



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

April 2018

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
03/04/2018	VulPro Staff	VulPro	General Monthly Staff Meeting	VulPro
04/04/2018	Duncan de Waal	Student	Discussion around community service and what VulPro's needs are	Community service
04/04/2018	Ben Jobsen	UK Master's Student	Update on vulture movements for his Master's project which he is doing with VulPro	Master's research project
11/04/2018	Kobus Havemann	Mabula Game Reserve	Collaboration and discussion regarding the establishment of a Vulture restaurant and hide on the Mabula Game Reserve. In addition, discussion on full collaboration and involvement on vulture conservation related activities which can be undertaken on Mabula	Research and conservation collaboration and site visit
12/04/2018	Gareth Tate	Endangered Wildlife Trust – Birds of Prey Programme	Update on vulture conservation activities and discussion to cement collaborative efforts around vulture resightings, Cape Vulture annual monitoring and population monitoring and surveys	Collaboration and vulture related activity updates
16/04/2018	Vivianne Bezuidenhout	Volunteer	Discussion around volunteer work and critical work which VulPro needs help with	Volunteer assistance

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 8912 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1073 followers on Twitter and 529 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
04/04/2018	"Kate Webster devotes life to helping injured vultures"	Queenstown Express/news	Awareness and educational	Showcasing the work Kate does in collaboration with VulPro, in the Eastern Cape.

06/04/2018	Filming - "Teenagers on a Mission"	SABC	Awareness and educational	Short video clip highlighting the importance of vultures and the work VulPro does.
09/04/2018	Podcast – "Kerri Wolter"	Radio iTunes – Be Provided Conservation	Awareness and educational	Showcasing VulPro and founder, Kerri Wolter as to the reasons for establishing VulPro and what drives VulPro's existence
11/04/2018	"Carnage on vultures in the Eastern Cape"	Press Release	Awareness and exposure	Showcasing the ongoing demise of vultures from power lines in the Eastern Cape
11/04/2018	"Carnage on vultures in the Eastern Cape:	Tourism Tattler – official trade journal on African tourism	Awareness and exposure	Showcasing the ongoing demise of vultures from power lines in the Eastern Cape
13/04/2018	"Cape Vulture flies into trouble again"	Times Live	Awareness and exposure	Showcasing the ongoing demise of vultures from power lines in the Eastern Cape
24/04/2018	"Beautiful news – Kerri Wolter"	Social media and Beautiful news website/facebook and twitter	Awareness and exposure	This clip has been shared over 600 times and viewed by over 5000 people.
26/04/2018	"Alarming rise in vulture electrocutions on South Africa's power lines"	Press Release	Awareness and exposure	Showcasing the detrimental impact power lines have on vultures in just one month
30/01/2018	Alarm bells ringing for vulnerable vultures"	Rhombus media	Awareness and exposure	Showcasing the detrimental impact power lines have on vultures in just one month

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
05/04/2018	01.04	Collected CV287 on the Boekenthoutkloof Road after rain	Monitoring for resightings	The bird was grounded due to being water logged from the rain. He was released 24 hours later at Nooitgedacht

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
11/04/2018	02.04	CV 283 was collected by Kate Webster in the Eastern Cape after colliding with a power line structure, causing severe damage to the wing	CV283 will now remain at VulPro for educational and breeding purposes as she is will never fly again.	This individual was transported back to VulPro via DHL, in order to receive critical veterinary care and undergo a wing amputation
13/04/2018	03.04	Dead CV 173 was collected suffering a power line electrocution	N/A	An incident report has been filed with the local municipality. We are now waiting for feedback from them however we get very little support from them.
17/04/2018	04.04	Collected dead CV 304 from AmadelBult Mine in Thabazimbi after he was electrocuted	Waiting for follow-up meetings and mitigation of the dangerous structure	CV 304, our oldest captive bred vulture was electrocuted on the Amandelbult Mine in Thabazimbi. We are in talks with the mine regarding mitigation efforts to prevent this from happening again as the power lines are owned directly by the mine.
18/04/2018	05.04	A Barn Owl Chick was brought to VulPro after falling out of its nest	Monitoring for release	They chick will be fed and cared for until it is able to fledge
18/04/2018		Two Cape Vultures were released at Rookwood in the E Cape with wing tags 358 and 359	Monitoring for resightings of these two birds	The CVs were from two different power line interactions (Thomas River and Burgersdorp areas) but were suitable for re release
19/04/2018	06.04	Collect an injured CV along with four dead CVs who suffered a power line electrocutions and suspected poisoning near BadPlaas	Monitoring for improvement	The surviving individual has burn wounds on his left wing, and shows signs of organophosphate poisoning. We are monitoring his condition for improvement
21/04/2018	07.04	Collect another injured CV with 6 other dead CVs electrocuted in the Burgersdorp area Eastern Cape	Monitoring the lone survivor for improvement	The CV that survived has burn wounds to both wings and is being treated. An incident report was filed for Eskom
23/04/2018	08.04	Collected another injured CV from another electrocution in the Burgersdorp area Eastern Cape	Monitoring for improvement	An additional bird affected on the same line as the above one CV, is being treated for burn wound on his right wing. Incident report updated and resubmitted to Eskom.
25/04/2018	09.04	Collected a bird from Bloemfontein, another power line victim and unfortunately the bird died as we arrived	N/A	As this bird was held for 2 days before we were contacted, his injuries were too severe and he lost the fight to survive as we arrived to try treat and save him.

Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild

Date	Project title	Project centered at	Comment
22/04/2018	Captive breeding	VulPro	Our first 4 eggs have been laid. All four eggs have been taken for artificial incubation as all these pairs are being double-clutched as they are very early and have all proven themselves over the past few years to give fertile eggs. This allows us the opportunity of giving pairs with infertile eggs the opportunity of raising a chick.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
April 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
April 2018	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database- Including repeat individuals, we have recorded 6834 re-sightings to date in 2018.
April 2018	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions.
April 2018	Rehabilitation, disabilities and survival	VulPro	11 years of VulPro rehabilitation data has been analysed to identify key disabilities that different species and age groups of vultures that come into VulPro with. In due course this information will be linked to the transmitter data.
April 2018	Powerline strategy	VulPro	GIS maps are being produced for powerline surveys in relation to colonies and buffer zones have been indicated. This information will guide future powerline surveys this year. Initial focus will be placed on Magaliesburg, Kransberg, Manutsa, Southpansberg, Moletjie and Mannyenalong.
April 2018	Resighting data	VulPro	Database has been cleaned and provincial allocation of tagging and resighting have been added to the the database from 2006-2017. This will assist in future analysis of the database.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
April 2018	Aversion therapy	VulPro	With the assistance of new volunteers helping at VulPro the construction of a powerline is underway to be used as an experimental project to train release birds not sit on powerlines. This is an extension of the previous project we implemented which did not work effectively. We are changing strategies and looking at new designs.
09/04/2018	Power line survey	Eastern Cape	Powerline survey done on farm Sonskyn in Sterkstroom district E Cape after report of vulture hanging from steel structure
12/04/2018	Power line survey	Outskirts of Ventersdorp	Undertook a power line survey on the outskirts of Ventersdorp based on the movement patterns on one of our released captive bred vultures. The survey revealed 7 dead vultures below staggered vertical structures near a watering point where vultures frequently visit to bathe and drink. A full report has been submitted to Eskom and they are in the process of investigating. In addition, during this survey Cape Vulture Tag 325 was resighted with 54 other vultures. This was a special resighting as it was captive bred bird who's transmitter had failed to transmit after release in November 2017. The bird was looking good.
April	Powerline survey strategy	VulPro	Geographical Information System are being utilised to identify powerline within a 50 meter buffer zone around colonies. This will allow a more active strategic approach to powerline surveying.
14/04/2018	Went to investigate CV324 was frequenting in the Lobatse district of Botswana	New restaurant identified	We went to investigate this hotspot are which CV324 constantly returned to. It was discovered to be a cattle farm, with a designated area for carcass disposal, inadvertently becoming a feeding site for both CV and AWB. This site has great potential due to its close proximity to the Mannyelalong CV breeding colony.
16 – 19/04/2018	Olifants vulture capture	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	Undertook another vulture capture at the Olifants Private Game Reserve. This time we were successful in capturing and processing 7 African White-backed vultures. All birds were sampled, tagged, ringed and released.
April	Hristo Nkomo	VulPro	Various meetings were conducted over the month to develop concept ideas and develop the writing for this Cape Vulture morphology project.
April	Lynnia Mukarati	VulPro	Meetings were conducted and captive vulture captures took place to research collect data for the second phase of this project.
April	Ben Jobsen	VulPro	Various meetings were held throughout the month to transfer data and to finalise individuals to be used for the project.
April	Tree-nesting surveys	VulPro	Tree-nesting survey template has been standardised across sites, historical data is being entered in new format.
April	UKZN MOU	VulPro	The UKZN MOU has been finalised and the VulPro board has accepted the agreement. The document has been sent to UKZN for approval.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
26/04/2018	Desire Dalton, NZG	VulPro	A meeting was held to discuss the way forward with PhD student Pumeza Cingo and her study on the genetic diversity, immune diversity and microbiomes and the collection of data for the study.
30/04/2018	Genetics study	VulPro	The first samples were collected for the Founder Cape Vulture genetic relationship project which will be conducted by a PhD student at UKZN.
30/04/2018	Desire Dalton	VulPro	Came and collected samples for Pumeza Cingo study on the genetic diversity, immune diversity and microbiomes.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
08/04/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre, learnt about the work VulPro undertakes and also enjoyed time in the hide photographing the wild birds.
09/04/2018	Training	Education and training	VulPro	Volunteer Ben Jobson arrived from England. He will be spending 2 months at VulPro, in order to continue his research for his Master's Degree
09/04/2018	Educational Talk and tour	VulPro	VulPro	One guest toured the Centre and learnt about the importance of vultures and conserving them
13-14/04/2018	Training	Vet and rehab training	VulPro	Assisted with vet and rehab training for vulture treatments in Tanzania
13/04/2018	Community Service	Community service	VulPro	Two students from St Stithians spent the day at VulPro for their community service hours.
14/03/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A family of 5 visited the Centre and learnt about the work VulPro undertakes as well as offering support and a monthly donation to VulPro.
15/04/2018	Volunteer	Volunteer	VulPro	Volunteer Alexandre from France arrived. He will be spending 2 months at VulPro, learning about vultures and the work VulPro does.
18/04/2018	Roots and Shoots Learners	Education	VulPro	15 Roots and Shoots learners joined VulPro for the afternoon for some hands on work including gathering nesting material for the breeding vultures at the centre.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
19/04/2018	Community Service	Community Service	VulPro	Two students from St Stithians spent the day at VulPro for their community service hours.
22/04/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre and had close up encounters with the birds. Learning about the importance of vultures and the work VulPro undertakes to save them.
23/04/2018	Educational tour	Education	VulPro	A group of 19 young kids (Between ages of 4 and 7) toured the Centre with their one care taker, from the local community across the main road from VulPro called Sunway Village. The kids and care giver loved their time at VulPro and have requested to come back. Each child was given one of our interactive workbooks for them to take back home and work with their care giver on fun games and colouring-in exercises.

Hide booking:

08/04/2018 – Alida du Toit (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.