

Africa Regional Overview

By Darcy Ogada



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Africa's Threatened Vultures



Rüppell's Vulture



Hooded Vulture



White-backed Vulture



White-headed Vulture

**Critically
Endangered**

Endangered



Egyptian Vulture



Lappet-faced Vulture



Cape Vulture

Vulnerable

Isolated subspecies
is regionally
Critically
Endangered



Bearded Vulture



Cinereous Vulture

**Near
Threatened**

Least Concern Species

Palm Nut Vulture



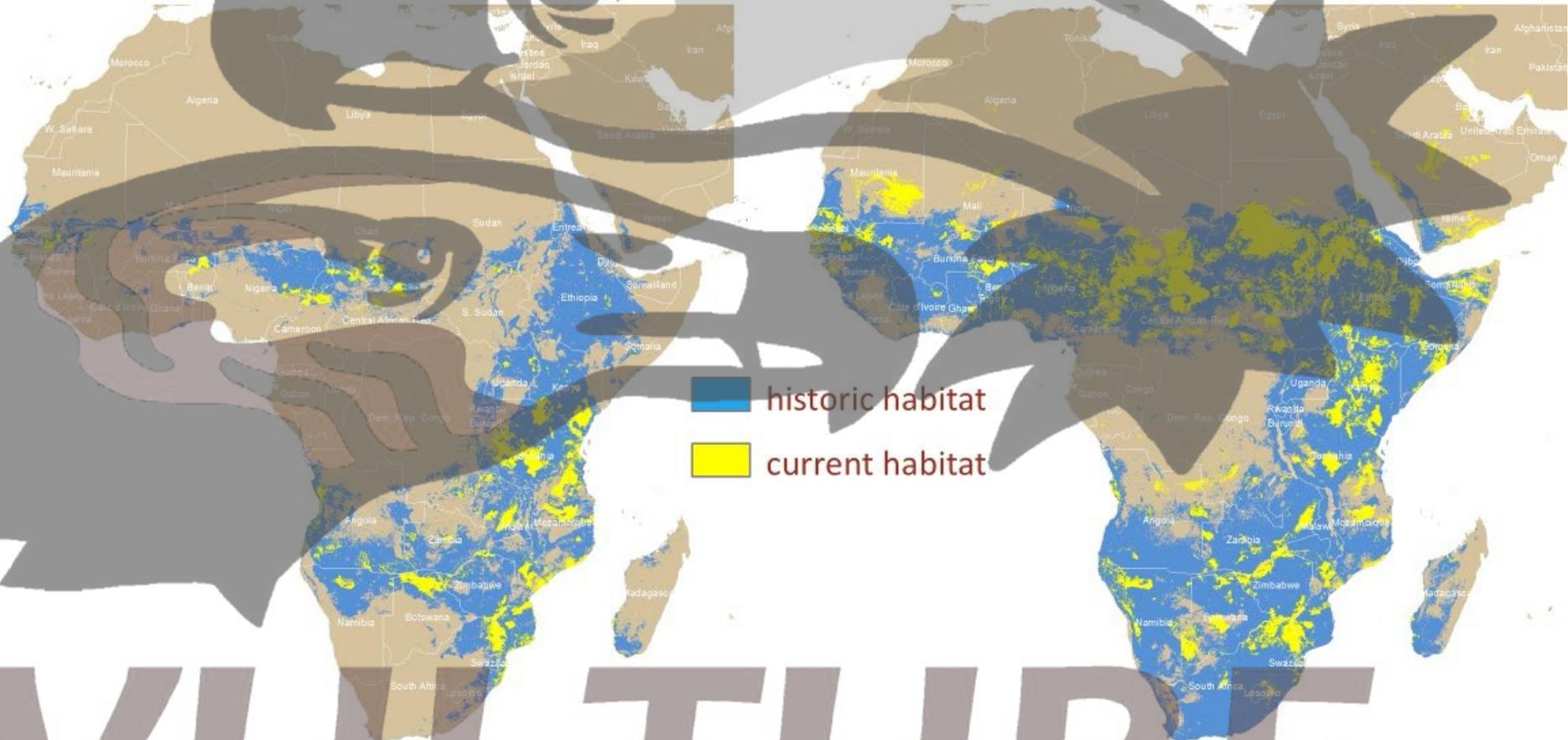
Griffon Vulture



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white-headed vulture

overall value for 7 species



historic habitat
current habitat

VULTURE



ARDB
African Raptor DataBank



16/01/2026
Dakar, Senegal



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Research & Monitoring



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

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

Vulture MsAP

CMS RAPTORS MOU BIRD LIFE INTERNATIONAL VCF VULTURE Specialist Group



WEST AFRICAN VULTURE
CONSERVATION
ACTION PLAN 2023 - 2043

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL CMS RAPTORS MOU وكالة البيئة المصرية Environment Agency - Egypt IUCN SSC CONSERVATION PLANNING NCF EGYPTIAN VULTURE LIFE LIFE PARTNERSHIP VULTURE Specialist Group

