



© Andre Botha

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	<b>&lt; ENDANGERED &gt;</b>	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

## Amazing Species: White-backed Vulture

The **White-backed Vulture**, *Gyps africanus*, was recently up-listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Although one of the most common and widespread of sub-Saharan Africa's vulture species, it is believed that it has experienced an alarming decline in distribution and population especially in areas of West and East Africa.

Habitat degradation and fragmentation, resulting in a loss of foraging range and reduced availability of food, have made a significant contribution to the decline of White-backed Vultures. Poisoning of carcasses is another major threat which, due to the congregation of large numbers of the birds during feeding, can have a devastating impact on local populations. Interaction with energy-infrastructure such as electrocutions on and collisions with power-lines, and the trade in live specimens, also impact on the numbers of this vulture.

A Pan-African Vulture Conservation Strategy has recently been established to monitor and conserve this and other vulture species in Africa. The strategy aims to create greater awareness of the plight of this species, promote their legal protection and the need to implement a range of conservation measures. It will also aim to eliminate the use of potentially lethal veterinary drugs and other chemicals that could impact on these birds.

[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)  
**IUCN SSC Vulture SG**  
 Help Save Species  
[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org)



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.