

The BirdLife Partnership and its work on Vultures

Lovelater Sebele
Snr Vulture Conservation Officer –Southern Africa

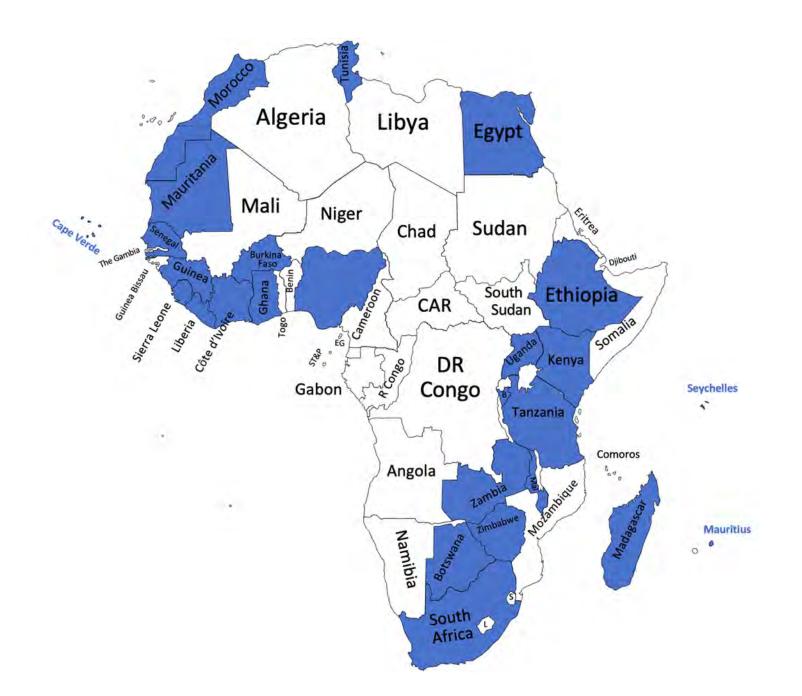
27/2/2024

Ideas that fly.









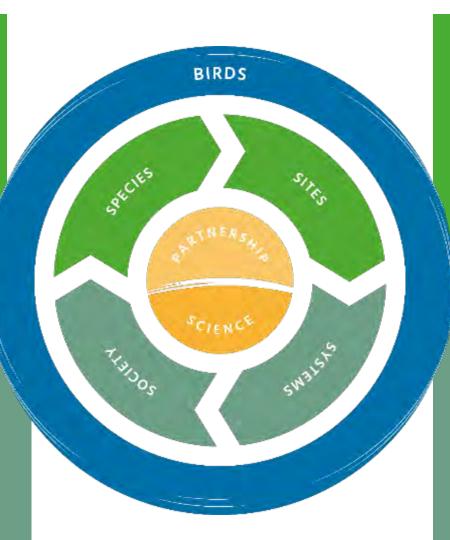


SPECIES

- **Preventing** extinctions
- **Conserving** flagship groups
- **Continuing** to be the Global Authority on Birds.

SOCIETY

- Work with and influence decision maker (Governments, Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements and the Private Sector)
- **Mobilise** the general public and the youth



SITES

- Identify, conserve, restore and monitor IBAs & KBAs
- Connect them through landscapes and seascapes
- Maintain and restore the eight major flyways.

SYSTEMS

- Address the main threats to nature: climate change, agriculture, fisheries and forest management
- Contribute to the redesign of our production systems
- Improve financial flows for nature.

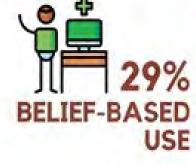
WHAT THREATENS AFRICA'S VULTURES?



61 % POISONING

Poisoning as a result of human-wildlife conflict where vultures are unintentional yetims

Intentional poisoning by livery peachers not wanting to be discovered by rangers



For leady parts used in traditional medicine Also involves the use of poison





9% COLLISION & ELECTROCUTION

With poorly-planned powerlines, wedforms
Increasing threat with investment in development

1% OTHER KILLING

People are potentially eating poisoned vultures





Investment of BirdLife into the lead agenda

Raising awareness of a silent and deadly threat to vultures and other birds

Reducing threats on already declining bird populations (vultures, hornbills, waterbirds)

Galvanising action from relevant stakeholders

Development of a regional plan which addresses the concerns of stakeholders



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

NORTH AFRICA

Enhanced communications & emphasis on bird-safe energy & focus on addressing illegal killing of birds

Key Actions

- Retrofitting risky powerlines
- Working with Wind Energy providers on better siting/avoiding collision risk
- Monitoring online markets, hunters & supporting rescue & rehab of wildcaught birds & captive raised.

EAST AFRICA

Retained focus on implementing antipoisoning activities & enhanced focus on bird-safe energy

Key Actions

- Rapid Response Mechanisms
- East Africa Poison Response Network of Collaborators
- Legislative Changes Retrofitting dangerous powerlines
- Monitoring & understanding populations
- Community Engagement/Awareness
- Scaling efforts across the subregion

WEST AFRICA

Continued focus on engaging with traditional healers to influence behaviour change.

Key Actions

- Scaling efforts across the sub region
- Development of West Africa Action Plan
- Threat & market surveys
- Communications
- Promotion of alternatives
- Legislative changes
- Law enforcement capacity

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Expanding coverage of Vulture Safe Zones in Southern Africa & retained focus on implementing anti-poisoning activities

Key Actions

- Vulture Safe Zones' expansion, guidelines & branding to encourage adoption & connectivity
- Ecosystem Services Assessment
- Lead Ammunition Advocacy
- Rapid Response Mechanisms
- Legislative Changes
- Scaling efforts across the subregion





Vulture Conservation Efforts in Southern Africa

Establishment of over 1 million hectares as Vulture Safe Zones

Economic Valuation of ecosystem services offered by vultures

Community-based vulture

Building an evidence base to develop best practices to deal with Belief-based use of vulture parts

Landscape-based strategy development; KAZA Bird Conservation Strategy and Southern Africa Vulture Regional Plan,

Ensuring vultures and other birds are part of the SADC Biodiversity strategy

Engagement with institutions working on lead issues (paint and mines)





