Subject: Public consultation regarding the request to EMA on risks to vultures in connection with the use of medicinal products containing diclofenac

Dear EMA,

We are writing to you to provide our scientific opinion on the public consultation regarding the risks of veterinary diclofenac to vultures and other necrophagous birds.

Attached you will find a very detailed response which covers all three of the topics detailed in your consultation. This report has received input from leading experts in vulture ecology and toxicology. We hope that the structure of this report will provide you with an in-depth understanding of the ecological status of vultures in Europe, the current state of play with regards to vulture-feeding practices and the risks posed by veterinary-diclofenac.

This report has been written and approved not only by BirdLife International, but also by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

We stress that only the full withdrawal of veterinary diclofenac from the market will keep vultures safe. We would therefore ask you to take urgent action to protect Europe’s vultures from being poisoned by this drug.

Sincerely yours,

F. Iván Ramírez
Head of Conservation for Europe & Central Asia
BirdLife International

Sonja Van Tichelen
EU Director
International Fund for Animal Welfare

Janice Weatherley-Singh
Director of European Policy and Government Relations
Wildlife Conservation Society