

# YOU can help save South Africa's vulnerable and endangered animals

## DID YOU KNOW?

VULTURES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE THE MOST THREATENED SPECIES OF TERRESTRIAL BIRDS. MOST ARE LISTED AS CRITICALLY ENDANGERED AND ENDANGERED. IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN, THEY MIGHT BECOME EXTINCT.

VULTURES ARE A CHARACTERISTIC, DISTINCTIVE AND ECOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTS THEY INHABIT.

THE CORE ELEMENT OF BEING A VULTURE IS TO **CLEAN UP** CARCASSES AND OTHER BIOLOGICAL WASTE WHICH IS GOOD! THE TERM 'VULTURE' HAS QUITE A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION SO WE CAN EASILY UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE BIRDS. BY EATING MEAT OFF ANIMAL CARCASSES, VULTURES **REDUCE THE RISK OF DISEASES SPREADING** IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

## WHAT ARE SOME MAJOR THREATS?

- INTENTIONAL AND UNINTENTIONAL POISONING
- ELECTROCUTION ON PYLONS OR COLLISION WITH POWER LINES
- LOSS OF HABITAT (LOSING NESTING TREES OR ROOSTING SITES AND FOOD)

## CONSERVATION EFFORTS:

THE CONVENTION ON THE **CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS** (OF WHICH SOUTH AFRICA IS PARTY TO), THROUGH THE RAPTORS MOU MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN (MSAP) TO CONSERVE AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES, AIMS TO:

- HALT POPULATION DECLINES
- REVERSE POPULATION TRENDS AND BRING THEM BACK TO A FAVOURABLE LEVEL
- PROVIDE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES.

SOUTH AFRICA IS ESTABLISHING A TASK TEAM TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A **NATIONAL VULTURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY** FOCUSED ON SPECIES THAT OCCUR IN SOUTH AFRICA AND TO ADDRESS THREATS THAT EACH OF THESE FACE.

- **INFORM** YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.
- **VOLUNTEER** AT A CONSERVATION CENTRE NEAR YOU.
- **DONATE** MONEY TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Vultures



Picture: Andre Botha