



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2017

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/08/2017	Walter Naser	Volunteer	Field work discussion around a new App for tree nesting surveys	Tree nesting surveys
02/08/2017	Staff meeting	VulPro	Monthly staff meeting	Monthly staff meeting
08/08/2017	Jakes Swart	Leopard Lodge	Update meeting on VulPro's fundraising gala dinner	Gala dinner
23/08/2017	Staff meeting	Staff meeting	Updated staff meeting	Staff meeting
24/08/2017	Tracey	Bester Birds	Site visit to inspect vultures and their enclosure at Bester Birds in Pretoria	Bester Birds site visit
27/08/2017	Robert Thompson	UCT	Project update and discussion around a PhD study on vulture restaurants and our tracking data	Vulture restaurants PhD study
30/08/2017	Jakes Swart	Leopard Lodge	Update and final arrangements around the gala dinner being held on the 1 September	Gala dinner

Media

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout August; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 7822 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 913 followers on Twitter and now 324 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
19/08/2017	Update on vulture activity	Radio today	awareness and exposure	Awareness and exposure
30/08/2017	International Vulture Awareness Day	Smile FM	Awareness and exposure	Awareness regarding IVAD and the work we undertake to save vultures throughout southern Africa and abroad.
31/08/2017	VulPro gala dinner and IVAD	Komorant	Awareness and exposure	Awareness and exposure on our up and coming gala dinner and International Vulture Awareness Day and our work on saving vultures in Southern Africa and abroad

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
04/08/2017	01.08	Spotted eagle owl	N/A	Unfortunately due to the severity of eye injuries, the bird was humanly euthanized
07/08/2017		Four Cape Vultures were found electrocuted in Lichtenberg	Mitigation pending	An investigation was undertaken due to 4 Cape Vulture having been found dead, electrocuted below T-structures. A full report was produced and sent to Eskom for further investigation and mitigation.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
10/08/2017		Undertook health checks on 30 Cape Vultures inside our open top enclosure	N/A	The birds' conditions were evaluated, general health issues assessed such as bumble-foot. Blood was taken for white blood cell count analysis and each bird was marked with sponsored leg bands and microchipped.
12/08/2017		Another dead Cape Vulture was found electrocuted in Thabazimbi	Mitigation pending	A report was submitted to Eskom where a full investigation has to be undertaken. We are waiting further response from Eskom.
24/08/2017	02.08	Collected a grounded CV from Rietfontein	Monitoring for release	The vulture was found grounded with burnt primary feathers on both wings. The feathers now need to moult out with new feathers in their place before the bird will be able to fly again. As the bird was fairly skinny, he is being fed up and will then join the others in our rehab enclosure for housing until such a time he can be released.

Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
August 2017	Captive breeding	VulPro	The last 2 chicks have hatched and both are with their respective parents i.e Cape and White-backed breeding pairs. All in all, we have produced 8 Cape and 2 White-backed vulture chicks with a total of 10 and all are expected to fledge.
01/08/2017	Skeerpoort colony monitoring	Skeerpoort	Undertook the nestling survey for 2017 season and recorded 249 active nests.
03/08/2017	Nooitgedacht colony monitoring	Nooitgedacht / Hekpoort	Undertook the nestling survey for the 2017 season and recorded 124 active nests.
11-13/08/2017	Soutpansberg colony monitoring	Soutpansberg / Louis Trichardt	Undertook the nestling survey and recorded 163 active nests.
16-18/08/2017	Tree nesting surveys	Olifants River Private Nature Reserve	Undertook the nestling survey and recorded 65 out of 68 nests this year. These include both Hooded and White-backed vultures.
21-23/08/2017	Mannyelanong colony monitoring	Botswana	Undertook the nestling survey and recorded 82 active nests.
24-27/08/2017	Manutsa colony monitoring	Hoedspruit	Undertook the nestling survey and recorded 588 active nests compared to the breeding count of 644 pairs. This is in line with what is acceptable and what is expected.
29/08/2017	Robert's Farm	Magaliesberg	Undertook the first count for the Robert's Farm colony to confirm if any birds have returned to this site. Unfortunately this site remains extinct as a breeding site with no birds roosting either.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
August 2017	NSAID study	VulPro	In expanding on a PhD's study in determining why Meloxicam is the only safe NSAID to vultures, another 10 Cape Vultures were bled in order to have control blood to compare to the treated birds a few months back.
August 2017	Vulture restaurant database	VulPro	Continued to update the vulture restaurant database which will now also be used for a PhD study through UCT.
August 2017	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database which is now sitting at just under 24 000 re-sightings.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
02/08/2017	Roots & Shoots after school programme	After school programme	VulPro	The after school programme continues every Wednesday with the same first group of kids that initially joined.
04/08/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	VulPro	A group of 2 people toured the facilities and learnt about the work we carry out.
13/08/2017	Education / awareness	Educational talk	Four Wheel Drive Club in Hennops	A group of 60 people from the Four Wheel club attended the conservation day where VulPro gave a talk on our conservation activities and the importance of protecting vultures and the importance of the work we carry out.
15/08/2017	Community service	Community service	VulPro	Two students from St Stithians undertook their 8 hours of community service with us.
22/08/2017	Community service	Community service	VulPro	Two students from St Stithians undertook their 8 hours of community service with us.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
26/08/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	Maropeng	A talk on VulPro, our conservation activities and the plight of vultures was given to approximately 300 individuals who attended the Magaliesberg Biosphere Day. There was a lot of interest and enthusiasm towards our work and the vultures.
31/08/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	Derby	A group of 22 women from the Derby farmer's union attended the talk and learnt about the work we undertake and the importance of protecting vultures as well as a poison free farm.

Hide booking:

- 04/08/2017 Laurie Moul (2 people)
- 05/08/2017 Johan Smit (2 people)
- 12/08/2017 Dudley Schnetler (3 people)
- 15/08/2017 Marion Adams (3 people)
- 19/08/2017 Reiner Burk (3 people)
- 22/08/2017 Henri Martins (2 people)
- 26/08/2017 Lauren Naidoo (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.