

Four years of survey and monitoring of Lapped-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) in Termit, Niger.

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Summary

The survey and monitoring of Lapped-faced vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* started 4 years ago in the future reserve of Termit – Tin Toumma. Surveys show that, we have less than 30 pairs remaining in the wild in Termit. The main objective is to improve knowledge of the raptor in this particular area for sound conservation measures. Priority specific objectives are: to estimate the population of this specie in Termit, to identify threats to lapped-faced vulture and to elaborate a conservation plan.

Both road survey and count units methods are combined to reach the expecting results.

Continuous surveys from vehicle based on stopping and making observations from fixed vantage points along the survey route have been suitable. Two visits are made early in the breeding season to establish occupancy, and two subsequent visits to establish success or confirm that a nest is not occupied or breeding has not taken place.

A total of 107 birds have been recorded in 2008 and 83 individuals in 2009 against 74 in 2010.

Threats to lapped-faced vulture from human interference are the cause of nesting failure.

Drought is also recognised as one of the most important threats to birds (2 chicks died on the nests and an adult in a well in 2010). The use of chemicals as strychnine to eliminate Jackal is another threat to be proved. Conservation measures include awareness campaign, providing water around wells during reproduction period, satellite tracking to know where birds are going after reproduction and the elaboration of conservation strategy based on fly way approach.