



The CMS Raptors MoU to save the kings of the skies: a multi-species action plan for 15 Old World vultures



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Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP)

20 years of Bearded Vulture in Italy after the extinction – Bormio, 16-18.3.2018

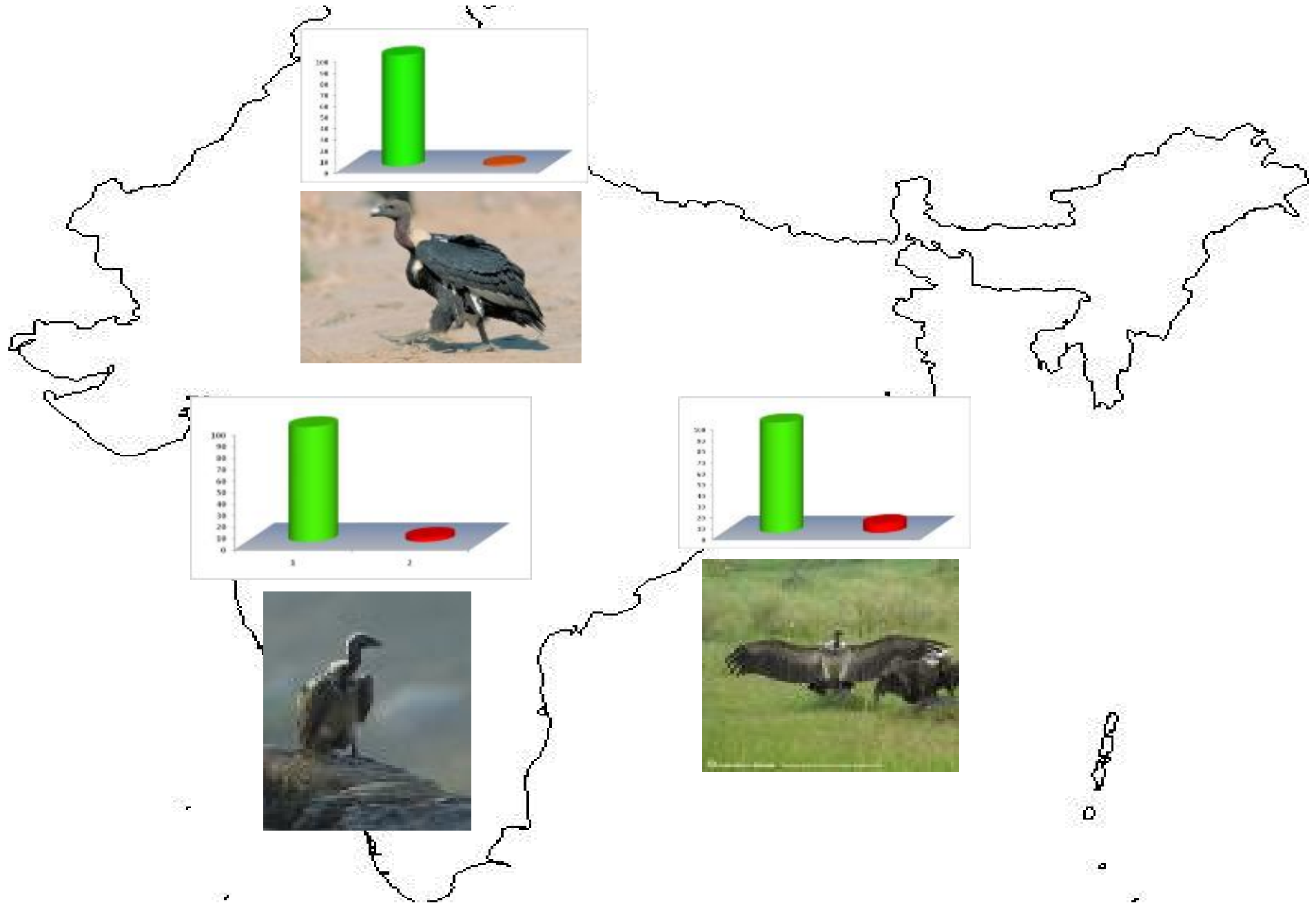
Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

