

Geographical distribution and local community perception of Rüppell vulture in Bandia classiffied forest in Senegal

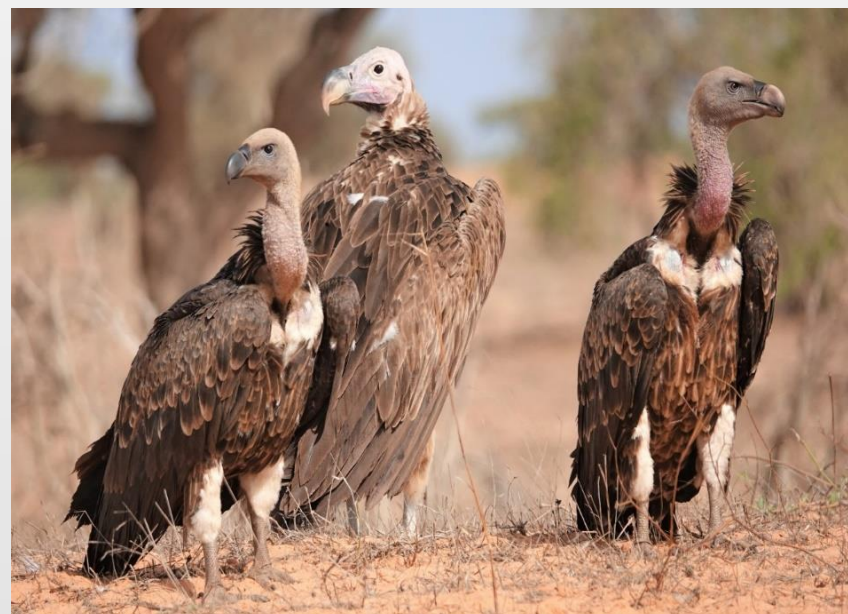


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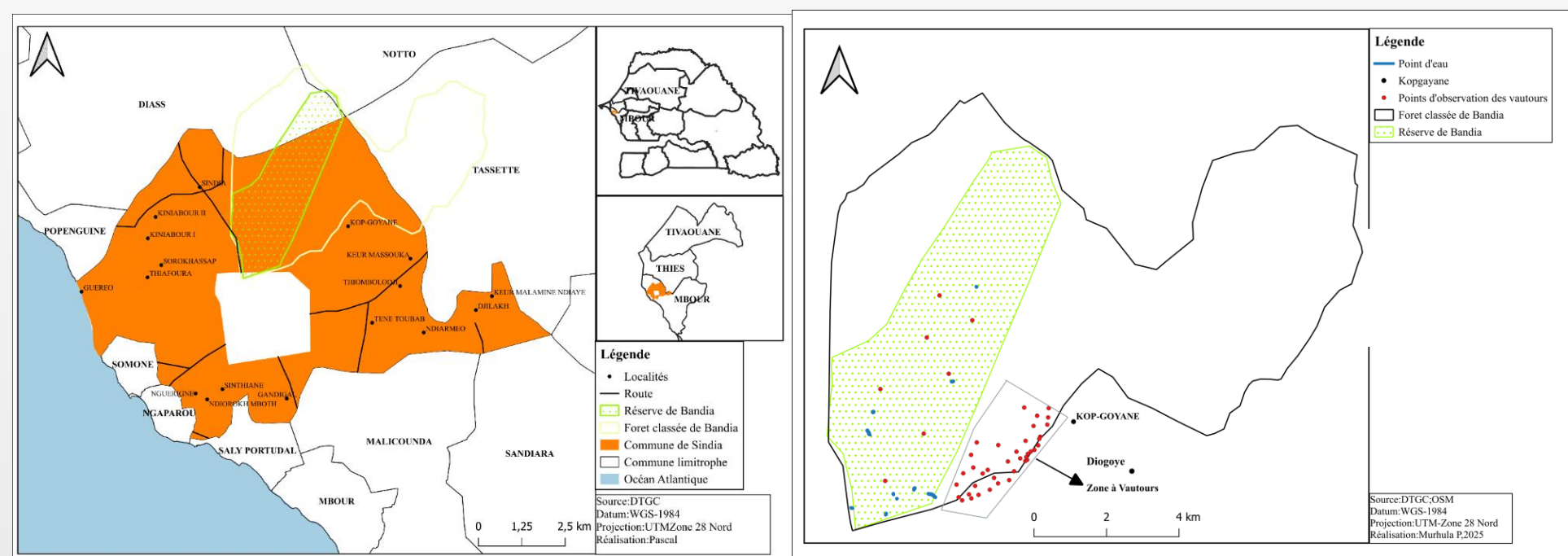
Background

