

### 3.5.3 PILLAR C: INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES

#### 3.5.3.1 PRIORITY AREA 5. STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN VULTURE CONSERVATION

**Strategic Objective:** By 2030, establish and strengthen community-led conservation projects that directly protect at least 30% of the target vulture areas.

**Strategic Objective 2:** Raise awareness among traditional healers, private sector actors, farmers, schools, and other identified key players about the ecological importance of vultures and promote vulture conservation efforts across all range Member States by 2035.

Strategies and indicative activities for Priority Area 5 are in Table 8.

**Table 8: Strategies and activities for Priority Area 5. Stakeholders and communities' engagement in vulture conservation efforts**

Strategy	Strategic Objectives
<b>Strategy 1:</b> Strengthen community capacity and engagement	<b>Activity 1:</b> Organize national and regional workshops across various communities in the region to equip local residents with skills in vulture identification and habitat assessment techniques, and knowledge about the ecological importance of vultures and threats to their survival.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Form partnerships with local schools, NGOs, and government agencies to create a network of community members involved in vulture monitoring efforts.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Work with local government agencies to integrate vulture conservation into regional development plans and ensure that conservation efforts are aligned with community goals.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Develop engaging educational materials such as culturally relevant brochures, posters, infographics, and digital content in local languages to explain the benefits of vultures to livelihoods and ecosystems.
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Develop or utilize interactive educational tools such as mobile apps or online quizzes to educate community members about vulture species, their ecological roles, and threats.
<b>Strategy 2:</b> Promote community-based conservation and action	<b>Activity 1:</b> Establish and implement community-led habitat restoration projects targeting key vulture habitats, enhancing nesting sites and creating safe environments.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Establish community monitoring programs that contribute to the SADC regional database by partnering with experts to develop standardized protocols, training local residents, and setting up monitoring stations for effective data collection and reporting.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Create and use an online platform for communities to share monitoring findings, success stories, and best practices, fostering regional collaboration while ensuring that the data collected is integrated into the SADC regional database for comprehensive analysis and action.

Strategy	Strategic Objectives
<b>Strategy 3:</b> Advocate for policy change, and collaborating with Stakeholders	<b>Activity 4:</b> Support community conservation initiatives by providing resources and capacity-building to empower communities to lead and manage local conservation efforts.
	<b>Activity 1:</b> Advocate for poison reduction by launching regional campaigns to reduce the use of poisons and pesticides in agriculture.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Assess the impact/effectiveness of conservation programs using feedback and data to inform future actions.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Convene regional stakeholder forums for community leaders, conservationists, and officials to address vulture conservation challenges.
<b>Strategy 4:</b> Promote sustainable vulture friendly practices and livelihoods through incentive programs	<b>Activity 4:</b> Engage, identify, and train local leaders and support their advocacy efforts.
	<b>Activity 1:</b> Facilitate the implementation of sustainable land use practices, including both agricultural and waste management strategies that minimize harmful impacts on vulture populations (such as reducing the use of poisons and promoting safe disposal of carcasses), as well as the adoption of organic farming and eco-friendly livestock management to create conditions more conducive to vulture habitats.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Develop and support alternative livelihoods that reduce reliance on practices harmful to vultures, such as poaching or toxic pesticide use.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Collaborate with NGOs to create programs that help communities transition to sustainable tourism, organic farming, or crafts that generate income without harming wildlife.
<b>Strategy 5:</b> Raise Awareness and Promote Vulture Conservation	<b>Activity 4:</b> Design and implement incentive programs that reward communities for participating in conservation efforts, such as providing financial support for sustainable practices or recognizing conservation achievements through awards
	<b>Activity 1:</b> Launch a regional awareness campaign highlighting the ecological importance of vultures while collaborating with regional media outlets to amplify messaging through press releases and educational events.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Develop tailored outreach initiatives aimed at specific groups such as farmers and schools, in partnership with community leaders to create culturally relevant content that encourages local involvement in vulture conservation.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Create and distribute a community toolkit that includes accessible informational resources and actionable steps for local residents to actively engage in vulture conservation efforts.
<b>Strategy 6:</b> Promote Sustainable Ecotourism for vulture conservation	<b>Activity 1:</b> Create and promote vulture-watching tours in the form of guided tours in key areas with educational information on vulture ecology and conservation.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Utilize ecotourism for conservation messages (i.e. integrate conservation messages into ecotourism initiatives).
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Utilize various channels including social media, websites, and tourism platforms to share stories and promote sustainable vulture-watching tours.
<b>Strategy 7:</b> Establish community monitoring and feedback Systems	<b>Activity 1:</b> Collaborate with regional conservation experts and community representatives to develop standardized monitoring protocols tailored to the specific vulture species and habitats present in the area.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Create and use an online platform for communities to share their monitoring findings, success stories, challenges faced, and best practices, fostering regional collaboration and learning.

