

Are we looking at The Last African Vulture?

What can the US do
to help?



**What
do you think
of vultures?**



—Photo not suitable for lunch—



They have a pretty bad reputation,
but are in fact
**the ultimate unsung
heroes.**

Can you imagine the African
skies devoid of soaring
vultures?



African vultures are **in**
crisis.



Africa holds 11 species of vulture
8 of which are found nowhere else in the world

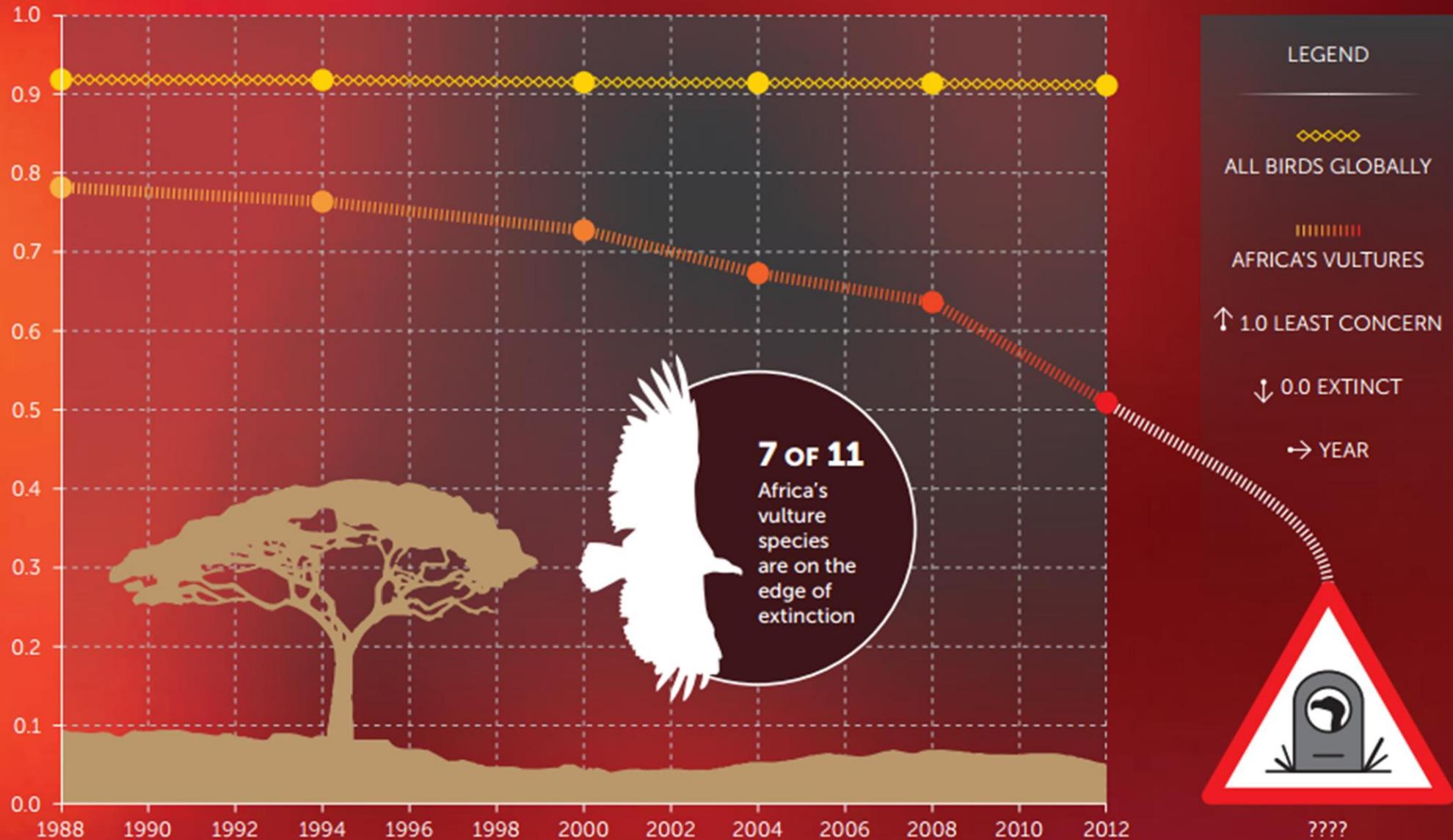


7 out of 11 of Africa's vulture species are now **Endangered** or **Critically Endangered**.

