



## VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

February 2018

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
03/02/2018	Vinny Naidoo, Beryl Wilson, Craig Natrass, Mark Wolter, Robyn Howes and Matthew Welz	VulPro	Quarterly director's meeting	Director's meeting
05/02/2018	Charne Wilhelmi	VulPro	Discussion regarding VulPro's media and fundraising plans and schedules for 2018. Marketing and social media was also discussed in highlighting vulture video inserts to the public	Marketing, media, fundraising and social media
06/02/2018	Eskom Line Management Forum Members	Eskom	Eskom undertook their quarterly line management meeting at VulPro. This gave them an opportunity to see first-hand the effects of unsafe structures to vultures	Awareness
08/02/2018	VulPro staff	VulPro	Monthly staff meeting. Also took the opportunity in reflecting on staff rolls and cementing new titles and responsibilities	Monthly staff meeting
09/02/2018	Kishaylin Chetty and Megan van der Haar	Eskom	Introduction to Megan who will be working with Kishaylin for the next few months. Kishaylin also took the opportunity to update VulPro on their recent meeting and proactive strategies and VulPro's involvement and growth of the relationship with Eskom	Partnership between Eskom and VulPro

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12/02/108	Jesse Oosthuysen	Volunteer	“Running for the underdogs” Jesse and partner will be running the Marakele half-marathon in support of VulPro and spreading awareness regarding the plight of vultures. Discussion on how to further promote this event, and how we could potentially get more supporters involved.	Fundraising
120/02/108	Byran Post	Air Traffic Services	Update on the way forward with regards to the Magaliesberg air traffic and avoidance of the breeding, roosting and feeding sites. This will be a first implementation phase and then we hope to phase this out and create awareness throughout the rest of the breeding, roosting and feeding sites.	Vultures and aviation
14/02/2018	Stacey Woensdregt	Volunteer	Discussion around full time volunteering at VulPro, projects, time frames and flexibility in daily volunteering work.	Volunteering
14/02/2018	Gareth Tate	EWT	Update meeting as to project feedbacks and building up relationships	NGO collaboration
22/02/2018	Elizabeth Singelton	Maliasili	Tusk Questionnaire and stakeholder input. Evaluation and analysis of Tusk Trust projects and their support	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship
28/02/2018	John Wessels and Nic Hughes		Sponsorship meeting and project site visit	Sponsorship

### **Media**

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout February; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter’s profile and 8594 on VulPro’s Facebook page. We have 1044 followers on Twitter and 469 followers on Instagram.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Comment</b>
03/02/2018	Newspaper article	Die Burger	Vulture Awareness	“Swerm Aasvoels, een van die mooiste tonele”
05/02/2018	Online article and video clip	Wild heart wildlife foundation	Vulture awareness and release	“In pictures: An incredible release of white-backed vultures is making everyone smile” Video clip of what VulPro does and vulture release to spread awareness <a href="http://www.goodthingsguy.com/environment/vultures-release-good-news/">www.goodthingsguy.com/environment/vultures-release-good-news/</a>
14/02/108	Online article	Agri-Orbit	“Flying fraternity takes vultures into consideration”	Article discussing our collaboration with the civil aviation, and how they are hoping to adapt flight patterns based on vulture breeding sites.
17/02/2018	TV Interview	KykNet Dorpsdraai	Vulture Awareness	Programme highlighting all positive aspects of Thabazimbi, including the Kransberg Cape Vulture colony. Interview was based around why they occur in the area and why vultures are important within our ecosystem.
17/02/2018	Online Article	Newsday <a href="http://www.newsday.co.za">www.newsday.co.za</a>	“The surprising values and sorry fate of Zim’s last vultures”	Education and awareness as to the plight of vultures in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in southern Africa. It also highlights VulPro as the go to organization for vulture conservation projects, questions and more.
17/02/2018	Online article	RurdReporters <a href="http://www.rurdreporters.com">www.rurdreporters.com</a>	“Poisoned by poachers, Zimbabwe vultures face extinction”	Article highlighting the severity of carcass poisonings leading to vulture fatalities in Zimbabwe
23/02/2018	Filming	Beautiful News	Vulture Awareness	Video Clip highlighting Kerri Wolter and her work with vultures

