

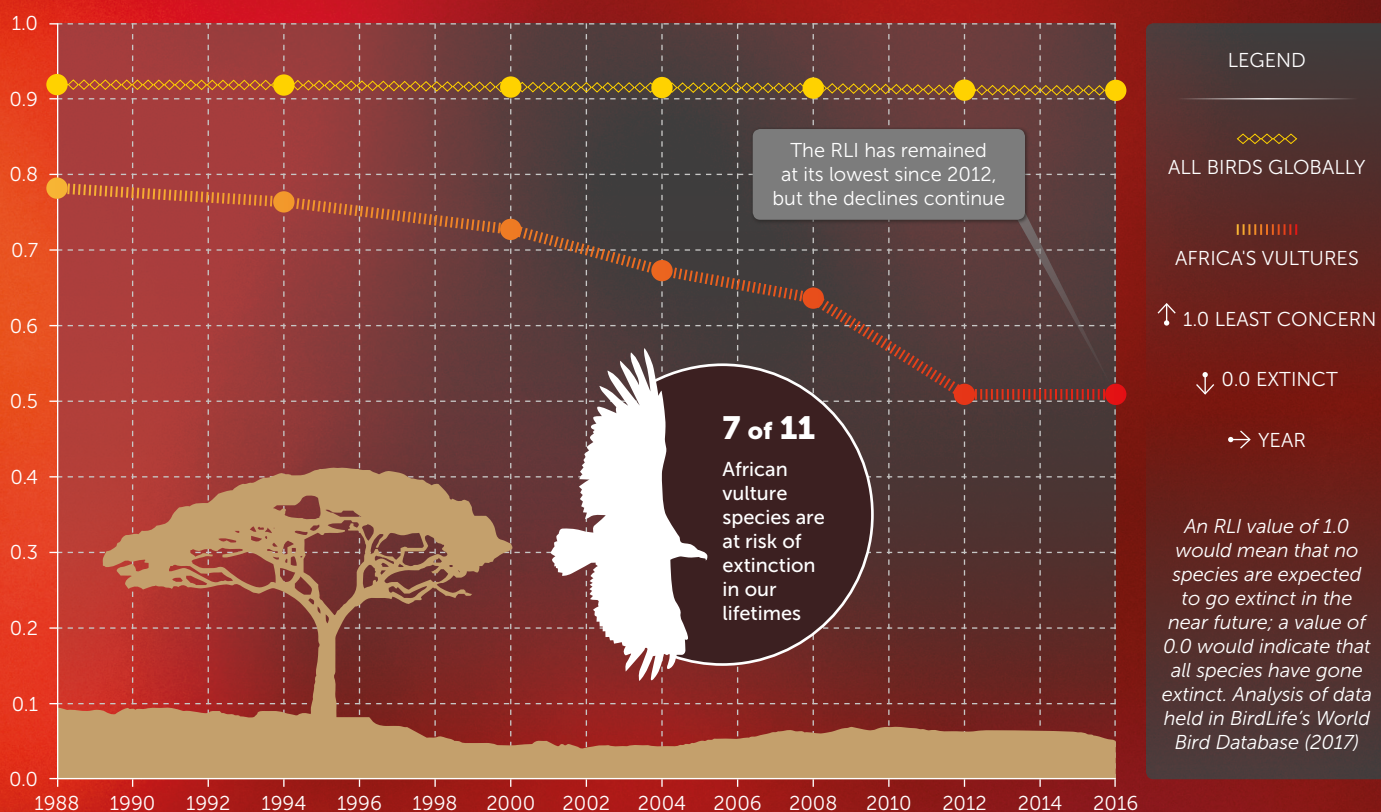


THE LAST AFRICAN VULTURE

THE CONSEQUENCES FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

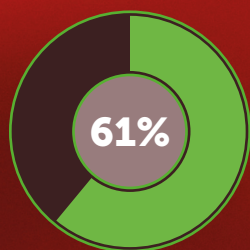
THE COLLAPSE OF AFRICA'S VULTURES

RED LIST INDEX (RLI) OF EXTINCTION RISK FOR AFRICA'S VULTURES AND ALL BIRDS GLOBALLY



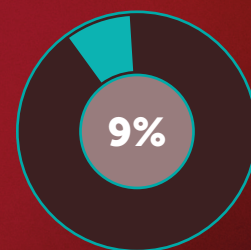
WHAT'S KILLING AFRICA'S VULTURES?

Percentages are only representative reasons for recorded deaths. Other important threats, as yet hard to quantify, such as habitat reduction, disturbance at nesting sites and reduced food availability are not illustrated.