Because of the unique role vultures play, this is potentially a huge **crisis for people** too.



All of Africa's vultures? *Catastrophic decline (Red List Index)*





CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

RÜPPELL'S VULTURE

Gyps rueppellii

✓ 97%



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE

Trigonoceps occipitalis

✓ 96%



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE

Gyps africanus

✓ 90%



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

HOODED VULTURE

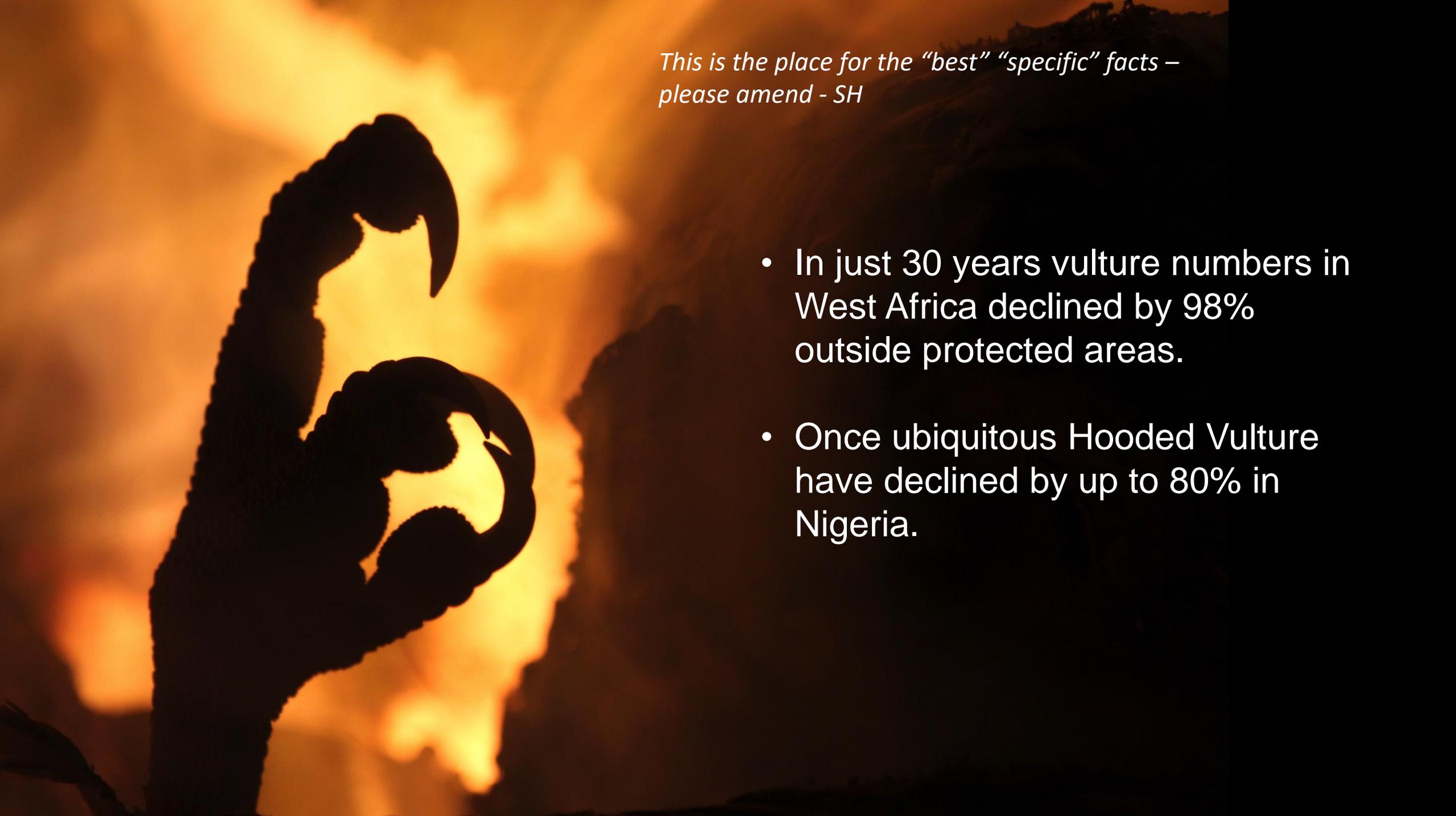
Necrosyrtes monachus

✓ 83%

The Critical Four

- A massive on-going decline
- At least an 80% decline in range and numbers in last 10 years
- Expected to decline by a further 80% in the next ten years or three generations
- The science on this is very strong

