

**Regional Declaration on the Conservation of South Asia's
Critically Endangered Vulture Species**

Delhi, 4 May 2012

We, the Government Representatives taking part in the _____, held in Delhi from 3-4 May
2012, hereby adopt this regional declaration:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Government of India

Government of Nepal

Government of Pakistan

Regional Declaration on the Conservation of South Asia's Critically Endangered Vulture Species

RECALLING that vultures are specialized scavengers that provide a critically important ecosystem service by removing carcasses of livestock and wild animals, and carrion from the environment;

FURTHER RECALLING that vultures are an integral part of the cultures of South Asian countries, and play a central role in several of the region's ancient religious traditions;

RECOGNIZING that South Asia's populations of long-billed vulture (), slender-billed vulture () and white-rumped vulture () have declined by more than 99 per cent since the early 1990s;

NOTING that IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has listed all three species as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List;

FURTHER NOTING that IUCN called for urgent measures to be taken to conserve these species, in Resolution 3.079 on the

We, the participants at the

, held in Delhi from 3-4 May 2012, hereby agree to:

1) **STRENGTHEN** regional cooperation, by:

- o Establish



- Cooperating to create trans-boundary vulture safe zones, knowing that political borders do not stop vultures from crossing international borders while searching for food;
 - Enhancing the protection and management of vulture habitats and vulture roosting and nesting sites;
- 5) **CONTINUE AND EXPAND** strategically-designed awareness and advocacy campaigns, aimed at building support for vulture conservation amongst all stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels;
- 6) **STRENGTHEN monitoring and research, by:**
- Continuing and expanding efforts to monitor vulture populations and breeding success on a regular and repeatable basis using road transect surveys and nest monitoring;
 - Continuing and expanding efforts to monitor and quantify diclofenac and other toxic drugs in cattle¹ carcasses;
 - Determining the safety and toxicity of veterinary NSAIDs, if necessary by experiments on captive vultures;
 - Promoting studies on all possible causes of decline of wild vulture populations;
 - Promoting studies on vulture behaviour and ecology;
- 7) **CONTINUE** to develop and foster active partnerships amongst Governments, research institutions, civil society, private sector and international organisations to further accelerate vulture conservation in the region.

¹ Refers to all domesticated ungulates.