

# VULTURES...

## save them from vanishing

Vultures are birds that are adapted to a diet of dead animals. They are related to hawks and eagles.

### Vultures – their vital role

- Keep our environment free of carcasses, waste, restrict the spread of diseases (such as anthrax and botulism) and pests such as rats.
- Are of cultural value to African communities.
- Have important eco-tourism (bird-watching) value.

### Vultures are in trouble, especially outside conservation areas

- Poisoning – especially though the deliberate poisoning of carnivores.
- Their habitat is being degraded and lost.
- Face other threats: power line electrocutions, disturbance at breeding sites, drowning in farm reservoirs, direct persecution, declining food availability.
- In South Asia, vulture populations plummeted by 95% in just a decade as a result of consuming the carcasses of cows that had been treated with the anti-inflammatory veterinary drug – diclofenac.

### Vultures need your help

- Africa is home to 11 vulture species of which 7 are already (or nearly) threatened with extinction.
- People need to be aware of the good services vultures provide to them and participate in tackling the troubles faced by vultures.
- Researchers need to establish a simple monitoring network for vultures.
- Toxic drugs that are harmful to vultures need to be eliminated.



For more information: [birdlife@birdlife.or.ke](mailto:birdlife@birdlife.or.ke), [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)



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for people  
for ever

