

Breaking the silence: Africa's wildlife poisoning crisis

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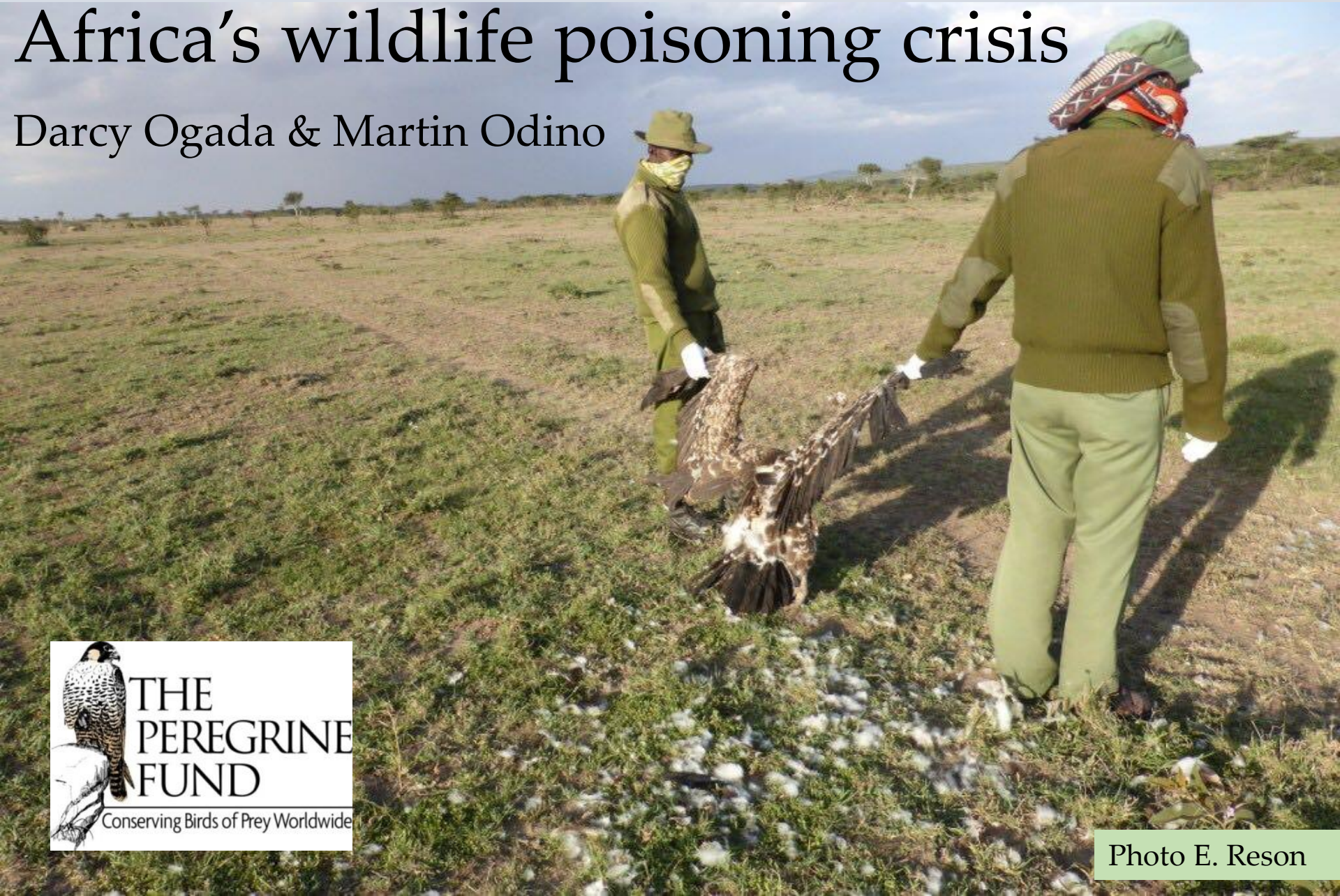


