



Vulture updates No. 24: April 2026 Around the World of Vultures & VSG activities

So many of you joined our **first ever pan-global online meeting of the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group** on 20th January! We were delighted with your feedback suggesting this was a resounding success, with more than 770 participants registering from 76 countries! The recording and presentation materials from the 3 hour meeting are all now [available on our website](#) in case you missed anything. Thanks to many of you for responding to the questionnaire circulated afterwards – we note your enthusiasm for more such meetings – and are compiling your feedback to guide our future planning.

VSG membership and leadership succession: Our VSG co-Chairs have been re-appointed by SSC for the next quadrennium following the IUCN World Conservation Congress which saw the appointment of our new SSC Chair, Mr. Vivek Menon from India. Our co-Chairs recently met online with Mr Menon to discuss future directions for the VSG within the SSC including the leadership structure, encouraging engagement of more early-career members, especially into future leadership roles, and further improving our geographical spread (we are ahead of many other SGs on this, but there's still room for improvement). Both current co-Chairs are due for rotation during this new quadrennium - the succession process means new co-Chairs will be appointed to take us ahead. Although the Steering Committee is already discussing this, we welcome inputs, nominations and suggestions from the wider VSG membership over the coming months. In particular, we encourage members younger than 35 interested in playing a more active role within VSG (e.g. joining our steering committee) to contact either Co-chair by e-mail. We will update you further on this in the next newsletter. Note that the SSC portal used for formalising new memberships etc has been down since November, but we are assured it will soon be running again. We will contact relevant people on this as soon as it is active again but we apologise on behalf of IUCN for the delays this has caused over the past six months.

Do prepare for the next **International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD)** scheduled for the 5th of September 2026 (and the weeks before and after). We look forward to building on the wonderful engagement in 2025 – lets plan for even more! An update on the impressive outcomes of IVAD2025 is [available here](#). Further announcements on the photographic competition will be announced on the [IVAD website](#) shortly.



Global/Multi-regional News

Since our last newsletter, there have been two major Conferences where the VSG were involved and worked with partners to support policy decisions and participate in events to promote the conservation of vultures and their habitats: The **CITES COP20** took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan Nov-Dec 2025. Vulture discussions were successful, but follow-up is needed. The proposal to list African White-backed and Rüppell's Vultures on CITES Appendix I was adopted by consensus, meaning the agreement was so clear that no vote was needed. The Revised Decisions on W African vultures (since 2019) was also adopted. 15 African parties spoke in support of the listing proposal. During the consultation process, the VSG and its partners suggested that all African vulture species should have been considered for up-listing and, despite this not being considered at COP20, have started groundwork towards this being proposed at COP21 in 2028. The **CMS COP15** was held in Campo Grande, Brazil in March 2026 and was attended by a strong delegation of VSG members who participated in three vulture-focused side-events and supported the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MoU with the relevant proposals that were tabled for consideration by the Parties. All three motions were adopted. A significant development from these decisions was strong support for the drafting of a Multi-species Action Plan for Vultures of the Americas, championed by Ecuador and Peru, particularly the Fundación Cóndor Andino, an NGO based in Ecuador. We look forward to providing support and guidance with regard to this process.

Further good news from the **CMS Raptors MoU** is that support has been secured for the 4th Meeting of the Signatories (MOS) to the MoU and that the event will likely take place in December 2026, with the venue still to be confirmed. What makes **MOS4** particularly significant is that VSG will work with the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU to initiate the review and update of the 2017 CMS Vulture MsAP (for all old-world vultures) ahead of it being tabled at CMS COP16 in 2029. This revised MsAP will aim for an implementation timeframe of a further 12 years to 2041

The **World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH)** held a high-level event ([view the 1 hour seminar here](#)) in March on both the lead poisoning and NSAIDs threats with respect to One Health, where vultures took centre stage.

And a **Global Translocation Study** – is [inviting contributions](#) to a large-scale, multi-species analysis investigating animal behaviour in novel environments to enhance the success of



translocations. Contributions are invited by completing [this short survey](#) before **1 June, 2026**. For further information, please contact ines.khazar@inrae.fr or nathan.ranc@inrae.fr.

