

### ANNEX 3: ACTION PLAN FOR PRIORITY AREA 2: COMBATING ILLEGAL KILLING AND TRADE, AND OVER-EXPLOITATION OF VULTURES

**Strategic Objective:** By 2035, reduce vulture mortality from illegal killing, trade, and over-exploitation by at least 75% across key vulture habitats through enhanced law enforcement, community engagement, and demand reduction strategies.

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
<b>Strategy 1:</b> Strengthen law enforcement and anti-Poaching efforts detect poisoning on carcasses, to dismantle illegal hunting and trafficking networks targeting vultures	<b>Activity 1:</b> Implement comprehensive training initiatives for law enforcement and judiciary services focused on enhancing their understanding of wildlife protection, with an emphasis on vulture conservation and related enforcement strategies.	Law enforcement capacity to protect wildlife, specifically including vultures improved	Number of training programs per region and per Range state	Two regional training programs, Annual training programs per Range State	Training materials, Training reports													SADCS, RMS	Partner NGOs, Law enforcement and judiciary institutions	National, Regional
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Implement advanced surveillance systems (e.g. those utilizing technologies such as satellite trackers deployed on vultures, drones and camera traps) to monitor vulnerable vulture habitats for poaching and illegal trade activities in real-time.	Timely Interventions to incidents of poaching or illegal trade.	Number of Range States adopt the use of advance surveillance technologies	All the 12 range states	Documentation of adopted approved and used advanced technologies. Implementation reports showing successful interventions.													RMS	Partner NGOs, technical experts	Local, National
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) to handle suspected poisoning incidences covering collection, transportation, storage of specimens and detoxification of poisoned carcasses/ environment.	Increased capacity to detect, describe and quantify poisoning while removing the toxic chemicals from the environment	Adopted SOPs on dealing with cases of suspected poisoning incidences	All the 12 range states implement 3 SOPs on sample collection and transportation; processing and detoxification of poisoned environments	Documentation of adopted SOPs													RMS	Law enforcement agencies	National, Regional
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Create and use a robust intelligence network or information-sharing platform among regional and with international law enforcement agencies, NGOs, and local communities to track and respond to cross-border vulture crimes in the region.	Information gathering and sharing improved, Crime prevention and deterrence enhanced.	Number of robust intelligence networks set up by Range States	12 robust intelligence networks set up by 12 Range states	Documentation of the intelligence system; implementation reports													RMS	Law enforcement agencies	Local, National
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Foster community involvement by establishing a system that recognizes and rewards individuals for reporting illegal activities affecting vultures.	Reporting of illegal activities increased, community awareness and engagement enhanced	Number of Range States with reward systems	12 Range States	Documentation of the rewards systems, implementation reports													RMS	Local communities, NGOs	National
	<b>Activity 6:</b> Execute targeted undercover operations to infiltrate and dismantle illegal hunting and trafficking networks centred on vultures in the region.	Poaching and trafficking of endangered vulture species declined	Number of Range States undertaking joint and or coordinated operations	12 Range States	Signed agreements for the joint and or coordinated operations, implementation reports													RMS	Law enforcement agencies	National, Regional

