

The Coexistence Co-Op

A joint project of The Peregrine Fund and Lion Landscapes

Improving coexistence between people and wildlife in northern Kenya



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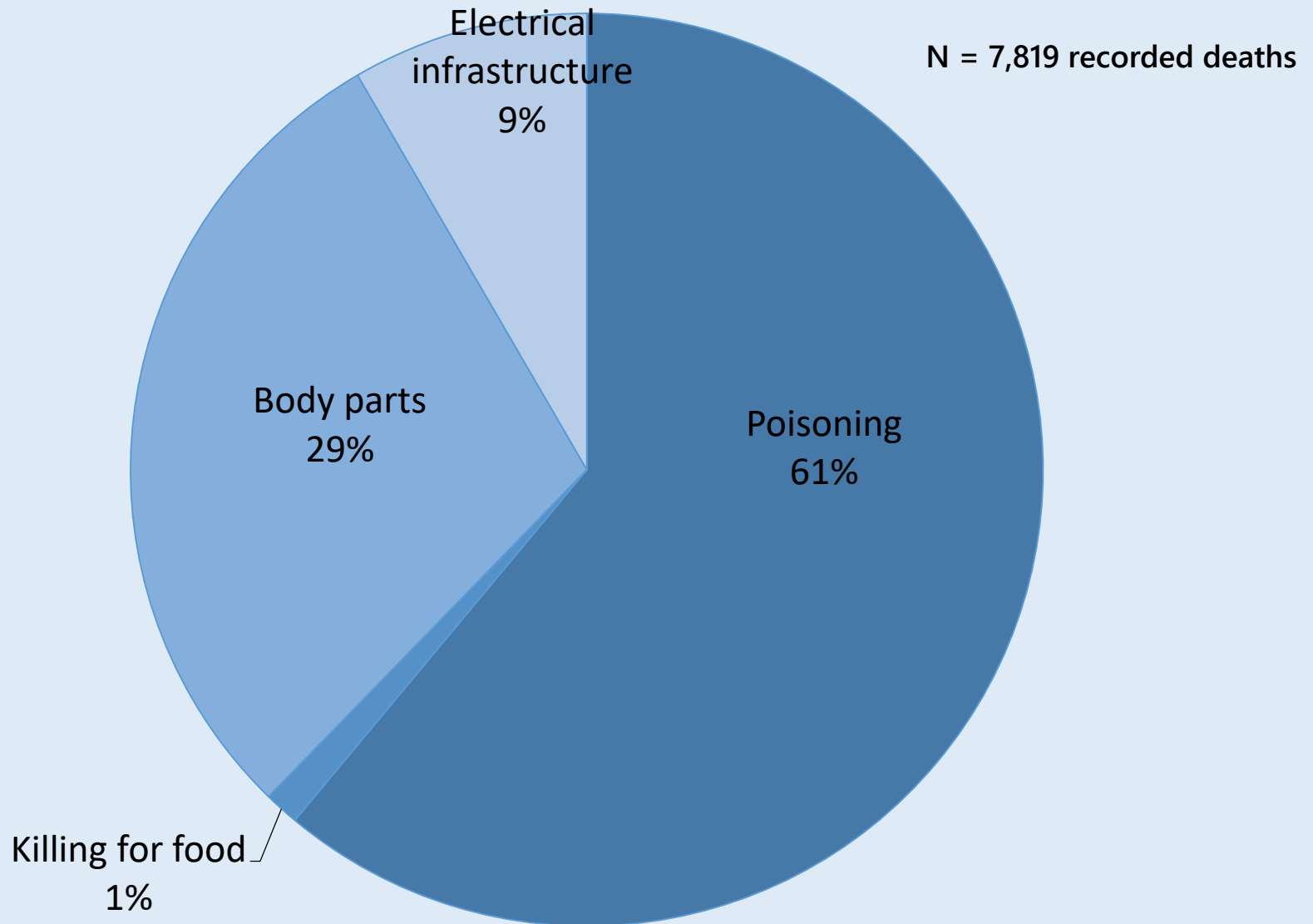
October 2015

