



## VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

January 2018

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
11/01/2018	Fanus Howell	Askari Game Reserve	Discussing safety procedures for when VulPro needs to collect birds from inside the Reserve	Property access
15/01/2018	Wouter van Hoven	Silikaats Nature Reserve	Discussion about international vet students spending a few days at VulPro to gain more knowledge on vultures	Educational training
17/01/2018	Mark Wolter	VulPro	Discussion pertaining to VulPro HR and consultancy work	Consultancy work
18/01/2018	Anne Alexandre	Prince Bernhard Nature Fund	Skype call reporting on the Project and discussing future funding	Sponsorship
19/01/2018	CJ Carrington and Paul Oxtan	Wild Heart Foundation	Donation of items to VulPro	Donation
31/01/2018	Sarah- NZG	National Zoological Gardens (NZG)	Captive breeding discussions on growing the collaboration and loaning vultures to the NZG for breeding purposes for release.	Conservation breeding
31/01/2018	Corinne Kendall	North Carolina Zoo	Discussion around the AZA SAFE Project and VulPro through Kerri Wolter acting as an advisor to the project. Also potential support both human and financial opportunities and collaboration amongst USA zoos	AZA – SAFE Programme
31/01/2018	Jason Bittel	National Geographic News	Skype call to give a quote and discussions around latest studies of vulture movements	Vulture tracking studies

### **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 8364 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1025 followers on Twitter and 413 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
2/01/2018	Online article	Rhombus Media	Kerri Wolter gets recognition of outstanding conservationist in SA for 2017 with 10 others.	Title: "Omgewinsskrygers sit stryd dapper voort"
18/01/2017	TV interview	Agri-Orbit GrootPlaas	VulPro Awareness	Subject: "Why are vultures important in our ecosystem and what role does VulPro play?"
25/01/2018	Radio Interview	RSG- Radio sinderGrense	VulPro Awareness	Subject: "Why are vultures important in our ecosystem and what role does VulPro play?"