Photo E. Reson

United Nations

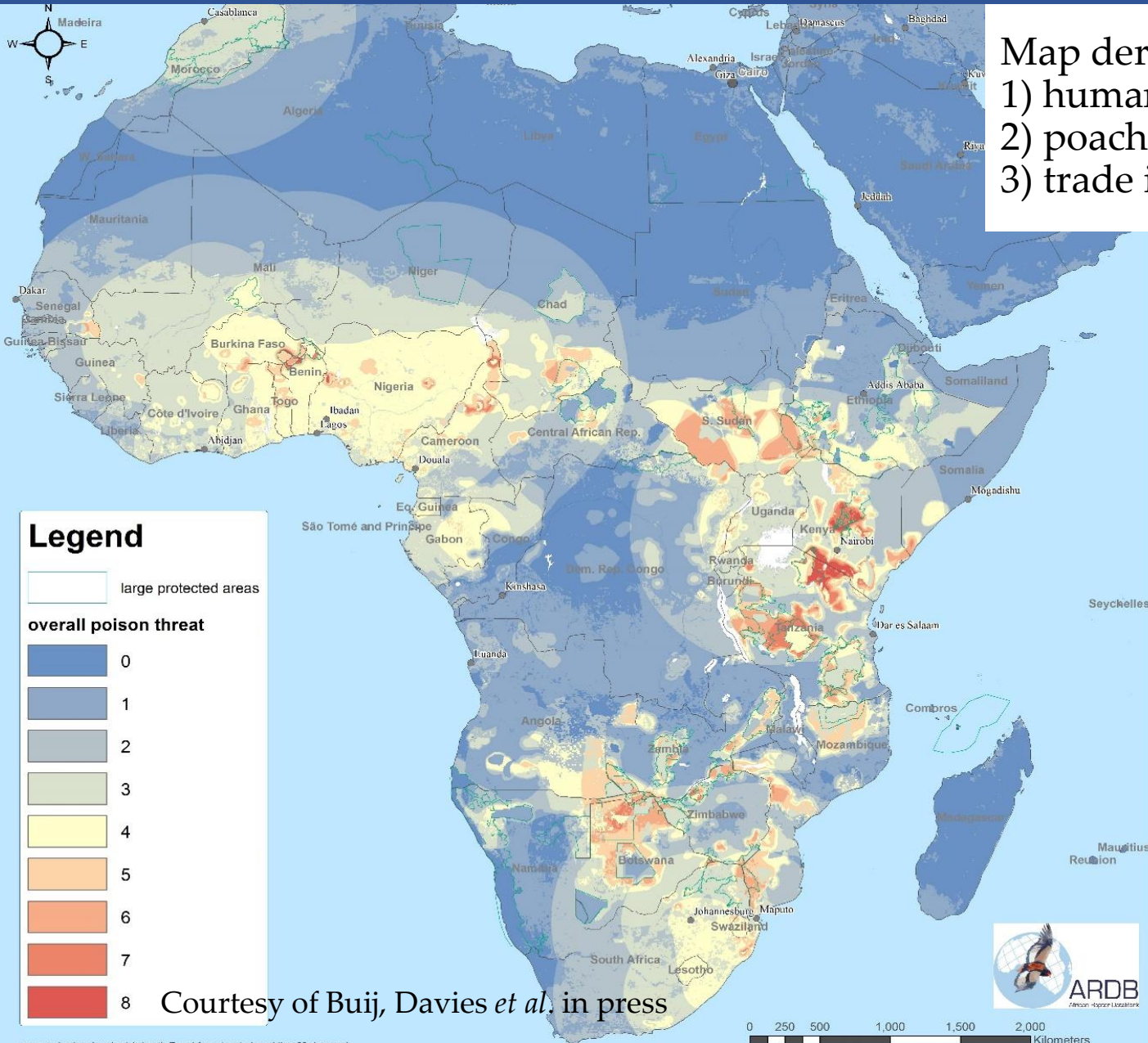
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

January 2017

A clearer account is provided of global pesticide use in agriculture and its impact on human rights; the negative consequences that pesticide practices have had on human health, the environment and society, which are underreported and monitored in the shadow of a prevailing and narrow focus on “food security” ...