Strategy	Strategic Objectives
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Facilitate dialogue between community monitors and regional policymakers to present monitoring data and advocate for conservation policies that support vulture populations and their habitats.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Work with regional conservation bodies to incorporate community monitoring findings into broader regional conservation strategies and action plans
<b>Strategy 8:</b> Collaborate with educators, students, and conservationists to create and integrate engaging vulture conservation content into existing curricula across various subjects for a holistic educational approach.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Research and establish connections with schools, educators, and educational organizations interested in wildlife conservation.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Create lesson plans, activities, multimedia content, and assessment tools that focus on vulture conservation across subjects such as science, geography and art.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Organize workshops or training sessions for educators on vulture conservation and effective teaching methods for integrating the content into their curricula.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Work closely with educators to develop and implement a plan for integrating biodiversity (vulture included) conservation content into existing curricula.
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Implement a pilot program, collecting feedback from educators and students on effectiveness and engagement, and refining the content and approach based on ongoing evaluation.
	<b>Activity 6:</b> Develop or adopt and adapt interactive and multi-format educational materials (e.g. from <a href="http://www.vultureday.org/">www.vultureday.org/</a> )
<b>Strategy 9:</b> Establish capacity-building programs for teachers to ensure effective delivery of conservation education and encourage active participation in local conservation initiatives	<b>Activity 1:</b> Conduct a thorough assessment of teacher training needs and requirements for effective conservation education.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Organize targeted workshops focused on conservation education methodologies and curriculum development to enhance teacher effectiveness.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Facilitate hands-on, project-based learning experiences that engage students in real-world conservation initiatives.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Partner with local conservation organizations and experts to provide students with mentorship and access to practical experiences.
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Coordinate community events and workshops that promote conservation education and foster partnerships among teachers, students, and conservation leaders.

### 3.5.3.2 PRIORITY AREA 6: STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR VULTURE PROTECTION

**Strategic Objective:** Establish a regional framework for cross-border vulture conservation that coordinates efforts across nations, enhances collaborative actions, strengthens global agreements, fosters knowledge exchange, secures funding, builds regional networks, harmonizes conservation policies, and advocates for vulture conservation by 2027.

Strategies and indicative activities for Priority Area 6 are in Table 9.

*Table 9: Strategies and activities for Priority Area 6: Strengthening International Collaboration and Partnerships for Vulture Protection*

Strategy	Strategic Objectives
<b>Strategy 1:</b> Enhance transboundary collaboration and strengthen international partnerships for vulture protection among regional member states	<b>Activity 1:</b> Establish a transboundary framework and leverage Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) to promote joint data sharing and collaborative conservation efforts across borders.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Partner with international research institutions and local experts to conduct collaborative research and exchange programs aimed at enhancing knowledge, skills, and technologies relevant to vulture conservation.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Organizing joint training workshops for conservation professionals and law enforcement personnel from various regional countries to enhance skills and sharing best practices through documentation and dissemination of knowledge.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Identify and collaborate with international partners to develop standardized guidelines, protocols, and standards for vulture conservation and infrastructure development, use of pesticides and rodenticides, sustainable use of vultures, research, monitoring of vultures and data analysis, data sharing, capturing of birds and fitting tracking devices and other aspects mentioned in this that can be adopted regionally.
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Participate in international forums to advocate for vulture conservation by building strategic partnerships and collaborating with organizations like IUCN and CMS (in particular, the Raptor MoU) to strengthen global agreements and strategies for their protection.
	<b>Activity 6:</b> Facilitate the alignment and harmonization of conservation policies and regulations across countries to create a cohesive approach to vulture conservation.