IUCN uplisted 6 species of African Vulture



7 out of 11 species are endangered or critically endangered
one species is likely extinct

Biggest direct threats to African vultures



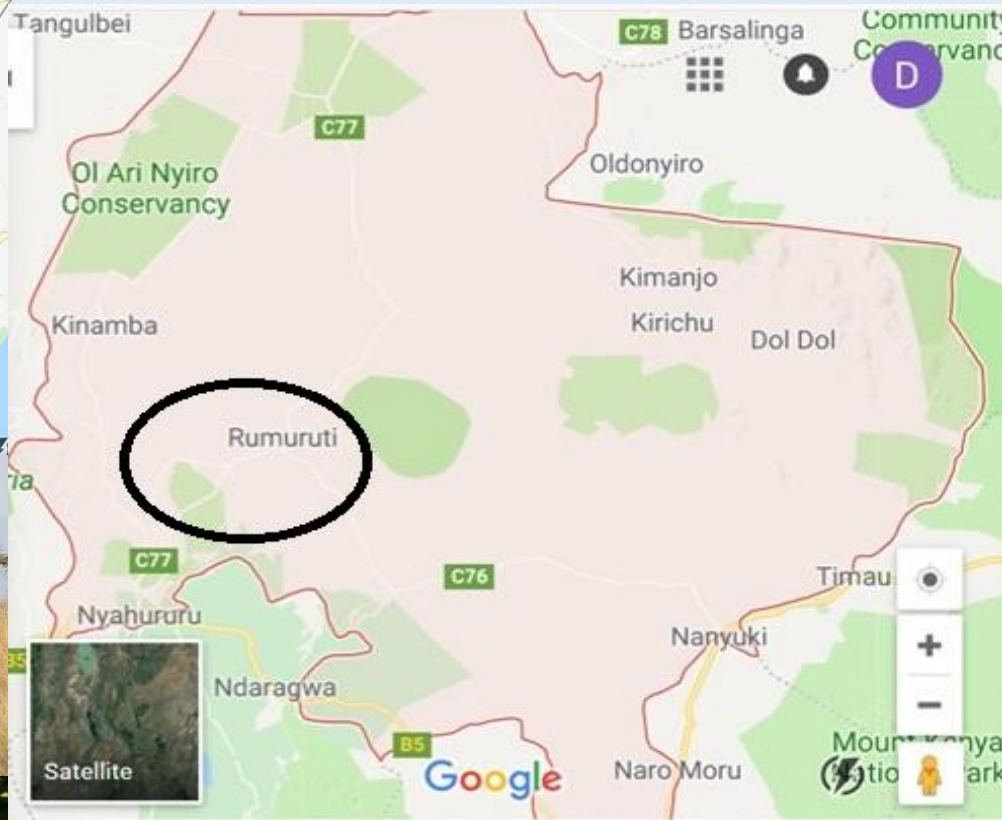
Human-predator Conflict



Objectives

- 1) Reduce human-predator conflict
- 2) Reduce poisoning incidents that are often triggered by human-wildlife conflict
- 3) Secure important buffer zones and areas of connectivity with lion populations further north