## CONSERVATION

### A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

#### *Rehabilitation*

<b>Date</b>	<b>MR Ref</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Follow up</b>	<b>Comment</b>
02/02/2018		Released 6 CV's at Nooitgedacht	Monitoring for re-sightings	6 Cape vultures were released. All except one were rehabilitated fledglings. Captive bred CV354 was released for the second attempt.
05/02/2018	1.2	CV153 was collected from the Turffontein Racecourse in Johannesburg.	Monitoring for recovery	CV153 was taken hostage by grooms at the Turffontein Racecourse. He was found to have a fractured femur, dehydrated and very skinny. His leg has been pinned successfully and the pins are expected to be removed during the second week in March. We are treating him with laser therapy and are expecting a full recovery and perhaps a third release attempt.
06/02/2018	2.2	A Cape Vulture fledgling was collected from Carltonville	N/A	CV has a broken wing after colliding with a power line. Unfortunately the break is in the elbow joint resulting in this bird never flying again He will remain at VulPro for future breeding purposes.
07/02/2018		The African White-back vulture with a pinned leg and the Lesser spotted eagle where taken to Broederstroom Veterinary Clinic for follow X-rays	Monitoring for recovery	Both the African-white backed vulture and Lesser spotted eagle are progressing well with their recovery, and we continue with treatments and follow ups.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
12/02/08		Released CV287	Monitor for re-sightings	CV287 came in during December 2016 with broken feathers, resulting in him not being able to fly. After a year of feather moult and growth, 287 was strong enough to join the wild birds.
13/02/2018	3.02	Collected a Yellow billed kite who managed to get stuck in a mud dam in Skeerpoort	Monitoring for re-sightings	The Kite was stuck in a mud dam and rescued by the property owner. He sustained no injuries and was allowed to recover after being cleaned. He received a ring and was released on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of February.
14/02/108	4.02	Collected an injured CV fledgling from next door to VulPro	Monitoring for recovery	The CV was found grounded in the neighbour's garden and unable to fly away. On examination we found him to have paralysis and a swollen spin with leg trauma. He is being treated for infection, inflammation and paralysis and is undergoing daily physio as well as laser therapy. There are small signs of improvement and we are hopeful for a full recovery but it might take weeks.
16/02/2018	5.02	CV 345 was collected from the Boons area in the North-West Province. He had not made any substantial movements over a period of 5 days. and upon investigation he was found perched at the bottom of a power line structure with evidence of injury on his legs	Monitoring for recovery	He had not made any substantial movements over a period of 5 days. Upon examination, wounds were found on both legs, indicating either a collision or electrocution. We are treating the wounds and monitoring for potential release.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
16/02/2018	6.02	Picked up injured AWB vulture which landed in VulPro's open enclosure	Monitoring for improvement or surgery	The White-backed was limping badly as one leg was unusable. It appears a tendon and ligament have been damaged as no breaks have been found on the x-rays. We are treating with physio, laser, anti-inflammatories and a splint and are hoping for recovery. If the splint does not help show improvement within another week, the join will be fused so the bird can use both legs again.
19/02/2018	7.02	Received a Spotted Eagle Owl from Brits	N/A	The owl came in very weak, was put on a drip and treated for shock, concussion and poisoning. Unfortunately 48 hours the bird lost its battle.
19/02/2018		Volunteer Beryl Wilson went to check on CV 328 in Luckhof	N/A	CV328 was searched for after his tracking device indicated he was in a high risk area within an informal settlement. He was unfortunately not found. Up until the 27 February, the device was not working but with some movement data, it is unsure whether the bird is safe or not
21/02/2018	8.2	Collected 5 CV's at and next door to VulPro after heavy rain	Monitoring for re-sightings	One of the five birds was electrocuted and found dead from the high distribution lines. A report has been sent to Eskom for urgent mitigation. The other four were dried, given some tlc for 48 hours and released at VulPro to join the wild birds feeding at our vulture restaurant.

## Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
17-20/02/2018	Olifants tree nesting vulture captures	Olifants River Private Nature Reserve	Undertook our monthly captures at the Olifants reserve again, however this time we had no luck in captures due to a poached rhino influencing the vultures feeding patterns.
February 2018	Vulture Calcium study	Onderstepoort veterinary clinic	As a continuation with the calcium study and Lauren's PhD, three of our 2017 Cape Vultures were x-rayed to assess their calcium levels and compare these to the 2016 offspring.
February 2018	Vulture restaurant database	VulPro	We are working closely with UCT on the master database whereby the vulture restaurant database will be completed and updated and distributed. We are currently feeding new sites to Christiaan (PhD student) who is inserting the new sites into the master file.
February 2018	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continue to update the re-sighting database
February 2018	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions.

## Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
05/02/2018	Educational talk and tour	Educational and awareness talk	VulPro	24 Eco tourism students from the Netherlands spent the morning at VulPro, learnt about the importance of vultures in our ecosystem, and the work VulPro undertakes to save them.
06/02/2018	Educational tour	Education and Awareness	VulPro	4 Adults undertook a tour at VulPro and learnt about our work and the importance of saving vultures.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment</b>
08/02/2018	Virtual educational class presented by Debra Toor over Skype	Skype in the classroom	Louisiana	Debra Toor has commenced “Skype in the classroom” sessions, specifically pertaining to vultures and those who strive to protect them. Thus far, she has presented these sessions to approximately 125 students using much of VulPro’s material. This will continue indefinitely
16/02/2018	Volunteer	Volunteer	VulPro	Long time VulPro volunteer, Ulla, joined us again at VulPro for a week to assist at the facility
17/2/2018	Community Service	Community Service	VulPro	2 students from grade 10 and 12 spent their day assisting at VulPro for their community service hours
19/02/2018	Volunteer	Volunteer	VulPro	Local volunteer Laura Nelson joined the VulPro team for a week to assist at the facility.
25/02/2018	Volunteer	Volunteer	VulPro	Volunteer Josef, winner of Tusk competition, arrived and will be assisting at VulPro for 2 weeks.

***Hide booking***

23/02/2018 – 3 Adults for a hide booking- Mark Stanton

***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.