



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

December 2017

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/12/2017	Various supporters and funders for a sponsor's brunch at VulPro	Various	Continuous building of relationships with sponsors and supporters and giving thanks to each and every one.	VulPro Brunch
02/12/2017	Director's meeting	VulPro	Quarterly director's meeting	Director's meeting
06/12/2017	VulPro staff	VulPro	General monthly staff meeting	VulPro
6/12/2017	Sunway community leaders	Sunway/VulPro/ Roots and Shoots	Meeting to discuss educational holiday programme for community children	Education
14/12/2017	Shaun Wilkinson	Monte Bird Gardens	Update and feedback on vultures on show at Monte; on loan by VulPro	Loaned vultures
27/12/2017	Staff meeting	VulPro	Mid-month staff meeting to arrange on duty schedules for public holidays and weekends	Staff meeting

Media

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout November; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 8240 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1017 followers on Twitter and 383 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
07/12/2017	"Byna helpste van vrygelate aasvoels keer terug"	Die Beeld and Netwerk 24	Awareness and exposure	Information and update on our mass release which took place on the 8 November 2017 at Nooitgedacht in the Magaliesberg.

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
04/12/2017	01.12	Collected a grounded CV fledgling from Nooitgedacht	Monitoring for re-sightings	The bird had a slight limp and was fairly thin. He was fed up and released on the 29 December 2017 at Nooitgedacht. He was also tagged for visual sightings and monitoring purposes.
04/12/2017	02.12	Recaptured 147 and 142 around Nooitgedacht after being grounded for 2 weeks	N/A as 142 was found dead and 147 will not be released again as his release failed after three attempts at Nooitgedacht	Both were re-released shortly after their recaptures but 147 was recaptured again on the 28 th . He was emaciated and dehydrated and is now back at VulPro receiving tlc. 142 Was found dead, electrocuted in the FreeState. Details have been sent to Eskom in order for the structure to be mitigated.
04/12/2017		Released 3 CV rehabilitated fledglings at Nooitgedacht	Monitoring for re-sightings	All three were released at the Nooitgedacht Cape Vulture colony and flew off beautifully.
05/12/2017	03.12	Collected the released Lappet-faced vulture which was released at Nooitgedacht on the 8 November 2017	N/A as the bird will remain in captivity	The bird was rescued out of a concrete dam by the farm labourers. On close examination, he also suffered from a collision resulting in a broken wing tip. Unfortunately due to the break, he will not be released again.
05/12/2017	04.12	Recaptured CV 327 and again, close to Nooitgedacht	Monitoring via tracking device and re-sightings	The bird was found, grounded and unable to take off. He was released again on the 15 th and appears to be doing well now.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
08/12/2017		Re-released 3 captive bred vultures which were originally released on the 8 November 2017 but were recaptured due to various conditions	Monitoring for re-sightings via their tracking devices	All three birds have done much better, second time around and have flown further than previously. They are still foraging widely and appear to be healthy and well.
09/12/2017	05.12	Collected a badly injured adult male Fish Eagle from Steenbok Pan in the Limpopo Province, boarder of Botswana	N/A	Unfortunately due to the severity of its injuries, the bird was humanely euthanaised. The bone was shattered and the bone exposed and infected.
09/12/2017	06.12	Assisted with 3 injured CV fledglings in Botswana, Mokolodi Rehab Centre. All three have calcium issues, emaciated and dehydrated	Monitoring for recovery and improvement	All three are not releasable due to their calcium issues resulting in deformities to their wings and legs. However all three are suitable for captivity and educational purposes.
11/12/2017	07.12	Collected an adult CV from Thabazimbi with a broken wing	N/A as he will remain in captivity for breeding purposes	The CV has an old fractured wing which cannot be repaired as it's in the elbow joint. He has thus joined our captive birds for future breeding.
11/12/2017	08.12	Collected a White-faced owlet which fell out of the nest and rescued from dogs	Monitoring for release	The owlet is being taught to feed on his own and we hope to release him during the first week of January.
11/12/2017	09.12	Collected a juvenile CV from Shamwari in the Eastern Cape	Monitoring for release	The bird was grounded and found weak. He is being treated and fed up by Kate Webster (our VulPro colleague in the Eastern Cape) in prep for his release. We hope to fit a tracking device onto this bird for research and monitoring purposes.
11/12/2017	10.12	Collected a dead electrocuted vulture from Lichtenberg	N/A	Another electrocution in the Lichtenberg area which has been reported to Eskom. We await their response and for mitigation to take place.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
15/11/2017		Re-released another 3 CVs at Nooitgedacht which were originally released on the 8 November but recaptured as they became grounded	Only one is still being monitored daily via its tracking devices as the others are back at VulPro.	101 will not be released again as his third attempt failed and he is back at VulPro. CV308 was found electrocuted but alive in Hekpoort. He too is at VulPro and his wounds are being treated. We are unsure if he can be released again but will monitor progress. CV349 is doing well so far and foraging at Nooitgedacht
18/12/2017	11.12	Collected a grounded AWB in the Vryburg area near Tosca. Vision severely impaired	N/A	Treated at VulPro and taken to the JHB eye specialists. However after a week he still had no vision and has thus been euthanised.
18/12/2017		Searched for a grounded CV fledgling at Green Sleeves below the Skeerpoort colony	N/A	Unfortunately the bird was not found but the owners and managers were put on high alert to contact us should they find him or come across another grounded or injured vultures.
20/12/2017		Undertook health checks on our breeding CVs and managed to train volunteers at the same time	N/A	All birds were assessed and their conditions checked, dusted for bird mites and lice and colour leg bands fitted as they are removing their wing tags. The rings are fitted for monitoring purposes and for individual identity purposes.
20/12/2017	12.12	Collected an injured Spotted Eagle owl from Sun City	N/A	Unfortunately it's wing was broken with the bone protruding. It was thus humanely euthanised as you cannot pin a wing once the bone has been exposed.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
19/12/2017		Re-released another 2 of the CVs which were released on the 8 November and got themselves grounded	Monitoring their movements via their tracking devices and tags for visual re-sightings	Both birds appear to be doing well and better second time around.
22/12/2017	13.12	Collected an injured juvenile Snake Eagle from Mokopane	N/A	The bird had a bad break from a power line collision and we could not save its wing. It was thus humanely euthanased.
23/12/2017		Searched for a grounded CV below Leopard Lodge but unfortunately did not find him	N/A	As we arrived to collect the bird, he flew off below the trees and after searching for an hour, we could not find him. The landowners and neighbours were put on high alert to contact us should they find him or another injured/grounded vulture now and in the future.
24/12/2017	14.12	Collected CV306 which was released on the 8 November at Nooitgdacht, from Evaton which is south of Johannesburg	Monitoring for full recovery.	CV306 was captured and held by the locals until contacting us. We managed to collect him but had to pay R600 for the locals to release him. He was very lucky. His legs were tied with plastic and wings tied with shoe laces. His wings were injured and thus we are unsure if he can successfully be released again.
27/12/2017	15.12	Collected an injured Black Shouldered Kite from Thabazimbi	Monitoring for further recovery	It appears both wings are dislocated. We are giving him 2 weeks to monitor progress but prognosis is poor. Dislocations are often worse than fractures.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
27/12/2017	16.12	Collected a Steppe Buzzard from Mount Amanzi in Hartbeespoort	Monitoring for re-sightings	The bird was found to be poisoned but recovered well. He was released at Nooitgedacht on the 29 December 2017 at the vulture restaurant.
27/12/2017		The female Black Eagle which was resident at VulPro was transported to the Dullstroom bird of prey centre to assess her flying capabilities with the idea of either releasing her or using her in flight shows for educational purposes	Monitoring her progress	The female was on her own after we had to euthanise the male. We decided it was not in her best interests to remain at VulPro. Her flight capabilities need to be assessed to see whether she can be flown and hunted for release and if not, if she can be flown in bird shows for educational purposes.
31/12/2017	17.12	Collected and recaptured 153 from Orange Farms. He was originally released on the 8 November at Nooitgedacht	Monitoring for release	CV153 has been out since the 8 November and had remained at Nooitgedacht until the 27 of December. He then left and flew to Orange Farms where we sat on houses and evaded capture by the local residents. We managed to secure him before things got out of hand and he is now safely at VulPro with no injuries, just a little thin.

Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
December 2017	Captive breeding programme	VulPro	To-date, all except 1 captive bred CV has been moved to our rehab enclosure. They have all been ringed, tagged and x-rayed. The AWB vulture fledglings have both fledged and doing well. They remain in the WB vulture enclosure as the rehab enclosure only has large CVs.

Research and power line surveys

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
December 2017	Vulture restaurant database	VulPro	Continued to update the vulture restaurant database. This database is currently being used for 2 PhD studies which we are thrilled about, in collaboration with the UCT
December 2017	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database
December 2017	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions.
07/12/2017, 10/12/2017, 21/12/2017 and 27/12/2017	Calcium and PhD study	Onderstepoort and VulPro	5 Captive bred CV fledgling x-rayed as part of the calcium study which is a continuation from last year.
11/12/2017	Power line surveys	Nooitgedacht	An updated power line survey was undertaken at the Nooitgedacht breeding colony. We found another 3 CVs and 1 Lappet-faced vulture under 3 different T-structures. We have once again reported this to Eskom and now await their response yet again.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
04/12/2017	Community service	Community service	VulPro	Four students from Parktown girls undertook their 10 hours of community service at VulPro. They assisted with cleaning, feeding, treatment of birds etc
12/12/2017	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A group of women from Eskom's Women empowerment programme toured the Centre and learnt about the work VulPro undertakes.
12/12/2017	Training	Training	Botswana	Training members of staff from Mokolodi Rehabilitation Centre and Botswana wildlife on proper vulture rehabilitation and training protocols.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
13/12/2017	Educational Tour	Education	VulPro	Gave a tour to 60 children from the surrounding communities about the importance of vultures
19/12/2017	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	Gave 2 tours to three different groups. A total of 13 adults and 1 child experienced VulPro and learnt about our work and the importance of vultures.
22/12/2017	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	Gave a tour to a group of 9 adults and 2 children. They learnt about the importance of vultures, had close-up experiences with some of the birds and learnt about the work we undertake.

Hide booking

- 04/12/2017 Caroline Howes (2)
- 10/12/2017 Sonja Pretorius (3)
- 28/11/2017 Zen Fourie (2)

Administration and Pending

- Collection of donated carcasses
- Maintenance of VulPro vehicles
- Ongoing treatment and care of vultures and birds of prey at VulPro.
- Ongoing care for captive vultures and supplementary feeding of wild birds at Nooitgedacht.
- Fundraising
- Report writing
- Proposal submissions to various funders
- Press release writing
- Administration
- Vulture restaurant feeding at the Vulture Centre
- Facebook, Instagram and Twitter updates
- Maintenance
- Management of volunteers and students
- Management of the vulture hide and bookings
- Management of HR issues
- Management of VulPro as a whole
- Management and co-ordination of vulture research

- Maintain updated captive breeding and rehabilitation records
- Continual updates to website, including range maps of tracked birds, sponsor logos, and publications.