

# VISA

## (Vulture Initiative for sub-Saharan Africa)

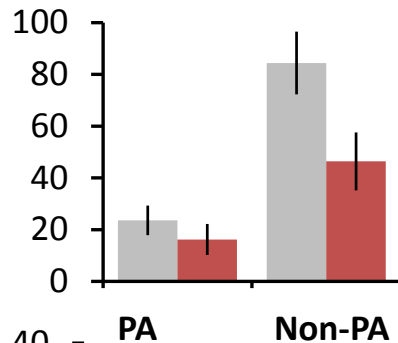
the metadata project concept to improve connectivity for vulture research and conservation

**Campbell Murn**

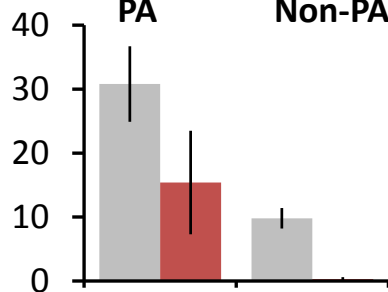
\*campbell@hawkconservancy.org



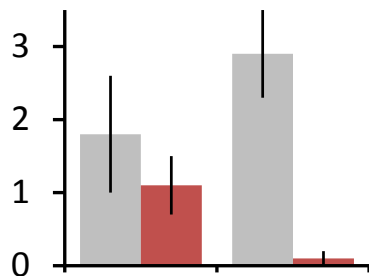
# Vulture populations across Africa – 1960s/70s to the 2000s



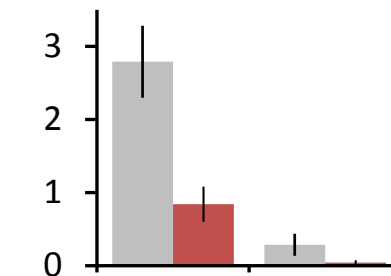
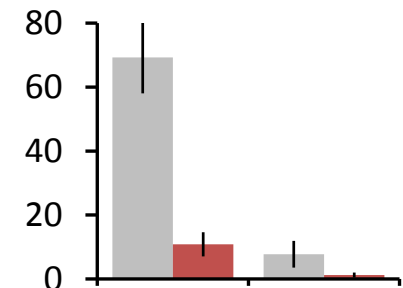
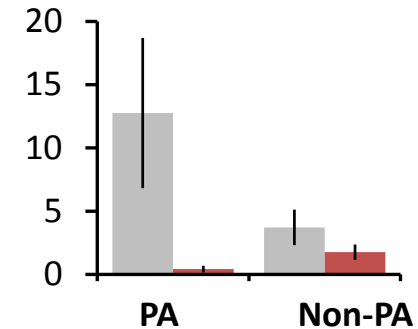
Hooded Vulture