Regional Round-ups

Asia

South & SE Asia:

The regional Vulture Recovery plan ([SAVE Blueprint](#)) was substantially updated in December – this is a key source document for the CMS Vulture MsAP for Asia, but is now more up to date. A key undercover pharmacy surveys [paper](#) by **India, Nepal, Pakistan** and **Bangladesh** collaborators demonstrated the serious challenges in implementing the vet drug bans, although there were very encouraging signs from Nepal and NE India. It also showed how Bangladesh ketoprofen bans had opened the door to another newer drug, flunixin which has largely replaced it but also appears toxic.

Meanwhile, the planned flunixin safety-testing by [IVRI](#) and [BNHS](#) supported by the MoEFCC (Indian Government) was progressed in **India** in early 2026, and results and publication will be eagerly awaited. A detailed [vulture autopsy protocol](#) was made available (relevant worldwide), added to other resources available from SAVE to help improve diagnosis of mortality causes. Also an [infographic aimed at vets](#) and farmers in the region was posted. Dec. and Jan. saw the release of 34 vultures from the Indian breeding programmes, These were 24 White-rumped vultures (WRV), 10 Indian Vulture (IV) - in Pench, Tadoba and Melghat Tiger Reserves all in Maharashtra state. These were soft releases and all birds were fitted with GSM satellite tags. Six more tagged [WRV were soft-released in March](#) near Guwahati originating from the nearby Rani breeding centre in Assam - this was a pilot release into the provisional Vulture Safe Zone (VSZ) there. Four more wild rehab. WRV were tagged and released together with the captive birds. The plan is that the 100km radius area can be certified as fully safe later in 2026 once cattle carcass sampling has been completed, ahead of any further releases. Meanwhile, five Slender-billed Vultures (SBV), also progeny from the Assam centre were moved to a new pre-release aviary in the buffer zone of Kaziranga NP, Assam for release later this year. The BNHS-run Bhopal breeding centre successfully produced [its first WRV](#) and IV chicks at the Madhya Pradesh centre through artificial incubation (9 chicks in total). The centre also successfully [rehabilitated and released](#) 4 IV and 2 Cinereous Vultures (CV) since Dec, all released by March. In early April there was sad news from Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh (N India) where [35 \(mainly Himalayan Griffons](#) HG) were killed in a poison-baits event -apparently poison targeting dogs that had killed village goats, which were then consumed by vultures. More positive news came from Tamil Nadu, where the Forest



Department met for a one day workshop in Feb. at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, once again leading the way within India in [developing government-backed plans for establishing VSZs](#) in the state. The workshop involved a range of Govt. and NGO stakeholders including senior officials from the drug authority, Animal Husbandry, Forest Dept and Arulagam. Further north, Haryana Government also took a positive step in January, with [commitments to crack down on the illegal sales](#) of banned veterinary NSAIDs.

The first [National Vulture Symposium](#) for **Nepal** was held in Nov 2025 in Pokhara bringing together 49 vulture researchers, conservation practitioners, policymakers, and implementing authorities. The event featured 29 presentations under thematic areas including vulture research and monitoring, conservation practices, people's perception, and policy and advocacy. Keynote speakers highlighted vulture conservation initiatives across South Asia, Central Asia, and Europe. It provided a discussion platform for identifying gaps, priorities and challenges in Nepal. An article was published on the specific [roost trees preferred by EVs](#) in the Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape. The project for GPS-Tracking EVs in Nepal continues, and updates can be found on the [Rufford Foundation website](#).