Over the past 30 years, vulture populations in Africa have declined by 62%, with six species critically endangered, including Rüppell's vulture (Ogada et al., 2016). The aim of this study is to assess the geographical distribution and local community perceptions of Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*) in the Bandia Classical Forest for sustainable conservation. with three specific objectives: (1) to determine the distribution of Rüppell's vultures, (2) assess the factors influencing nesting, (3) assess the local community perceptions



Methodology

The Bandia classified forest is located in the commune of Sindia, Mbour department, Thiès region in Senegal. With a surface area of 12,000 Ha



Sampling point

1

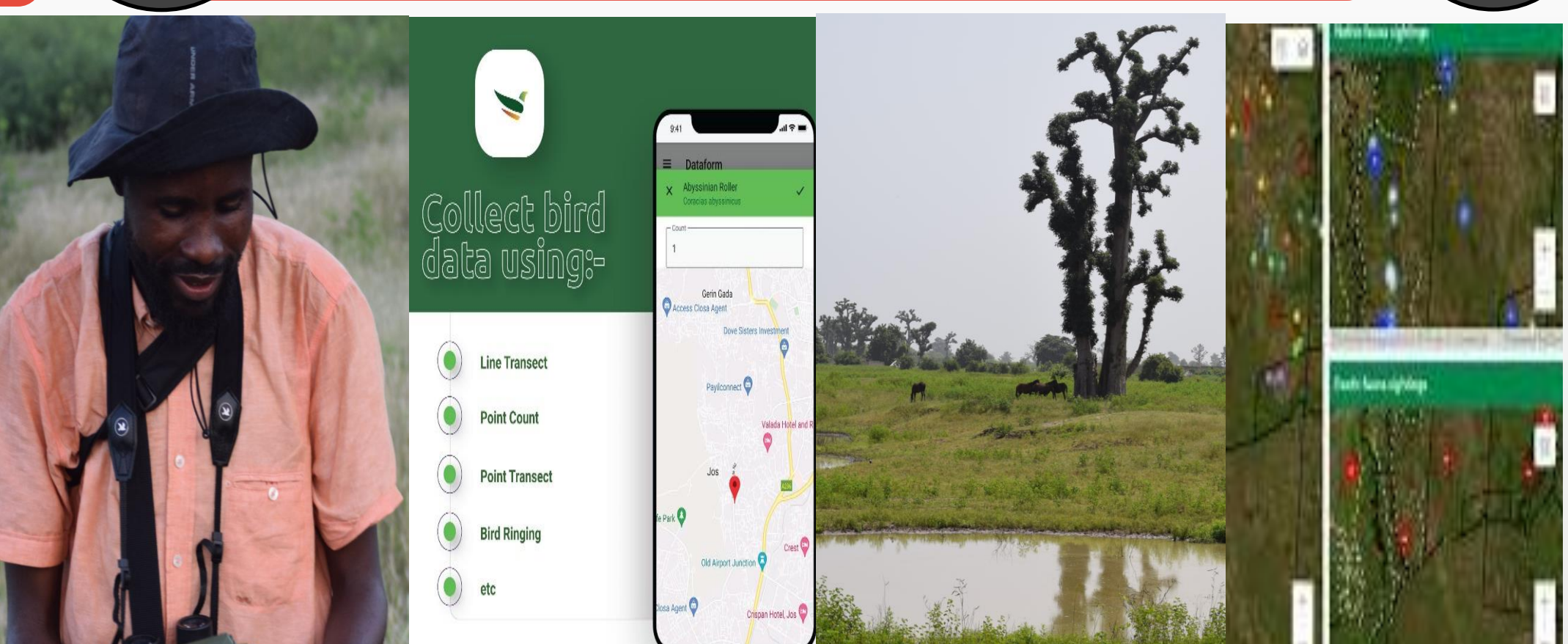
Methodology : Roadside counts and sample point