White-backed Vulture



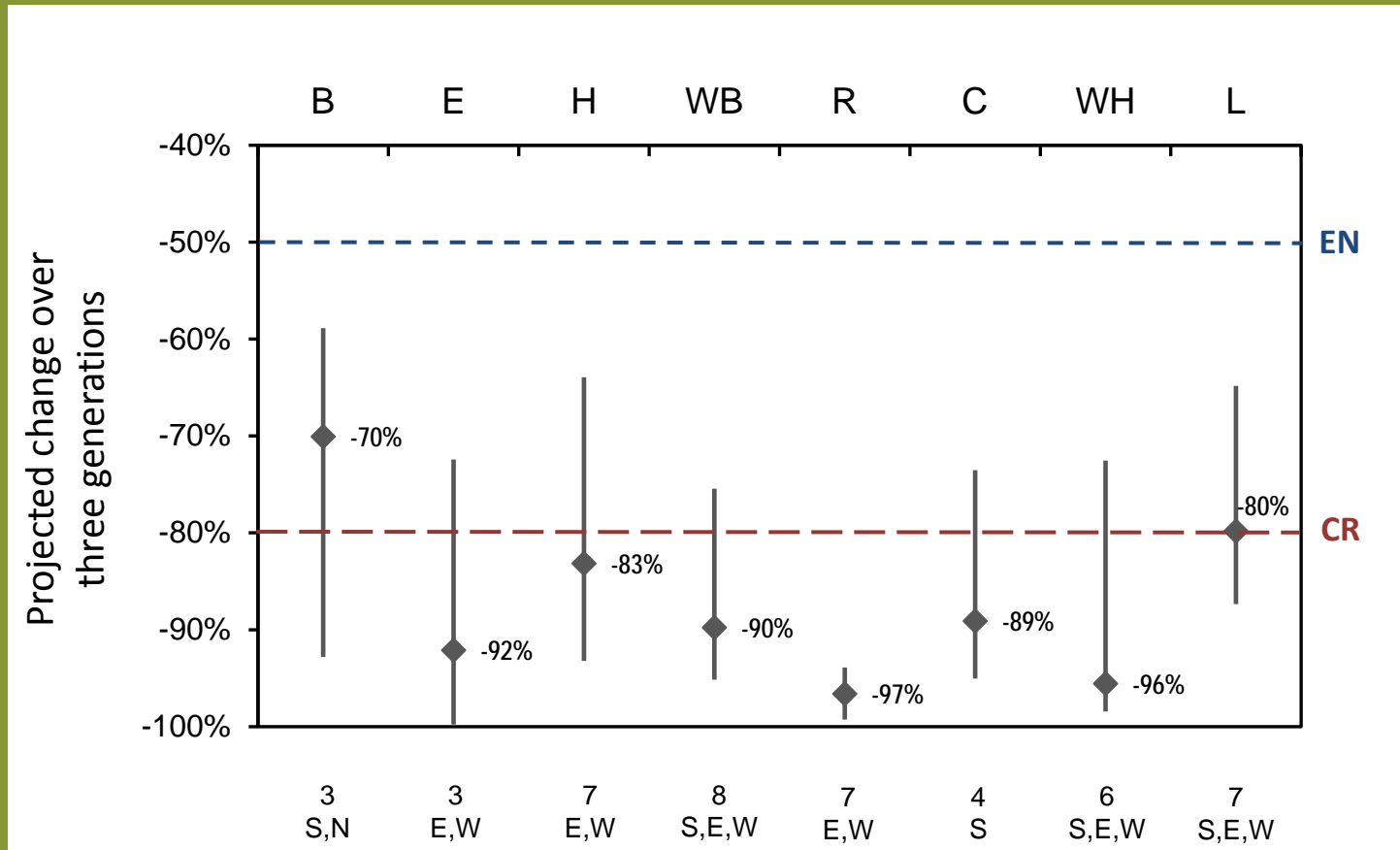
West Africa



East Africa

(Ogada et al. 2015)

# Vulture species – change over three generations



(Ogada et al. 2015)

# Conservation status change – multiple vulture species

June  
2015

## Conservation Letters

A journal of the Society for Conservation Biology

Open Access

### LETTER

## Another Continental Vulture Crisis: Africa's Vultures Collapsing toward Extinction

Darcy Ogada<sup>1</sup>, Phil Shaw<sup>2</sup>, Rene L. Beyers<sup>3</sup>, Ralph Buij<sup>4</sup>, Campbell Murn<sup>5</sup>, Jean Marc Thiollay<sup>6</sup>, Colin M. Beale<sup>7</sup>, Ricardo M. Holdo<sup>8</sup>, Derek Pomeroy<sup>9</sup>, Neil Baker<sup>10</sup>, Sonja C. Krüger<sup>11</sup>, Andre Botha<sup>12</sup>, Munir Z. Virani<sup>13</sup>, Ara Monadjem<sup>14</sup>, & Anthony R. E. Sinclair<sup>15</sup>



October  
2015



# Vulture conservation framework for action




## MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES (VULTURE MSAP)

CMS Raptors MOU Technical Publication No. 5  
CMS Technical Series No. 35







CMS

**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**


Distribution: General  
UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.15  
Original: English