In **Pakistan** a severe hailstorm in Khanewal and Multan Districts 7 April 2026 affected a CV and a Eurasian Griffon (GV), both temporarily unable to fly. Local residents promptly informed the District Wildlife Office and wildlife officials promptly recovered and treated both vultures, transferring them to the Changa Manga Vulture Captive Breeding Centre with the help of local police where they are responding well. **Thailand** lost its Red-headed Vulture (RHV) population in 1992, but [an initiative](#) in Huai Khakhaeng Wildlife Sanctuary to breed (and eventually release) the small number of captive birds held there is adopting a VSZ approach to the surrounding area, and a [meeting/workshop in Oct. 2025](#) to elaborate plans and pull in wider expertise raises hopes of improving breeding success and creating a safe surrounding environment for future releases. It is a cooperation between Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Zoological Parks Organization of Thailand, Kasetsart University and Seub Nakhasathien Foundation, and the meeting also brought in expertise from SAVE. Also in Thailand, 10 successfully rehabilitated sub-adult [HGVs were released](#), on 8 April by Dept of Nat. Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and Kasetsart University Raptor Rehab Unit, Veterinary Teaching Hospital. By 21 April one of two tracked birds already reached Diqing Tibetan Prefecture in **China** and the other was still in northern Shan state, **Myanmar**. Two more tagged HGVs released in 2025 already moved back to Gansu, China and **Mongolia**. Also, phylogenetics work for HGV was [published](#) from birds previously in the same area of western Thailand.

Central Asia:



Of the four juvenile EVs tagged in 2025 in **Uzbekistan** and **Kyrgyzstan**, two have died – one juvenile from Kyrgyzstan died shortly after fledgling and another one from Uzbekistan [drowned in the Persian Gulf](#). Luckily, the transmitter of the latter was collected on the shores of **Qatar**. The rest of the tagged birds successfully made it to the wintering grounds in **India** and **Pakistan**. An adult EV from **Uzbekistan** was found dead near Samarkand almost a year after it disappeared from the map. The transmitter was found by a local resident in the mountains south of Samarkand and handed over to the team. In early February, one of the 9 CVs that winters in **India** was [found dead](#) and the transmitter was collected by local collaborator. The reason for mortality remains uncertain but veterinary drugs or poisoning are suspected.

The [spring EV migration on the Central Asian Flyway](#) from the wintering grounds in India and Pakistan has begun, with 5-year-old “Arys” travelling 1600km in 5 days.

An [online photo competition](#) launched on International Vulture Awareness Day 2025 selected photos for the [Central Asian Vultures project 2026 calendar](#), where shots of the 5 vulture species from across Central Asia and beyond were featured.

West Asia/Middle East:

The Environment Society of **Oman** continues to collaborate with be’ah (Oman’s national waste management authority) to monitor raptor use of a feeding station in Dhofar. Bird counts were conducted from Oct. 2025 to March 2026. A nine-day survey of Lappet-faced Vultures (LFV) was carried out in the Hajar Mountains in Feb, locating 14 nesting territories including two nests with fledglings. “[Nesting ecology and territory distribution of LFV in Oman](#)” was published. In **Saudi Arabia**: King Salman Royal Reserve nest monitoring and breeding surveys continues for EV and GV, with development of a breeding programme for GV in the south being given priority. EV surveys in Socotra (Yemen) are also being planned.

Europe

The FAO have published a [case study](#) about law enforcement and vulture poisoning, based on the BalkanDetox LIFE project (2020–2025).

Bearded Vulture (BV):

French authorities adopted a new [National Action Plan](#) for the species for the period 2026–2035 in Jan 2026. ‘Balthazar’, the oldest BV ever recorded in the wild (he hatched in 1988) was [rescued in the French Alps](#) at the end of October. The veterinary team tried to release him, but he showed clear signs that he could not fend for himself in the wild anymore. He was recaptured and will now



live the rest of his life in captivity at the captive-breeding centre in Guadalentin. The results of the 2025 breeding season in the Pyrenees, published at “[Circulaire Gypaète barbu dans les Pyrénées françaises – N°92 \(2025\)](#)”, by LPO Aquitaine and its partners within the framework of the French National Action Plan for the BV, [recorded 209 territorial pairs](#) in the area with 50 young fledgelings. The first clutch of the [2025-26 Breeding season](#) was laid at the end of December at Parc Animalier des Pyrénées. The chick hatched at the end of January, but unfortunately it died few weeks after.

The BV 'Centenario' was [found dead](#) in January by technicians from the Fundación para la Conservación del Quebrantahuesos (FCQ) in **Spain**. Preliminary investigation [suggests poisoning](#) as the cause of death.

