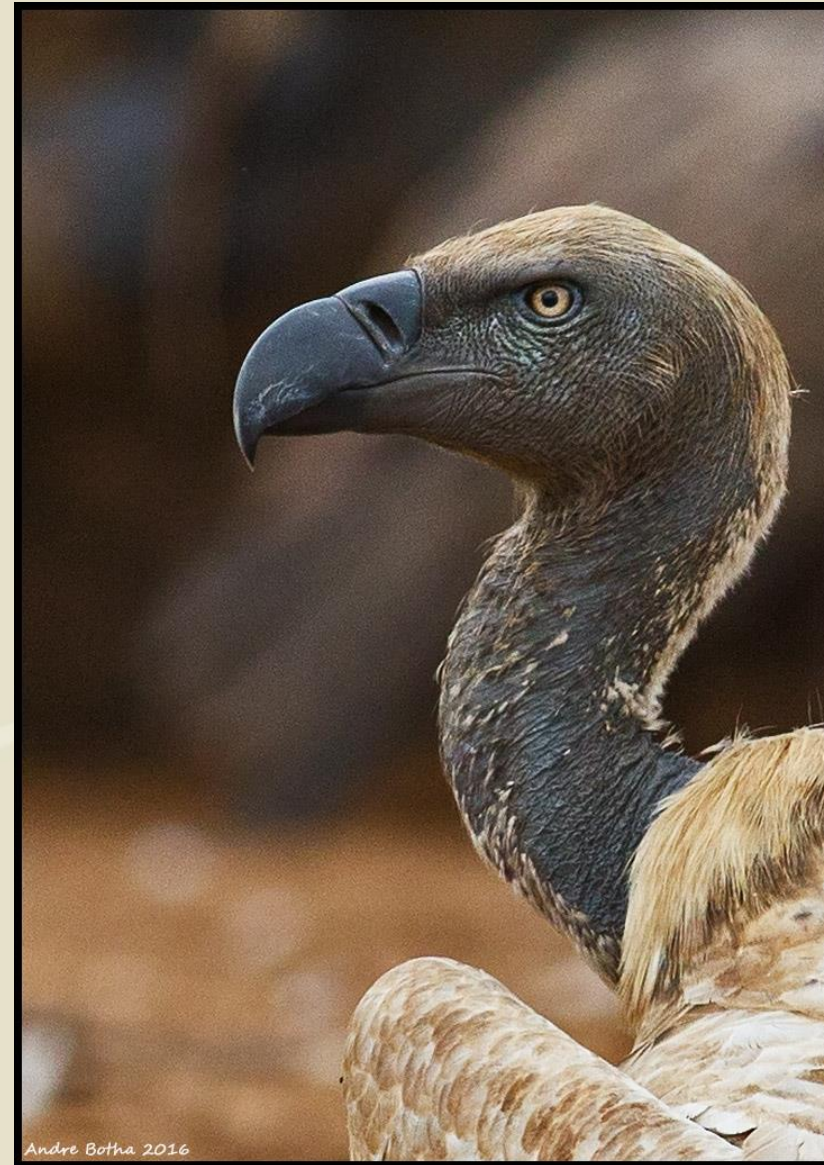


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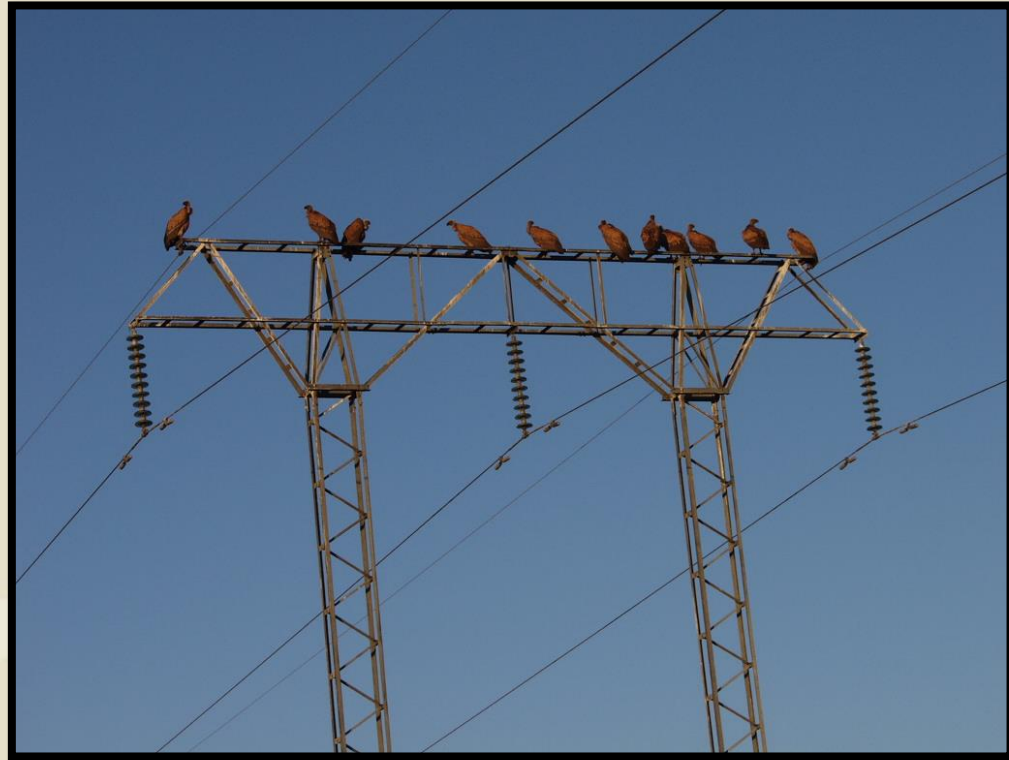
# Questionnaire components

- **Biological Assessment**
  - Breeding status, population size and trend
  - Migration status (wintering) or movements (non-breeding individuals)
  - Most important areas or sites
  - Distribution range
  - Habitat use
  - Diet
- **Productivity and survival**
  - Productivity of species nationally
  - Survival of species nationally



# Questionnaire components

- **Threats**
  - Scope
  - Severity
  - Timing
- **Overview of top 3 threats**
  - Ranking
  - Impact
  - Stakeholders
  - References



# Questionnaire components

- ***MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION***
  - National Conservation and legal status
  - Global Conservation Status
  - Conservation effort



# Questionnaire responses

Region	No received
Africa	62
Europe	89
Asia	44
Middle East	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>



