

Protecting African vultures in Tanzania



Since 2014, the North Carolina Zoo has worked to protect African vultures in southern Tanzania. In 2018, the Zoo founded the African vulture SAFE program, working with other AZA zoos and international partners to save vultures across Africa.



Why Vultures?

- As scavengers, vultures play a vital role in disease control and waste removal. *We need them for healthy ecosystems!*
- African vultures are some of the fastest declining birds in the world due to poisoning.
- People put pesticides on dead livestock, sometimes killed by lions or hyenas, in an effort to kill carnivores. This activity threatens lions and is devastating for vultures.

Our Conservation Efforts:

- Zoo staff tag vultures with satellite units, allowing us to track their movement. This important data can be used to improve conservation efforts for lions and elephants, as well as vultures.
- Zoo staff train rangers how to respond to poisoning incidents so they can dispose of contaminated meat, save sick vultures, and collect evidence to arrest perpetrators.