[BirdLife Austria](#) published **Austria's** first [national ornithological sensitivity map](#) for wind energy planning, integrating movement data from several threatened and disturbance-sensitive bird species – including the GPS-tracking data from the [International BV Monitoring](#) (IBM) network.

November 2025, **Bulgaria** adopted its first [National Action Plan](#) for the BV for 2025–2034. The plan, approved by the Ministry of Environment and Water, provides a [comprehensive roadmap](#) to bring back a species that disappeared from Bulgaria more than half a century ago. Of the three BVs [released at Sinite Kamani Nature Park](#) near Sliven (Bulgaria) under the [BV LIFE](#) project, [only one, named 'Boev', survives in the wild](#). The project was [presented at an international scientific conference](#). The BV breeding season at the Green Balkans Rescue Centre has begun, with [three eggs laid](#).

(Eurasian) Griffon Vulture (GV):

In August, **Croatia** adopted a [10-year management plan](#) to [safeguard GVs](#).

In **Sardinia**, the [2025 census](#) registered between 516-566 individuals. The [LIFE Safe for Vultures](#) project [released seven GVs](#) from the Villasalto acclimatisation aviary (Sardinia - Italy), one of them died shortly after being released.

In **Cyprus**, the fourth group of Spanish GVs [was released](#), marking a hopeful milestone in efforts to save this struggling species on the island. Sadly, [one was found dead](#), electrocuted.

The team of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB) participated in the [GV roosting sites census in the Balkans](#) and registered the record number of 381 GVs in the Eastern Rhodopes, **Bulgaria**. A total of [654 individuals](#) was recorded across the whole of **Bulgaria**.

25 young GVs were transported from **Spain** to **Romania**, marking the [first step](#) in reintroducing a species to a landscape from which it had disappeared more than 70 years ago.



Cinereous Vulture (CV):

The 2025 breeding season in **Portugal** recorded 119-126 pairs, which [produced 56 fledglings](#) recruited into the population. A juvenile CV – a 2025 chick – was found in a weakened state in Montemor-o-Novo, southern Portugal in Aug. 2025. After recovery at CARAS, in Évora, it was [released](#) in the Herdade da Contenda. Six CVs [were released](#) on 24 Oct. 2025 in the Douro International Nature Park (Portugal). These birds had been rescued and rehabilitated with a period of adaptation in an acclimatisation aviary. Two CVs were [electrocuted on power lines](#) in Tejo Internacional, Portugal, in Sept.2025.

The [first CV nest](#) was found outside **Mallorca's** Serra de Tramuntana (**Spain**). Early data from ongoing monitoring show 49 territories, 35 breeding pairs, 35 chicks hatched, and 32 successful fledglings this season.

[Three grants were awarded](#) under the LIFE Rhodope Vulture project, to replicate successes in **Bulgaria** and **Greece** in **Italy**, **Croatia**, and **North Macedonia**.

On 20 Sept. 2025, in the Omurtag area of **Bulgaria**, a CV released under the BV LIFE reintroduction project in the Balkan Mountains [was shot](#). This individual was part of one of the three successful pairs that [raised chicks this year in the Kotlenska Mountains](#). In the frame of the project [LIFE RHODOPE VULTURE](#), seven more CVs were [released](#) from the adaptation aviary in Oct. 2025. One of them was rescued from drowning in Greece after a fascinating rescue operation by NECCA and SPBT. One of the CVs released in April was [found electrocuted](#) in the release area, where a large campaign for the [insulation of powerlines](#) has been planned as part of [LIFE24-NAT-BG-EP for Birds LIFE](#). A [poisoning incident](#) in [January](#), took the lives of at least six CVs and one GV in Bulgaria. The birds were part of Bulgaria's long-term vulture restoration programmes BV LIFE and its predecessor Vultures back to LIFE. Another [poisoning case](#) claimed the life of a CV in March 2026. The BSPB team built five more artificial nests in the release area of Madzharovo, Bulgaria.