South Asia pre-1990



Photo: Gautham Narayan

Vulture population declines - 3 Gyps species 1992 - 2000





Critically Endangered



Gyps bengalensis

99.9% declines over 15 years



Gyps indicus



Sarcogyps calvus

CR since 2007 following 91% declines



Gyps tenuirostris

**Diclofenac and
other NSAIDs
were the main
drivers of the
declines**



**In 2007... diclofenac in 11% cattle carcasses!!
Banned for veterinary use in India and Pakistan since 2007**

LETTER

Another Continental Vulture Crisis: Africa's Vultures Collapsing toward Extinction

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Unintentional poisoning: human – wildlife conflicts



IMPACT OF A POISONING INCIDENT NEAR RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

Retaliatory poisoning is one of the main reasons why both carnivore and vulture populations are in rapid decline in many parts of Africa. WCS has been monitoring vultures since 2013.



Based on known deaths recorded by the Ruaha Carnivore Project, TANAPA and WCS. Given many animals likely died after leaving the site, the FINAL TOTAL IS ALMOST CERTAINLY MORE.

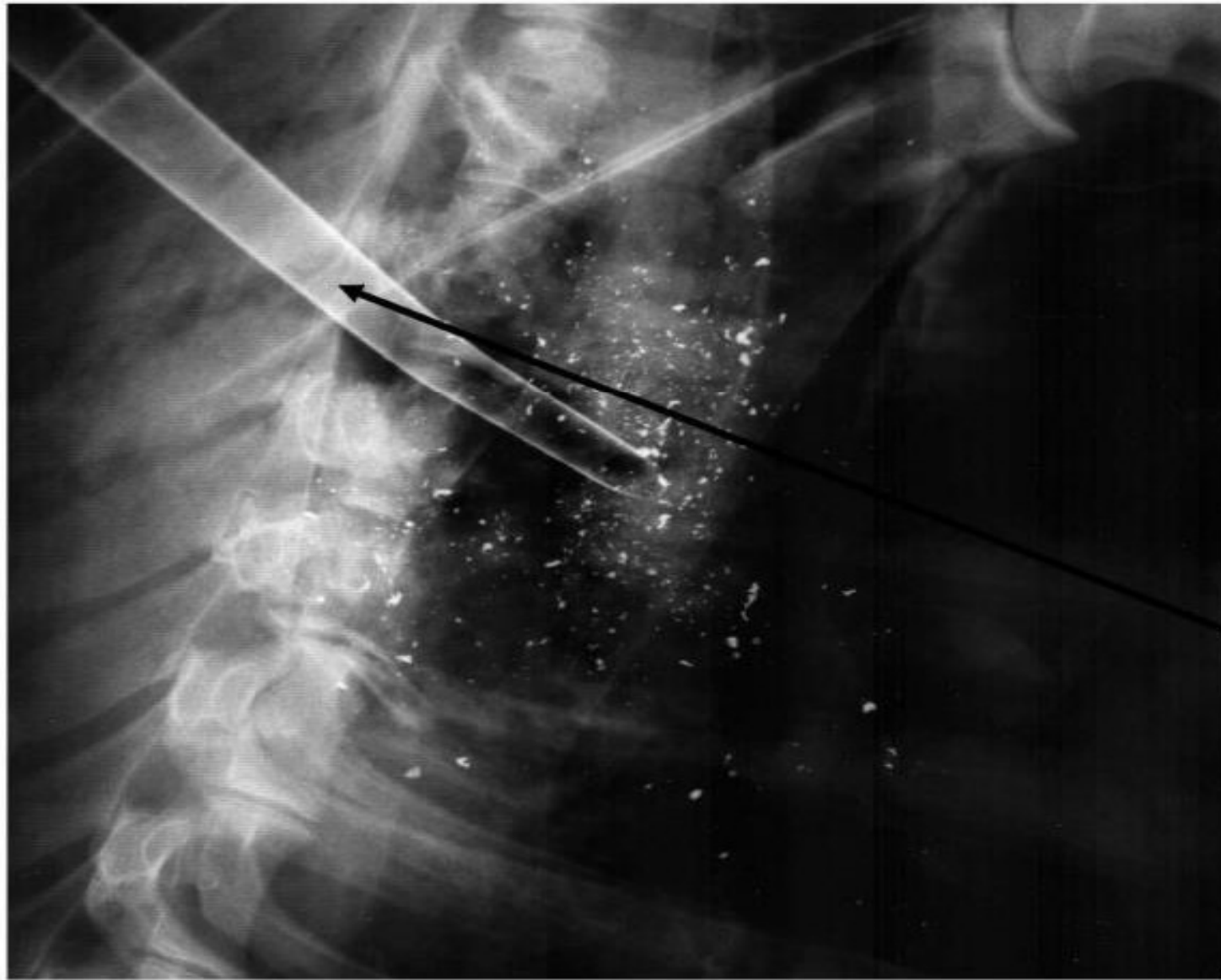
Intentional poisoning: Belief-based use



Intentional poisoning: Sentinel poisoning



Lead poisoning – toxic shot and ammunition



Deer #30

thorax, whole body

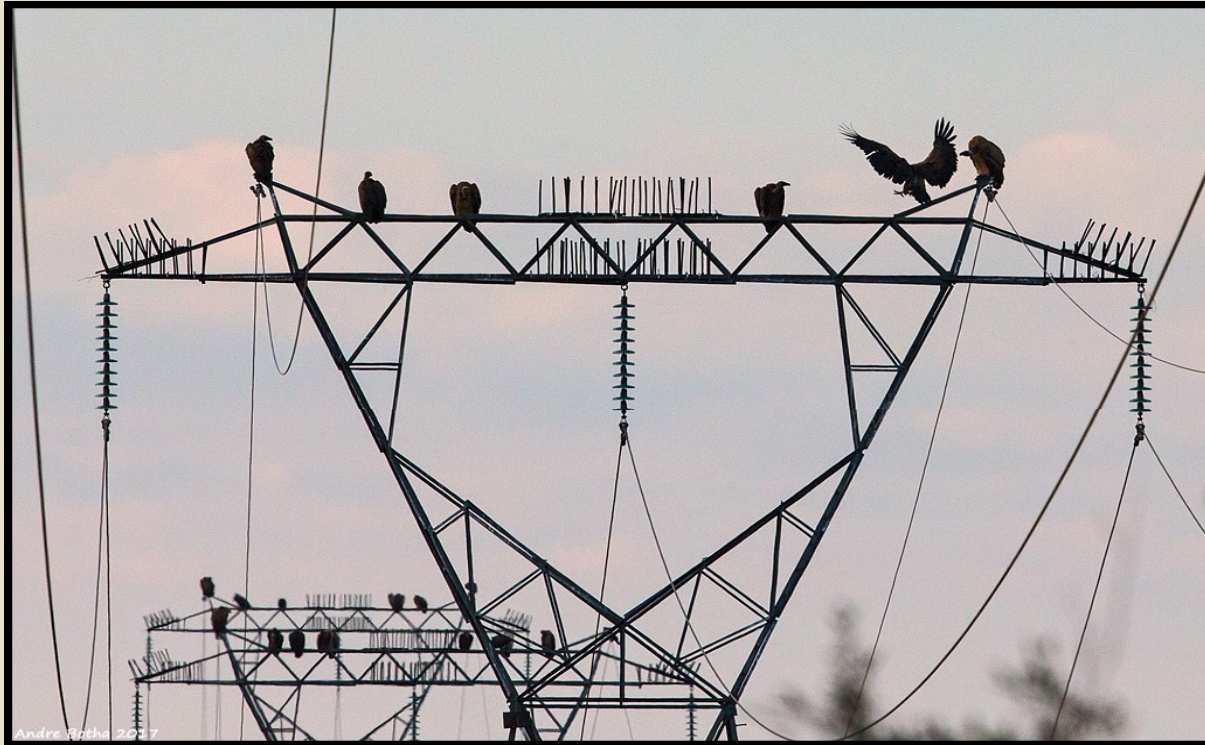
Rifle: 7-mm Rem
Magnum

Bullet: lead-core,
lead-tip, 175-grain

547 fragments
counted

Note: 9-mm carbon
fiber tube inserted
through bullet path

Electrocution and collision



Energy Infrastructure



Summary - Why vultures?