Laikipia County



The Team



Martin Odino
Project Manager



Steve Ekwanga
Trainer



Alfred Koech
Trainer



Martin Kahindi
Community Liason Officer



Thomas Mojong
Research Assistant

Coexistence Training

Poisoning Awareness

Began in June 2017

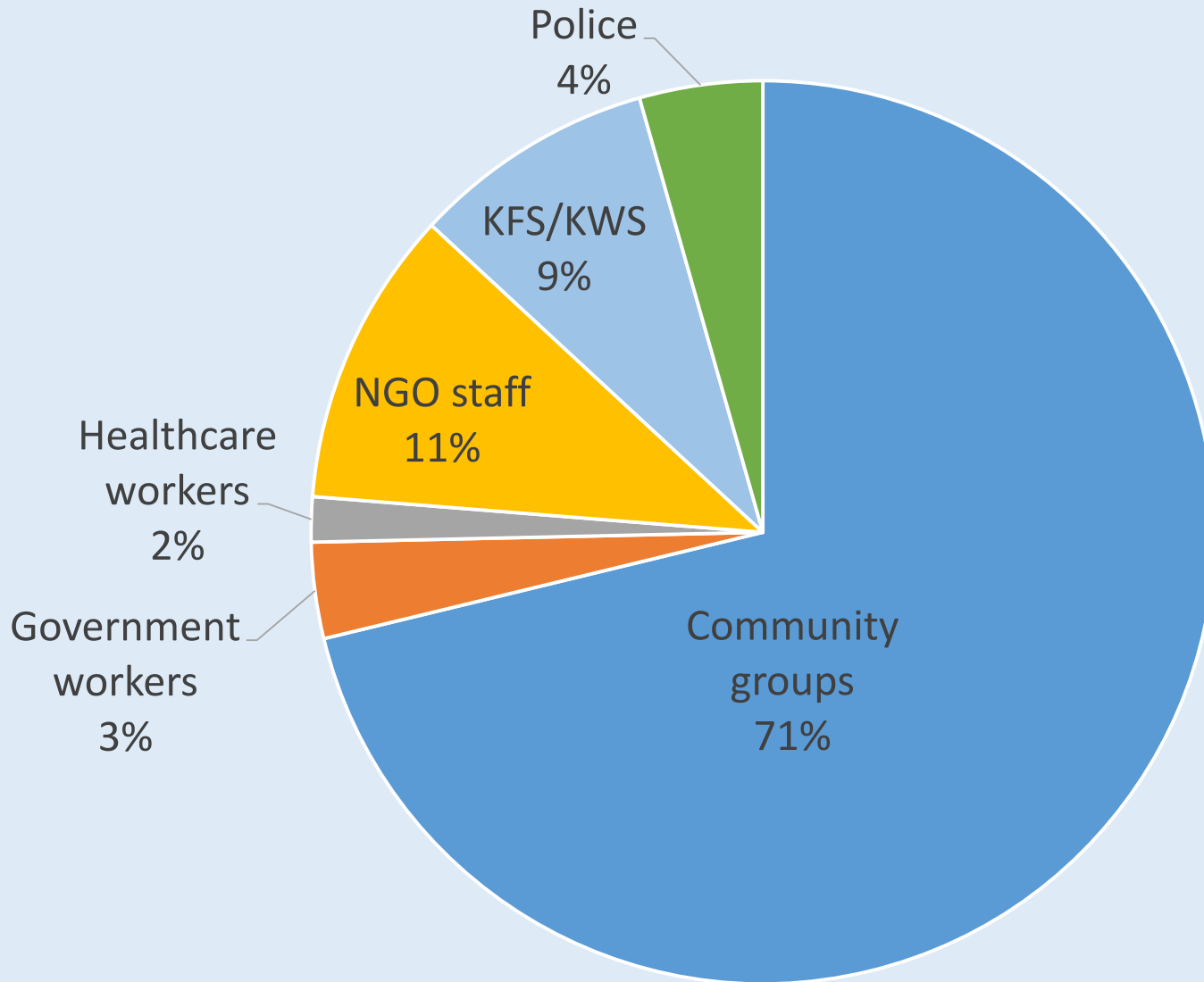
One-day, 15 participants

Topics covered:

- Hazards associated with using poisons and secondary poisoning
- Signs and symptoms of wildlife poisoning
- Basic information on chemicals commonly used
- Personal safety and basic equipment required
- Decontaminating a poisoning site



Focal groups



Coexistence Training

Livestock Management

Began June 2018

One-day, 15 participants

Topics covered:

- Building better bomas (livestock corrals)
- Improving daytime herding practices
- Improving livestock management



Lion Rangers Programme

Helping livestock communities to co-exist with lions

- Train and equip a unit of selected National Police Reserves (NPR) on each ranch
- Prevent or respond quickly to incidences of human-carnivore conflict, including potential poisonings
- Serve as ambassadors by supporting and engaging neighbouring communities in conservation activities
- Collect data using latest technology in the form of SMART on mobile phones