Statuses by BirdLife International for the IUCN Red List
Decline percentages from Ogada et al 2015, based on
figures from last 30 years

The background of the slide features a warm, golden sunset or sunrise sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of vulture heads are visible, with their beaks and heads clearly defined against the bright light. The overall mood is somber and urgent, reflecting the text's message about the decline of vultures.

*This is the place for the “best” “specific” facts –
please amend - SH*

- In just 30 years vulture numbers in West Africa declined by 98% outside protected areas.
- Once ubiquitous Hooded Vulture have declined by up to 80% in Nigeria.

Vulture species in Africa face

**extinction in our
lifetimes**

unless we act now.

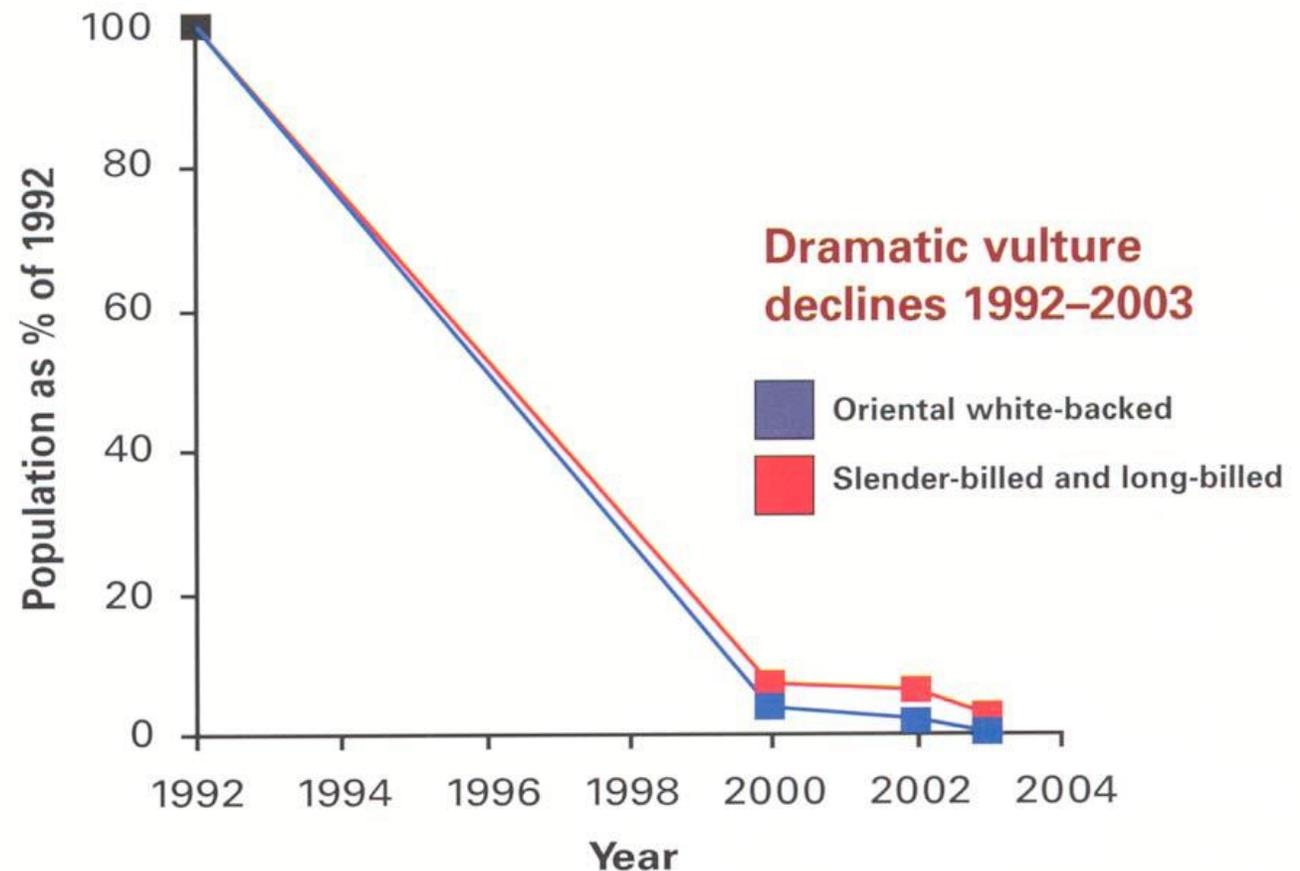
Period.