**PREVENTING POISONING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)



CMS

**CONVENTION ON  
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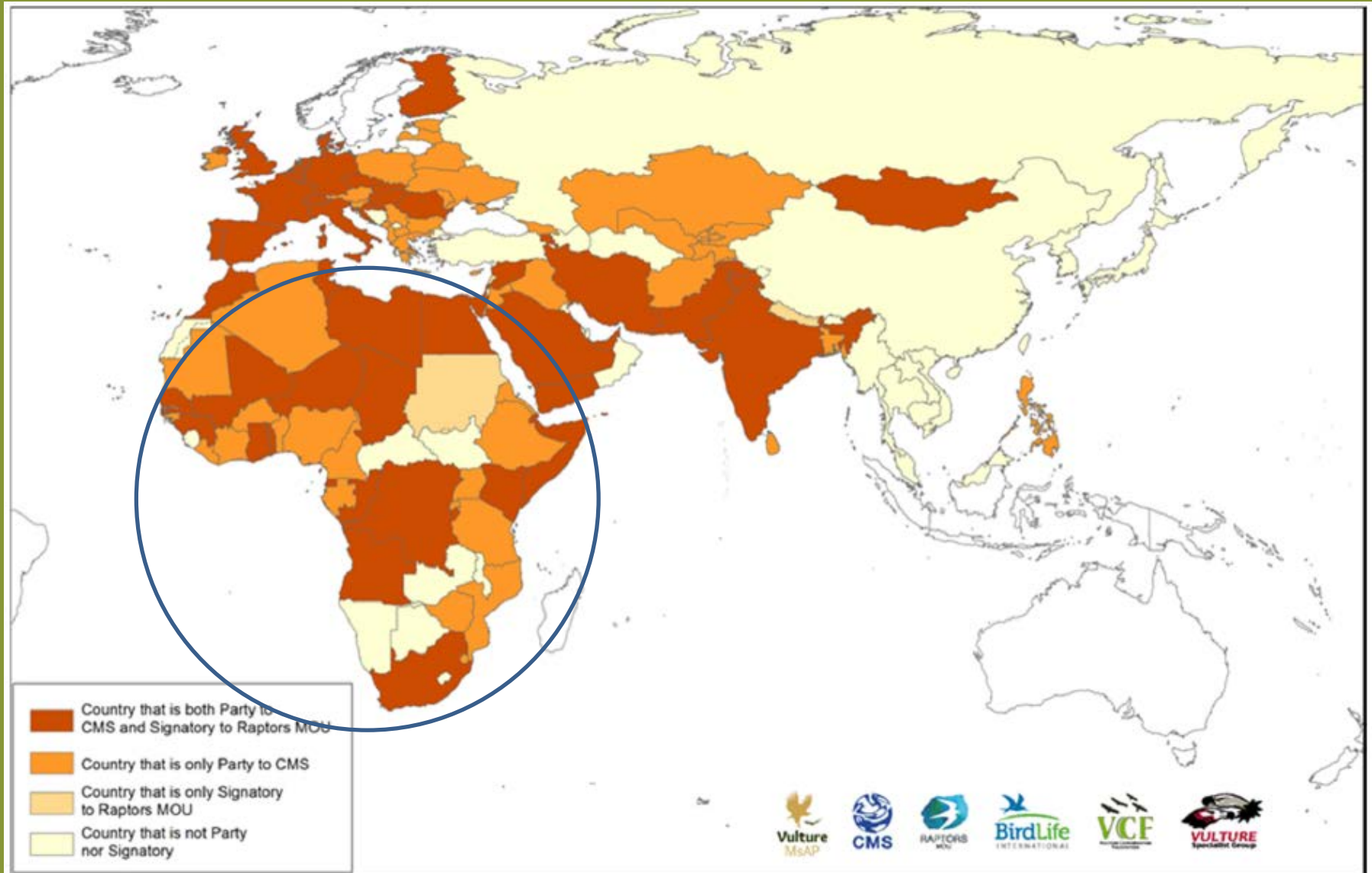
Distribution: General  
UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2  
12 August 2014  
Original: English

11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014  
Agenda Item 23.1.2

**REVIEW AND GUIDELINES TO PREVENT THE RISK OF POISONING  
OF MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Formally adopted  
October 2017 at COP12

# Vulture MsAP range



## MsAP Table 3 – the gaps

Table 3. Threats affecting each species of vulture, and their overall severity.