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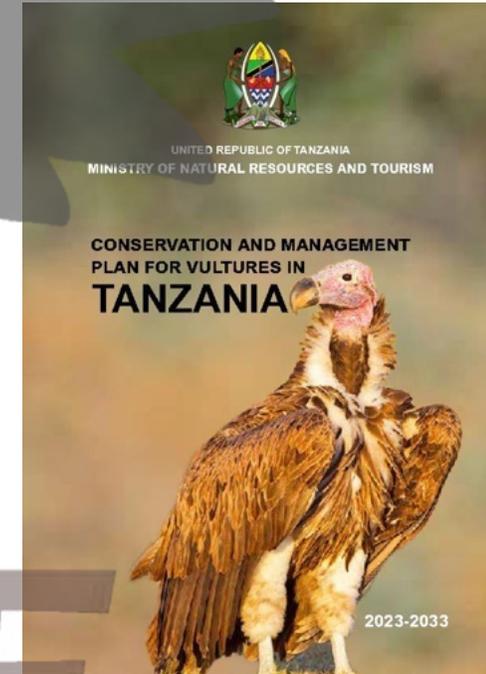
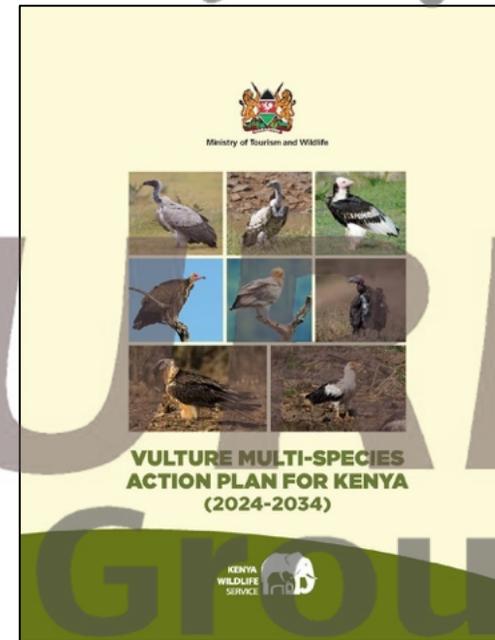
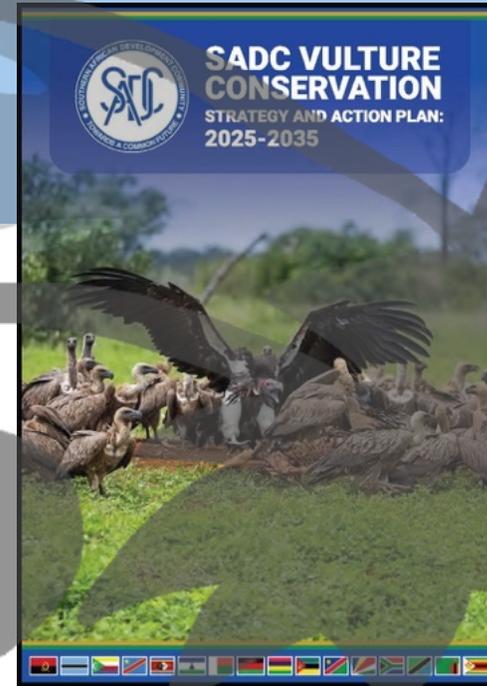
Research & Monitoring

National Action Plans

- Southern African
- South Africa
- Morocco
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Zimbabwe