The [Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park](#) in **Greece** celebrated a record number of 27 CVs fledgling, with the population reaching its [highest breeding numbers](#) in three decades. Dadia NP hosted the [second working meeting](#) of the LIFE Rhodope Vulture project in Nov. 2025. In March, [another mass poisoning incident](#), this time in the [Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest NP](#) in NE Greece, [killed nine CVs](#). Three were rescued, two of which have already been re-released, and one is in rehabilitation.



Egyptian Vulture (EV):

In 2025, the BSPB team recorded [36 breeding pairs](#) of EV living wild in **Bulgaria**. These pairs raised 33 chicks, with 30 successfully fledging. Five out of six released birds followed the traditional migration path through **Turkey**, reaching wintering grounds in **Chad** or **Yemen**. Sadly, two were lost along the way. “Neslihan” was [killed by a Bonelli’s Eagle](#), and another likely died while attempting to cross the sea. The EV “Nika” released by the BSPB in Bulgaria’s Eastern Rhodopes in 2024, [died from electrocution](#) during her autumn migration in **Turkey**. Bulgarian EV, “Kushka” [died from poisoning](#) along its migratory flyway in **Yemen**.

Two EVs were transported from the [Horstmann Trust](#) in the **UK** to **Bulgaria** for [future release](#), and have settled into the [BSPB “Vulture School”](#).

The project EP for Birds LIFE [was presented](#) in March in Plovdiv, which aims to safeguard EVs by insulating power infrastructure in **Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Turkey**.

The first EV of the [Spring migration](#) successfully arrived in **Bulgaria** from **Sudan** on 10 March.

Africa

North Africa:

The 2026 breeding season in Morocco [began favorably](#). The CRV Jbel Moussa team monitored about ten pairs of Griffon and Rüppell's vultures in **Spain, Morocco, Senegal, and Guinea** through field and GPS tracking. In **Morocco**, six pairs settled, mainly in Jbel Moussa. In NW **Senegal**, a pair of Rüppell's vultures (RV) established themselves in baobabs in Louga. In **Guinea**, an adult RV was observed in Kundara on a rocky cliff with signs of breeding, marking the first evidence of a GPS-equipped vulture of Guinean origin north of Morocco. The team also noted three pairs in captivity, including a mixed species pair (male RV and female GV). Djurdjura NP, in N. **Algeria** reported its [first ever record of RV](#). A Hooded vulture (HV) observed in **Tunisia** was [published in Alauda](#) 94(1).

West Africa:

Plans for a regional workshop to implement and develop the West African Vulture Action Plan (WAVCAP) are being finalised to be held Abuja, **Nigeria** in late November 2026. The workshop will bring together conservation practitioners, government representatives, and partners. Rufford supported [work](#) in **Nigeria** combined habitat suitability modelling with targeted community engagement to support conservation of remaining HV and Palm-nut Vulture (PNV there) - ‘Ensemble models’ show that only 34.9% of suitable habitat for HV and 54.1% for PNV fall within



protected areas, highlighting a strong reliance on unprotected landscapes. Guided by these findings, outreach was conducted in January 2026 across protected and unprotected suitable habitats, leading to the establishment of a local Vulture Guardian Network, with community volunteers supporting efforts to aid reporting sightings and local monitoring.

In Nov 2025 and Jan 2026, a joint CMS/VSG/VCF team visited **The Gambia** following a number of belief-use trade driven poisoning events in the country to conduct training and devise a strategy to combat wildlife poisoning in the country. More than 20 participants from a range of organisations, including the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the West African Bird Study Association (WABSA). VCF kindly donated a GSM tracking unit that was fitted to an immature Hooded Vulture trapped at the Abuko Forest Reserve near Banjul on the 14th of November 2025. A further four Hooded Vultures trapped and fitted with tracking at the same location during a follow-up visit in late January 2026. These tracking units were kindly donated by Falconry Experiences Wales.

SOS-Savane ONG and its partners participated in a 10-day training workshop focused on learning to safely trap, handle and harness vultures for tracking purposes using best practices at Tangueta, northern **Benin** in the first two weeks of March 2026. The first HV to be tracked in the country was released after being fitted with tracking on the 14th of March 2026 and is doing well frequenting an area long the border with **Togo**.