(Bibby et al., 2000),

2

Methodology : environmental data collection



(Daboné et al., 2024)

3

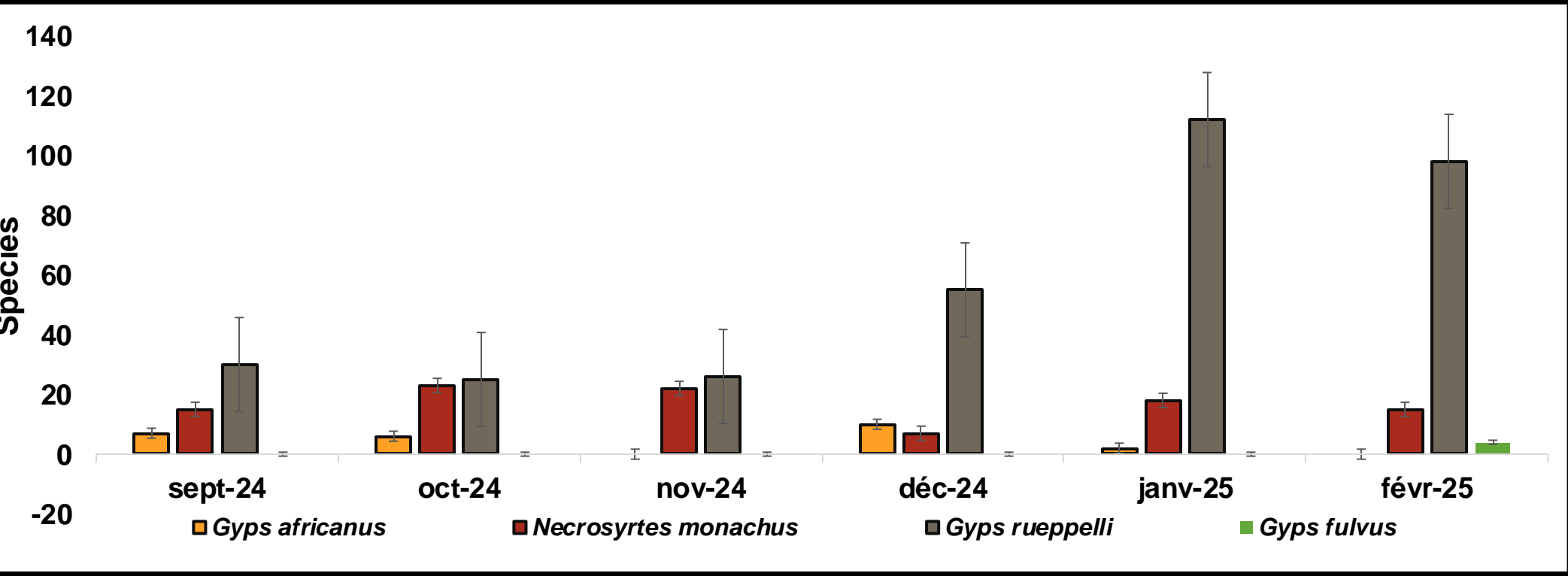
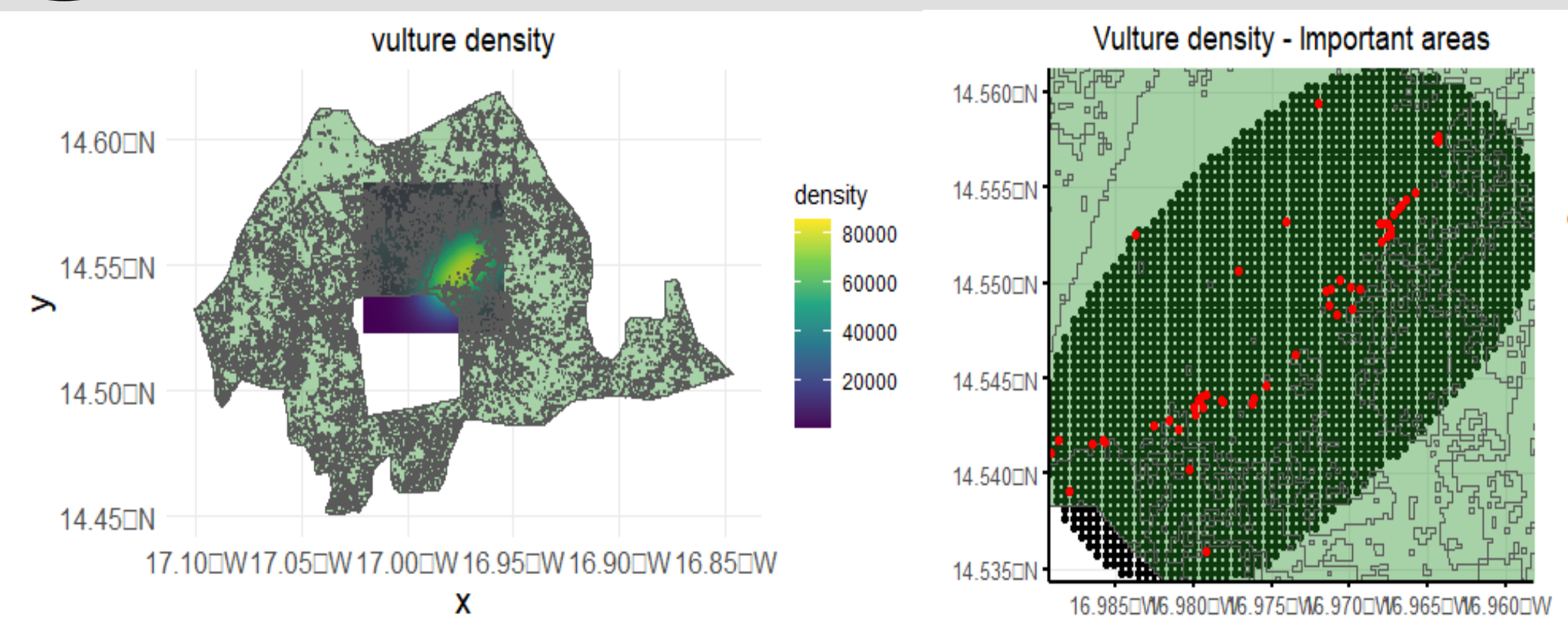
Methodology : Questionnaire suvey