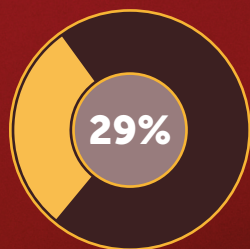
POISONING

- › Poisoning as a result of human-wildlife conflict where vultures are incidental victims.
- › Intentional poisoning by ivory poachers not wanting to be found by rangers.



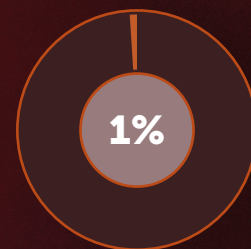
ELECTROCUTION & COLLISION

- With poorly-planned powerlines, windfarms and roads.
- Increasing threat with investment in development.



BELIEF-BASED USE

- › Traditional or superstitious use of body parts.
- › Also involves the use of poison.



OTHER RECORDED KILLING

- People are potentially eating poisoned vultures.



AFRICAN VULTURES IN DECLINE

BirdLife International for the IUCN Red List; Ogada et al 2015. Last 30 years



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

RÜPPEL'S VULTURE

Gyps rueppelli

✓ 97%



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE

Trigonoceps occipitalis

✓ 96%



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE

Gyps africanus

✓ 90%



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

HOODED VULTURE

Necrosyrtes monachus

✓ 83%



ENDANGERED

EGYPTIAN VULTURE

Neophron percnopterus

✓ 92%



ENDANGERED

CAPE VULTURE

Gyps coprotheres

✓ 92%



ENDANGERED

LAPPET-FACED VULTURE

Torgos tracheliotos

✓ 80%



NEAR THREATENED

BEARDED VULTURE

Gypaetus barbatus

✓ 70%

IUCN RED LIST SCALE

1	LEAST CONCERN	ENDANGERED	4
2	NEAR THREATENED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	5
3	VULNERABLE	EXTINCT	6

VULTURES CLEAN UP CARCASSES



WITH VULTURES > ONE HOUR

They clean carcasses bare before disease spores can form



WITHOUT VULTURES > A FEW DAYS

They reduce the spread of diseases like Anthrax, Rabies, Tuberculosis, Botulism, Brucellosis

VULTURES ARE WORTH MILLIONS



A single vulture is worth over US \$ **11,000** dollars just for its cleaning services.

By halting the spread of disease, they are worth much, much more to governments in saved health service costs, not to mention tourism, etc.



1 Poisoned elephant carcass = up to **500** dead vultures per incident

- › **HEALTHY VULTURES = HEALTHY PEOPLE, SAVED FROM THE SPREAD OF LIFE-THREATENING DISEASES.**
- › **VULTURES SAVE THE AFRICAN ECONOMY MONEY DUE TO THEIR UNIQUE WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES.**
- › **IT IS A MORAL AND SOCIAL IMPERATIVE TO SAVE THEM, WE NEED TO ACT NOW.**

Vultures need a step-change in conservation action, led by Governments and supported by all stakeholders, including many who have so far not recognised these birds' importance.

A Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) has been created under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

The Vulture MsAP aims to achieve the recovery of 15 migratory vulture species (including all African species) to sustainable population levels by 2029, across 128 Range States.

**CAN YOU
IMAGINE
AFRICA
WITHOUT
VULTURES**



**WHAT
CAN
YOU
DO
NEXT**

- › **PROMOTE & IMPLEMENT** the Vulture MsAP. It may be used as it stands, or as a guide for drafting national or regional vulture conservation action plans for Range States, suited to their respective situations.
- › **ENCOURAGE MULTI-SECTORAL, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION** to address threats to vultures. Collaborative action should:
 - Particularly involve the **agrochemical and livestock sectors** regarding poison baits and veterinary pharmaceuticals; **energy sectors** regarding power generation and transmission; and **health sectors** regarding disease transmission and trade in vulture body parts for belief-based use.
 - **Tackle other threats** from lead ammunition, loss of food supplies, habitat destruction and degradation, and direct persecution and disturbance of vultures caused by human activities.
- › **RAISE AWARENESS & INCREASE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE** of the plight of vultures, their ecological importance and the valuable ecosystem services they provide, and promote conservation solutions at the highest political levels both nationally and internationally.
- › **SUPPORT VULTURE CONSERVATION WITH FUNDS AND OTHER RESOURCES.** The resource needs for coordination and implementation of the Vulture MsAP are considerable, in terms of both funds and other forms of support. Governments and institutional donors are already stepping up, but far more support is required to achieve the changes necessary to conserve vultures for future generations.

COVER PHOTOS
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