



Why Poisoning is a big Threat to carnivores and scavengers



Why poison?

The most common reasons for poisoning are control of damage-causing animals, harvesting bushmeat, harvesting animals for traditional medicine, poaching for wildlife products, and killing wildlife sentinels (e.g., vultures because their aerial circling alerts authorities to poachers' activities).

Who are the targets?

The perpetrators are usually either farmers applying deadly chemicals as a weapon of choice because they see lions, elephants, and other wild animals as threats to livestock, crops and property or poachers who see wildlife as a source of trade and livelihood.

Who are the victims?

- Populations of scavengers, particularly vultures, have been decimated by poisoning.
- Targets such as lions, and non target species such as jackals, foxes, hyenas and other secondary predators fall victims of poisoning
- Other scavenging birds such as kites and storks will die when they eat the poisoned carcasses

What are the solutions?

- There is need to either target pesticides or improve pesticide regulations and control distribution
- There is need for review enactment and better enforcement of regulations on the use of pesticides (poisons)
- Institute stiffer penalties for offenders community
- The authorities need to increase awareness on the dangers of wildlife poisoning



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