- Vultures **under extreme pressure** from a range of human activities
- One of the **most threatened groups** of birds on earth
- **Drastic and widespread vulture population declines** in recent decades
 - catastrophe in Asia in 1990s and African Vulture Crisis now
- IUCN Red List categorizes many species as **'Critically Endangered'**
- **Multiple threats:** poisoning (direct and indirect), electrocution on power poles, habitat loss, decreasing food availability, fragmentation of remaining populations, illegal killing and taking, human disturbance, collisions with wind turbines and overhead lines, etc.
- Vultures provide **critically important ecosystem services** by cleaning up carcasses and other organic waste in the environment, thus reducing the spread of dangerous diseases such as anthrax and rabies – resulting in **highly significant economic and human health benefits**.

We really can't afford to lose them!

Vulture MsAP – Aim and Objectives

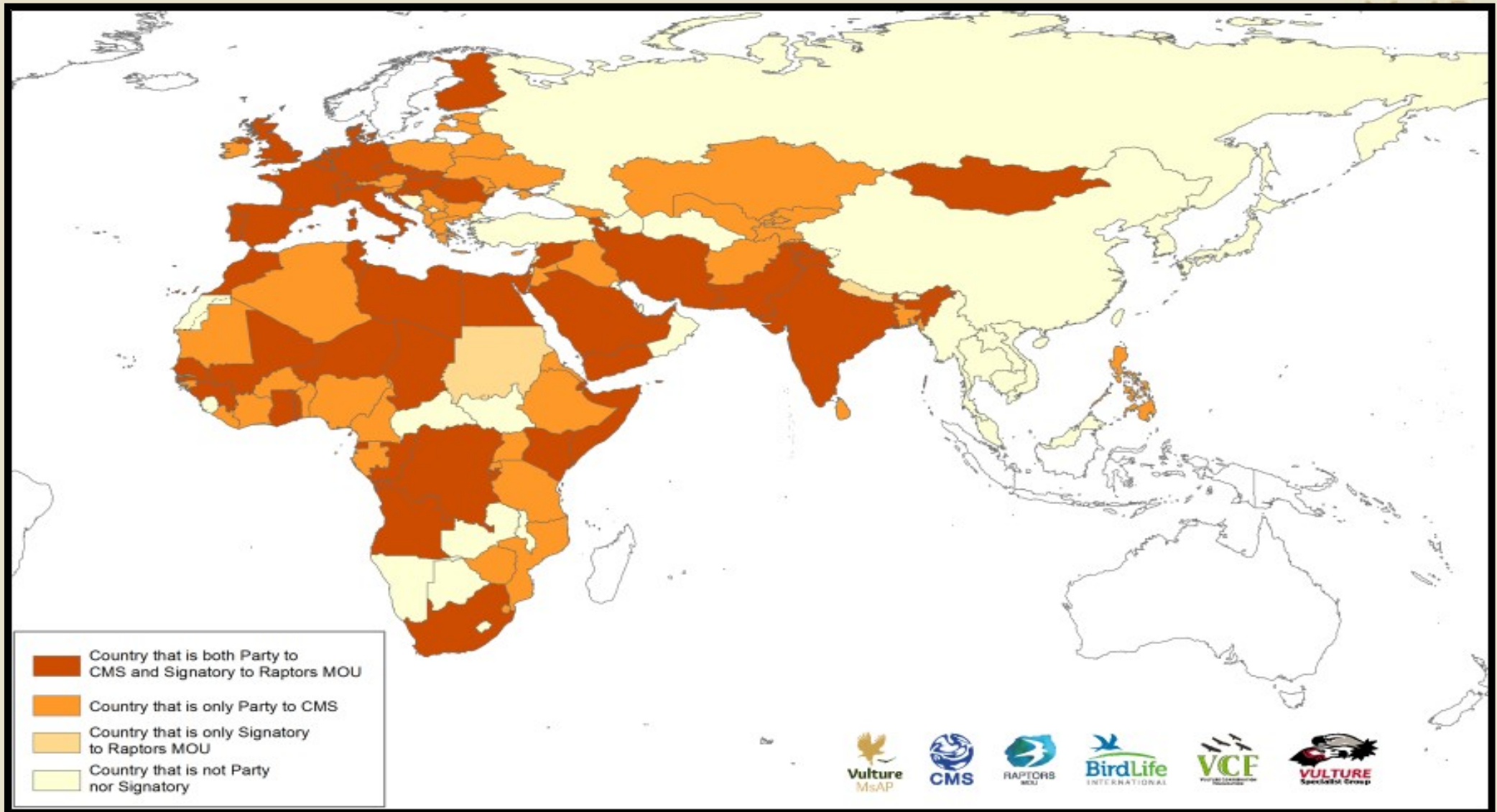
The overall aim: to develop a comprehensive strategic Action Plan covering the entire geographic ranges of 15 species of Old World vultures to promote concerted, collaborative and coordinated international conservation actions

