



The role of chemical contaminants in food-chains is not greatly studied but is probably highly significant in causing raptor deaths.

Millions of tonnes of pesticides are sprayed on a prime food base of migratory raptors, namely locusts & queleas, this must have significant though poorly recorded consequences.

BIRDS OF PREY THE THREATS

Poisoning

Targeted and accidental.

Carbamate poisons are widely used in East Africa to target predators that have killed domestic livestock. Vultures feed on the carcasses and many die along with other non-targeted species (jackals, eagles, hyena, etc).

In Southern & West Africa the poisoning is targeted & vulture parts are sold for traditional uses (muti trade) or in witchcraft.

Poachers kill sentinel vultures to hide evidence of poached animals that may draw rangers in.

IMPACT OF A POISONING INCIDENT NEAR RUHA NATIONAL PARK IN TANZANIA

Secondary poisoning is a risk to the raptors that eat a toxic prey item.

1 CARCASS POISONED TO TARGET LION

2 COW KILLED BY LION

3 RAT OR MOUSE EATS RODENTICIDE

4 LION EATS RAT OR MOUSE

5 PREDATORS FEED ON POISONED RATS OR MICE

6 NON-TARGETED ANIMALS BECOME SICK OR DIE

7 VULTURE FEEDS ON CARCASS

8 VULTURE BECOMES SICK OR DIES

9 VULTURE FEEDS ON SICK VULTURE

10 VULTURE BECOMES SICK OR DIES

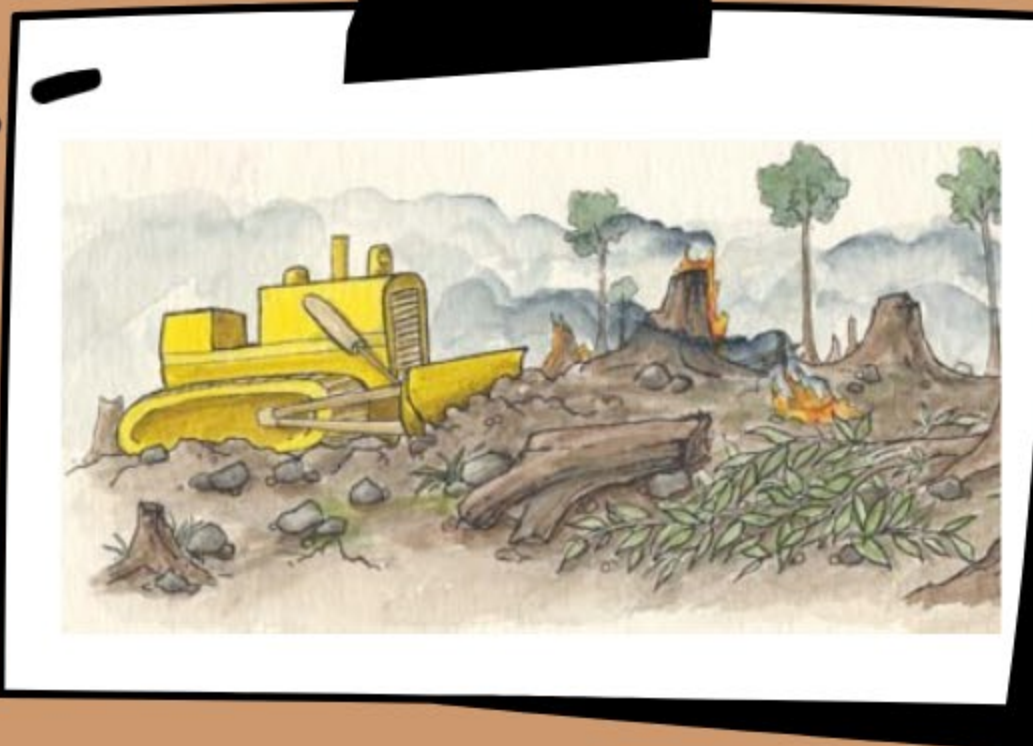
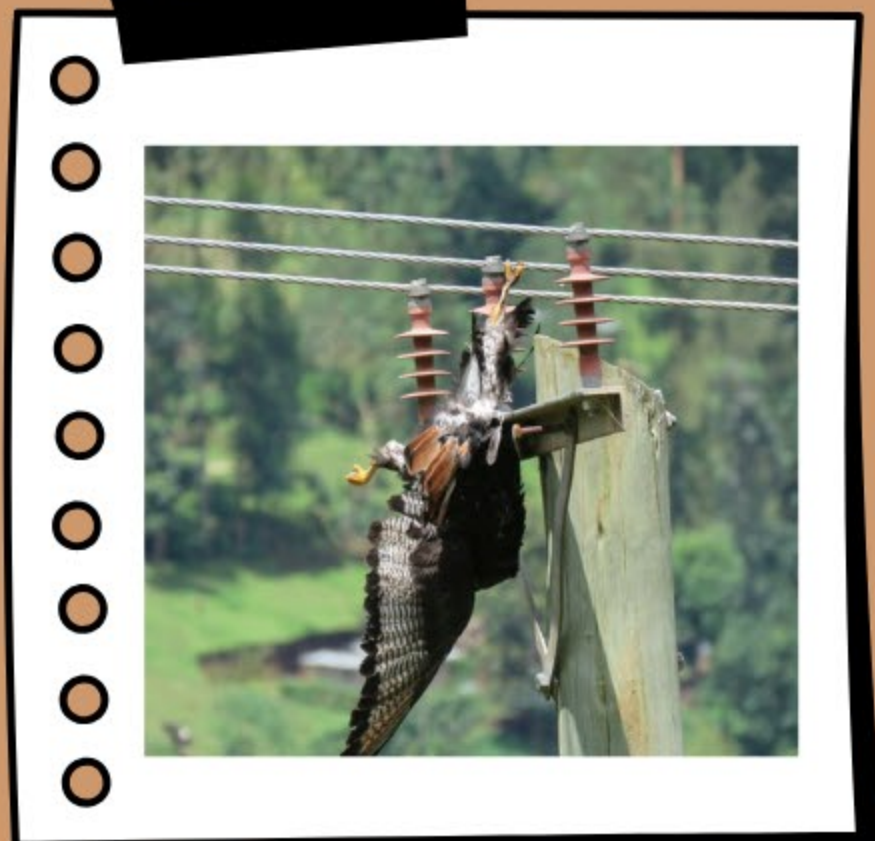
Power

Completely avoidable

ELECTROCUTION IS A LEADING CAUSE OF MORTALITY AFRICA-WIDE.

Avian friendly infrastructure is available for use. In many African countries governments & developers are still choosing non-avian friendly structures, despite the costs to power companies with power outages caused by raptor electrocutions.

Lobby your power companies for change before it is too late!



People

Habitat destruction / development

Shooting (lead poisoning)

Synanthropic wildlife

Collision & Drowning

Including collision with fences, pylons, wind turbines & being hit on roads.

Unusually high number of baboons rob & destroy raptor nests, Egyptian Geese take them over. Artificial nests & nest monitoring become necessary management requirements.



Persecution

Direct killing (owls)

Traditional Beliefs (vultures)

Egg theft / trade

In West & Southern Africa the trade in vulture parts is significantly high with some instances of over 800 vultures killed in a single event.

Play your part. Report any illegal trade you see. Stop any killing or harassment you come across.