In progress

- Malawi
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe – update



Research & Monitoring

Tagging

To understand

- movements
- mortalities
- poisoning locations



Nest, road, aerial surveys

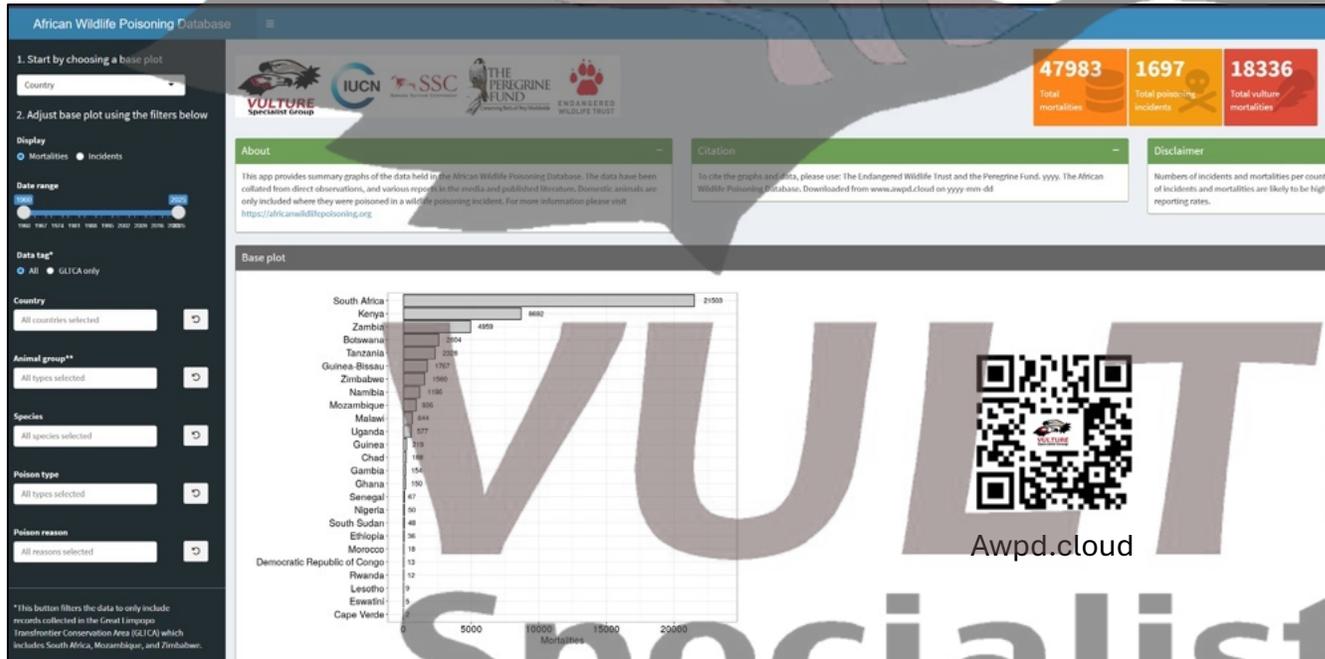


Research & Monitoring

African Wildlife Poisoning Database



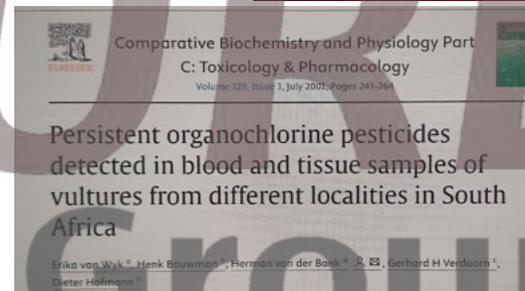
Wildlife poisoning records across Africa
Data is not comprehensive
Use of the data is through request. Form on webpage
Those working in Africa please contribute data