In **Senegal**, the national Hooded Vulture Action Plan was finalised. In **Ivory Coast**, the belief-based use awareness programme was underway around Comoé NP, with support from Leventis. Another poisoning incident took place in Fissel village, in the Thiès region –the authorities were alerted on 8 March which involved the mortality of 25 vultures after they fed on poisoned donkey carcasses, further highlighting the poison-bait threat in the region.

In **Niger**, [Sahara Conservation](#) worked with and supported local authorities to enable the release of three illegally captured Rüppell’s Vultures (RV) in early 2026.

East and Central Africa:

In **Chad**, a [joint statement was released](#) by the Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DFAP) and Sahara Conservation condemning the cases of vulture poisoning reported in the country in 2025. In **Rwanda**, The Peregrine Fund (TPF) provided expertise on trapping and attachment methods and animal welfare and deployed 9 Druid Debut GSM units (donated by Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior) on HVs in (peri-)urban sites in Musanze and Kigali as part of collaborative work with BirdLife International and Nature Rwanda.



TPF deployed 12 satellite tags (9 in N **Tanzania** and 3 in southern Tanzania), making a total of 41 tags monitored at the end of March 2026. Two poisoning incidents were recorded, linked to the mortality of tagged vultures. 50 birds were killed. One mortality event was confirmed where the cause was undetermined, plus another which was suspected poisoning (awaiting confirmation), and one possible unit failure. Three poison response trainings were conducted for 56 wildlife authority rangers, ecologists, and village game scouts. Over 550 villagers and students received education on the importance of vultures, the threats they face, and the hazards of pesticide use to human, wildlife and environmental health. In **Uganda**, *Nature Uganda* conducted workshops with communities around only RV nesting site. Monitoring of RVs breeding ecology is ongoing in Luku Central Forest Reserve using a high-precision non-invasive DJI Phantom 4 RTK drone to map their cliff nests. 18 nests have been identified, with 12 so far successful and ongoing monitoring planned till May 2026.

In **Zambia/Zimbabwe**, TPF deployed 5 tags in Kafue NP late March 2026 with continued monitoring of 26 vultures tagged in Kafue, North Luangwa, Hwange and Victoria Falls, as part of a broader partnership with the Zambia Vulture Projects and Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust.

Southern Africa:

During 2025, avifaunal [red list assessments](#) were undertaken for **South Africa** including the enclaved countries of **Lesotho** and **Eswatini**. Seven vulture species were evaluated during this process. Only the Cape vulture showed a stable regional population trend, and being assigned Vulnerable status for 2025, compared to Endangered in 2015. The Bearded vulture, Hooded vulture, White-backed vulture, and White-headed vulture remained Critically Endangered, with ongoing decreasing population trends. The Lappet-faced vulture was assigned Critically Endangered status in 2025, although the 2015 status had been Endangered. The Egyptian vulture remained Regionally Extinct. A Belief-based Use (BBU) meeting was held in **Zimbabwe** in Nov 2025, following SADC [Strategy on law enforcement and anti-poaching](#) (LEAP), and LEAP/ Human-Wildlife Conflict Technical Implementation Working Group. The BBU Sub-working group reporting to the LEAP/HWC Working Group was recognised as a need to cover otherwise missing aspects of vulture conservation. This met in January, and was adopted formally, coordinated by BirdLife.

North America

There were two California Condor (CC) publications from Utah State Univ, one on [interspecific competitive interactions](#), and one on [foraging site selection](#) in the Utah-Arizona population. Preliminary results are also [available from a third study](#) on feeding habitat, vigilance, and



competition. [Another paper](#) discusses senescence and individual variation in driving egg size / fertility for CCs.