**Africa - Dakar, Senegal – October 2016**



**Europe - Monfrague NP, Spain – October 2016**



**Asia – Mumbai, India – November 2016**

Andre Botha 2016



**Middle East – Sharjah, UAE – February 2017**

# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan



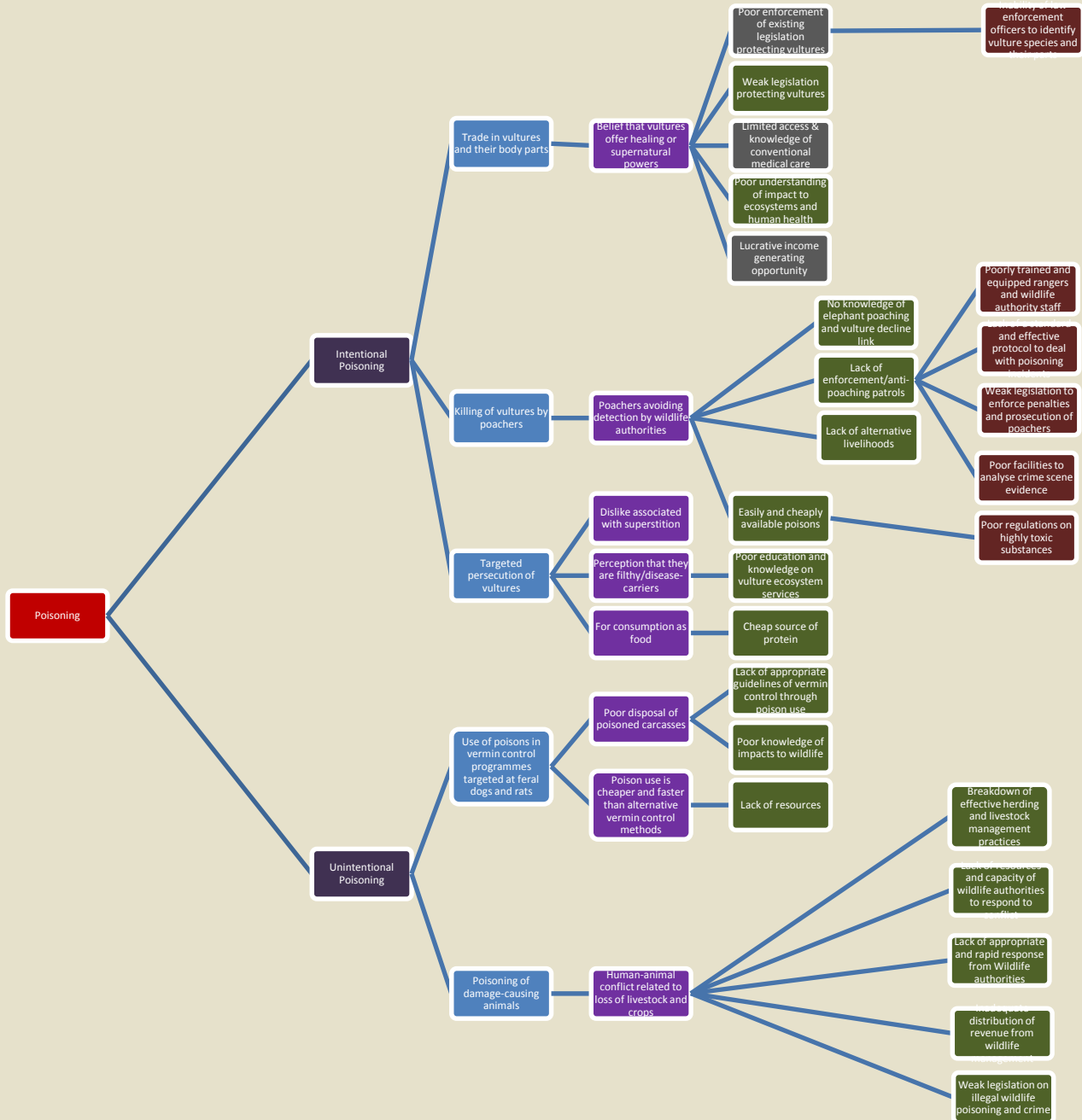
# Regional Workshop Delegates

Region	Delegates
Africa	54
Europe	79
Asia	37
Middle East	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>

# General Regional Workshop Agenda

- **Day 1** – Introductions, presentations providing background and setting the scene
- **Day 2** – Workshop procedures, Threat assessment and categorization
- **Day 3** – Determine Objectives, Results and Conduct Action Planning
- **Day 4** – Implementation and Regional Coordination









**Main Threats  
Affecting All Species  
by Sub-region**

## **Ranking of threats based on discussions**

1. Unintentional (Secondary) Poisoning
2. Targeted Vulture Poisoning
3. Electrocution on power poles
4. Habitat loss / Degradation & Fragmentation
5. Decline of food availability
6. Collisions with infrastructure & vehicles

# Developments following the Asian Regional Workshop

- Submission of Workshop reports to CU
- Completion and submission of regional components:
  - Africa – 24 December 2016
  - Europe – 6 January 2017
  - Asia – 6 January 2017
- 16 January 2017 - Rough draft circulated to CU and Coordinators
- 31 January 2017 – Draft 1 circulated for comment to:
  - Members of the Steering Group of the Vulture Working Group
  - Participants pre-Registered to attend the Overarching Workshop
  - Members of the Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MoU
- 6-9 February 2017 – Middle East Regional Workshop
- 11-13 February 2017 – Updating of Draft 1
- **14 February 2017** – Deadline for comment on Draft 1





# Vulture MsAP

**Convention on Migratory Species  
Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve  
African-Eurasian Vultures**

