

INFORMATION SOUGHT REGARDING VULTURE POISONING INCIDENTS AND POISONING THREATS TO VULTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Poisoned vultures

Dr Iñigo Fajardo and Dr Ngaio Richards

¹Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF),
Wuhrstrasse 12, CH-8003 Zürich, Switzerland

²Working Dogs for Conservation, Three Forks, Montana, 59752,
United States of America; ngaio@workingdogsforconservation.org

As part of a monograph on griffon vultures to be published in the UK in 2014, we seek information regarding whether or not deliberate poisoning, using agents such as pesticides, threatens any of the vulture species in the Middle East.

We specifically ask which species are under poisoning threat, whether they are deliberately targeted and why, or if they are victims of poisons meant for other targets (e.g. predators). We would also like to know what is used/available to poison, how easily it is obtained and if this is a longstanding or emerging problem.

Finally, estimates of numbers of dead vultures observed following a poisoning event would also be very useful.

Please submit all information to: ngaio@workingdogsforconservation.org and it will be gratefully acknowledged in the chapter. If you would just like to share other threats to vultures even aside from poisoning we would be interested to know these too.

WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST IS NOW ACTIVE AND OPEN.

The Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) (www.wildlifedisease.org) is a well-known international scientific society of wildlife professionals; veterinarians, epidemiologists, biologists, ecologists, research scientists and other individuals working with wildlife everywhere in the world are member of this highly perceived organisation. The WDA also publishes the *Journal of Wildlife Medicine*, a peer reviewed magazine with the latest scientific research on wildlife related topics.

WDA was founded in 1951 in the USA with the mission to acquire, disseminate, and apply knowledge of the health and diseases of wild animals in relation to their biology, conservation, and interactions with humans and domestic animals.

The organisation is based in the US but has regional sections in Western Europe, in North Europe, in Australasia, and in South America. The African and Middle East section had been active for several years but lapsed when the driving force passed away after a tragic accident. The section had been very successful and at the last conference in Abu Dhabi in 2004 there were 100 registered participants from 25 different countries in attendance. As such, the WDA were very keen to restart their activities in this region again.

For more than a year we have been building up interest in the section by increasing contacts with the parent organisation, with the sections in other parts of the world as well as engaging people in the Middle East and in Africa that were working with wildlife and wildlife diseases.

The response was extremely positive and enthusiastic and on the 10th of December 2013, the WDA Council approved the reformation of an Africa and Middle East Section of WDA as proposed by the ad hoc committee (Dr Mike Kock, Dr Thomas Nyariki and Dr Anne-Lise Chaber). This was

later approved by the WDA International Committee in December 2013.

As requested by the council, the 3 person ad hoc committee that developed the proposal for reformation of the Africa and Middle East Section will serve in a leadership capacity for the Section until an election for officers is held.

They will select an ad hoc nominating committee to develop a slate of candidates for leadership of that Section, and hold an election by electronic ballot by May 1, 2014.

Membership to the African and Middle East section includes all persons who are members of WDA (you can register through www.wildlifedisease.org) and reside in the geographic region that includes the entire continent of Africa and those nations commonly referred to as the Middle East.

We hope to see many members from the Middle East actively joining the association and sharing crucial information on wildlife health!