[illegible]



## MsAP Table 6 – the framework for action

**Table 6. Framework of Conservation Actions for African-Eurasian Vultures.**

[illegible]



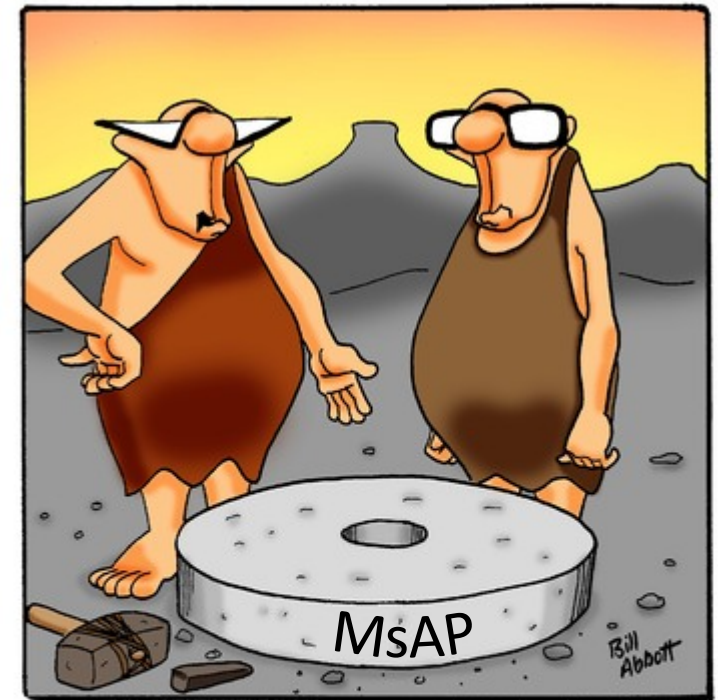
# Lack of connectivity – the obstacle success?

- The problems are well-defined
- So are the actions to address them
- We are not siloed:
  - We already communicate
  - Collective Creativity is in progress

**Objective 12.** To advance vulture conservation by effective promotion and implementation of the Vulture MsAP.

**Indicator:** All critical actions of the Vulture MsAP and at least 50% of the high priority actions successfully implemented across the range by 2029.

- But who is doing what, and where?
- Who does/doesn't know about it?



“I thought I was on to something but I can’t figure out how to move it.”

# The metadata project concept – in one sentence

- Unless we share our achievements and highlight our current goals, we won't be as effective at delivering conservation outcomes for vultures
  - VISA: Vulture Initiative for sub-Saharan Africa