Objective 1: To rapidly halt current population declines in all species covered by the Vulture MsAP

Objective 2: To reverse recent population trends to bring the conservation status of each species back to a favourable level

Objective 3: To provide conservation management guidelines applicable to all Range States covered by the Vulture MsAP

Vulture MsAP – Geographic scope



Vulture MsAP – species covered

15 (of 16) species classified as Old World vultures



Species	Range	Global level of threat (Red List category) ¹
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) ²	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) ²	CR
Griffon Vulture <i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Europe, Asia, Africa	LC
Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Europe, Asia, (Africa) ²	NT
Lappet-faced Vulture <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	Africa, Asia	EN

Vulture MsAP – Timeline of development



- **November 2014** – Mandate established (COP11)
- **October 2015** – Endorsed at MoS2 Raptors MoU
- **February 2016** – Project Charter published
- **September 2016** – Coordinators recruited (4)
- **Oct/Nov 2016** - Regional Workshops in Africa, Europe and Asia
- **January 2017** - 1st Draft Vulture MsAP produced
- **February 2017** – Middle East Regional Workshop
- **February 2017** - Overarching Workshop
- **Mid-March 2017** – Consolidated 2nd Draft VMsAP
- **Mar/Apr 2017** - Public Consultation Exercise
- **May 2017** - Comments incorporated into Final Draft Vulture MsAP
- **25 May 2017** - Submitted MsAP to CMS Secretariat (COP12 document deadline)
- **July 2017** - Reviewed by CMS Scientific Council at 2nd Sessional Committee meeting
- **October 2017** – Consideration by CMS Parties at COP12 in Manila, Philippines