(William et al., 2021),

1

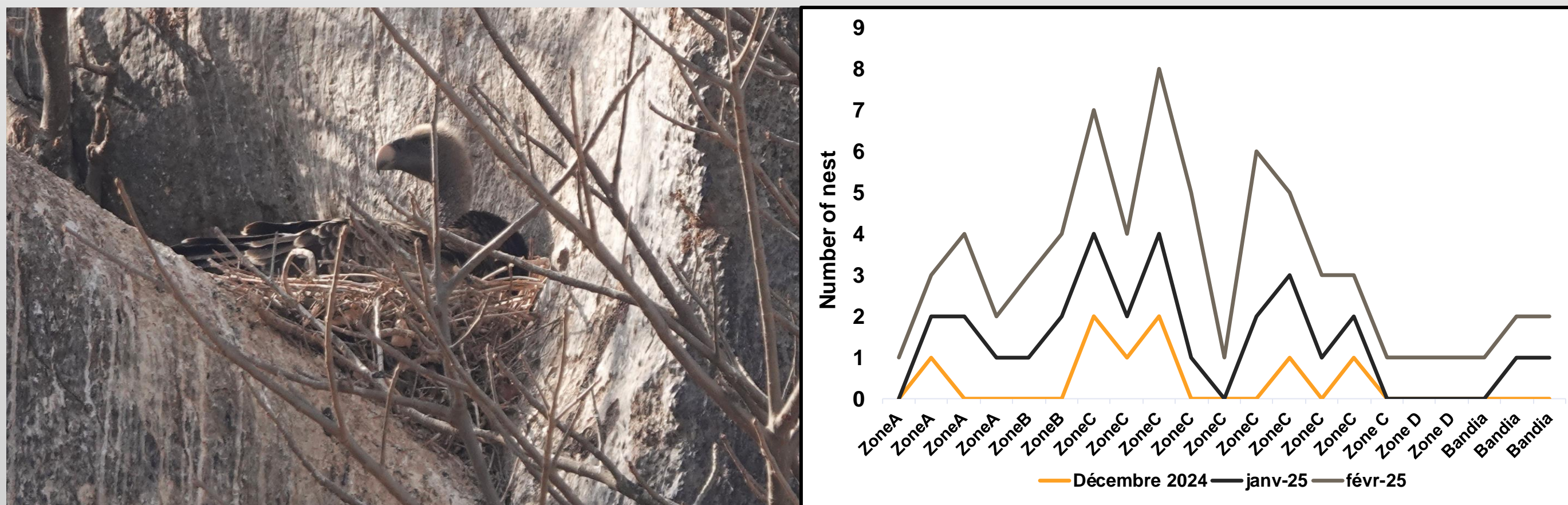
Results : distribution of Rüppell's Vultures