## Goals:

1. Promote connectivity
  2. Highlight gaps
  3. Avoid duplication
- It sounds very simple

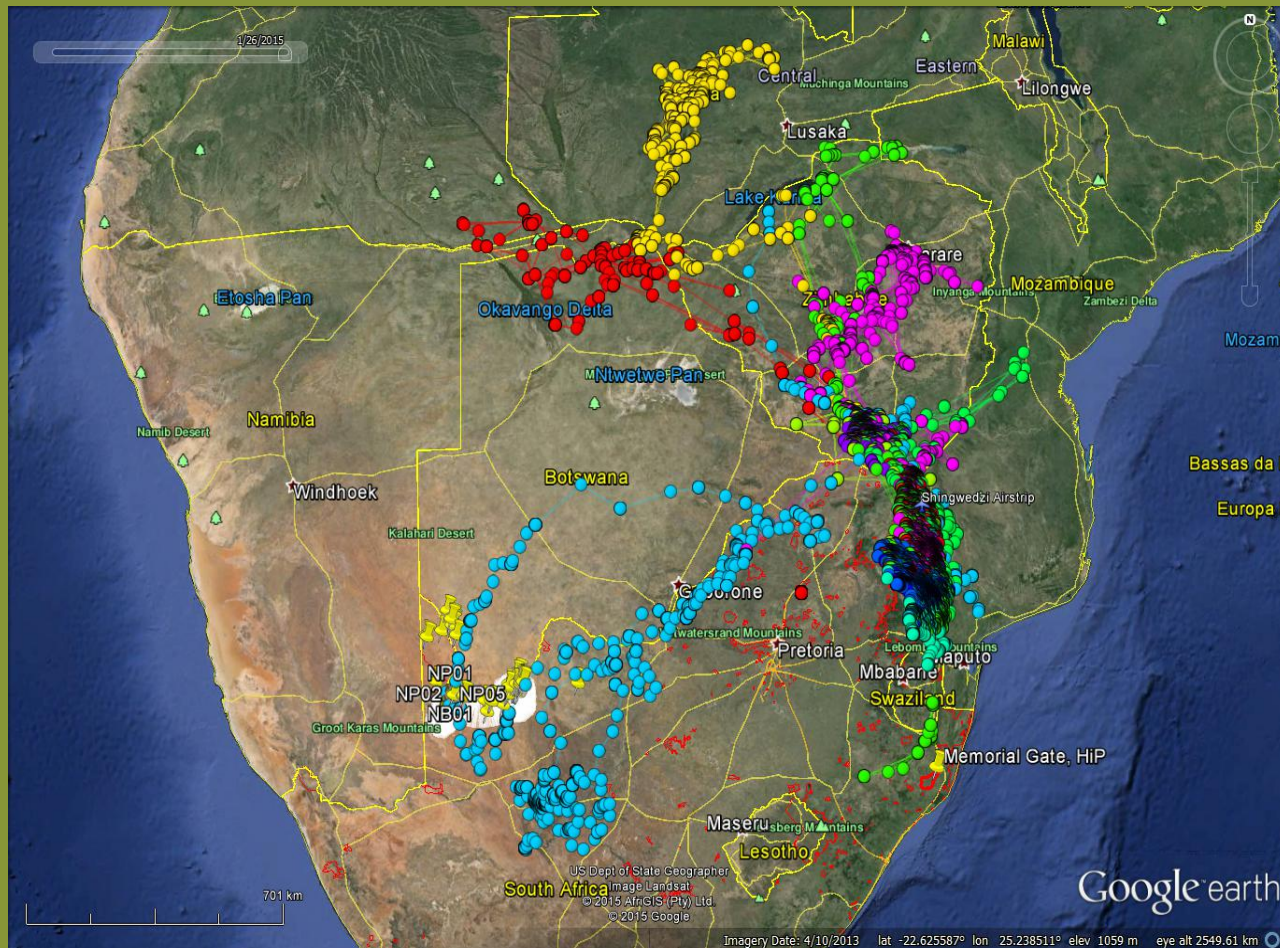
# Where VISA came from

- Ringing/banding
  - Radio telemetry
  - Wing-tagging
  - Satellite/GPS trackers
- 
- When do we know if we have enough?
  - Have our goals been reached?





# Implications of vulture movement ecology



- Southern African vultures
- Protected areas
- Conservation management implications

# What VISA is

- A point of linkage
  - Projects, new colleagues, unknown unknowns
- A metadata access point
- A way of highlighting gaps and avoiding duplication
- A clear view into vulture research and conservation

*“The better we collaborate the better we perform”*

- People still work independently

# What VISA isn't

- A coordinating unit or directorate
- A list of priority actions (already have that)
- A data repository (but it points to them)
- A ranking/scoring system