**1<sup>st</sup> Draft**

**31 January 2017**



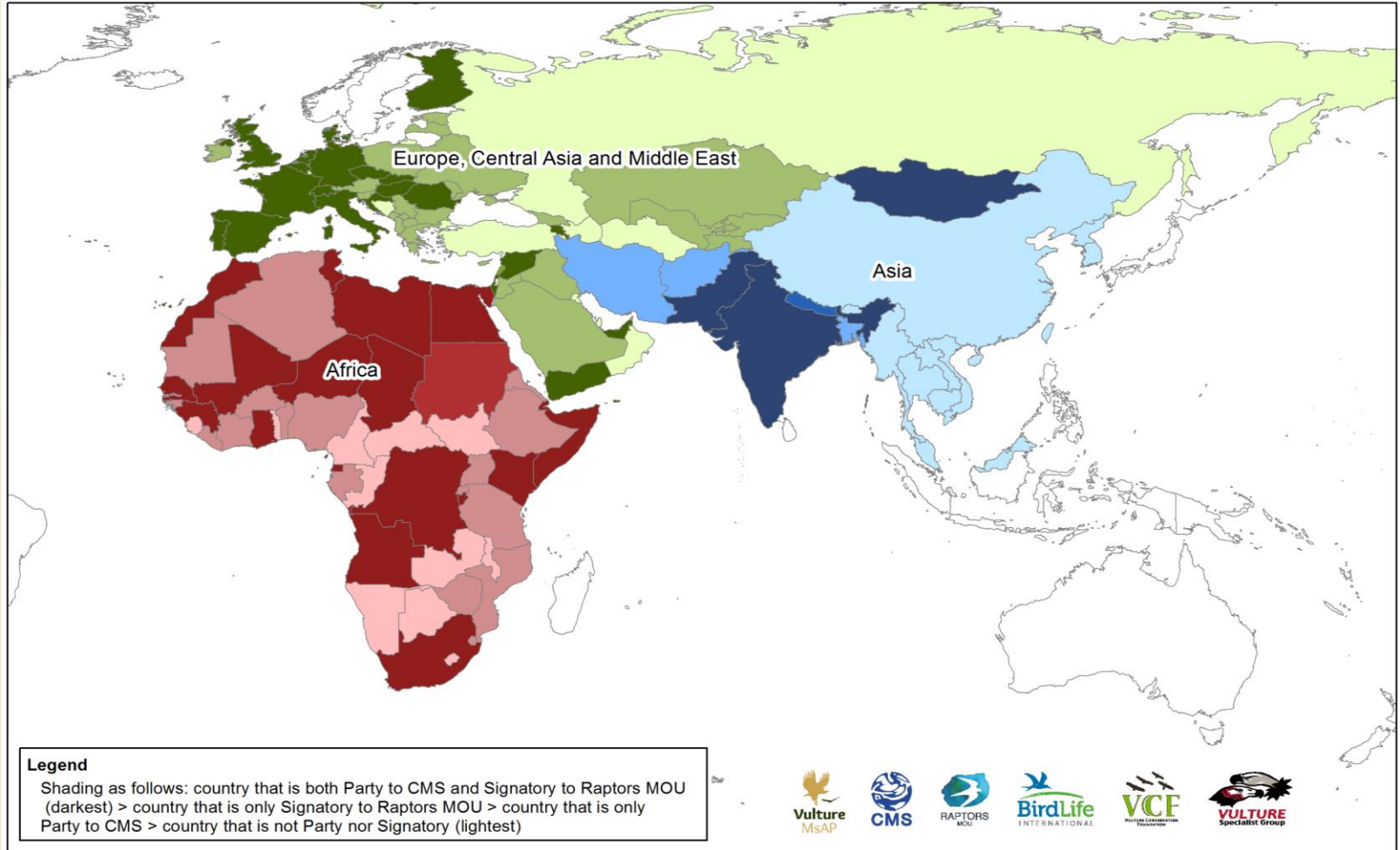
## **Contents**

1. Multi-species Action Planning for Vultures – background and approach
2. Geographic and taxonomic scope
3. Biological species assessments
4. Threat narrative and assessment
5. Stakeholders and collaborators
6. Policies, legislation and relevant Action Plans
7. Framework for Action
8. International Coordination and Action Plan Implementation
9. References
10. Annexes

# Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

# Geographic scope

128 Range Countries



# Taxonomic scope

Species	Range	Global level of threat (Red List category) <sup>1</sup>
Bearded Vulture <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Europe, Asia, Africa	NT
Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Europe, Asia, Africa	EN
Red-headed Vulture <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Asia	CR
White-headed Vulture <i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	Africa	CR
Hooded Vulture <i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Africa	CR
Himalayan Griffon <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Asia	NT
White-rumped Vulture <i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	Asia	CR
White-backed Vulture <i>Gyps africanus</i>	Africa, (Europe) <sup>2</sup>	CR
Indian Vulture <i>Gyps indicus</i>	Asia	CR
Slender-billed Vulture <i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Asia	CR
Cape Vulture <i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	Africa	EN
Rüppell's Vulture <i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	Africa, (Europe) <sup>2</sup>	CR
Griffon Vulture <i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Europe, Asia, Africa	LC
Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Europe, Asia, (Africa) <sup>2</sup>	NT
Lappet-faced Vulture <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	Africa, Asia	EN

## ***Authority for taxonomy, sequence and species names***

del Hoyo, J., Collar, N. J., Christie, D. A., Elliot, A. and Fishpool, L. D. C. (2014) *The Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines*. Lynx Editions, Barcelona and BirdLife International, Cambridge.



# Biological Species Assessments

- Species name, Latin name, Alternative names
- Facts in brief:
  - Conservation status
  - Overall population estimate
  - Population trend
  - Regional distribution
- Distribution map
- Distribution narrative
- Population size and trend – detailed
- Movements
- Habitat
- Ecology
- Threats

## 2.16 Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*

Red List Category: Endangered (LC in 1988, VU in 2000, EN in 2015)

Population size: 8,500 individuals

Population trend: Decreasing

Distribution: Africa, Middle East



**Distribution:** The species has a wide distribution across Africa, from the West, across the Sahel into East Africa and further south. Compared to many other African vulture species it has a rather fragmented distribution. There is a small

the Arabian Peninsula and UAE).

**Trend:** The African population is estimated to be at least 10% (1992), and there are at least 100 individuals, roughly 100 individuals (BirdLife International 2017). It may prove to be an important trend for this population changes over time.

## 2.14 Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Alternative names: Eurasian Griffon

Red List Category: Least Concern (since 1988, last update in 2015)