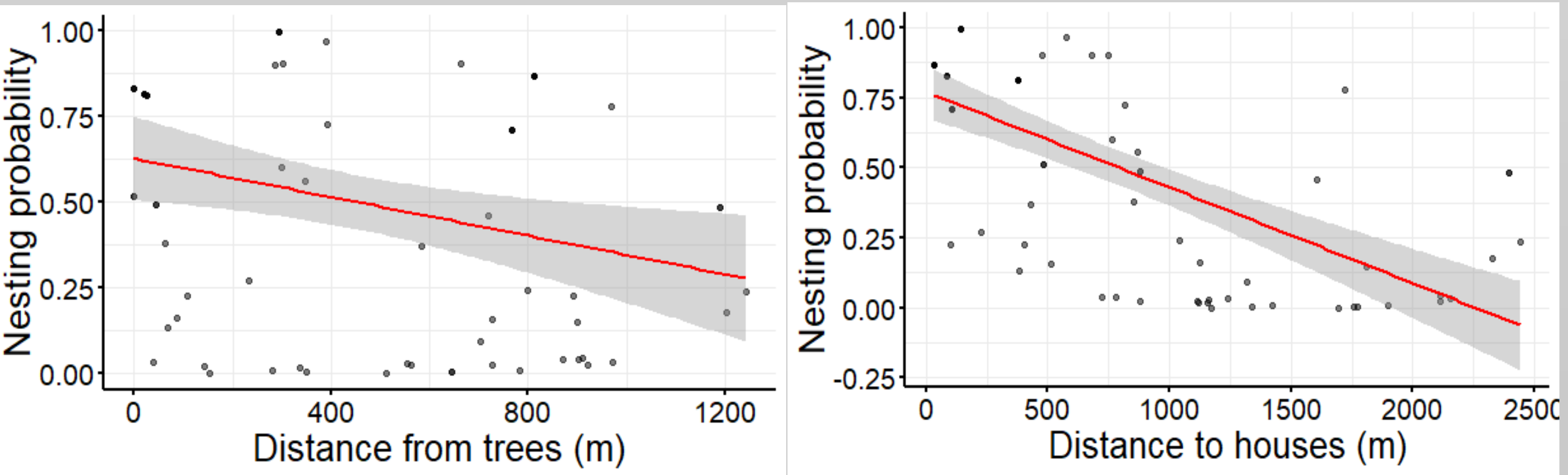
The distribution of vultures is concentrated in four areas during the six months of sampling. Four vulture species were identified, with Rüppell's Vulture being the most represented (306 individuals). It prefers less vegetated areas..