Africa - Dakar, Senegal – October 2016



Europe - Monfrague NP, Spain – October 2016



Asia – Mumbai, India – November 2016



Middle East – Sharjah, UAE – February 2017

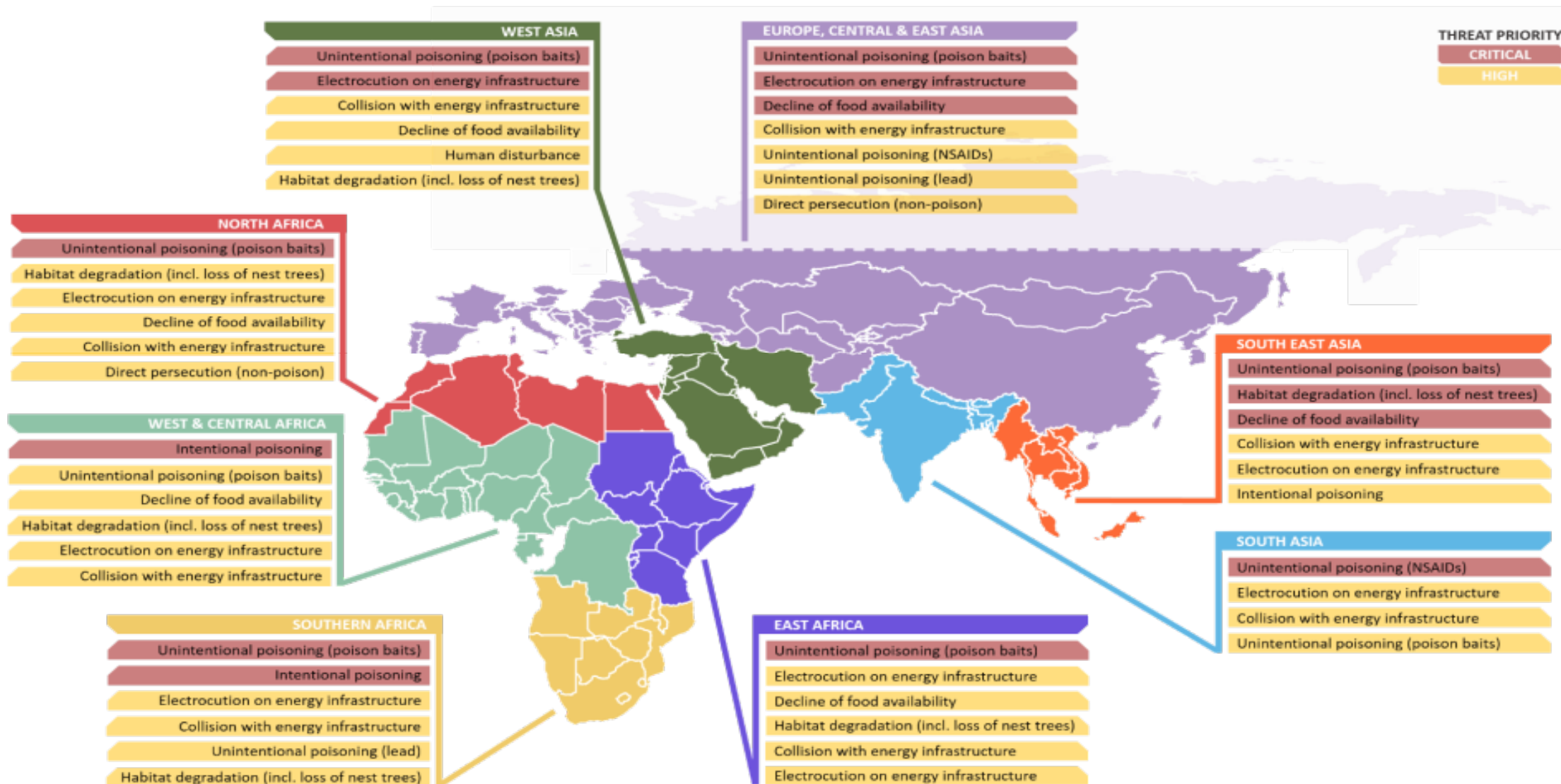
Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