Why the catastrophic decline?

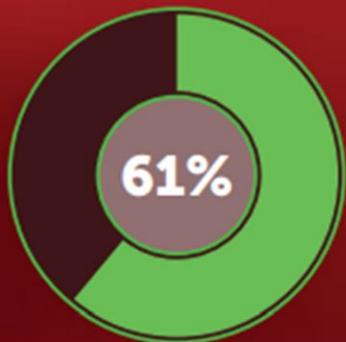


More threats and more complex than just Asia's diclofenac...



WHAT THREATENS AFRICA'S VULTURES?

Percentages are only representative reasons for recorded deaths.
Other important threats, as yet hard to quantify, such as habitat reduction, disturbance at nesting sites and reduced food availability are not illustrated.



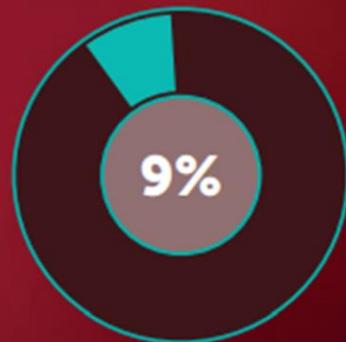
POISONING

- › Poisoning as a result of human-wildlife conflict where vultures are incidental victims.
- › Intentional poisoning by ivory poachers not wanting to be found by rangers.



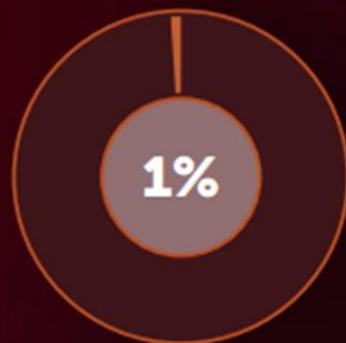
PERSECUTION

- › For body parts used in traditional medicine.
- › Also involves the use of poison.