2

Results: Environmental factors affecting nesting



Rüppell's Vulture nesting and monthly nest dynamics

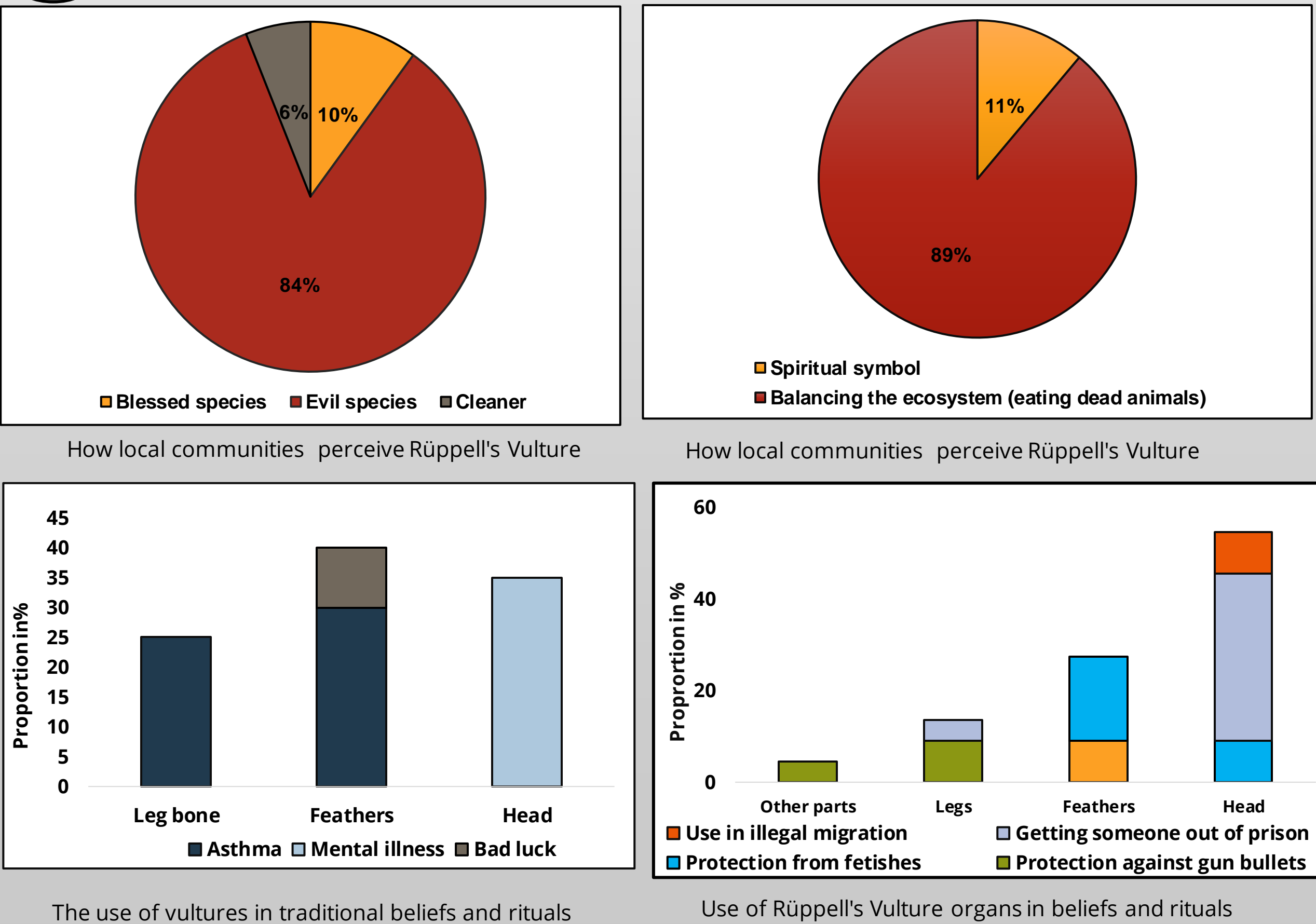


Factors affecting nesting

In Bandia, Rüppell's Vulture nests on baobab trees. Nesting activity increases from February. The species prefers nesting near human settlements, indicating that the distance to buildings influences the likelihood of nesting.

3

Results : Community perceptions of Rüppell's Vultures



The use of vultures in traditional beliefs and rituals

The population perceives Rüppell's Vulture as a harmful or evil species (84%), but acknowledges its ecological role (89%). The head is the most commonly used body part in traditional medicine (35%) and ritual practices (50%) .

Conclusion

Four vulture concentration zones were identified as key areas for conservation. Vultures nest near human settlements, where they are often perceived negatively but are also valued for their ecological role and medicinal uses. Notably, this study reports the second record of Rüppell's Vulture nesting on baobab trees in West Africa. Conservation efforts should focus on raising community awareness, preserving baobab landscapes, and fully involving local communities in the process.

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