## CONSERVATION

### A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

#### *Rehabilitation*

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
02/01/2018		Released the last 3 vultures from the Nooitgedacht release enclosure (CV 325, 329 and 308)	Monitoring for re-sightings	The last remaining vultures at the Nooitgedacht release site were released with tracking devices. This is their second release attempt after they were recaptured for becoming grounded due to heat stress.
02/01/2018		Released the White-faced owlet	Monitoring progress as he has taken up residence at VulPro	This individual came to VulPro in December 2017 after falling out of the nest and being rescued from dogs. He was given some tlc, learnt to eat and hunt on his own and then released.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
03/01/2018	01.01	Collected a CV fledgling from Shaft sinkers, below Leopard Lodge	Monitoring for release	The CV landed in an area where he was unable to take off. He also has a wound on his leg which was infected. He is still undergoing treatment but will be released in February 2018.
04/01/2018	02.01	Found captive bred CV 360 dead in the Askari Game Reserve	N/A	This bird avoided several search parties, and sadly, succumbed to starvation.
04/01/2018		Health Checks	N/A	Undertook health checks of all our adult Cape Vultures inside our breeding enclosure. Some were treated for bumble-foot, some were put on a short course of antibiotics but on the whole, all were found to be in superb condition and ready for the 2018 breeding season.
04/01/2018	03.01	Collected a CV fledgling from Riverside Estate where he had fallen into the Magalies River	Monitoring for release	The young CV fledge was found in the Magaliesberg river. He was rescued from the water, with no injuries other than being waterlogged. He has been fed up and will be released during the first week of February.
04/01/2018	04.01	Founds CV 361 stoned to death in Potchefstroom	N/A	After several days of searching for 361, he was found on a small holding in Potchefstroom where he was stoned to death as the search party was questioning the farm workers. His body was retrieved but the kids who stoned the bird had destroyed the tracking device. We have taken the matter up with the NSPCA and the Green Scorpions and to-date nothing further has happened and we doubt the kids will be persecuted.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
05/01/2018	05.01	Searched for CV 363 after he was reported sitting on a landowner's roof in Tolwe	N/A	The bird was spotted, but managed to fly away before capture. A few days later, he was reported dead below a power line near Dendron / Vivo.
05/01/2018		Captive bred 2017 CV fledgling 318 died unexpectedly	N/A	A pm was undertaken and the results identified a respiratory issue- most likely genetic
07/01/2018		Released CV153 at Nooitgedacht for the second time	Monitoring for re-sightings and via his GPS tracking device	CV153 was captured on the 31 <sup>st</sup> of December 2017, after he was found in the Orange Farm informal settlement. He was released again after some food and rest.
08/01/2018	06.01	Collected CV 349 from Nooitgedacht after he experienced difficulty in flying	Monitoring for recovery and for his hopeful release.	CV 349 was collected from Nooitgedacht as his GPS tracker showed very little movement over several days. Evidence of electrocution was identified on his legs. We are monitoring for recovery.
08/01/2018	07.01	Collected a grounded, dehydrated CV fledge from Mooinooi	Monitoring for release	The young fledge was dehydrated, emaciated and found to have extremely low levels of calcium. He has been treated accordingly and will be released during the first week of February.
09/01/2018	08.01	Collected a CV fledge from the Hartebeespoort dam, Caribbean Estate	Monitoring for release	The inexperienced CV landed between houses and was unable to take off. He is being fed up, given some tlc and will be released during the first week of February.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
11/01/2018		Searched for CV 307 and 367 in Askari and Nooitgedacht	Birds were not located	VulPro staff searched for CV 307 on a chicken farm neighbouring Nooitgedacht, and CV 367 on the Askari game reserve after their tracking movements indicated they are experiencing difficulty. Neither of the birds were found but both birds now appear to be doing well after monitoring them closely via their tracking devices.
12/01/2018		Searched for CV 307 and 367 in Askari and Nooitgedacht	Birds were seen but not captured	CV 307 was found on the chicken farm, however he promptly took off and flew towards Nooitgedacht with no apparent difficulties. CV 367 was spotted in Askari, but avoided capture by heading into thick bush where we could not find him again
15/01/2018	09.01	Captured CV 367 in Askari Game reserve	Monitoring for recovery	This individual was finally captured after 10 or so days of him showing limited movement. He is missing primary feathers, hindering his flight. He is now in VulPro's rehab enclosure, being monitored for recovery and future release once his primary feathers have grown back.
17/01/2018	10.01	Collected an injured CV fledgling from Mogale's gate	N/A	Despite our best efforts, he passed away within a few days of his arrival-suspected spinal injuries
23/01/2018	11.01	Collected an injured adult CV from Lephale	Monitoring for release	This adult has an interesting leg injury which has healed and fused resulting in the leg being functional but not able to bend correctly. The adult was surviving well but we are worried about head trauma and thus, monitoring him closely.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
24/01/2018	12.01	Collected CV 159 from Pietermaritzburg after he was captured by locals in Dundee	N/A as he will remain at VulPro for breeding purposes	This individual has been captured twice for the muti-trade. Once in Lesotho, and once in KZN. Thus, we have decided the best course of action would be for the bird to remain at the VulPro facility.
26/01/2018	13.01	Collected CV 345 from Koster	Monitoring release	CV345 was captured after remaining in the same vicinity for several days. No apparent injuries, and he was found waterlogged from the recent rainfall. He will be released again during the first week of February.
26/01/2018		Checked on CV 342 in Vryburg	N/A	This individual was investigated as he remained in same area for several days. Upon inspection it was found he was in good health, and no intervention necessary.
26/01/2018	14.01	Collected a dehydrated and very weak CV fledgling from Medi-vets in Thabazimbi	Monitoring for recovery	This little guy came to us almost dead. He was put on a drip, on a course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Undergoing laser therapy and is showing slight signs of improvement.
26/01/2018	15.01	Collected a lesser spotted eagle from Medi-vets in Thabazimbi	Monitoring for release	The eagle has a broken left wing and has been pinned. We are monitoring progress and recovery.

### Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
25-28 January 2018	Vulture captures	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	Continued with our tree nesting vulture research inside the Olifants River Private Game Reserve. During our first 2018 trip, we managed to capture 4 adult male AWB vultures. Fit patagial tags and metal SAFRING rings to each of them and fit tracking devices to three of them for research purposes. This is a long term study as we aim to tag all breeding vultures at Olifants with patagial tags.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
January 2018	Vulture restaurant database	VulPro	Continued to update the vulture restaurant database. This database is currently being used for a PhD and Masters study in collaboration with the UCT
January 2018	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database
January 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
01/01/2018-05/01/2018	Volunteer	Volunteer	VulPro	Louise Nicolai from Boikarabelo coal mine joined VulPro for a week to volunteer and learn more about our work.
03/01/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	2 Adults and 2 children toured the VulPro facility
07/01/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	Long standing supporter and adoptive parent, Tony Weedon, went on a tour at the VulPro facility
January 2018	Training	Rehab, laser and vet training	VulPro	Undertook a 3 day intense course on rehabilitation, laser therapy and orthopaedic training. An additional 3 weeks of laser therapy was undertaken at VulPro with ongoing case studies of vultures coming into the Centre. Neil and Karen Holmer Forbes gave the rehab and vet training whilst Janet Lloyd-James gave the laser training. All three are from the UK and donated their time to VulPro.
15/01/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	4 Dutch wildlife and Ecology students undertook a tour at VulPro and learnt about our work and the importance of saving vultures.
17/01/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	2 Adults toured the Centre and experienced vultures close-up.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
22/01/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	2 Adults toured the Centre and learnt about our efforts in saving African's vultures.
23/01/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A couple visited the Centre and learnt about the importance of vultures and the work we undertake to save them.

### ***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.