Where poisoning is likely to occur

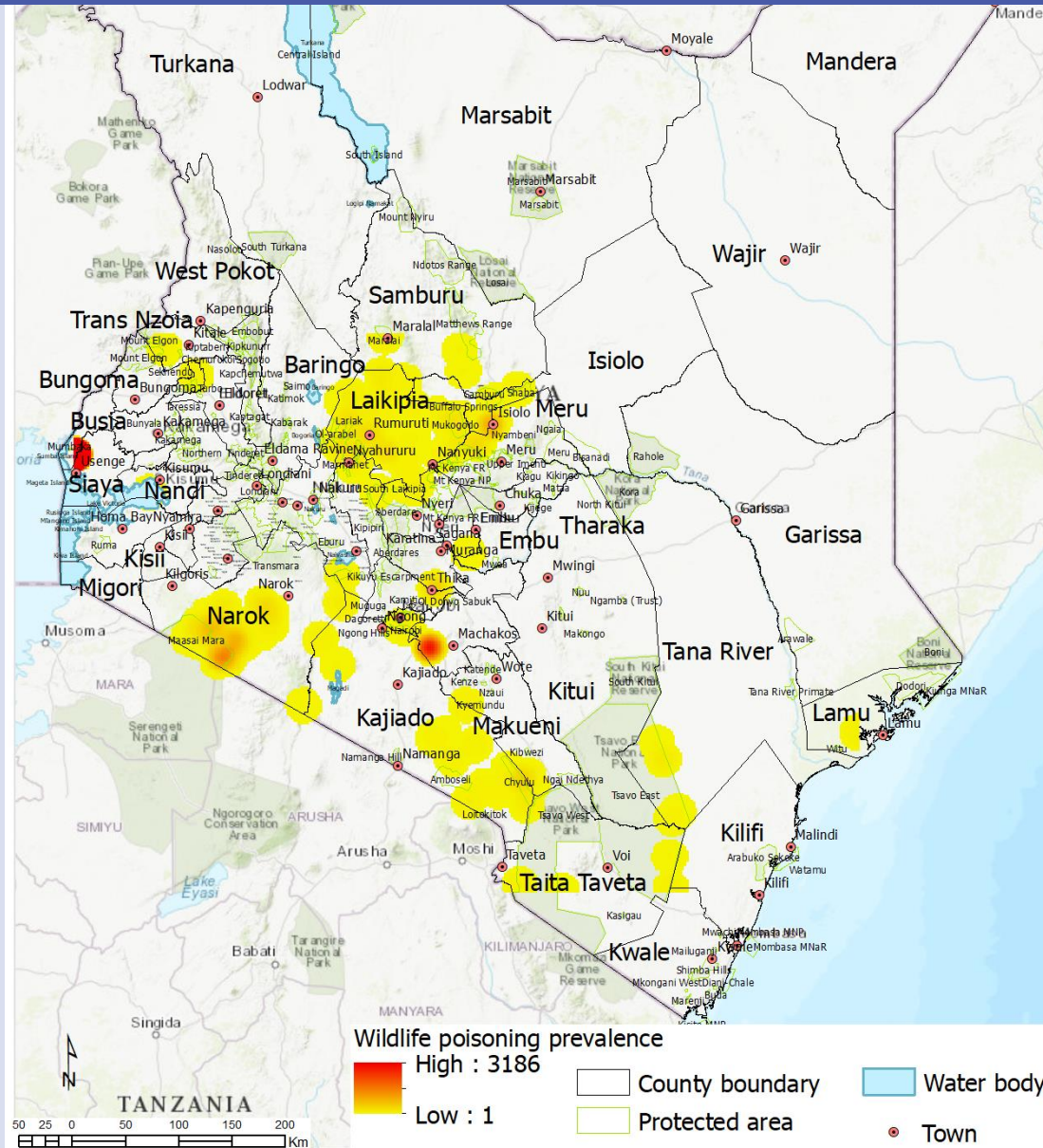
Map derived from data on:
1) human-wildlife conflict
2) poaching incidents
3) trade in traditional medicine



Courtesy of Buij, Davies *et al.* in press



Wildlife Poisoning Prevalence



Silent
Cheap
Easy
Effective



A POISONING INCIDENT NEAR RUAHA NATIONAL PARK



1 COW KILLED BY LION

CARCASS POISONED TO TARGET LION

1 LION KILLED BY POISON +



1 HYAENA, 1 JACKAL, 1 HOODED VULTURE, 1 TAWNY EAGLE, 2 BATELEUR EAGLES, 55 WHITE BACKED VULTURES FOUND DEAD

Based on information collected by the Ruaha Carnivore Project, TANAPA and WCS, May 2016. WCS Ruaha vulture project is funded by USAID.

Motivations for Poisoning



Human-wildlife Conflict

Search

Vulture Protectors
Mar 13 at 12:00 • 🌐

Another human wildlife conflict incident occurred at Mararianda where a hyena killed six sheep and injured 4 in the boma. VLO, Nasoita visited the scene to console the owner.



Harvesting Animals for Food



Harvesting Animals for Traditional Beliefs



Photo G. Nikolaus

Poaching for Wildlife Products



Patrick pics

Intentional Poisoning



Naturalist Gilbert

Monday at 21:16 · 🌐



Millions of red-billed quilea birds were poisoned and killed in Mwea, Kirinyaga county after they were allegedly victimized for invading rice plantations.

