Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group (VSG) aims to advocate and create greater awareness of the plight of vultures and coordinate and support effective conservation activities to their benefit.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Completion and planned implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) aims to halt the decline in Old World Vulture populations in Africa-Eurasia over the next 12 years, commencing in 2018.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Research activities: publish four editions of the VSG journal Vulture News.

Plan

Planning: (1) engage members and others to implement the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) for all Old World vultures; (2) support implementation of the MsAP at a regional and sub-regional level; (3) act as a key partner in promoting the CMS Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures.

Network

Membership: build and develop VSG membership.

Synergy: (1) develop links with other relevant SSC groups, e.g. Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), African Elephant Specialist Group, Canid Specialist Group; (2) participate in and support the work of the SSC CPSG.

Communicate

Communication: (1) produce outputs from the Abu Dhabi Meeting that assist with the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan; (2) promote International Vulture Awareness Day each September; (3) produce two newsletters annually; (4) develop VSG website presence; (5) develop a video communication tool to highlight the plight of African vultures and promote implementation of the Vulture MsAP to African governments.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Research activities

- Two editions of the VSG journal Vulture News were published, including a special edition on harnessing guidelines (Vol 78 and 78a). (KSR #28)

Plan

Planning

- Nine letters of support for implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) at a regional and sub-regional level and one official letter were obtained. (KSR #15)
We published guidelines for the harnessing of vultures for research purposes as a special edition of *Vulture News* (Vol 78a). (KSR #15)

We continue engagement of members and others to implement the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan for all Old World vultures. (KSR #15)

Promotion of the CMS Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures continues. (KSR #21)

Policy

One position statement was developed and lodged on the VSG website. (KSR #26)

Network

Membership

Membership increased from 108 to 121 members.

Synergy

We established contact with the Conservation Translocation Specialist Group to receive assistance with the West African Vulture Strategy. (KSR #29)

We engaged the Conservation Planning Specialist Group in the drafting of the West African Vulture Strategy, focused on the impact of belief-based use on vultures. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

A total of 93 organisations from 32 countries on five continents participated in the 2020 International Vulture Awareness Day. (KSR #28)

Two newsletters produced annually. (KSR #28)

Website presence accomplished (www.iucnvsg.org), hosted by the Hawk Conservancy Trust. (KSR #28)

**Summary of activities 2020**

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Main KSRs addressed: 15, 21, 26, 28, 29

**Acknowledgements**

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