### 3.5.4 PILLAR D: PROVIDING THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

#### 3.5.4.1 PRIORITY AREA 7: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND ALLOCATION

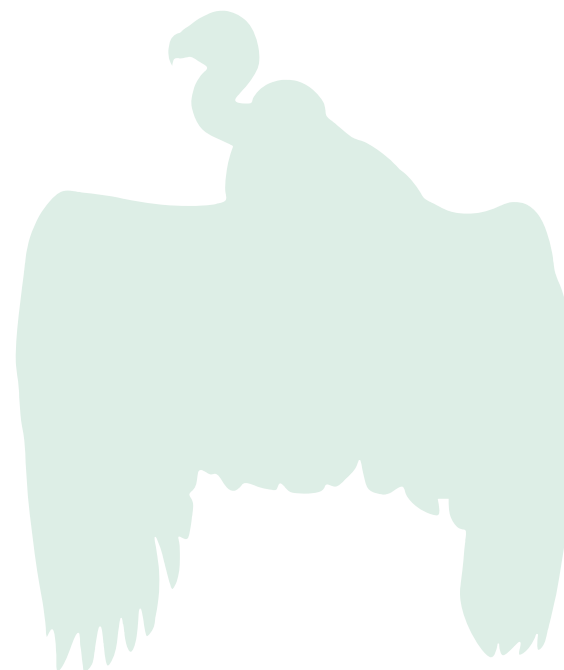
**Strategic Objective:** Secure dedicated and aligned financial and non-financial resources for vulture conservation by establishing vultures as a priority species group that warrants specific focus and support, separate from general conservation funding frameworks. This priority classification will help ensure vultures receive sufficient attention and resources. Aim for 100% of the annual funding requirement by the end of 2030 through partnerships with private and public sector entities and other innovative means.

Strategies and indicative activities for Priority Area 7 are in Table 10.

**Table 10: Strategies and activities for Priority Area 7: Resource Mobilization and Allocation**

Strategy	Strategic Objectives
<b>Strategy 1:</b> Diversify resource streams by capturing both financial support and human capacity (staff, volunteers, and technical expertise) to enhance vulture conservation efforts, ensuring sufficient human resources on the ground to implement critical conservation activities.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Estimate the funding requirements for vulture conservation at national and regional levels
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Set up national and regional endangered species Funds, vultures included, as a vehicle to mobilize new and additional resources, and manage financial and conservation investments.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Identify and mobilize resources (human, financial and non-financial) from various sources, including grants from conservation organizations, corporate sponsorships, crowdfunding campaigns, government funding, and ecotourism fees, to create and promote vulture conservation initiatives that engage the community and generate sustainable support.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Leverage existing protected area and OECMs programs, including TFCA and Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Reserve projects, to secure resources that will support vulture conservation efforts
<b>Strategy 2:</b> Enhance resource management efficiency through cost-benefit analyses, reduced duplication, strategic workforce planning, capacity building, technology adoption, and streamlined administrative processes, while ensuring appropriate staffing levels and skill sets are maintained to effectively implement conservation activities.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Evaluate the costs and benefits of different resource management approaches to ensure resources are allocated to the most effective strategies.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Identify and eliminate overlapping activities and initiatives to minimize redundancy and optimize resource utilization.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Invest in training and development programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of staff and stakeholders involved in resource management.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Implement innovative technologies and tools to improve data collection, analysis, and decision-making processes, increasing efficiency and effectiveness.
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Simplify and optimize administrative procedures to reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks and improve the overall efficiency of resource management operations.