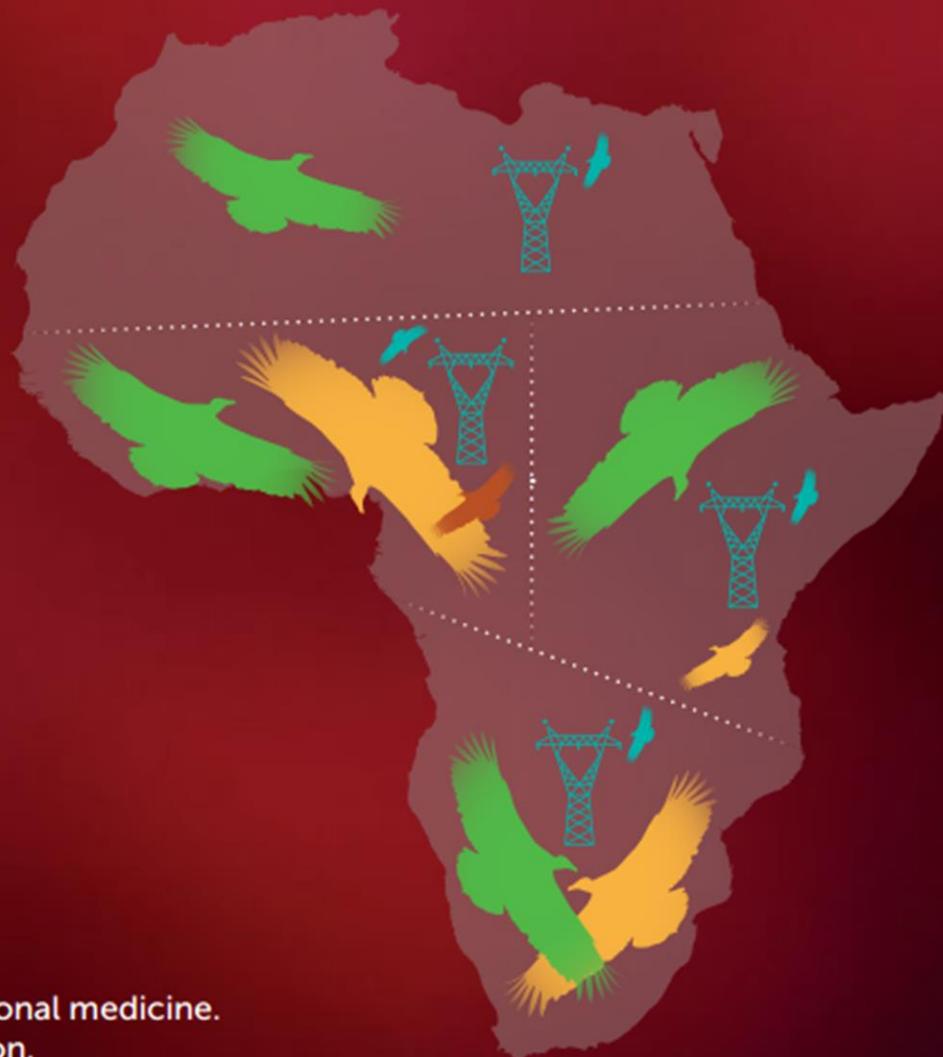
ELECTROCUTION & COLLISION

- › With poorly-planned powerlines, windfarms and roads.
- › Increasing threat with investment in development.



OTHER RECORDED KILLING

- › People are potentially eating poisoned vultures.