Training Results

1235 Individuals Trained
85 Groups

931 Poisoning Awareness
304 Livestock Management



Poisoning Awareness

- 4 incidents where trainees have intervened to stop wildlife poisoning, including 2 lion prides, vultures and Grey-crowned Cranes
- 58% of our groups train others in their communities
- The team has intervened in one case of suicide and to save 10 poisoned cows
- 13 poisoning incidents involving 24 animals (mostly dogs) where trainees either burned or buried the carcasses



Boma Construction

Minimum of 10 built thus far



Government Involvement

County Development Assistant
Laikipia West



Head Environment Officer
Laikipia West



Community Wildlife Conservation
Committee Member, Laikipia West



Vulture Research & Monitoring

Aerial Surveys

Objectives

- Quantifying Rüppell's Vultures at active and extinct breeding cliffs throughout Kenya
- Estimating total population size of Rüppell's Vultures in Kenya
- Monitoring annual breeding success at three large colonies in Samburu County



Aerial Surveys

Ololokwe

Average 248 roosting individuals
0 breeding individuals
248 Total



Aerial Surveys

Maralal

Average 104 roosting individuals
97 breeding individuals
202 total



Aerial Surveys

Poi

Average 353 roosting individuals

96 breeding individuals

450 total



Vulture Tagging

Tagged a total of 30 critically endangered vultures

17 White-backed

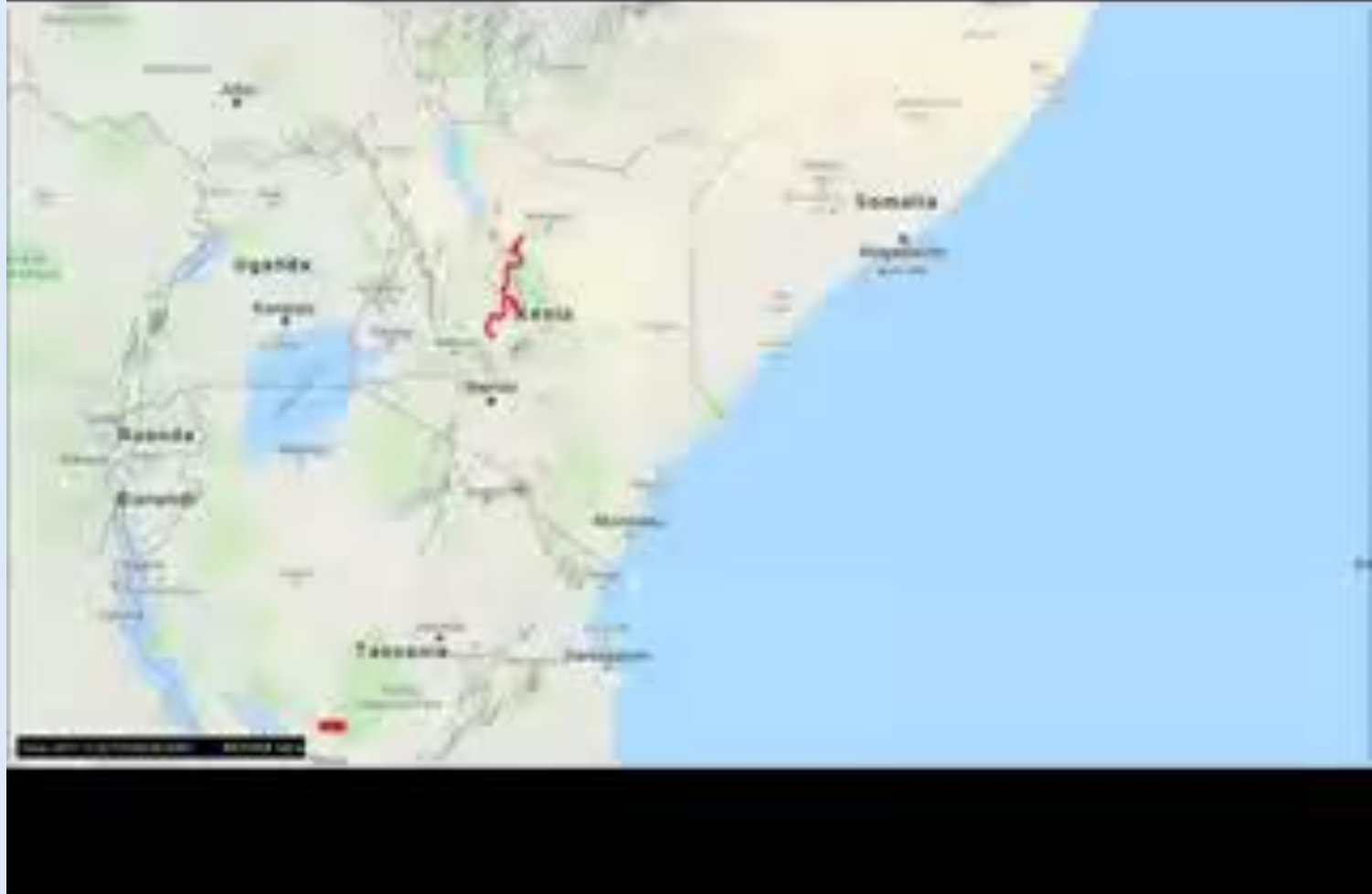
11 Rüppell's

2 Hooded



Currently following twelve individuals

Vulture movement over 40 days



Collaring for Coexistence

- Monitoring real-time lion movements via a mobile phone app, allowing herders to keep livestock safe from lions
- Virtual fences that warn when lions enter areas where there is high risk of conflict
- Alarms that detect the approach of collared lions and warn livestock guards
- Devices that scare away large carnivores using noise & flashing lights



Building Wildlife Toxicology Capacity in E. Africa

Objectives

- Improve collection, storage and transport of suspected poisoned wildlife samples
- Improve analytical methodology for testing samples using various equipment, primarily GC-MS and LC-MS
- Improve interpretation of lab test results and explore options for field-based test kits

Target laboratories: Two Kenyan universities, KWS, Government Chemist, also one lab each from Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia

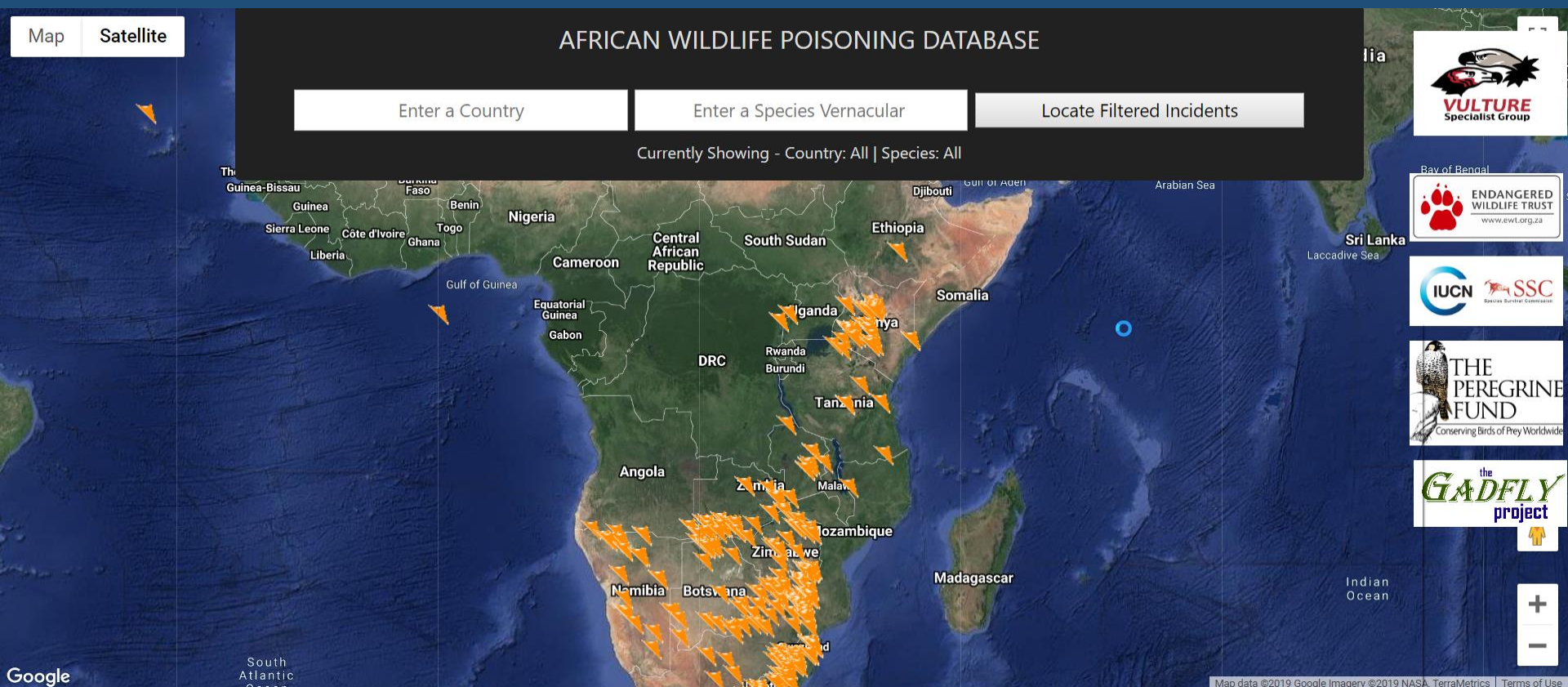
Trainers: Dr. Raphael Mateo, Institute for Game and Wildlife Research, Spain

Dr. Ngaio Richards, Working Dogs for Conservation, Montana



African Wildlife Poisoning Database

africanwildlifepoisoning.org



- Contains records of 451 poisoning incidents involving 15085 mortalities of 59 wildlife and 4 domestic species
- Majority of mortalities were in East Africa (n = 7636), closely followed by southern Africa (n = 7399)
- Largest number of mortalities for a single species have been recorded for White-backed Vultures (n = 4763)

Developing Capacity

Martin Odino Msc. University of Exeter, U.K.

Identifying poisoning hotspots and key conservation areas for critically endangered vultures in northern Kenya



Sidney Shema Msc. Wageningen University, The Netherlands (likely)

Breeding success and population trends of raptors in the Athi Plains, Kenya



Harry Taylor, PhD., Massey University, New Zealand

Blood lead concentrations and their conservation consequences in Kenya's Vulture populations

Collaborative Projects

Exposure of vultures to anthrax in Kenya, and their role as sentinels for a lethal bacterial zoonosis in endangered wildlife, livestock and humans

Dr. James Hassell, Global Health Program, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute



KAPs (knowledge, attitudes, practices) study to evaluate poisoning trainings as part of the Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign 2019

Dr. Adam Ferguson, Chicago Field Museum and Dr. James Hassell

Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind Power and Biodiversity in Kenya

The Biodiversity Consultancy, Nature Kenya, The Peregrine Fund, and BirdLife International



Thank you!

Current supporters and local partners

National Geographic
AZA-CGF/Disney
Detroit Zoological Society
Bowling for Rhinos
SeaWorld-Busch Gardens
Lion Recovery Fund
Ol Pejeta Conservancy
Loisaba Conservancy
Northern Rangelands Trust
Lewa Conservancy
Suiyan, Mugie and Sosian Ranches
Kenya Choppers
Ewaso Lions
Kenya Wildlife Service
National Museums of Kenya
University of Oxford WildCRU
Savannah Tracking
Save The Elephants
Will's Africa Trust
Tusk Trust
The Nature Conservancy

Key organizational collaborators

San Diego Zoo Global
Living with Lions



Photo S. Kapila

