



## VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER2017

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the outbreak of Avian Influenze, VulPro has taken the decision to close its doors to tours and hide bookings as a precautionary measure. Birds are being affected all over captive bird facilities and although vultures should not be affected, we simply cannot take the chance. Thus for the next 2 or so months, our educational tours and public talks at VulPro will cease to continue.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/09/2017	VulPro supporters	Private	Fundraising gala dinner	Fundraising gala dinner
08/09/2017	Staff	ZK Techo	Site visit and project update	Site visit
10/09/2017	Simon Gear	Consultant	Discussion around the up and coming VulPro strategy meeting	Strategy meeting planning
10/09/2017	Gwen Harris	Oregon Zoo	Captive breeding discussion on vultures	Captive breeding
13/09/2017	Clinton Austin	Bayer	Project update and delivery of sponsored products	Sponsorship
14/09/2017	Clinton Klaaste	Standard Bank	Introduction to our new bank manager and took him around the Centre	Management of accounts
15/09/2017	Norma and Jessica	Monte Bird Gardens	Discussion around the Fish Eagle and Cape Vulture on loan by the bird gardens for educational purposes	Loan of birds for education
16/09/2017	VulPro staff and directors	Strategy meeting	Strategy meeting outlining priorities and objectives over the next 5 years	Strategy meeting

<b>Date</b>	<b>Met with</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Project title/reference/purpose</b>
20/09/2017	Charne Wilhelmi	VulPro	Strategy feedback and fundraising planning	Stakeholder Engagement
21/09/2017	Johan van Staden	Eskom	Site meeting at Nooitgedacht to assess the power lines	Power line assessment
22/09/2017	Michelle and Adam Scott	Insurance brokers	Update on VulPro's insurance and visit their adoptive vulture chick	Insurance and vulture adoption
25/09/2017	Barend Craven	VulPro	Strategy feedback and project planning	Project Planning
27/09/2017	Delegates	EWT, Birdlife SA, Ezemvelo KZN, private consultants	Workshop outlining conservation and research priorities to safeguard Cape Vultures from the negative effects of wind energy.	Wind energy workshop
29/09/2017	Shamaine Thulasie and Rudi Kruger	Eskom	Site meeting at Nooitgedacht to confirm way forward with regards to power line mitigation	Power line mitigation discussion

### **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 7899 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 935 followers on Twitter and now 334 followers on Instagram.

Press releases sent out:

- New study finds veterinary painkiller lethally toxic to vultures
- Putting vultures first: data sharing for conservation
- Adopt your brick at VulPro

<b>Date</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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01/09/2017	"VulPro celebrates their tenth anniversary in vulture conservation"	Die Kwevoel	awareness and exposure	Awareness and exposure
02/09/2017	International Vulture Awareness Day	Radio Today	Awareness and exposure	Awareness regarding IVAD and the work we undertake to save vultures throughout southern Africa and abroad.
13/09/2017	"VulPro CEO nominated for prestigious global conservation award"	Platinum weekly	Awareness and exposure	Awareness and exposure
16/09/2017	"SA animal conservationist nominated for world's leading conservation award"	Rekord (Pretoria East)	Awareness and exposure	Awareness and exposure
18/09/2017	"South African nominated for world's leading conservation award"	Agri: Orbit.com	Awareness and exposure	Awareness and exposure
20/09/2017	"Local wildlife hero vie for top honour"	Platinum weekly	Awareness and exposure	Awareness and exposure
28/09/2017	"Putting vultures first: data sharing for conservation"	Grocott's mail	Awareness and exposure	Awareness and exposure

## CONSERVATION

### A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

#### *Rehabilitation*

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
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Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
20/09/2017	01.09	Collected a badly injured juvenile Cape Vulture from the Nooitgedacht vulture restaurant	N/A	Unfortunately the bird died shortly after, succumbing to its injuries from flying into the power lines in close proximity to the vulture restaurant.
23/09/2017		Collected our female Fish Eagle and male Cape Vulture from the Monte Casino Bird Gardens	Both birds are non-releasable. The CV will join the captive non-releasable Cape Vultures for future breeding and the Fish Eagle will be housed until a suitable home can be found.	Both birds were housed at the bird gardens for educational purposes. However both were no longer suitable for intense educational handling.
26/09/2017	02.09	Collected a grounded adult Cape Vulture from 60kms outside Tzaneen	Monitoring for release	The bird was grounded but not emaciated. He has a slight wing droop on his right wing and some sternum bruising from suspected power line collision.

***Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild***

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
11-15/09/2017	Boikarabelo vulture tree nesting survey	Boikarabelo	Undertook the second survey on Boikarabelo property. Recorded 34 active nests to-date with 30 of these with young chicks seen.
18-21/09/2017	Kransberg colony monitoring	Kransberg (Marakele National Park)	Undertook the nestling count for the Kransberg colony and recorded 616 active nests with small and large nestlings.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment</b>
22/09/2017	VulPro captive breeding	VulPro	Ringed 5 Cape Vulture chicks and 1 African White-backed vulture chick in preparation for their fledgling and to be able to identify each individually captive bred vulture
25/09/2017	Skeerpoort colony monitoring	Skeerpoort	Undertook the third and last count for the 2017 Skeerpoort colony. Recorded 238 active nests with both fledglings and older nestlings seen.
26/09/2017	Moletjie colony monitoring	Polokwane	Undertook the second nestling count for the tiny colony in the heart of Polokwane and recorded only 4 nestlings.
29/09/2017	Nooitgedacht	Nooitgedacht	Started the third and last count for the Nooitgedacht colony. Unfortunately the count was not completed and will be finished during the first week of October.

### **Research**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment</b>
September 2017	Vulture restaurant database	VulPro	Continued to update the vulture restaurant database
September 2017	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database
September 2017	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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment</b>
06/09/2017	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.
13/09/2017	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.
13/09/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	VulPro	A group of 12 residents from the M-WIG Group (retirement) toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake.
14/09/2019	Education / awareness	Educational talk	VulPro	Two small groups of 3 people in each toured the Centre and also took the opportunity to photograph the birds.
19/09/2017	Education / awareness	Educational talk	VulPro	23 Learners from Mount Cambridge school ranging from grade 4 to grade 12 toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake to safeguard vultures. Each learner was given our biodiversity book.
20/09/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	VulPro	A family of 5 toured the Centre and experienced vultures from close-up, learning about their importance and the need to save them.
21/09/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	VulPro	13 Students from the Glen Afric School toured the Centre and each student was given our biodiversity book and educational interactive booklet.
25/09/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	VulPro	A scout group of 41 individuals from 37 <sup>th</sup> Springvale Nature Club toured the Centre and had close-up experiences with the vultures. Learning about their importance and therefore the need to conserve them.
26/09/2017	Education / awareness	Education / awareness	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre and offered their assistance to monitor colonies and breeding sites.

**Hide booking:**

- 14/09/2017 Andre le Roux (3 people)
- 22/09/2017 Hans Bal (2 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.