Population size: 80,000-120,000 individuals

Population trend: Increasing

Distribution: Europe, Asia, Africa

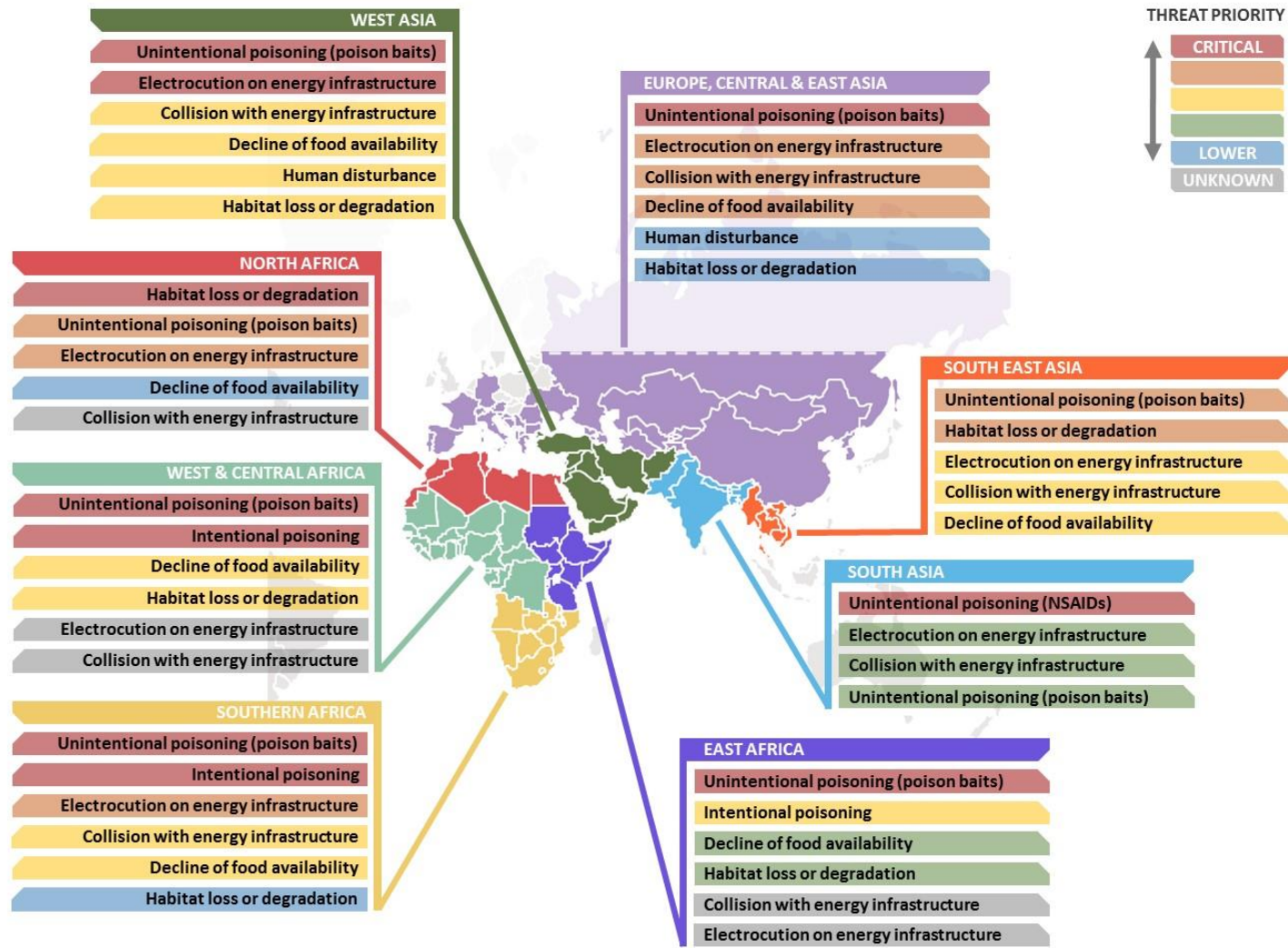


**Distribution:** The Griffon Vulture has a large breeding range, extending over Europe, the Middle East and at least formerly North Africa; some migrate to spend the non-breeding season further south in Africa, passing through the latter region. It occurs from India west to Portugal and Spain, including some island populations in the Mediterranean (Sardinia, Crete, Naxos, Cyprus and recently established in Mallorca). The range also includes Turkey, the Crimean Peninsula and the Caucasus, and then from there to the Middle East and into Central Asia. In North Africa it is probably extinct as a breeding species, even though it occurs in large numbers during migration in Morocco. The species has been successfully reintroduced to France, Italy and central Bulgaria (Revise map?).

**Population size and trend:** The European population was estimated at 32,400-34,400 breeding pairs (BirdLife International 2017),



# Threats – map, narrative and assessment



# Stakeholders and collaborators

**Table 5.** Stakeholders in vulture conservation, and the activity types and threats of most relevance to each.

Stakeholder	Activity type addressed				Threat (and hence MSAP Objective) addressed										
	Research and Monitoring	Conservation action	Policy & Legislation	Education & Awareness	1 Human-Wildlife Conflict Poisoning	2 Vermin control	3 Poisoning by NSAIDS	4 Belief-based use and bushmeat	5 Sentinel poaching	6 Electrocution	7 Collisions with energy infrastructure	8 Reduced food availability	9 Habitat loss & degradation	10 Loss of nest trees	11 Disturbance
Parties to Convention on Migratory Species (including Raptors MoU, Preventing Poisoning Working Group and Energy Task Force)			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Parties to CITES			X				X	X							
Parties to UNCCD			x									X			
Parties to Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (relating to importation of hazardous chemicals, and			X		X	X	X	X							



# Policies, legislation and relevant Action Plans

- Drafted on commission by BirdLife International
- Needs refinement and integration in MsAP format
- Includes information on:
  - Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
  - Threat-focused policies, action plans, etc.
    - Poisoning and chemical use
    - Mortality caused by power grid infrastructure
  - Conservation (captive) breeding and reintroduction
- Table – Range countries & existing international and regional structures

# Framework for Action

- 10 Objectives
- Indicators & Means of Verification
- Threat-focused
- Actions agreed on in regional Workshops by delegates during group discussions, deliberated during plenary sessions

