

## Role and Commitments of WWF-Pakistan to SAVE



WWF-Pakistan is a longstanding key SAVE Partner responsible for developing and implementing Pakistan's priority actions defined in the SAVE Blueprint. WWF's Pakistan Vulture Restoration Project involves both ex-situ and in-situ conservation of vultures:

- 1) WWF-Pakistan initiated the Vulture Restoration Project in 2005 by establishing a Captive Breeding Centre at Changa Manga in Punjab Province of Pakistan. The captive breeding facility is the only ex-situ conservation initiative in Pakistan, maintained through financial support from Hawk Conservancy Trust, which is dedicated to holding a safe population of vultures with the potential to breed.
- 2) Changa Manga Vulture Captive Breeding Centre involves the breeding of White-rumped vultures *Gyps bengalensis* to maintain the captive population in good health, produce as many fledglings as possible by natural methods and artificial incubation as necessary and to transfer birds to the release programme as appropriate. It also acts to sensitize students, researchers, journalists and other public visiting the centre about importance and conservation of vultures.
- 3) WWF-Pakistan's in-situ conservation work integrates research and monitoring, advocacy, capacity building and training, community empowerment and awareness, to ensure a viable population of remaining vultures in the wild.
- 4) WWF-Pakistan has established two Potential Vulture Safe Zones in SE and NE Pakistan, areas holding important breeding populations of White-rumped, Long-billed, Red-headed and Egyptian vultures in the wild.
- 5) WWF-Pakistan regularly conducts vulture population monitoring; livestock de-worming camps; livestock husbandry training workshops; awareness sessions among school children, communities, and veterinary practitioners; and assessments on the availability of NSAIDs, which are critical for conservation planning for vultures.
- 6) WWF-Pakistan has also established a Community Based Organisation (Parkar Foundation) in Nagar Parkar Vulture Safe Zone in Sindh province to strengthen community awareness and engagement for the protection of vultures.
- 7) WWF-Pakistan also has close liaison with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, Federal Ministry of Climate Change, provincial wildlife departments and other stakeholders for the banning of harmful NSAIDs for Vultures in Pakistan.