



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

March 2018

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/03/2018	Fanus Howell	Askari Game Reserve	Discussion around safety and security procedures on entering Nooitgedacht to access the release enclosure and site. Also, discussions around future and continued colony monitoring at the Nooitgedacht CV breeding colony. Nooitgedacht was recently sold and purchased by Askari.	Nooitgedacht release site
5/03/2018	Lara Jordan	VulPro	Lara Jordan commenced her employment at VulPro as Head of Research and Field Work	VulPro
16/03/2018	Mokgadi Chepape	North West Nature Conservation	Site inspection for annual provincial and TOPS permit renewals	Provincial and TOPS permit renewals
20/02/2018	Elizabeth Bennett	Wildlife Conservation Society	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship
22/03/2018	Pela Luthuli	Gauteng Nature Conservation	Site inspection of the Nooitgedacht release enclosure for provincial and TOPS permit renewals	Provincial and TOPS permit renewals
22/03/2018	Lucas Meers and Larkin Johansen	Jacksonville Zoo	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship
24/03/2018-25/03/2018	AZA delegates and AZA zoo staff	AZA Mid-year conference	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship
25/03/2018	Vulture SAFE committee members and participants	AZA Zoos	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship
25/03/2018	Raptor Tag participants and members	AZA Zoos	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship
26/03/2018	Harrison Edell and Sprina Liu	Dallas Zoo	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
26/03/2018	Gen Anderson	St Augustine Zoo	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship
27/03/2018	Steve Martin	Natural Encounters Inc.	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship
28/03/2018	Albert Mfenyana, Alistair McMaster, Siyabonga Gqalangile, Cecilia Gyan, Zenande Nombakuse, Noluthando Bam, Rory Haschick: ECDC, Samantha Ralston-Paton, Kate Webster, Malaika Koali-Lebona, Adri Barkhuysen and Greer Hawley	DEDAT, BirdLife and windfarm consultants	Discussion around the effects of windfarms on Cape Vultures in the Eastern Cape: meeting arranged by the Eastern Cape Dept of Environment & Economic affairs	Wind farms as a major threat to the Eastern Cape CVs
29/03/2018	James Balance	Zoos Atlanta	Fundraising, networking and relationship building	Stakeholder engagement, input and sponsorship

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 8664 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1064 followers on Twitter and 529 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
07/03/2018	Newsletter - Around the world and VSG activities	IUCN species survival commission	Vulture awareness	Article about VulPro's release of 35 vultures in November 2017
09/03/2018	Filming - Vultures under Threat	CGTN DSTV Africa (channel 409)	Vulture awareness	Short segment entitled "Vultures under threat" to aid in raising awareness about vultures
12/03/2018	Filming - VulPro	Luna Films	Vulture Awareness International	Filming regarding the work VulPro does in order to raise awareness
12/03/2018	Film - Meat poisoned by poachers kills endangered vultures in SA	CGTN	Vulture Awareness	"Meat poisoned by poachers kills endangered vultures in SA"

26/03/2018	Film - Still I Rise	Big Fish Productions	Vulture Awareness	Video Clip highlighting the work VulPro does and the importance of vultures
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CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
08/03/2018	01.03	Kate Webster collected a CV in Thomas River, Eastern Cape from a power line electrocution	Monitoring for recovery and release	The bird is doing well, slight burn marks but no permanent damage. She is being fed up, given TLC and will be released once recovered sufficiently.
12/03/2018	02.03	Collected an injured adult CV from around the Hartbeespoort Dam area	Monitoring for improvement and recovery to join our breeding birds.	This CV was attacked by dogs and suffered serious bite wounds to his wing. Unfortunately due to infection, the tissue died off, revealing bone and further infection in the wing, resulting in the wing having to be amputated. The bird is now recovering and will be kept in captivity for breeding purposes.
19/03/2018		The African White-backed vulture, CV153 and the Lesser Spotted Eagle were taken to Broederstroom Vet for final check-ups	Monitoring for recovery and release.	All three birds had their pins removed and are healing well. The AWB vulture is being monitored closely due to an infection but we expect a full recovery. We also hope to release the Lesser Spotted Eagle but unfortunately only after winter as the species has already migrated back to Europe. He will thus spend his time at VulPro until release is possible
29/03/2018	03.03	Collected a juvenile CV from Ventersdorp with a broken wing from a power line collision	Monitoring for recovery	Due to the break in the joint, the CV will not fly again and will thus join our captive birds for education and breeding purposes.
29/03/2018	04.03	Kate Webster collected an injured immature CV from between Burgersdorp and Steynsburg in the Eastern Cape	Monitoring for recovery and release	The bird was found to be emaciated and dehydrated but with no physical and permanent injuries. She is being treated accordingly until strong enough for release.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
30/3/2018	05.03	Went to collect an adult CV with suspected poisoning in Thabazimbi but unfortunately the bird died before we arrived	N/A	This is the second suspected case of poisoning in the Thabazimbi area with 2 known fatalities so far. An awareness campaign has been initiated with farmers and landowners in the region to search for more affected birds and to contact us immediately.

Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild

Date	Project Title	Project Centred at	Comment
March 2018	Captive breeding programme	VulPro	2 AWB and 6 CV fledglings have been moved to the Nootgedacht release enclosure in preparation for their release in approximately 3 months time. Each bird has been fitted with a tracking device and wing tags.
02/03/2018	Captive breeding programme	VulPro	5 Adult Cape Vultures have been transferred to the National Zoological Gardens of Pretoria on loan as part of our breeding programme. This is part of our collaboration with the NZG and to maximise our breeding efforts to supplement the Magaliesberg Cape Vulture population. All offspring produced from VulPro's birds will be released and will be managed by VulPro. .

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
March 2018	Vulture restaurant database	VulPro	Continued to update the vulture restaurant database. This database is currently being used for 2 PhD studies which we are thrilled about, in collaboration with the UCT
March 2018	Vulture resighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the resighting database, currently 1578 just for 2018 alone. The full database has become so large that it has now been broken down into smaller annual databases. In the long-term it may require the development of a system that carries larger data sets. In addition, a meeting was undertaken with Mark Wolter to look at standardising and creating a semi-automated database for resightings to prevent errors in the system.
March 2018	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continued to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
March 2018	Veterinary baseline	VulPro	Meeting with Neil Forbes to discuss oxygen levels in vultures and to expand work to determine which diseases both captive and wild vultures carry to assist in determining health of individuals before release.
March 2018	Bumble-foot research	VulPro	Throughout the month, data has been collected around the reliability and effectiveness of laser therapy for bumble-foot cases. This is the first phase of a research project. The next phase will be focused on comparing laser therapy to veterinary treatment procedures.
March 2018	Genetic study on Founder Cape and African White-backed Vultures	VulPro and KZN	Discussions have been initiated with the University of KwaZulu-Natal to develop an MoU for collaboration purposes. Determining the founder relationships between the colonies of the ex situ populations will be an important information source for VulPro's supplementation projects.
March 2018	VulPro Research Forum	VulPro	A research e-mail group has been set up in which to assist in connecting VulPro researchers with one another and to develop support between students.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
07/03/2018	Educational Talk and tour	Education and Awareness	VulPro	15 adults and 24 children were given a talk and tour at VulPro, learning about our work and the importance of vultures.
18/03/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	2 adults toured the facility to learn about our work and the importance of vultures.
22/03/2019	Educational talk	Education and awareness	Jacksonville Zoo USA	Presentation given by Kerri Wolter to 62 guests at the Jacksonville Zoo in the USA
25/03/2018	Educational talk	Education and awareness	AZA mid-meeting at Jacksonville Florida	Gave a talk to the Raptor Tag participants during their mid-year AZA meeting. A total of 55 guests attended the talk
26/03/2018	Educational tour	Education and Awareness	VulPro	Adoptive parent Clive Vardakis came to visit the VulPro facility and his adopted CV, Brizzle
26/03/2018	Education talk	Education and Awareness	St Augustine Zoo	Presentation given by Kerri Wolter to the zoo staff and bird keepers at the St Augustine Zoo. A total of 10 guests attended the talk.
27/03/2018	Education talk	Education and Awareness	Natural Encounters	Presentation given by Kerri Wolter to the staff and bird keepers at Natural Encounters Inc. (The Ranch). A total of 20 guests attended the talk.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
27/03/2018	Skype in the classroom	Education and Awareness	Johannesburg	Debra Toor undertook a "Skype in the Classroom" session with learners from the Steyn City School in Johannesburg. This lesson covered vulture tracking
28/03/2018	Education	Education and awareness	VulPro	VulPro's long term volunteer Rhinus, joined us for the day to assist with activities at the VulPro centre
28/03/2018	Educational Talk	Education and Awareness	Disney Animal Kingdom	Presentation given by Kerri Wolter to the staff and bird keepers of the Disney Animal Kingdom. A total of 25 guests attended the talk.
28/03/2018	Educational Talk	Education and Awareness	Zoos Atlanta	Presentation given by Kerri Wolter to guests, zoo keepers and staff at Zoo Atlanta. A total of 30 guests attended the talk.
28/03/2018	Educational talk and tour	Education and Awareness	VulPro	A group of 14 home schooled learners and 8 parents underwent an educational talk and tour to learn about vultures and the work VulPro does.

Hide booking

11/03/2018 - 3 people - Johan Smith

16/03/2018 - 2 people - Alida

17/03/2018 - 2 People - Steve Munslow

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.