There were Univ. of Georgia, **USA** publications regarding [bird strike risk](#) with aircraft, as well as a study on the [survival of long-lived avian scavengers](#). In S California, USA, Drs. Peter Bloom, Andrea-Bonisoli Alquati and Miguel D. Saggese, together with students and coinvestigators from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences and California State Polytechnic Univ, have been monitoring and researching Turkey Vultures (TV), covering aspects of the biology and health of this species. Research topics include exposure to environmental pollutants (especially, lead and [anticoagulant rodenticides](#)), [movements and natal philopatry](#), [health and exposure to pathogens](#), breeding ecology, [capturing methods](#), and the role of these birds as bioindicators, among others. For more info. contact [Dr. Peter Bloom](#).

Shaver's Creek Environmental Center in Pennsylvania, USA, conducted a new [programme](#) featuring an American Black Vulture (ABV) "ambassador" so that the public could learn more about the personalities of vultures within the state and the importance of conserving them. Attendees had the opportunity to volunteer as a rotational caretaker for this permanently injured ABV.

A [book](#) reviewing the status and conservation priorities for all raptors has been published online by The Peregrine Fund with chapters involving vultures.

South & Central America

A [recent article](#), "Ontogeny and individuality in flight trajectories of a soaring specialist", investigated the Andean condor, by analysing daily tracks from individuals of different age classes. The results show that fledglings and immature condors fly more slowly than adults, and that flight patterns vary between individuals, irrespective of age. Recent papers provide key information on condors and other vultures health. The [first one](#) found out Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) in wild condors feeding at landfills in the Andes Mountains and calls for urgent action to prevent wildlife contact with human waste. The [second one](#) evaluated persistent organic pollutant (POP) concentrations in Andean condors and the article proposes that understanding POP pathways is crucial for Andean condor conservation initiatives. Finally, [an article](#) evaluated the metazoan parasites of three new world vultures (Cathartidae) from **Chile** with birds that are in captivity. Nine parasite species were recorded in the three NWV, two lice were specific to the Andean condor.



In **Colombia**: Since October 2025, the [Neotropical Foundation](#), in partnership with the CAS Corporation, has been carrying out community activities aimed at the participatory development of a Management Plan for the Andean Condor within the Corporation's jurisdiction, specifically in the Almorzadero páramo, Santander Department, Colombia. These activities are being conducted with various stakeholders living in the high-altitude regions of the Almorzadero páramo, in the municipalities of Guaca, San Andrés, Cerrito, and Carcasí. The activities included: a [regional census](#); socio-environmental workshops; the installation of high-altitude greenhouses for food security; the construction of fencing to protect water bodies; the provision of supplies for sheep herd management; training for condor wardens and nursery staff; and training in nature tourism focused on the Andean condor. Other contributing organizations include the Andean Condor Foundation of Ecuador and the Cincinnati Zoo, USA.

Vulture Conservation Foundation and Fundación Cóndor Andino (FCA), based in **Ecuador**, co-coordinated the Side Event "Soaring Together: Lessons from the African-Eurasian Vulture MsAP and the Strategic Launch of the Americas Vulture MsAP Initiative" at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, held in **Brazil** in 2026. In this event, the elaboration of a Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) for the Conservation of the Vultures of the Americas was approved by the parties in plenary. The FCA will provide technical support for the development of the MsAP, which is led and sponsored by the Ecuadorian Government, with coordination by national and international partners.

In **Perú**, two Andean Condors were recently tagged, including the first nestling ever tagged in an active nest in the country. This work is led by Fundación Cóndor Andino Perú with technical support from Fundación Cóndor Andino Ecuador and in coordination with local governments and Indigenous and local communities. Ongoing efforts also include long-term monitoring of an active breeding site and doctoral research on the ecology, conservation, and socioecological dimensions of the species, with recent advances in belief-based use research across key condor areas of Peru.

In central **Argentina** (Córdoba province) more than 20 condors were tagged with GPS transmitters to better understand their sociality, health and genetic studies are underway. Last November, a workshop on condor conservation was [held in Santa Cruz](#), organised by the NGO Somos Huellas Patagónicas, in collaboration with local communities. With this congress, the organisers were looking to declare the city of "28 de Noviembre" the [National Capital of the Andean Condor](#).

Please send items for inclusion ahead of the next edition of this newsletter in September/October, or submit longer articles [to the editor](#) of the VSG journal.



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