



## VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

June 2018

## CONGRATULATIONS

I would like to start this report with congratulating two VulPro staff members. Firstly to Lara Jordan who has qualified for her PhD and is now referred to as Dr Lara Jordan. This is a major accomplishment and we are so incredibly proud of her. Secondly, Kerri Wolter has received a full scholarship to attend the IUCN species reintroduction and restoration conference and workshop. This will have some major positive implications to VulPro's ex-situ breeding programme for conservation purposes and we are very excited about the future going forward. Kerri will be attending the meeting in November in Chicago.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/06/2018	Lara Jordan	VulPro	Discussion around VulPro's ex-situ breeding programme	Breeding programme
05/06/2018	VulPro Staff	VulPro	Monthly Staff meeting	VulPro Staff meeting
13/06/2018	Lauren Montgomery	ACM Track	Meeting to discuss vehicle tracking solutions to replace log books in work vehicles	Vehicle tracking
14/06/2018	Joshua van Niekerk	Volunteer	Discussion around volunteering at VulPro and the duties required	Volunteers
22/06/2018	Christiaan Brink	UCT PhD student	Update on Christiaan's PhD project and an update on the vulture restaurant database	PhD Project
28/06/2018	Isabel Rogers	BBC	Discussion around a Red List species documentary involving the plight of vultures	Filming

## 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 9357 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1092 followers on Twitter and 529 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
07/06/2018	TV	SABC2 NUUS	Insert on vultures and power lines done	Awareness and exposure to the plight of vultures and the threat power lines have on their survival
24/06/2018	TV	50/50	Neutedop insert on vultures and power lines	Awareness and exposure to the plight of vultures and the threat power lines have on their survival

## CONSERVATION

### A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

#### *Rehabilitation*

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
06/06/2018		Searched for CV 370	Monitoring tracking device	This individual seemed to be unable to leave a valley below Nooitgedacht and had remained in the same area for several days. The individual was spotted roosting in a tree, but flushed on approach and could not be found again
11/06/2018		Released CV345 again for his third attempt	Monitoring via his tracking device and visual resightings	CV345 was recaptured earlier on in the year from dehydration after his release in November 2017. He has recovered and has once again been released from the release enclosure at Nooitgedacht
15/06/2018		Released CV364	Monitoring via his tracking device and visual resightings	CV364 was successfully released from the release enclosure at Nooitgedacht. This is a 2017 CV captive bred baby and this is his first release.
19/06/2018	01.06	Collected an injured African White-backed vulture from Tosca in the North West Province	The bird will remain in captivity at VulPro and join the other non-releasable residents	The bird has a broken wing, in his elbow joint and will not be able to be released due to limited flight. He is however recovering well from his ordeal in being grounded for several days resulting in him being dehydrated and emaciated
19/06/2018		Released one of the Cape Vultures which was picked up in the Eastern Cape by Kate Webster	Monitoring for resightings	The CV which was collected on the 23 April 2018 had recovered well enough, was tagged and released.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
24/06/2018	02.06	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from Mockford farms	Monitoring for recovery	The CV has a dislocated leg and injured toe with the bone exposed. His leg has been pinned and prognosis is guarded
26/06/2018		Female Condor passed away	N/A	We are unsure why at this stage but our oldest female Condor unexpectedly passed away. We are waiting for post mortem results and we are all devastated by her passing
27/06/2018		Released the last 2 captive bred CVs	Monitoring via their tracking devices and wing tags	CV319 and CV368 were both released from their release enclosure at Nooitgedacht. Both birds flew off beautifully.
29/06/2018	03.06	Collected a Cape Vulture from the Lydenburg Veterinary Clinic	Monitoring for full recovery	This bird had a wing fracture which was treated and pinned by the vets in Lydenburg. She has now joined VulPro for additional rehab where she can stretch and exercise her wings with the hope of her being released.
29/06/2018	04.06	Collected a Black Shouldered Kite from Klerksdorp	Monitoring for recovery	The bird was captured by locals and carried by its one wing. It appears he has a sternum injury as he cannot gain height but wings appear to be okay. He will be x-rays to assess full damage and treated accordingly.

