



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2017

VulPro is proud to announce a new collaboration and united front aimed at saving Africa's vultures aptly named "Vulture Alliance"(VA). VA is made up of world renowned bird of prey expert Jemima Parry-Jones, the world leading avian vet Dr Neil Forbes and Kerri Wolter, each representing their own relevant organisations. The launch of VA took place in the UK on the 20 July 2017 where Her Majesty, Princess Anne attended the launch and learnt about the plight of vultures in Africa. Kerri Wolter attended and announced the launch to 200 guests who attended the International Centre of Birds of Prey's 50th anniversary. The support and enthusiasm received from supporters, friends and followers in the UK was unbelievable and VulPro has been highly acknowledged for our efforts in saving vultures.

We are also very proud to announce that VulPro was inspected by the NSPCA has been accredited as one of the 'go-to' rehabilitation centres for vultures, large birds of prey and any other species needing immediate care and safety.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
03/07/2017	Deidre Herbst, Warren Funston and Kishaylin Chetty	Eskom	Engagement between Eskom and VulPro to strengthen the current relationship and improve communication, mitigation of structures and improvement of Eskom conservation proactive measures	Eskom and VulPro collaboration
12/07/2017	Lynn Landsman	Obsessively Creative Film	Update on VulPro and filming opportunities for a 2 hour vulture programme for the Smithsonian Institute in the USA	Smithsonian vulture programme
18-22/07/2017	ICBP	ICBP	ICBP's 50 th anniversary and launch of Vulture Alliance	ICBP's 50 th anniversary and Vulture Alliance launch
19/07/2017	Jan Lloyd-James	Animal lazer therapist	Discussion on lazer therapy on vulture related rehab cases	Vulture lazer therapy

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
20/07/2017	Chris Bowden	RSPB	Build on the existing relationship between VulPro and the RSPB. Way forward with regards to expanding collaboration. Further discussions on the 2017 SAVE meeting where Kerri has been invited.	Collaboration between VulPro and the RSPB. SAVE 2017 meeting
25/07/2017	Martie Rossouw	NSPCA	Phone meeting regarding VulPro being inspected for NSPCA accreditation and other facilities housing vultures needing better management	NSPCA inspection
26/07/2017	Arno de Klerk	NSPCA	Accreditation inspection by the NSPCA	NSPCA accreditation inspection.
28/07/2017	Tracy Rehse	NZG	Zims studbook training for the management and update of the Cape Vulture studbook.	Cape Vulture studbook
28/07/2017	Michael Mace	San Diego Safari Park	Additional discussion on building a closer relationship as well as joining the Vulture Alliance team	Conservation breeding and joining Vulture Alliance
31/07/2017	Vinny Naidoo and Neil Forbes	University of Pretoria's faculty of vet sciences and avian expert respectively	Future collaboration and use of operating theatres for vultures and research projects	Medical treatment collaboration and research

Media

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout June; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 7761 on the VulPro Facebook page. We have 907 followers on Twitter and now 303 followers on Instagram.

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
04/07/2017	01.07	Collected a juvenile AWB from Lichtenburg	Non-releasable and will join our captive population for education, research and breeding purposes	The AWB vulture flew into power lines resulting in a badly broken wing which had to be amputated.
04/07/2017		The lanner falcon which came in at the end of June was transferred to the Dullstroom Bird of Prey Centre	Monitoring for release	As the falcon suffered from an electrocution, survived but all his feathers burnt, it was decided to transfer him to another facility given the length of time this little guy has to remain in captivity. All feathers have to moult out and grow back before this bird will be able to fly and hunt successfully again.
13/07/2017	02.07	Collected an adult White-faced Owl that was stuck on barbed wire fencing	N/A	The bird had severe open wounds which cut into its sternum. We attempted to treat him but the wounds and stress were too severe and the bird died 2 days later
28/07/2017	03.07	Collected an adult CV from Vaalwater with a broken wing	Non-releasable and will join our captive population of education, research and breeding purposes	The CV flew into power lines and broke her wing badly, resulting in the wing being amputated.

Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
July 2017	Captive breeding	VulPro	We have had a handful of vulture chicks hatching throughout the month and thus we now have 6 CV chicks on the artificial cliff inside the breeding enclosure and 1 AWB vulture chick being raised by his parents. We have another 2 eggs still in the incubator which are due to hatch during the first week of August and another egg being naturally incubated by the birds inside the CV breeding enclosure. To-date, all 7 chicks are doing well, parents are raising them to avoid human imprinting and they are growing at a rapid rate.
June 2017	Captive bred vultures moved to their release site	Nooitgedacht	We have 29 vultures in total inside our release enclosure at Nooitgedacht, 27 CVs and 2 first year AWB vultures. We have another 2 captive bred CVs still to be captured at VulPro and moved to the release site with another 4 rehabilitated CVs living on top of our enclosures, also due to be moved once captured.
03-09/07/2017	White-backed tree nesting surveys	Boikarabelo Coal Mine	The first survey was undertaken for the 2017 breeding season. A total of 36 active nests were found compared to 37 from last year.
24/25/07/2017	White-backed tree nesting surveys	Curly Wee	The first survey was undertaken on this privately owned piece of land. Nine nests in total were found to be active compared to last year's 6.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
July 2017	Calcium study	VulPro	<p>In expanding the calcium study and Lauren Naidoo's PhD, all captive bred chicks at VulPro will be x-rayed and compared to the 2016 chick x-rays. Four of the chicks have thus now been x-rayed.</p> <p>In addition, all egg shells are being analysed and used for the study.</p>

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
01/07/2017	Community service	Education / awareness	VulPro	Two teenage boys from King Edwards School
15/07/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	VulPro	A large group of 26 guests from the Roodepoort Black Eagle Project visited and toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake. They also kindly donated items from our wish list and were hugely supportive of our work.
18/07/2017	Community service	Education / awareness	VulPro	The full ZK-Teco team undertook their 67 minutes of volunteer and community work at VulPro for Mandela day.
19/07/2017	Training	Training	UK – Neil Forbes	Kerri Wolter was trained on blood analysis whilst in the UK by Dr Neil Forbes
26/07/2017	Roots & Shoots after school programme	After school programme	VulPro	The after school programme resumed and the kids participated with enthusiasm once again.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
30/07/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	VulPro	A family of 3 toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake.

Hide booking:

- 30.07.2017 Simon du Plessis (3 people)

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.