Strategy	Strategic Objectives
<b>Strategy 3:</b> Demonstrate impact and accountability by developing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework led by the SADC FANR, IUCN and BLI, providing transparent reporting, conducting impact assessments, communicating success stories, and building trust.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Establish a comprehensive system to track progress, measure outcomes, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation efforts. This framework should include clear indicators, data collection methods, and evaluation criteria.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Regularly publish and disseminate clear, accurate, and accessible reports on conservation activities, financial performance, and project outcomes to stakeholders.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Undertake thorough impact assessments to evaluate the long-term effects of conservation initiatives on vulture populations, ecosystems, and local communities.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Foster strong relationships with stakeholders by engaging in open communication, actively seeking feedback, and demonstrating a commitment to ethical and responsible practices.
<b>Strategy 4:</b> Build organisational human resource capacity by establishing a specialised teams with the technical and financial expertise required to develop bankable vulture conservation funding project proposals.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Identify gaps in skills and knowledge relevant to project proposal development.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Develop and deliver training covering comprehensive aspects of proposal development and grant writing tools.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Create and disseminate templates, checklists, and best practice guides for proposal development.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Organize networking opportunities and events for participants to engage with funders and partners.



### 3.5.4.2 PRIORITY AREA 8: CAPACITY-BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

**Strategic Objective:** By 2029, strengthen the required capacity and skills for vulture conservation in all the Range Member States.

Strategies and activities for Priority Area 8 are in Table 11.

**Table 11: Strategies and activities for Priority Area 8: Capacity-Building and Skills Development**

Strategy	Strategic Objectives
<b>Strategy 1:</b> Build a sustainable human resource framework for training expert trainers who can effectively cascade vulture conservation knowledge, education, and specialised skills throughout organisations and various stakeholders.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Determine specific skills and knowledge gaps among target stakeholders (e.g., field researchers, community rangers, government officials, local communities).
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Develop and implement comprehensive training modules that include tailored training materials and hands-on workshops to effectively educate stakeholders on vulture conservation practices.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Develop and collate a pool of qualified and equipped trainers with knowledge and pedagogical skills to deliver effective training.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Develop and implement incentive structures that encourage students and volunteers to engage in research and conservation actions specifically aimed at vulture protection. This could include scholarships, grants, or stipends for students pursuing studies in wildlife conservation, ecology, or related fields.
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Regularly assess the effectiveness of the training program and make adjustments based on feedback and outcomes.
<b>Strategy 2:</b> Enhance public awareness and support for vulture conservation	<b>Activity 1:</b> Consult with community leaders and members to understand their perspectives, concerns, and preferred communication methods.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Create and conduct engaging workshops that use simple, local-language materials and stories to teach the community about vultures and follow up with events and school visits to reinforce the message and encourage conservation efforts.
<b>Strategy 3:</b> Develop long-term plans to sustain capacity-building initiatives for vulture conservation.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Develop and implement legacy plans for transferring knowledge and responsibilities.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Document and share lessons learned from capacity-building initiatives.

### 3.5.4.3 PRIORITY AREA 9: POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

**Strategic Objective 1:** By December 2028, develop or review and implement national vulture conservation policy frameworks in all range Member States, ensuring that all these frameworks include specific measures for protecting vulture habitats and mitigating identified threats.

**Strategic Objective 2:** By the end of 2029, integrate vulture conservation goals into the relevant development and biodiversity strategic plans, e.g. National Biodiversity Strategies, of all Range Member States, ensuring that all (100% of) these plans include specific objectives for vulture protection and habitat conservation.

Strategies and indicative activities for Priority Area 9 are in Table 12.