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				
	<b>Activity 7:</b> Carry out widespread campaigns to educate the public on the ecological importance of vultures and the consequences of illegal hunting.	Public awareness and understanding increased, conservation efforts improved, and illegal activities reduced	Number of Range States running national campaigns annually	12 Range States	Documentation of the campaign programs, implementation reports, M&E reports												RMS	Partner NGOs, Farmers, Pest Controllers, and Community Groups	National	
	<b>Activity 8:</b> Implement a system for regular monitoring and evaluation of anti-poaching strategies to adjust approaches or adapt strategies based on effectiveness and emerging threats.	Effectiveness of anti-poaching strategies leading to a measurable decline in poaching incidents enhanced	Percentage decrease in reported poaching incidents of targeted vulture species per year (use preceding years as baselines).	Achieve a 20% reduction in poaching incidents per year	Access to and analysis of data from local and regional law enforcement agencies regarding poaching incidents, arrests, and prosecutions.												RMS	NGOs, local communities, law enforcement and judiciary offices	Local, National	
	<b>Activity 9:</b> Improve and increase capabilities for law enforcement including resource-sharing in anti-poaching initiatives, and forensic laboratories for DNA analysis and poisoning detection, to support prosecutions.	Ability to prosecute wildlife criminals enhanced, deterrent effect and protection for vulnerable species improved	Number of national forensic centers	At least one center established per Range State	Documentation setting up the center, presence of the physical facility, operations report													RMS	Technical experts, NGOs	National
	<b>Activity 10:</b> Foster collaboration among regional and with international law enforcement agencies to combat cross-border vulture trafficking	Cross-border vulture trafficking reduced	Number of Agreements by each Range State with its neighbour in place and international organizations	At least two agreements	Documentation of the agreements, implementation reports													SADCS, RMS	Law enforcement agencies	National, Regional
<b>Strategy 2:</b> Reduce demand for vulture body parts	<b>Activity 1:</b> Conduct research to understand the motivation behind and drivers of the demand for vulture body parts in traditional medicine and other uses; and develop targeted interventions including targeted behaviour change campaigns to reduce consumer demand.	Factors driving demand for vulture body parts understood	Number of regional studies and national studies per Range State	One regional study, One major national study per Range State	Reports of the findings, publications in referred journals												RMS	Researchers, NGOs, local communities	National, Regional	
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Launch social marketing campaigns on the harmful effects of using vulture body parts and promote vulture conservation.	Public awareness and deterrence of illegal activities related to vultures increased, demand and poaching, and trade decreased.  Community-level support for vulture conservation increased  Demand for and use of vulture body parts decreased	Percentage decrease in reported cases of vulture poaching and trade by each Range State	75% decrease reported by each Range State (2025 baseline)	Approved documents of the education program, program materials, implementation reports, M&E reports												RMS	Partner NGOs, legal experts	Local, National	

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				
	<b>Activity 3:</b> Conduct targeted awareness campaigns to dispel harmful traditional beliefs and superstitions driving the demand for vulture body parts.	Demand for vulture body parts reduced, vulture poaching and trade reduced, s	Number of Range States running target awareness campaigns	All Range States	Approved documents of targeted awareness campaign programs, Annual implementation reports													RMS	NGOs, local communities	Local, National
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Identify and promote ways to reduce reliance on vulture body parts while discovering alternative economic opportunities, sustainable livelihoods, and sustainable practices that do not involve vulture body parts within the community, in collaboration with key community players such as traditional healers and community leaders	Substitution of vulture body parts with sustainable alternatives led to a decline in demand and a positive impact on vulture conservation. Sustainable livelihood alternatives for individuals engaged in the trade of vulture body parts created.	The number of Range States attained annual measurable decrease in the demand for vulture body parts.  Number Range States running programs to provide alternative economic opportunities	All Range State	National annual reports on monitoring sales and market surveys to track changes in demand for vulture body parts.  Documentation approving the program, implementation reports, M&E reports													RMS	Partner NGOs, traditional leaders	Local, National
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Introduce certification programs for traditional healers who commit to sustainable practices and refrain from using vulture body parts.	Demand for vulture body parts reduced Traditional healers shifted towards sustainable practices and conservation efforts.	Number of National Traditional Healers Associations Certified and maintaining their certification	All National Associations in each Range State	Records of the certification program, including enrolment, training completion, and ongoing compliance.													RMS, National Traditional Healers Associations	Partner NGOs	National
	<b>Activity 6:</b> Implement and enforce stricter regulations on the sale and trade of vulture body parts in traditional medicine markets.	Poaching and illegal trade of vultures reduced, Vulture populations stabilized or increased	Number of Range States recording changes in the market demand for vulture body parts	All Range States	Documents of regulations, implementation reports													SADCS, RMS	Law enforcement agencies	National
	<b>Activity 7:</b> Conduct regular market surveys to monitor the demand for vulture body parts and identify emerging trends or new markets.	Changes in demand for vulture body Parts detected	Number of Range States participating in the market surveys	All Range States	Annual market survey reports													RMS	Partner NGOs	Local, National
<b>Strategy 3:</b> Strengthen Legal Frameworks and Policies	<b>Activity 1:</b> Enact or review and enhance existing wildlife protection laws to better address vulture conservation and the illegal trade of vulture body parts, poaching and poisoning of vultures.	Legal framework to protect vultures strengthened	Number and effectiveness of wildlife protection laws and regulations specifically addressing vulture conservation, poaching, and illegal trade.	12 laws by 12 Range States	Documentation of new or reviewed laws, implementation reports, M&E reports.													RMS	Legal experts, NGOs	National
	<b>Activity 2:</b> Advocate for stricter penalties, clearer legal definitions related to the illegal killing, poisoning, and trafficking of vultures, and tougher enforcement measures against poachers and traffickers involved in vulture-related crimes.	Vulture-related crimes reduced, Vulture population stability or growth attained.	Number of laws enacted and clarified	12 laws documents produced by range States	Reviewed legal documents, Court case reports													RMS	Partner NGOs, legal experts	National

