

# Hooded Vulture

*Necrosyrtes monachus*



## Species Status

**IUCN:** Critically Endangered  
**ESA Status:** Not Listed  
**CITES:** Appendix II  
**TAG:** Raptor TAG  
**AZA SSP DESIGNATION:** Red

**GEOGRAPHIC REGION:** Africa  
**BIOME:** Savanna

## EXHIBIT DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

### HUSBANDRY AND CARE

SPECIAL EXHIBIT CONSIDERATION	
<b>Outdoor Climate Conditions:</b>	access to heated shelter in temperatures below 40F
<b>Substrate:</b>	grass-covered yards ideal, hay or wood also used, and textured floors recommended for indoor spaces; avoid rugs and bar matting due to tendency of vultures to tear these up, and avoid decomposed granite, gravel, and pea gravel due to possible ingestion risk
<b>Indoor Conditions:</b>	temperature range 50-80F appropriate for this species
<b>Ideal Carrying Capacity:</b>	multiple pairs of vultures kept in as many exhibits (each pair kept separately)
<b>Size of Space:</b>	minimum size of 400 sq ft for outdoor yards; minimum size of 10' x 10' for indoor areas holding one pair; covered free-flight aviaries preferred
<b>Complexity of Space:</b>	props for climbing required
<b>Breeding Environment:</b>	straw and sticks provided for nest building; nesting structures sometimes used by pair
<b>Enrichment:</b>	boomer balls, cardboard boxes, watermelon, pumpkins
<b>Other:</b>	species "spooks" easily, so care taken when pair is held indoors for weather conditions or other reasons
OPTIMAL EXHIBIT FEATURES	
Open space for free flight, Perching area, Sunlight/basking area, Tall space with vertical structure, Visual barriers from conspecifics	

### SPECIES APPEAL

- Very active animal or high visibility
- Multi-species opportunities
- Candidate species for AZA SAFE
- Conservation significance

### MESSAGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Habitat loss
- Endangered species conservation
- Poaching/illegal take
- Unsustainable hunting/harvesting

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## MULTI - SPECIES EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES

- Vulture, Lappet-Faced
- Vulture, African White-Backed
- Bird (Various spp.) - Crane
- Bustard, Kori
- Spoonbill, Roseate
- Bird (Various spp.) - Waterfowl, Large
- Vulture, Cape
- Spoonbill, African
- Hoofstock (Various spp.) - Small
- Hornbill, Northern Ground
- Bird (Various spp.) - Waterfowl, Small
- Flamingo (spp.)
- Hornbill, Southern Ground
- Bird (Various spp.) - Hornbill
- Vulture, Ruppell's Griffon
- Crane, Grey-Crowned
- Crane, Black Crowned

## NON - SSP SPECIES THAT COULD BE SUBSTITUTED BY HOODED VULTURE

- none identified

### SPECIES BIOLOGY

<b>Activity pattern:</b>	Diurnal
<b>Potential risk to humans:</b>	Sharp bill or beak, Talons
<b>Diet</b>	mice, rats, fish, birds, commercial diet
<b>Health and Veterinary</b>	nervousness in indoor stalls, resulting in damaged wing tips, especially if pinioned
<b>OFFSPRING HOUSING and REPRODUCTION</b>	
<b>Gestation or Incubation:</b>	52 to 55 days
<b>Weaning, Fledging or Metamorphosis:</b>	4 months
<b>Number of Offspring per Reproductive Event:</b>	1 egg per clutch; can double clutch

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## SSP SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE

**Current Size:** 40 (21.17.2) at 10 institutions (1 non-AZA )

**SSP Coordinator:** Thomas Schneider  
(tschneider@dzo.org)

### CURRENT POPULATION SUMMARY

The Raptor TAG has set a target population size of 50 animals in the Hooded Vulture SSP population. The managed population has been stable ( $\lambda = 1.01$ ) historically, and has retained 89.57% of its founding gene diversity.

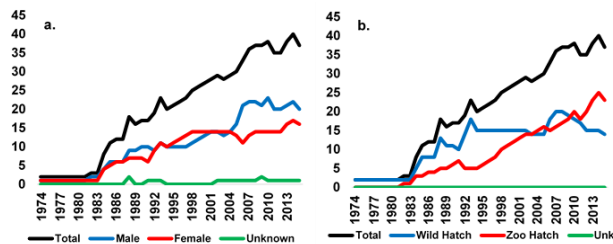


Figure 1: Census of the Hooded Vulture SSP population by (a) sex and by (b) origin from 1974 to present using data from the North American Regional studbook (Data current to October 2016).

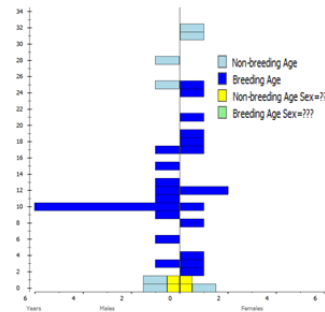


Figure 1: The age structure of the potentially breeding population, N = 35 (18.16.1), of hooded vultures (Data current to October 2016).

Figure 1: Census of managed hooded vultures in the AZA population over time, by sex (left) and by origin (right). Breeding and Transfer Plan 2017

Figure 2: Age pyramid of the AZA hooded vulture population. Breeding and Transfer Plan 2017

### PROJECTED POPULATION SUMMARY

Population Viability Analysis has not yet been conducted for this population.

No Image available

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## CHALLENGES TO SSP POPULATION SUSTAINABILITY

CHALLENGE	GOAL	ACTION	NEED
Ambassador Animal	Increase reproductive output or recommended breeding pairs	Include reproductively viable ambassador animals in breeding population	A number of birds are in education programs. These birds, while serving a great purpose, could be utilized in breeding situations. The population needs to grow in numbers to reach the TAG goals.
Genetics	Improve founder representation	Develop Breeding and Transfer Plan	Historically, there have been very limited successful pairings and one pair had a large number of offspring. The SSP needs to go through the population planning process to develop a Breeding and Transfer Plan. This will facilitate clear communication with institutions on population management recommendations, and will provide insight into population genetic and demographic health.
Reproduction	Increase reproductive output	Recruit institutions and/or increase space at participating institutions	This has always been a small population, partly due to lack of commitment to this smaller vulture species, despite its Critically Endangered (IUCN) status. More facilities in southern areas are needed, so that pairs do not need to be kept in winter holding and more breeding pairs can be established. Without institutional commitment and a space recruitment of this kind, long-term SSP population sustainability is not likely.

## REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE

- Artificial incubation

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## ACQUISITIONS AND TRANSFERS

### IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND REINTRODUCTIONS

Imports	The last wild-caught imports were in 2004. WC birds are not sought now due to their status, but non-releasable rehab birds are a possibility for future founder imports.
Exports	There are no plans to export at this time.

\*DISCLAIMER: This report was last updated on 06/13/2017. The AZA Species Sustainability Database and SSP Sustainability Reports were developed through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Content is based on Animal Program recommendations and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums or other collaborating institutions. Modeling results and analyses are based on the best understanding of the current population dynamics and should not be regarded as absolute predictions. The use of this report should be in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Some government laws and regulations may be referenced, but these are not all-inclusive nor is this report intended to serve as an evaluation tool. Please consult the SSP Coordinator if you are considering incorporating this species into a zoo or aquarium, or with questions regarding husbandry practices.