Confirmating this for more engangement. Thanks **Faith Chirry Mallan** for the tag.

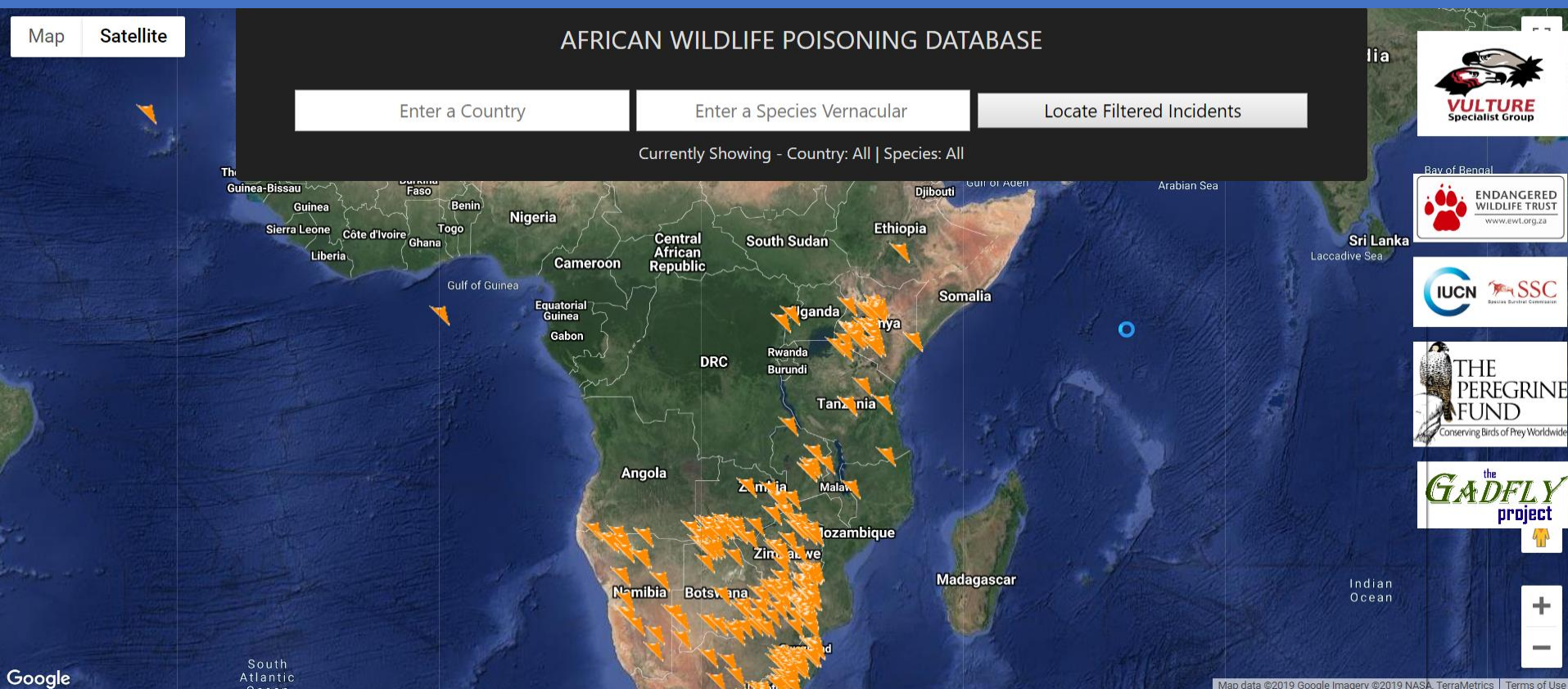
Sad.

Humans please!!