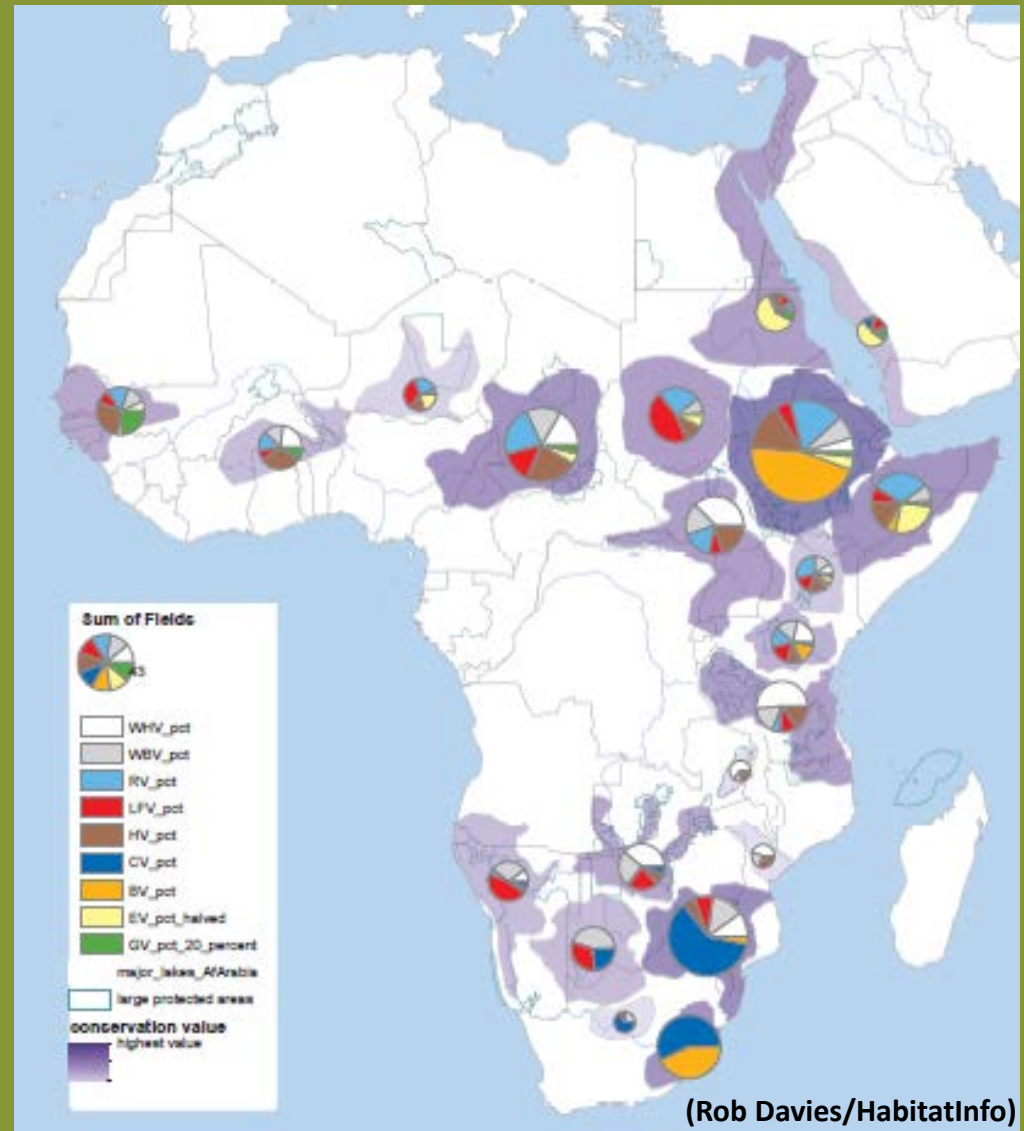
# There are other information networks

- GRIN (Global Raptor Information Network)
- Movebank, ARDB, SAVE, action plans
- But none for vultures in Africa
- Are there sufficient frameworks to monitor and evaluate progress?
  - VISA will contribute to this



