

# IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group

2018 Report



Chris Bowden



Andre Botha

## Co-Chairs

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

## Red List Authority Coordinator

Darcy Ogada <sup>(3)</sup>

## Location/Affiliation

<sup>(1)</sup> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,  
The Lodge, Sandy Beds SG19 2DL, UK,  
C/O Jakkur, Bangalore, India  
<sup>(2)</sup> Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa  
<sup>(3)</sup> The Peregrine Fund, Boise, Idaho, US

## Number of members

98

## Social networks:

Facebook:  
IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group  
Website:  
<https://www.iucnvsg.org/>



## 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.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Completion and planned implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) aims to halt the decline in Old World Vulture populations in Africa-Eurasia over the next 12 years, commencing in 2018.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Research activities: publish four editions of the VSG journal *Vulture News*.

### Plan

Planning: (1) engage members and others to implement the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) for all Old World vultures; (2) support implementation of the MsAP at a regional and sub-regional level.

### Network

Membership: build and develop VSG membership.

Synergy: (1) develop links with other relevant SSC groups, e.g. Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), African Elephant Specialist Group, Canid Specialist Group; (2) participate in and support the work of the SSC CPSG.

## Communicate

Communication: (1) outputs from Abu Dhabi Meeting produced that assist with the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan; (2) promote International Vulture Awareness Day each September; (3) produce two Newsletters annually; (4) develop VSG website presence; (5) act as a key partner in promoting the CMS Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures.

## Activities and results 2018

### Assess

#### Research activities

**i.** Two issues of *Vulture News* published during the review period. (KSR #28)

### Plan

#### Planning

**i.** Continuous effort by a range of members who are involved in drafting national action plans in three African countries. (KSR #15)

### Network

#### Membership

**i.** A total of eight new members recruited during the review period.

#### Synergy

**i.** Constructive working relationships established with the Elephant, Canine and Lion groups primarily focused on addressing the mutual threat of wildlife poisoning. (KSR #29)

**ii.** Continued participating in and supporting the work of the SSC CPSG. (KSR #29)



Immature White-rumped Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis*,  
Siem Pang Wildlife Refuge, Cambodia  
Photo: Andre Botha



Rüppell's Vultures, *Gyps rueppellii*,  
Maasai Mara Game Reserve, Kenya  
Photo: Andre Botha



Taking measurements from a Lappet-faced Vulture,  
*Torgos tracheliotos*, Zululand, South Africa  
Photo: Andre Botha

## Communicate

### Communication

- i.** Provided support letters to more than 15 proposals submitted by VSG members and affiliate organisations aimed at implementing components of the Vulture MsAP. (KSR #28)
- ii.** A total of 102 organisations from 26 countries participated in International Vulture Awareness Day, which was observed on 1 September 2018. (KSR #28)
- iii.** Newsletters 9 and 10 produced and distributed with positive feedback from a range of recipients. The circulation list already reaches over 400 recipients. (KSR #28)
- iv.** Developing a VSG website presence is in process, to be completed in 2019. (KSR #28)
- v.** Various efforts to promote the CMS Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures are in place across the range through the work of partners in the Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) consortium, Vulture Conservation Foundation (Europe) and through a range of partner organisations in Africa. (KSR #21)

## Acknowledgements

We particularly thank the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for hosting the co-Chairs and agreeing work time to carry out key activities. Thanks also to the Hawk Conservancy Trust for support, and to Rachel Hoffmann from SSC for her continued support. Vulture Conservation Foundation, BirdLife Africa 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 elsewhere in the species' range. The Hawk Conservancy Trust also provided some administrative support in the form of Lesley Jerome.

## Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	1	█
Plan	1	█
Network	3	███
Communicate	5	█████

Main KSRs addressed: 15, 21, 28, 29

KSR: Key Species Result