**Table 8.** Conservation actions for African-Eurasian vultures, according to each objective.

Result	Action	Category	Time-frame	Priority	Stakeholders	North Africa	West Africa	East Africa	Southern Africa	Europe	Middle East	South Asia	SE/N/C Asia
<b>Objective 1. Halt the illegal use of toxic chemicals and substances which unintentionally kill vultures</b>													
<b>Result 1.1: Improved understanding and awareness of human-wildlife conflict and its impacts on vultures informs more effective mitigation approaches</b>	Conduct overall situation analysis of wildlife poisoning associated with human-wildlife conflict, with special attention to vulture mortality: state of knowledge, poisons used (actually or potentially), hotspots, knowledge gaps and best practice on reducing conflict and related poisoning	Research & Monitoring	1-3 yr	High	NGOs, Universities, Research Institutions, Government	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
	Identify key drivers behind human-wildlife conflict affecting vultures through socio-economic study	Research & Monitoring	1-3 yr	High	NGOs, Universities, Research Institutions			x	x		X	x	x
	Implement awareness campaigns on (1) negative impacts on vultures and other non-target species, (2)												

# Framework for Action

Objective	Threat	Results	R&M	P&L	E&A	Action	Total
1	Unintentional poisoning	5	9	4	5	11	29
2	NSAIDS	4	9	4	4	13	30
3	Traditional Belief-use	3	7	2	2	2	13
4	Sentinel poisoning	3	8	2	2	2	14
5	Electrocution	3	7	11	4	11	33
6	Collision – Energy Infrastructure	3	5	8	3	9	25
7	Food availability	2	4	2	2	8	16
8	Habitat availability	2	2	2	2	3	9
9	Disturbance	2	0	3	4	3	10
10	Knowledge & Awareness	3	6	2	2	0	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>189</b>



# Coordination and Action Plan Implementation

- Coordination structure
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Communication plan
- Budget – Resource needs
- Resource acquisition and mobilisation
- Engagement with and support from key stakeholders
- Timeframe for implementation

# References

- 321 peer-reviewed articles & publications
- 41 web-links to relevant sources
- More work is needed to refine and ensure that references are included

## 9. References

This section provides a comprehensive list of all sources used in the drafting of the VMsAP.

For African and Asian information, all sources cited in the text are listed here. (Some further completion and checking needed)

- Abebe, Y. D. (2013) Mass dog poisoning operation in Addis Ababa can have severe repercussions on vulture populations. *Vulture News* 64: 74–76.
- Acharya, R., Cuthbert, R., Baral, H.S., & Shah, K.B. (2009) Rapid population declines of Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis* in Upper Mustang, Nepal. *Bird Conservation International* 19: 99-107.
- Anderson, M. D. & Hohne, P. (2007) African white-backed vultures nesting on electricity pylons in the Kimberley area, Northern Cape and Free State province, South Africa. *Vulture News* 5: 44–50
- Anderson, M. D. & Kruger, R. (1995) Powerline electrocution of eighteen African white-backed vultures. *Vulture News* 32: 16–18.
- Anderson, M. D., Maritz, A. W. A. & Oosthuysen, E. (1999) Raptors drowning in farm reservoirs in South Africa. *Ostrich* 70: 139-144
- Anderson, MD (1999) Africa's Hooded Vulture: a dichotomy of lifestyle. *Vulture News* 41: 3-5
- Andevski & Zorrilla Delgado 2015

# Annexes

- **Annex 1 – Workshop delegates and Other Contributors**
- **Annex 2 – Range & Population status of Species**
  - Annex 2.1. – Range and status of the 15 Vulture MsAP species per country
  - Annex 2.2.-2.5. – Status and population breeding estimates for species in the European range
- **Annex 3 – Threat maps per species**
- **Annex 4 - Current International, regional and national strategies; Species Action Plans**

# Acknowledgements

- All **212** Workshop delegates as well as questionnaires respondents
- **Coordinating Unit CMS Raptors MoU**
  - Nick Williams
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  - Jovan Andevski (Europe) – Vulture Conservation Foundation
  - Chris Bowden (Asia) RSPB
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  - Boris Barov (Europe)
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