

Project Update: November 2016

Several methodological tests were conducted between December 2015 and January 2016. Field activities extended until the end of May 2016. During that time, we trained one Guinea-Bissau ornithologist, and worked with two members of the protected areas. We sampled 21 human settlements where we counted in total over 2,700 hooded vultures. We produced estimates of the national population which suggests that Guinea-Bissau is probably the most important country for hooded vultures. During road surveys through 1,733 km in mainland, we counted 4,313 hooded vultures (326 birds/100 km) and 160 griffons (8.7 birds/100 km, mostly white-backed vultures).

Preliminary results of interviews to relevant stakeholders to assess threats suggest that vultures, especially griffons, might have been severely affected by indirect poisoning, mainly in the east. We presented our results in the 14th Pan-African Ornithological Congress, in Dakar, and we are now preparing awareness activities. We will soon submit two manuscripts to peer reviewed journals.



Interview and awareness conducted to village leaders and sorcerers of the village of Canquelifa, in the Northeast.



The survey team, scanning the sky looking for vultures, in the Boé National Park, a pre-official protected area in the East of Guinea-Bissau.



A white-backed vulture got stuck inside the mouth of a dead pig while it was feeding on it, and the survey team managed to free it, saving the bird. It was an alarming incident with a happy ending.



Three of the five species of vultures occurring in the country, side by side, photographed during road surveys. From left to right: hooded vulture, white-backed vulture (2), hooded vulture, and a Rüppell's vulture.