African vulture hotspot mapping

loss of useful vulture habitat

Legend

Map projection: Lambert Azimuth Equal Area (central meridian 20 degrees)

METHODS:
Distribution models were developed by the ARDB and refined for this project on African vultures using Maxent software (Phillips et al. 2017). Special efforts were made to update environmental datasets and introduce new anthropogenic datasets that would be ecologically relevant to vultures. In total 97 such datasets were created or refined to span the entire African continent and Arabian Peninsula plus offshore islands at exactly 1km2 resolution. We projected all data into Lambert Azimuth Equal Area projection using 20 degrees as the central meridian. The modelling exercise was run twice: once on historic data (pre-1978) using no anthropogenic influence datasets; and again using recent data together with all environmental and anthropogenic datasets. We summed the habitat suitability values for eight species models in both epochs. This habitat loss map is again using recent data together with all environmental and anthropogenic datasets. We summed the habitat suitability values for eight species models in both epochs. This habitat loss map is derived as the sum of historic values minus the sum of recent values. So high values in deep blue represent areas that were good in historic models but not in recent models and the loss of previously useful vulture habitat. This corresponds largely to currently human transformed or high population areas. See methods report for more detail.