

ANNEXES 2-10: ACTION PLANS FOR PRIORITY AREAS OF THE SADC VULTURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

ANNEX 2: ACTION PLAN FOR PRIORITY AREA 1: MITIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS TO VULTURES

Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verification	Timeline												Responsible	Other Actors	Level of Implementation
						'25	'26	'27	'28	'29	'30	'31	'32	'33	'34	'35				
Strategy 1: Protect, restore, and connect habitats to ensure the long-term viability of vulture populations.	Activity 1: Update and expand upon the significant existing assessments by identifying remaining information gaps in the mapping of critical vulture habitats, including nesting sites, feeding areas, and movement routes. Build on current data to refine conservation guidance, ensuring priority areas for protection and restoration reflect the most complete and current understanding available	Spatially referenced maps and databases identifying and prioritizing critical habitats for vultures, produced	Number of regional and Range Member State maps and databases of critical vulture habitat sites.	One regional and 12 Range Member States fully completed, spatially referenced maps and databases that identify and prioritize critical habitats for vultures.	Assessment reports and maps.												SADCS, RMS		National, Regional	
			Percentage of known vulture populations covered by mapped habitats in each Range Member State and in the region	100% of known major populations in the region and Range Member States covered by mapped habitats	Reports on percentages of known vulture species populations												RMS		Local, National	
	Activity 2: Establish or enhance protected areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) that provide safe habitats for vultures. This can involve designating nature reserves, community-managed areas, or wildlife sarctuaries where human activities are managed to minimize disturbances and preserve key habitats.	Habitat protection for vultures increased and improved.	Number of new PAs/OECMs established for vulture conservation in the region and in each Range Members State	All major newly established vulture PAs/ OECMs in each Range Member State and region	Documentation of gazetting PAs/OECMs, Maps and spatial data												RMS		National, Regional	
		New PAs/OECMs established and/or the existing ones improved	Number of management plans developed and implemented for vulture conservation within PAs/OECMs	All Major vulture PAs/OECMs existing and newly established have management plans	Management plans and regulations													RMS		Local, National
	Activity 3: Implement reforestation projects and habitat restoration initiatives that focus on restoring degraded landscapes and enhancing food availability for vultures.	Vulture habitat quality improved	Number of Range Member States and percentage of landscape restored in each Range Member State	A report from each Range Member State and at least 30% of vulture degraded landscape in each Range Member State improved	Range Member States restoration reports													RMS		Local, National

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	Activity 4: Create and or maintain habitat connectivity through the establishment of corridors, buffer zones, and other means to facilitate vulture movement while protecting their habitats from human disturbances	Habitat connectivity, corridor management, Human-Vulture conflict (HVC) reduced	Number of Range States that established all (number of) major corridors identified	All SADC vulture range states and all major corridors	Documentation that support establishing the corridors, corridor spatial plans, Corridor management plans, Reports on connectivity analysis reports, vulture movement patterns, HVC												RMS		National, Regional
	Activity 5: Collaborate with farmers, landowners, and local communities to promote sustainable land-use practices that minimize habitat degradation. This can include advocating for agro-ecological practices, and controlled grazing to coexist with vulture populations and their habitats.	Sustainable land use practices promoted, HVC reduced, vulture populations improved	Number of Range States promoting sustainable land use practices, monitoring vulture population sizes, trends, and HVCs numbers and trends per Range State	All Range States to report on these items.	Reports of farmers adopted sustainable land use practices, land use changes, vulture population demographic changes, and HVCs.												RMS	Farmers, Landowners, local communities	Local, National
	Activity 6: Implement measures to mitigate human activities that negatively impact vulture habitats, such as poaching of prey species, urban development, and pollution.	Vultures protected and conserved, poaching, urban encroachment and use of harmful chemical reduced	Number of Range States developed strategies to mitigate the effects of poaching, pollution and encroachment vulture major habitats or PAs/ OECMs.	All Range states	National vulture Conservation Strategy and action plans; their implementation reports												RMS		National
Strategy 2: Educate the public, farmers, traditional healers, pest controllers, and community to reduce harmful substances	Activity 1: Implement coordinated campaigns targeting the use of harmful substances such as toxic baits and lead ammunition.	Vulture mortality and morbidity caused by harmful substances reduced	Number of Range States with cross-border coordinated programmes implemented	All Range States involved	Coordinated programme documents, implementation reports												RMS	Partner NGOS, Private sector, farmer organizations, traditional healer organizations	National
	Activity 2: Collaborate with traditional healers and community leaders to raise awareness of the dangers of poisoning and develop local mitigation strategies.	Community understanding of the dangers of vulture poisoning increased, Incidents of poisoning reduced.	Number of Range States implementing community-led strategies to protect vultures	All Range States	Documentation of community led strategies, reports on implementation of the strategies												RMS	Partner NGOs, Community Groups, Traditional Healers Associations	Local
	Activity 3: Launch educational initiatives targeting farmers, pest control operators, and the general public on the risks associated with certain chemicals and the importance of vultures in the ecosystem. Provide training on safer pest management practices that do not rely on harmful poisons.	Use of harmful chemicals and poisons by farmers and pest control operators reduced the Public's understanding and appreciation of the importance of vultures in maintaining ecosystem health increased	Number of Range states implementing educational initiatives targeting these groups	All Range States	Documentation of launching educational programs, implementation reports												RMS	Partner NGOS, Farmer Groups, Pest control operators	Local, National

Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verification	Timeline '25 '26 '27 '28 '29 '30 '31 '32 '33 '34 '35											Responsible	Other Actors	Level of Implementation
Strategy 3: Enforce strict regulations on the use of pesticides and rodenticides that can inadvertently poison vultures through secondary poisoning.	Activity 1: Develop and implement stringent science-based guidelines that outline acceptable pesticide and rodenticide usage, including recommendations for safer alternatives that minimize harm to non-target species such as vultures.	Laws, guidelines, and/or regulations produced and implemented	Number of Range States with these instruments	All Range States	Documentation of the instruments, Implementation reports												RMS	Partner NGOs, Farmers Associations, Pest Control Operators.	National, Regional
	Activity 2: Create and maintain systems for monitoring the use and effects of pesticides and rodenticides, focusing on regions where vultures are known to forage. This could involve collaborations with environmental and wildlife organizations to track incidents of poisoning and identify high-risk areas and the use of satellite-tagged vulture sentinels.	Monitoring of the use and effects of pesticides and rodenticides improved	Number of regional and standardized national monitoring frameworks developed by the Region and Range States	One regional monitoring framework, 12 standardized range state monitoring frameworks	Documentation of the standardized frameworks, implementation reports												RMS		Regional
	Activity 3: Strengthen enforcement mechanisms for existing regulations on pesticide and rodenticide by increasing inspections, imposing penalties for violations, and working with law enforcement to combat illegal pesticide use that poses a risk to wildlife, particularly vultures.	Compliance with regulations increased, Vulture poisoning reduced, Environmental protection improved	Number of Range states with harmonized and cross-border enforcement mechanisms	All 12 range states have harmonized and cross border enforcement mechanisms	Documentation of the enforcement mechanisms, Signed Agreements or Protocols, implementation reports												RMS	Partner NGOs, Farmers Associations, Pest Control Operators.	National
Strategy 4: Develop proper waste disposal methods, especially for animal carcasses, to prevent poisoning from toxic substances that vultures may consume.	Activity 1: Create designated disposal sites for animal carcasses that are equipped for safe and environmentally friendly methods for managing dead animals. These sites should be accessible to farmers and livestock operators and managed in a way that minimizes the risk of toxic substances e.g. nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and lead (Pb) being released into the environment.	Environmental contamination reduced, Vulture protection enhanced	Number of Range States that adopted the designated disposal site concept for animal carcasses	All 12 Range States	Documentation of the concept of designated disposal sites for animal carcasses; Implementation reports												RMS	Livestock Producers Association, Veterinarian and Health workers, Partner NGOs	National
	Activity 2: Develop and conduct training programs for farmers, livestock owners, and waste management personnel on safe animal carcass disposal techniques (This training should include best practices for handling, transporting, and disposing of carcasses) to reduce the risk of vultures consuming poisoned or contaminated animals.	Awareness and knowledge increased, Best Practices adopted, Vulture poisoning reduced	Number of regional and national (Range State) training programs	One regional training programme, annual Range State training programmes	Training materials, implementation reports,												SADCS, RMS	Farmers Associations, partner NGOs	Local, National

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						'25	'26	'27	'28	'29	'30	'31	'32	'33	'34				'35
	Activity 3: Work in partnership with key players including local governments, veterinary services, and environmental agencies to create and enforce regulations on the disposal of animal carcasses. This collaboration should include the development of standards for proper disposal methods that consider both animal health and wildlife protection.	Animal carcass disposal regulations established and enforced; compliance increased	Number of harmonized animal carcass disposal frame works at Regional level and harmonized regulations at Range State level	One regional guiding framework, 12 harmonized range state regulations	Documentation of the regulations, implementation reports												SADCS, RMS		National, Regional