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

Date	Project title	Project centered at	Comment
May 2018	Captive breeding	VulPro	We have had many more eggs laid during this month. To-date we have reached 29 eggs with the following details; three fertile African White-backed vulture eggs, 2 African White-backed vulture eggs that have been lost due to birds being egg bound, 7 infertile Cape Vulture eggs, one cracked Cape Vulture egg, 2 unknown as being naturally incubated, 14 known fertile Cape Vulture eggs and 2 successfully hatched chicks with 2 chicks that died shortly after their hatching.
7/06/2018-10/06/2018	Olifants Tree Nesting Surveys	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	First of the annual nesting surveys were undertaken and results are looking really promising with an increase from the 2017's first survey.
10/06/2018-13/06/2018	Manutsa colony monitoring	Manutsa CV colony	Undertook the first of the annual population surveys at the Manutsa CV colony. This colony appears to be fairly stable showing more or less the same numbers of breeding pairs as in the past 2 years.

19/06/2018-21/06/2018	Mannyelalong CV colony monitoring	Mannyelalong CV colony Botswana	Undertook the first of the annual population surveys at the Mannyelalong CV colony and 84 breeding pairs were identified.
25/06/2018-29/06/2018	Boikarabelo AWB population survey	Boikarabelo	Undertook the first of the annual population surveys at Boikarabelo. Results are pretty bleak in comparison to last year's first count with many failed nests.
26/06/2018 – 29/06/ 2018	Kransberg CV colony monitoring	Limpopo, South Africa	Undertook the first count -----

### Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
June 2018	Vulture restaurant database	VulPro	The review of this database has been completed by a PhD student and the number of vulture restaurants that are ongoing and active stands at 220 restaurants across South Africa.
June 2018	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database- Including repeat individuals, we have recorded 31,790 re-sightings from its inception. Spatial analysis of this data set has started.
June 2018	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions to expand knowledge of landscape use of vultures.
June 2018	Raptor Research Foundation	Limpopo	Abstract for the RRF conference in November has been submitted on behalf of Bhekinkosi Sibanda on the Sexual Dimorphism in African White-backed Vulture's ( <i>Gyps africanus</i> ) Plumage.
June 2018	Formalised MOU with the University of KwaZulu-Natal	KwaZulu-Natal	The MOU has been completed with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, this should assist in integrating research between the two organisations.
June 2018	Eskom Phase 1	VulPro	Part of the data required for phase 1 of the analysis of vultures and powerlines has been received from Eskom.
25/06/2018	Ben Jobson	VulPro	MSc student from Imperial College London closes his stay with us. Much of the analysis between the spatial utilisation of captive bred and rehabilitated vultures has been finalised. We are excited to see the finalised results and its eventual publication.
June 2018	Cape Vulture egg shape	VulPro	Cape Vulture egg shape photographs and their subsequent processing has been completed by intern Hristo Nkomo, to determine if egg shape effects hatchability.
27/06/2018	Eskom Mitigation	Illens Farm North West	VulPro discovered a structure where we recorded 8 vultures deaths, the meeting discussed possible mitigation measures for the structure.

### Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
02/06/2018	Education Tour and Brick signing	Education, awareness and sponsorship	VulPro	1 Adult and 3 children came to sign their names on their adopted bricks at the VulPro facility
16/06/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	1 Adult who is a regular visitor to the centre toured the facility
16/06/2018	Birthday tour	Birthday tour and awareness	VulPro	A birthday lunch with 25 guests was arranged at the Centre with a donation going towards the upkeep and maintenance expenses. Instead of a birthday gift, each guest donated some money towards vulture conservation.
21/06/2018-23/06/2018	Volunteers	Volunteers	VulPro	5 Students from the University of Pretoria spent time at VulPro as part of their community service. They kindly donated paint and re-painted VulPro's educational centre
26/06/2018	School talk and visit	Education, awareness	Rookwood / VulPro Eastern Cape	Claremont HS (Cape Town) visited the Eastern Cape VulPro centre and learnt about the importance of saving vultures and the importance of facilities such as VulPro. A total of 22 pupils and 4 teachers attended the experience.
29/06/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A couple visited the Centre, experienced the birds from close-up and enjoyed some time at the vulture hide.

### **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.