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	<b>Activity 3:</b> Designate critical habitats as protected areas or conserved areas to provide safe environments for vultures and deter poaching activities.	See annex 2, Priority Area 1, Strategy 1, Activity 2.																		
	<b>Activity 4:</b> Create and implement policies aimed at restoring and preserving vulture habitats that have been degraded by human activities.	Quality and extent of vulture habitats improved; Habitat degradation reduced.	Area of protected habitat for vultures.	30% of 2025 baseline regionally and nationally.	Policy review and analysis documents, Land use surveys and mapping, habitat assessment reports													RMS		National
	<b>Activity 5:</b> Ensure that vulture conservation is incorporated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)	Vulture conservation prioritized within national biodiversity planning	Number of NBSAPs with specific strategies/ activities on vultures	12 NBSAPs for the 12 Range States	Reviewed NBSAPs documents													RMS		National
	<b>Activity 6:</b> Work towards strengthening international agreements and conventions that protect vulture species occurring in the SADC region.	See Annex 7, Priority Area 6, Strategy 1, Activity 5																		
	<b>Activity 7:</b> Promote collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and law enforcement to enforce wildlife protection laws effectively.	Law enforcement improved, and poaching and human-caused mortality reduced	Number of signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) or Agreement (MOAs) between government agencies and NGOs.	At least 10 MOUs/MOAs between Range State Government Agencies and NGOs	Signed MOUs/MOAs, implementation reports													RMS, NGOs		National
	<b>Activity 8:</b> Establish and implement standardized reporting mechanisms for wildlife crimes that facilitate data collection and sharing among relevant authorities.	Standardized reporting system existing	Number of regional and national standardized reporting systems	One regional system, 12 national systems (for 12 Range States)	Documentation of the systems; implementation reports, M&E reports													RMS	Partner NGOs	National, Regional
	<b>Activity 9:</b> Provide training programs for law enforcement and judicial officials on wildlife protection laws and proper protocols for prosecution.	See This Annex 3, Strategy 1, Activity 1																		
	<b>Activity 10:</b> Engage local communities in the development of wildlife protection policies to ensure their needs and knowledge are considered.	Wildlife protection strengthened	Number of Range States running community engagement	All Range Member State	Community engagement program documents, implementation reports, M&E reports													RMS	Partner NGOs	Local, National
	<b>Activity 11:</b> Develop and promote guidelines for the sustainable use of vultures, including but not limited to, the harvesting of their parts for medicinal purposes. These guidelines must be based on rigorous scientific research to ensure the long-term viability of vulture populations.	Vultures protected and sustainably used	Number of regional and national guidelines	One regional and 12 Range State guidelines	Documentation of guidelines, implementation reports													RMS	Partner NGOs	National, Regional