Unintentional poisoning

- Human-wildlife conflict
- Problem-animal control
- Lead poisoning

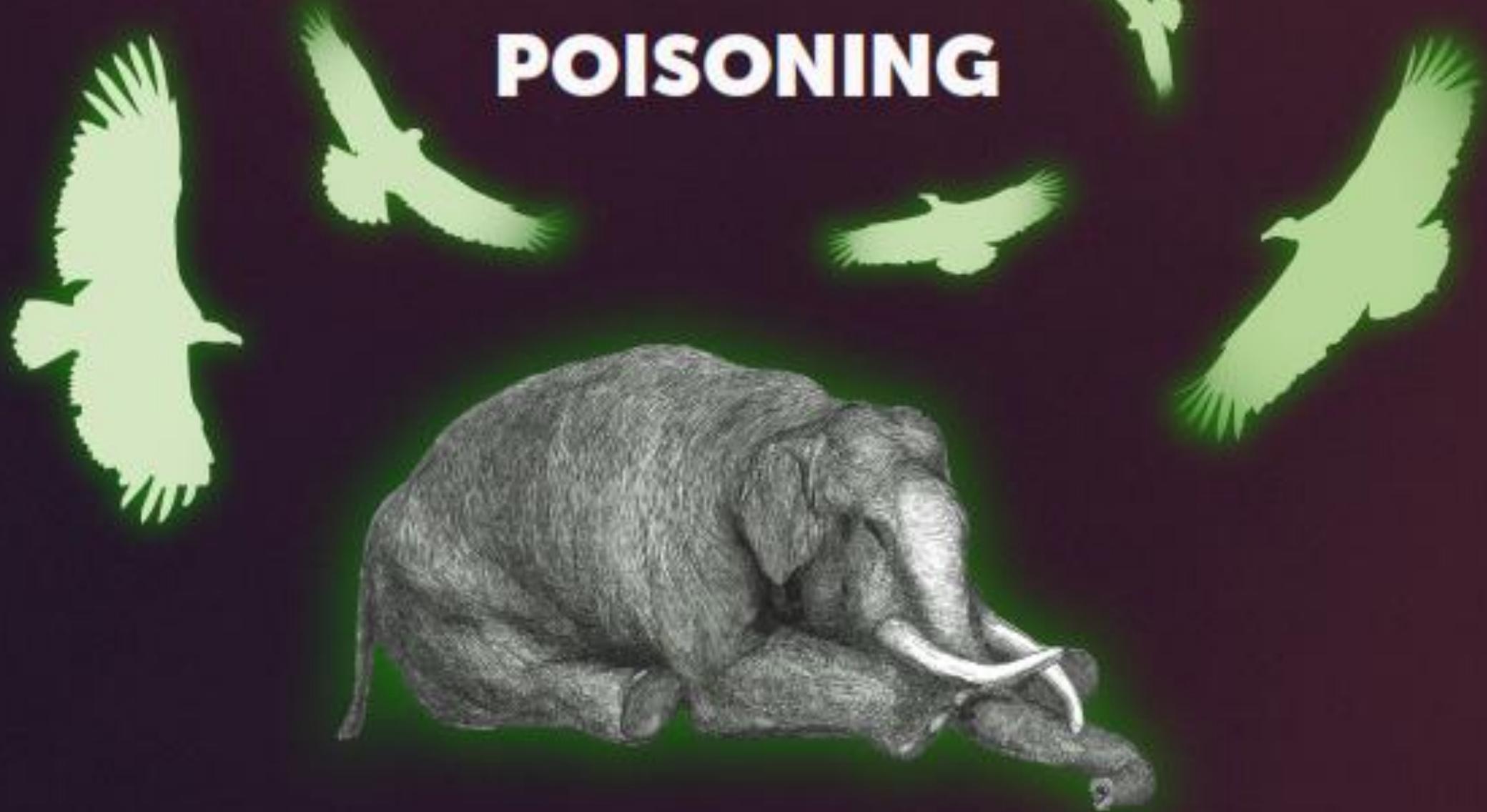


Intentional poisoning

- “Sentinels of the skies”



POISONING



1 Poisoned elephant carcass =
up to **500** dead vultures per incident



ILLEGAL TRADE

- Belief-based use

Windfarms & Powerlines



What this means for you, for us, for
people...

Our health depends on our vultures



WITH VULTURES > ONE HOUR

They clean carcasses bare
before disease spores can form



WITHOUT VULTURES > A FEW DAYS

They reduce the spread of diseases like Anthrax,
Rabies, Tuberculosis, Botulism, Brucellosis



Do you find yourself
doing loads of work to
help people without
ever getting any
credit?

Sounds like a vulture.

Vultures are
misunderstood.



Vultures clean our landscapes for free

In Spain alone, avian scavengers are capable of removing **9.9 thousand tons** of carcasses per year

VULTURES ARE WORTH MILLIONS



A single vulture is worth over US **\$ 11,000** dollars just for its cleaning services.
By halting the spread of disease, they are worth much, much more to governments in saved health service costs, not to mention tourism, etc.

SURE, PANDAS ARE CUTE, BUT DO THEY TAKE OUT THE TRASH?



By consuming diseased carcasses, vultures help maintain nature's pristine beauty and reduce the spread of rabies, bubonic plague, tuberculosis, brucellosis and botulism.

What can you do?



AFRICAN VULTURES

NEED YOUR HELP

What we need to do NOW



1. Raising Public Awareness
2. Highlight links with elephant and rhino poaching
3. Understand better the herbicide supply chain
4. Rallying funding
 - a) Combat poisoning through rapid response systems
 - b) Tackling belief-based use
 - c) Scale-up safe areas for vultures in Africa
“Vulture Safe Zones”
 - d) Minimise collision & electrocution risk with energy infrastructure

We've done it before: Asian Vultures



News Home » City » Kozhikode

Ban on diclofenac, a lifeline for vultures

3 Apr 2017



TNN | Sep 2, 2015, 08:18

One quarter of Bangladesh is safe from recently exposed vulture-killing drug

After successfully banning two drugs poisonous to vultures, Bangladesh is leading the way in Asian vulture conservation, and moving towards banning a third