Overarching Workshop – Toledo, Spain February 2017



Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

Threat Assessment

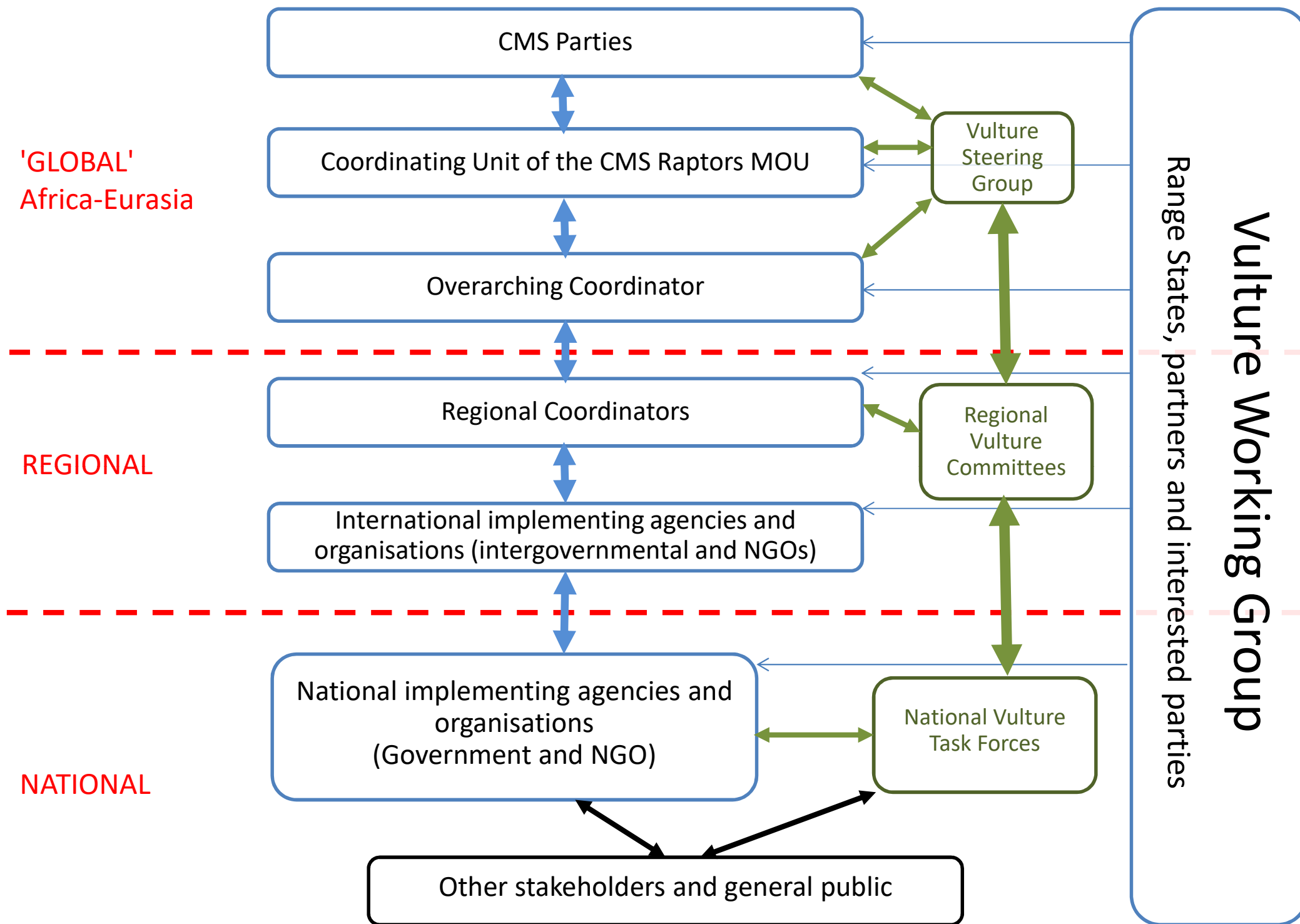


Framework for Action

Objective	Threat	Res ults	R& M	P&L	E& A	Acti on	Tot al
1	Unintentional poisoning	3	2	3	2	7	14
2	NSAIDS	3	4	2	3	3	12
3	Lead poisoning	1	1	2	2	-	5
4	Belief-use	3	5	-	2	2	9
5	Sentinel poisoning	5	3	2	1	5	11
6	Electrocution	3	4	7	2	1	14
7	Collision – Energy Infrastructure	3	6	7	2	2	17
8	Food availability	2	2	-	1	4	7
9	Habitat availability	2	1	1	1	3	6
10	Disturbance	2	1	1	2	2	6
11	Cross-cutting conservation action	4	7	3	-	6	16
12	Effective implementation of the MsAP	2	-	-	4	3	7
	Total	33	36	28	22	38	124



[http://www.cms.int/en/document/
multi-species-action-plan-consume-african-eurasian-vultures-vulture-msap-0](http://www.cms.int/en/document/multi-species-action-plan-consume-african-eurasian-vultures-vulture-msap-0)



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- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB – BirdLife UK)
- Vulture Conservation Foundation
- Vulture Working Group

Thank you for your attention!



Vulture Multi-species Action Plan