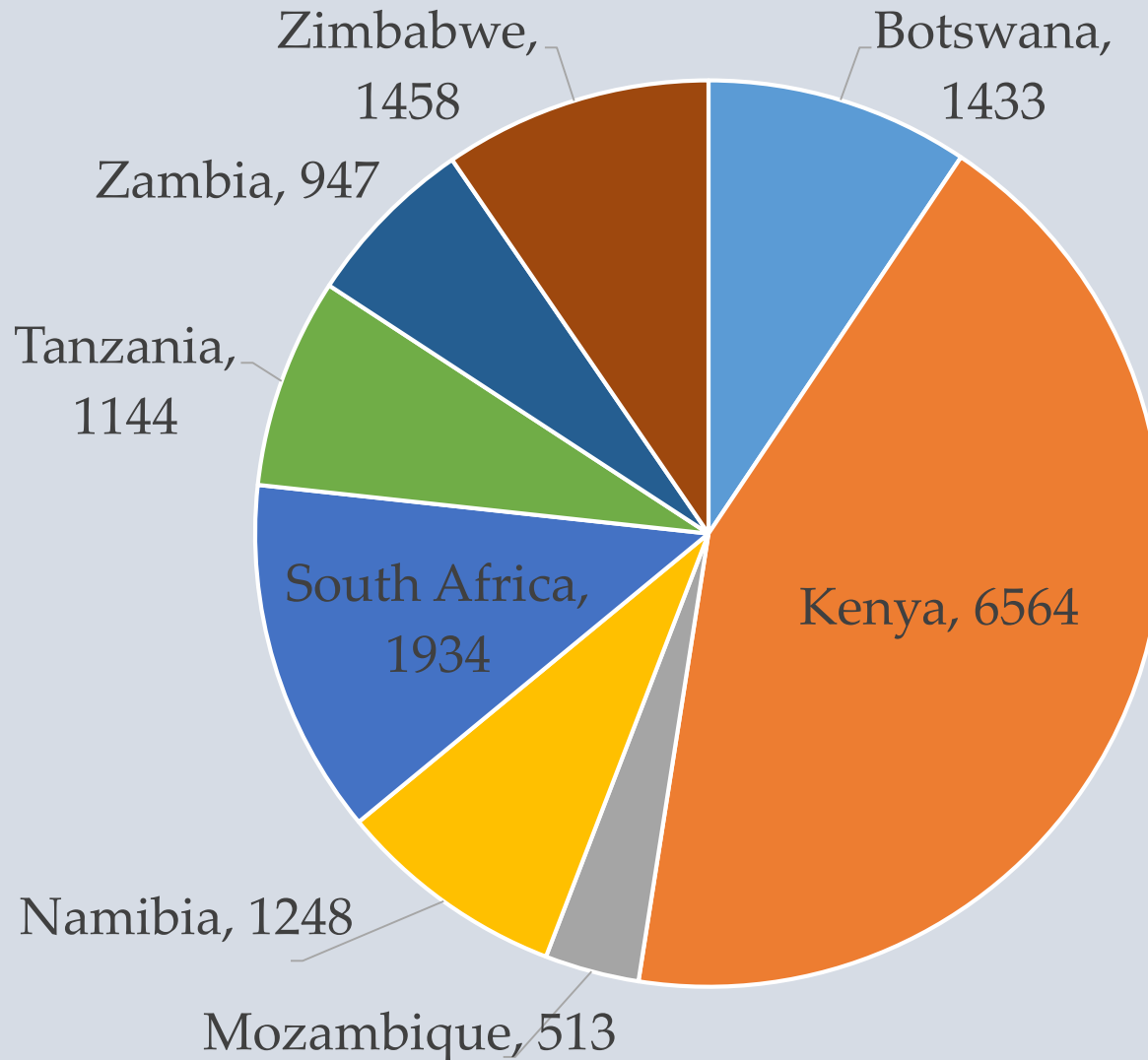
African Wildlife Poisoning Database

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)

Wildlife Mortality per Country



Data from African Wildlife Poisoning Database
Only countries with >50 records included

Poisons Used



Carbofuran
is the most widely abused pesticide
in Africa

Other commonly abused pesticides include strychnine, aldicarb, diazinon, and monocrotophos

Note that each of the pesticides listed above are banned—or their use is severely restricted—in the United States, Canada, and E.U. countries

Solutions



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



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



Training Results

1235 Individuals Trained

85 Groups

931 Poisoning Awareness

304 Livestock Management



Training Impacts

- 4 incidents where trainees have intervened to stop wildlife poisoning, involving 2 lion prides, vultures and Grey-crowned Cranes
- 100% of our groups train others in their communities
- Our 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



Recommendations and Stakeholder Involvement

- Create awareness at all levels of society about the implications of the misuse of poisons for human health and the environment
- Tightening the regulation of pesticides and controlling their distribution
- Active involvement by the Ministry of Agriculture through their Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) to provide stewardship on agrochemical use
- Improving laboratory testing facilities and knowledge of wildlife toxicology
- Developing capacity within law enforcement and the judiciary