Red-headed Vulture (Critically Endangered) © Jonathan Eames

DAILY NEWS 22 October 2014

Ban of vulture-killing drug in India is working

By Shreya Dasgupta



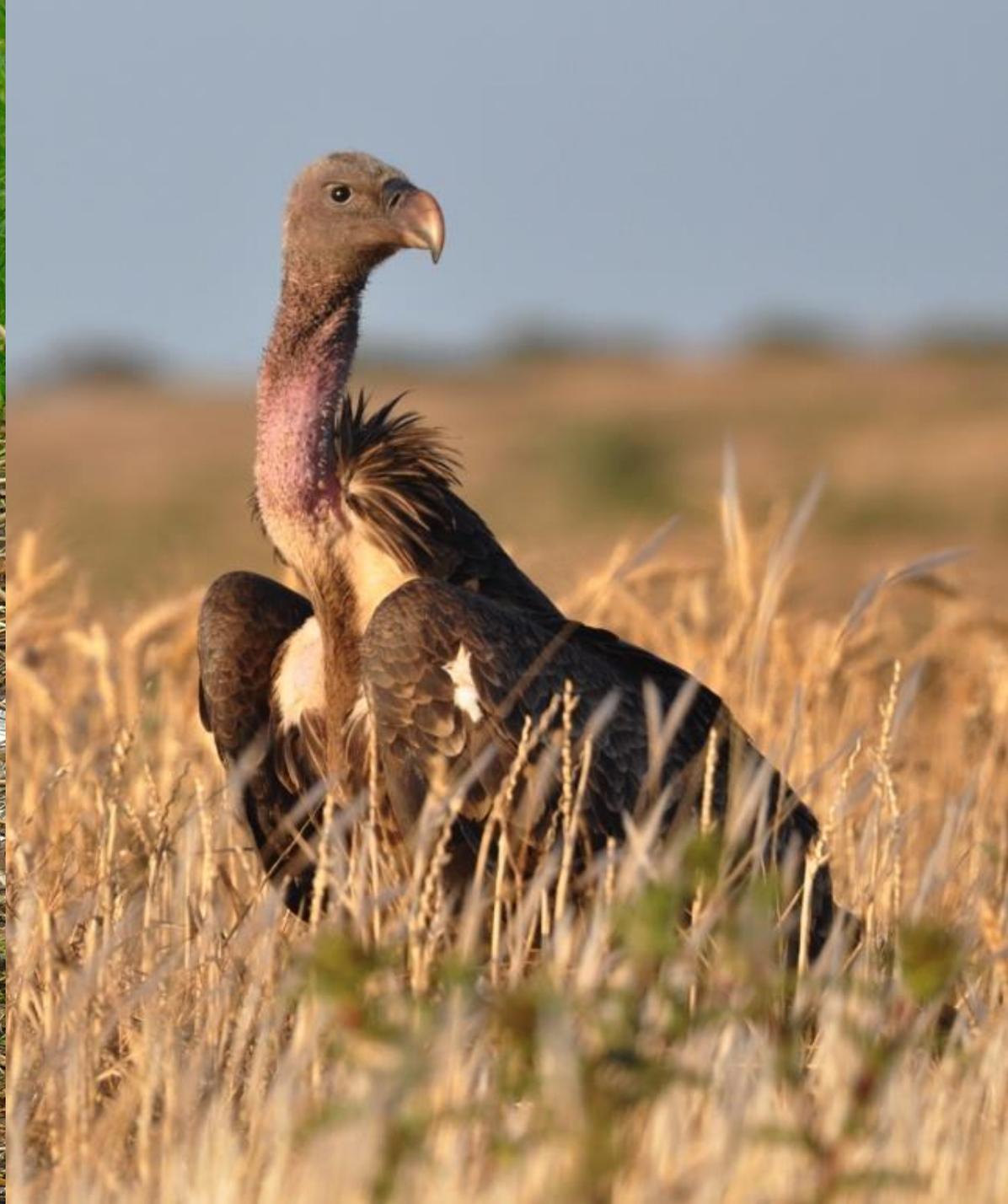
Hanging in there in India (Image: Bernard Castellein/naturepl.com)

Indian government takes major step to save vultures

Almost a decade after banning the veterinary drug diclofenac, the Indian government has banned large vials of the drug meant for human use



We've finally managed to stabilize population of Asia's Vultures



Thank you