Awpd.cloud

Toxicology Research

South African institutions leading the way



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Belief-based use

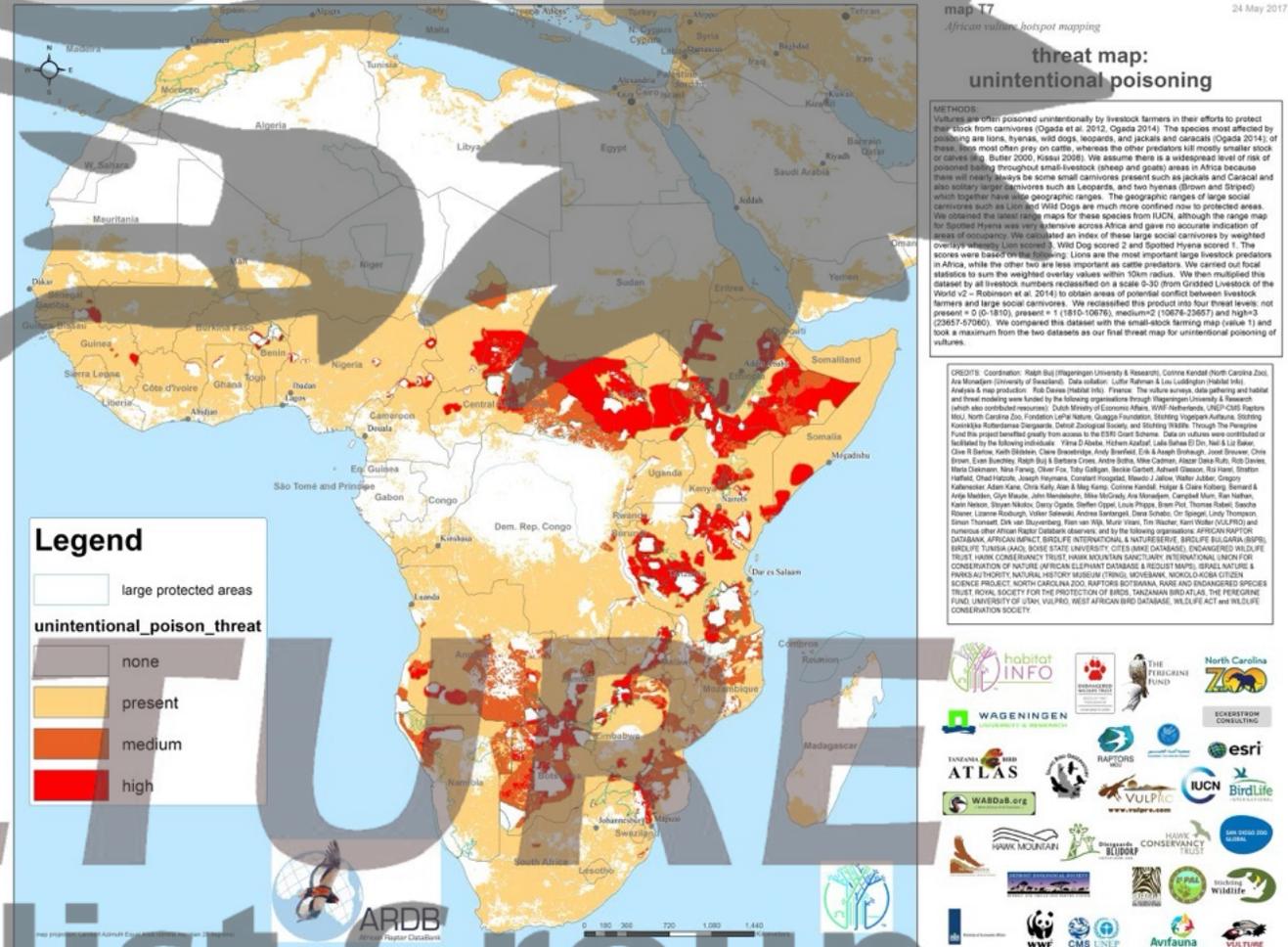
Conservation activities

- Creating awareness with traditional healer's associations to reduce use of vulture parts through voluntary reduction or switching to plant-based alternatives
- Public awareness created through social media campaigns and involving prominent people
- Training law enforcement officials and NGO staff to respond to poisoning incidents



Unintentional Poisoning from Pesticides

- In retaliation for livestock killed by carnivores, typically hyenas and lions. Vultures are collateral damage
- Typically occurs near high-density wildlife areas so East and Southern Africa most commonly affected regions



Unintentional Poisoning from Pesticides

Conservation activities

- Community and ranger-focused trainings to prevent or respond to poisoning incidents
- Reducing human-carnivore conflict by building reinforced corrals to keep livestock safe from predators at night
- Establishment of joint conservation activities with carnivore NGOs



Unintentional Poisoning from Lead

Most extensively studied in southern Africa where a taskforce has been established

Activities include

- Tagging to identify feeding locations, movement behaviour
- Testing blood and bone samples
- Lead Awareness Days
- Testing non-lead ammunition



Lead Awareness Day activities

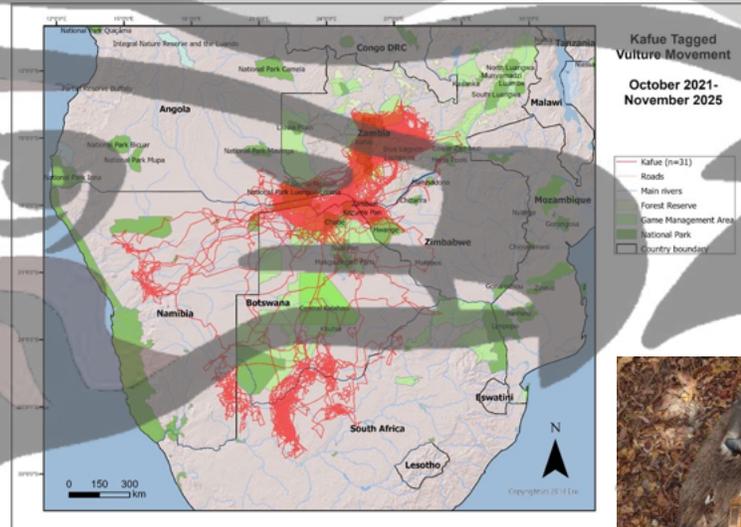
Discussing differences in terminal performance between lead-based and non-lead ammunition in ballistic gelatine

