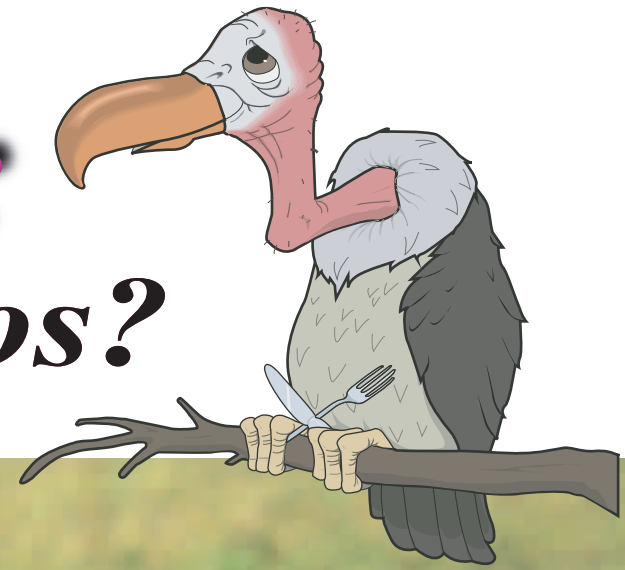


Vultures aren't cute. They rip the flesh from animals the moment they die. But vultures are disappearing from Indian skies. Researchers in neighbouring Pakistan have collected statements from some of the people affected.

Your team has to convince the Indian and Pakistani governments that something must be done to save the vultures

- ◆ use the ecologist's information to draw a food web for Indian cattle
- ◆ use your food web and the statements to explain why giving cattle cheap painkillers will cause problems in future
- ◆ propose a way of saving the vultures.

Vultures: The next dodos?





Ecologist

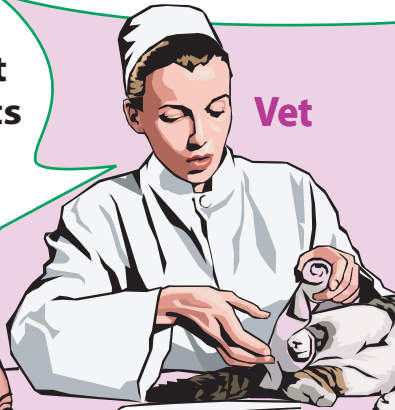
Science Research Council Spokesperson



People don't eat cows in India, but cows provide milk and also transport heavy loads. When cattle die their bodies are left for vultures to eat. Wild dogs grab any meat left over and microbes slowly break down the rest of carcass.

Over the past 10 years, diclofenec use has risen dramatically and vulture numbers have plummeted.

Diclofenec is an excellent painkiller. It gets a lame cow straight back on its feet.



Vet

Parent



Researcher

Huge packs of wild dogs roam the area. I'm afraid to let the children out of my sight. They could die from rabies if they get bitten.

Businessperson



By chance, sometimes a cow dies after it's taken diclofenec. A vulture that eats this cow gets diclofenec in its body. Diclofenec accumulates in vultures' bodies as they eat more dead cows. Most of the dead vultures we tested contained diclofenec.

When you drive through the countryside the stench of dead animals is terrible.

Farmer

I can't afford to let my cow go lame. I need it to carry my supplies home from the market. If a cow goes lame I go straight to the vet for a painkiller.

Religious leader

I am really worried about the vulture shortage. The Parsi "sky burial" ceremony relies on them to consume human corpses.