**Table 12: Strategies and activities for Priority Area 9: Policy and Governance**

Strategy	Strategic Objectives
<b>Strategy 1:</b> Minimize environmental threats to vultures and their habitats	<b>Activity 1:</b> Enact or enhance and enforce stringent environmental protection laws to prevent habitat destruction and pollution.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Revise and enhance existing regulatory frameworks governing pesticide and rodenticide use, with specific provisions to protect vulture populations from secondary poisoning, while simultaneously developing policy guidelines for safer chemical alternatives.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Implement regulations on pesticide and rodenticide use, promoting alternatives to reduce poisoning incidents.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Establish mandatory environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for all development projects within or near vulture habitats.
<b>Strategy 2:</b> Integrate vulture conservation into broader national biodiversity strategies.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Include vulture conservation as a key component of National Biodiversity Action Plans (NBSAPs).
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Develop new or review existing and implement vulture action plans for Member States.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Designate and protect critical vulture habitats as protected areas under national conservation laws.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Engage policymakers to integrate vulture conservation into national wildlife management and biodiversity policies.
<b>Strategy 3:</b> Empower local communities to actively participate in vulture conservation.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Develop and implement policies that recognize and support community-led vulture conservation initiatives.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Implement incentive programs (e.g., grants, subsidies, eco-tourism revenue sharing) for communities actively involved in vulture conservation.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Establish and implement legal frameworks that grant communities rights and responsibilities in managing vulture habitats, especially in OECMs.





Strategy	Strategic Objectives
<b>Strategy 4:</b> Secure political and sustainable resources (financial and non-financial resources) for vulture conservation.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Allocate dedicated funding within national budgets for vulture conservation programs.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Establish Regional and National Vulture Conservation Funds to support research, monitoring, and conservation activities.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Incentivize private sector investment in vulture conservation through tax breaks and other incentives.
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Advocate for legislative reforms that mandate increased financial and institutional support for endangered species (including vultures) through established governmental budgeting and resource allocation processes.
<b>Strategy 5:</b> Increase public awareness and change attitudes towards vultures.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Integrate endangered ecosystem and species conservation, vultures included, into national school curricula at all appropriate levels.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Launch national public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the ecological importance of vultures and dispel myths.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Develop and disseminate educational materials on vulture conservation in local languages.
<b>Strategy 6:</b> Enhance coordination among government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Establish a national vulture conservation task force or committee with representatives from relevant government agencies, NGOs, and local communities in each range state.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Develop formal agreements or memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between government agencies and NGOs to clarify roles and responsibilities in vulture conservation.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Promote information sharing and collaboration through regular meetings, workshops, and conferences.
<b>Strategy 7:</b> Strengthen legal protection for vultures and their habitats.	<b>Activity 1:</b> Enact and enforce strict laws against poaching, poisoning, and other threats to vultures.
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Increase penalties for violations of vulture conservation laws.
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Strengthen law enforcement capacity to effectively investigate and prosecute wildlife crimes related to vultures.



### 3.6 SADC VULTURE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

Creating a logical framework (logframe) for the Vulture Conservation Strategy and Action Plan involves structuring the implementation plan with clear outcomes, indicators, targets, means of verification, timeframe, responsible parties, and other actors involved. The logic for this Action is in Annexes 2-11 and notes on implementation are listed below;

- **Outcomes:** Clearly articulated goals that the conservation strategy aims to achieve, such as reversing population declines or enhancing regulatory frameworks.
- **Indicators:** Specific, measurable elements that help assess progress towards achieving each outcome.
- **Targets:** Quantitative milestones to be achieved within specified timeframes, guiding the monitoring process.
- **Means of Verification:** Methods employed to gather data to evaluate progress, such as surveys, audits, and official records.
- **Timeframe:** Clear deadlines for achieving targets, along with the continuous efforts leading up to those points.
- **Responsible Party:** Stakeholders primarily responsible for the implementation of each outcome.
- **Other Actors:** Additional stakeholders engaged in supporting the implementation of the conservation plan, which could include community members, NGOs, private sectors, and international organizations.