Sentinel Poisoning

- Remains a problem but is less related to elephant poaching, probably due to an increase in security for elephants
- Mostly related to commercial bushmeat poaching and occurring inside protected areas

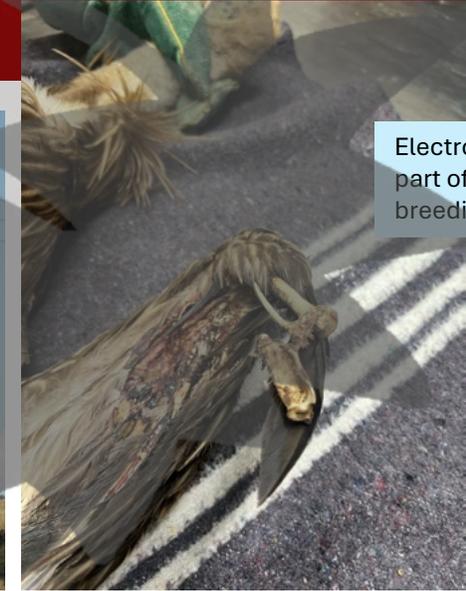
Conservation actions

- Training first responders, i.e. rangers and law enforcement officers
- Tagging to identify locations and trained network to quickly respond



Additional Threats

- Electrocution – particularly in South Africa and Ethiopia, lack of monitoring elsewhere
- Collision with wind turbines – anywhere there are large-scale wind-energy projects, e.g. Red Sea Flyway
- Collision with powerlines
- Drowning in water tanks



Electrocuted and now part of captive breeding programme

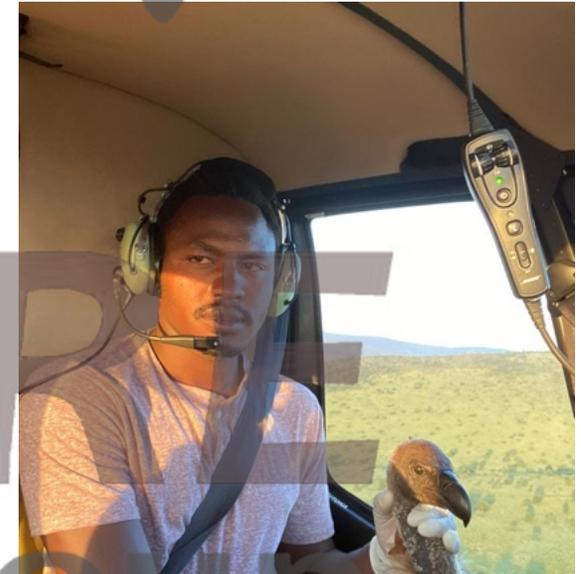


Rescue & Rehabilitation

Vulture-focused rehab centres in a number of countries including:

South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, and Morocco

Ideally every country in Africa to have a dedicated rehab centre



Captive Breeding

- Currently at two facilities in South Africa
- Cape, White-backed, Lappet-faced and Bearded Vultures
- 220 breeding Cape, White-backed and Lappets. Over 120 captive bred babies released
- 26 captive Bearded Vultures in specialised breeding centre, no breeding taken place yet



Where does the funding come from?

- Mostly traditional sources
- Most is sourced by writing grants to conservation-focused funders such as: National Geographic, Zoos, Foundations and Trusts
- Also collaborations with NGOs typically working on the 'Big 5', including rhinos (habitat-related), elephant (poaching-related) and lions (conflict-related)
- Increasing partnerships with large-scale energy (e.g. wind farms) or extractive industry projects (e.g. mining), particularly for species monitoring and research
- VERY little funding comes from national governments
- For Bearded Vultures because only regionally and not globally Critically Endangered don't have access to threatened species-related funding



Take Aways

- Africa's vultures remain highly threatened, even species currently listed as LC are likely declining, e.g. Palm Nut Vulture
- Large-scale poisonings are still commonly occurring, and in some regions are little reported because of fear of reprisal or lack of interest
- Demand for belief-based use is a regional crisis. Vulture parts are supplied from beyond West Africa. Strategic plan requires funding for implementation
- Lots of awareness needed!
- There's more interest in vultures than ever before! Although funding commitments especially for long-term monitoring programmes are needed

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On behalf of the many organizations, individuals,
and government officials involved in the work
presented here

Thank you!



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