



Chris Bowden



Andre Botha

### Co-Chairs

Chris Bowden <sup>(1)</sup>  
Andre Botha <sup>(2)</sup>

### Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

### Location/Affiliation

<sup>(1)</sup> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, UK, C/O Jakkur, Bangalore, India  
<sup>(2)</sup> Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa

### Number of members

98

### Social networks

Facebook:  
IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group



### Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group (VSG) aims to advocate and create greater awareness of the plight of vultures and coordinate and support effective conservation activities to their benefit.

### Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

#### Capacity building

##### ■ Agreements

i. Agreement signed in December 2016 to become an implementing partner of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Raptors MoUm. (KSR #29)

##### ■ Capacity building

i. CMS Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) for Africa-Eurasian Vultures completed and adopted at CMS COP12, October 2017, with support from VSG members that worked in various capacities to contribute to the drafting thereof. (KSR #18)

#### Communications

##### ■ Communication

- i. International Vulture Awareness Day has become established as a global institution that was observed in more than 50 countries and by more than 160 organisations in 2017. (KSR #28)
- ii. Newsletters have been published to the VSG membership with contributions from all regional correspondents. (KSR #28)
- iii. Ongoing work to get a functional VSG website. (KSR #28)
- iv. Two volumes of the VSG journal "Vulture News" published annually on schedule with a steady flow of submissions of material. (KSR #28)

##### ■ Synergy

i. Discussions with the elephant and carnivore Specialist Groups, especially with regard to wildlife poisoning and trade. Participated and presented at the Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) Annual Meeting in Berlin, October 2017. (KSR #29)

#### Conservation action

##### ■ Conservation activities

i. CMS MsAP completed and adopted at CMS COP12, October 2017. (KSR #31)

#### Increasing diversity of SSC

##### ■ Membership

- i. Membership list with details have been updated and submitted.
- ii. Membership has steadily grown over the review period to just under 100.

#### Policy

##### ■ Scientific meetings

i. Participated and presented at the CPSG Annual Meeting in Berlin in October 2017.

#### Acknowledgements

We particularly thank EWT and RSPB for hosting the two Co-Chairs and agreeing work time to carry out key activities. EWT and Hawk Conservancy also give additional support for IVAD. BirdLife International and the CMS raptors MoU gave additional support and time to develop the MsAP, which has become a central output and framework for the VSG to help implement and take further. Vulture Conservation Foundation, BirdLife African and Cambridge Secretariat have given additional support, as has the wider network of organisations including the Peregrine Fund, Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction consortium, the LIFE Egyptian Vulture project in Bulgaria and others. Hawk Conservancy also provided some administrative support in the form of Lesley Jerome.

Fitting Cellphone PTT on Lappet-faced Vulture, Hlambanyati, KZN, South Africa  
Photo: Andre Botha



## Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

### Barometer of life

Communication: outputs from Abu Dhabi Meeting produced that assist with the Vulture MsAP.

### Communications

Communication: (1) promote International Vulture Awareness Day each September; (2) produce two newsletters annually; (3) develop VSG website presence; (4) key partner in promoting the CMS MsAP.

Research activities: publish 4 editions of the VSG journal "Vulture News".

Synergy: develop links with other relevant SSC groups, eg. CPSG, African Elephant Specialist Group, Canid Specialist Group.

### Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) engaging members and others to implement MsAP for all old world vultures; (2) develop and delegate responsibility and capacity to implement MsAP at a regional and sub-regional level.

Synergy: participate in and engage with CPSG as the VSG engages with conservation planning.

### Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: build and develop VSG membership.

## Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Completion and planned implementation of the CMS Vulture MsAP aims to halt the decline in Old World Vulture populations in Africa-Eurasia over the next 12 years, commencing in 2018.

## Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 5/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Capacity building (2 activities)
- Communications (5 activities)
- Conservation action (2 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (2 activities)
- Policy (1 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 18, 28, 29, 31

KSR: Key Species Result



Collection of a blood sample from a White-headed Vulture, Phongolo NR, South Africa  
Photo: Chris Kelly