



International Vulture Awareness Day

September 1, 2018

Commemoration of International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD); held on every 1st Saturday in September – this year will be commemorating IVAD on 1st September 2018. We are planning to have a wide range of awareness activities for both children and adults at Mwayasunka Primary School in Chisamba IBA. The school is in very close proximity with Huntley farm and Fringilla Ranch which are both Vulture safe zones. In addition to talks, poems, scrap book competition and quiz, the children will also have a field excursion at Fringilla farms to observe some feeding vultures.

We celebrate and raise awareness on vultures because they are misunderstood and their population is so low, they are so close to extinction. But why do these birds have to be celebrated you may wonder. Well, Vultures are a characteristic, distinctive and spectacular component of the biodiversity of the environments they inhabit. They also provide critically important ecosystem services by cleaning up carcasses and other organic waste in the environment: they are nature's garbage collectors and this translates into significant economic benefits. Studies have shown that in areas where there are no vultures, carcasses take up to three or four times longer to decompose. This has huge ramifications for the spread of diseases in both wild and domestic animals, as well as elevating pathogenic risks to humans.