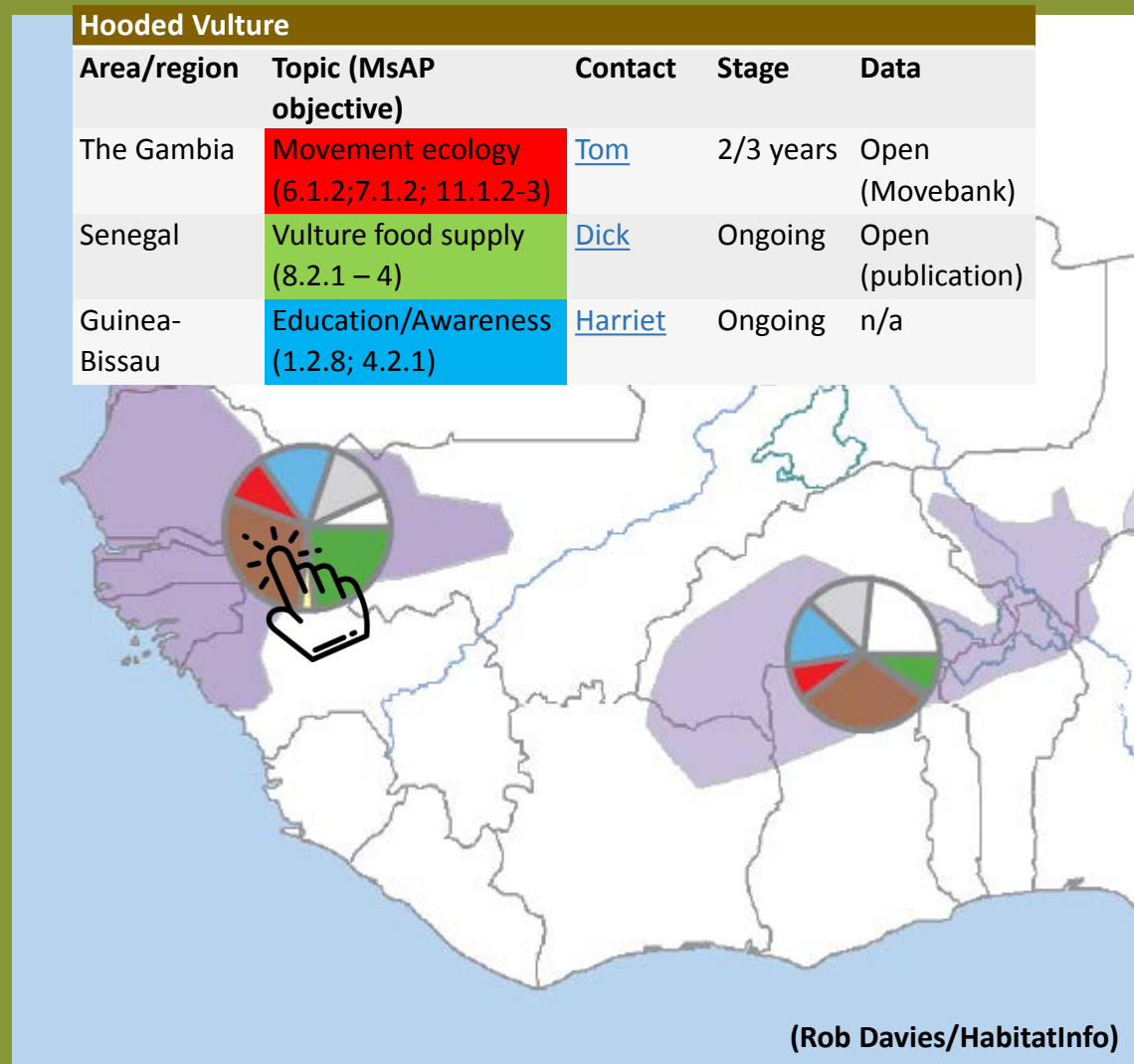
# What VISA might look like

- A simple open-access platform
- A GIS-based point of linkage
- An interactive resource



# What VISA might look like

- Country/regional summaries of activities
- MsAP objectives being pursued
- Timeframe
- Contact details and data information



# How might we achieve this? (what VISA needs)

- People and organisations need to give of themselves
  - Publications/websites/press releases aren't enough
  - Twitter isn't enough
  - 'Just getting on with it' isn't enough
- Populate the metadata fields
- Independence



# What are we waiting for?

- Collective creativity has generated the framework
- VISA is not about how we get it done
- VISA highlights what:
  - Has been done
  - Is still being done
  - Still needs doing





# Summary

- Keep your data; keep doing what you're doing!
- Share your achievements and progress towards goals
- Make new friends
- Enjoy the lifestyle you've always dreamed about
- Join VISA today!

[www.VISA4Vultures.org](http://www.VISA4Vultures.org)



Thank you

