

Region or Country: Africa:
Project Title: Conservation Actions for Vultures of Africa

Date of Project Approval: June 2010
Amount of Financing: \$15,000

Focal Area: Species Conservation
Project Status: Ongoing

Donor: The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

Project Description:

Overall Goal:

The project intends to contribute towards achievement of three conservation actions that are considered vital for the safeguarding the survival of vultures in Africa.

- Setting population baselines and monitoring
- Education and awareness

Objectives:

1. To fill gaps in baseline surveys for vultures, by undertaking standard road counts in two southern Africa countries (Malawi and Zimbabwe).
2. To raise education and awareness regarding the plight and importance of vultures to key stakeholder groups across Africa:

Rationale:

Vultures fulfill an extremely important ecological role. They keep natural and man-made habitats free of carcasses, waste and even human excrement, restrict the spread of diseases (such as anthrax and botulism) and pests such as rats, are of cultural value to African communities, and they have important eco-tourism (bird-watching) value. There are 11 vulture species in Africa, of which eight are endemic or near-endemic and thus their conservation rests in the hands of Africa. However, vultures in Africa are in trouble and are threatened by several anthropogenic factors. Vultures are the most threatened functional group within the avian community.

Main Activities:

- Undertaking standard vulture road counts in the two additional African countries (Malawi, Zimbabwe)
- For school children, a vulture story in form of a booklet illustrated using cartoons will produced in several languages and disseminated in schools across various vulture range countries
- For the wider public, much effort will be made to ensure that vulture stories/discussions/features are covered in newspapers, radio, and TV coverage in several African countries.
- The BirdLife Partner NGOs and vulture enthusiasts across Africa will be supported to actively celebrate the International Vulture Awareness Day of 2011 (see <http://www.ivad09.org/>) and use it as an opportunity for raising the profile of vultures.
- Coordinate all the above activities at regional and national level

Recent Project Status:

Progress:

- Coordinated national vulture surveys have been undertaken in Malawi and Zimbabwe
- Support has been provided in printing and distributing copies of a Colouring book for Vultures of Africa

Next Steps:

- Received and disseminate Malawi and Zimbabwe vultures survey reports
- Continue dissemination of coloring books on vultures of Africa
- Support a few countries in celebration of the international vulture awareness day 2011

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Contact Us

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