



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

May 2018

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
02/05/2018	Kishaylin Chetty and Warren Funston	Eskom	Eskom Catch-up meeting	Relationship building, collaboration and follow up with Eskom regarding progress on power line mitigations and the way forward
03/05/2018	Clint Austin	Bayer	Donation of antibiotics	Sponsorship and networking
04/05/2018	Paul Oxton and CJ Carrington	Wild Heart Wildlife Foundation	Donation of medical supplies and discussion around the maintenance of the release enclosure at Nooitgedacht	Sponsorship and networking
11/05/2018	Lourens Leeuwner	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Site visit and catch up	Relationship building and collaboration
11/05/2018	Allan Baino	Student at University of Glasgow	Discussion around vulture research namely; foraging preference in white-backed vulture populations from isotopic signatures within their blood and feathers	Research collaboration
15/05/2018	Chris Musgrave	Claimvictours	Potential collaboration for placement of international volunteers	Volunteers
16/05/2018	VulPro Staff	VulPro	Monthly Staff meeting going through monthly schedules and updates	Staff meeting
17/05/2018	Mark Bing	Botswana vet	VulPro travelled to Botswana to meet with Mark Bing. We discussed possibly establishing a restaurant on his property, assessed other feeding sites, as well as future collaboration regarding tree nest surveys along the Limpopo River	Relationship building, collaboration and restaurant establishment
18/05/2018	Kishaylin Chetty	Eskom	Eskom Catch-up meeting and further discussions around joint projects and possible funding	Collaboration, sponsorship and research
18/05/2018	John Werth and Rita Groenewald	PAAZA and Roots & Shoots respectively	Discussion regarding a collaborative after school programme which will commence in the very near future	Educational programme
19/05/2018	VulPro Director's Meeting	VulPro	Quarterly director's meeting	Director's meeting

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
24/05/2018	Ara Monadjem	VulPro's scientific and research committee	Developing research ideas for VulPro	New areas identified for long-term monitoring focus and research
29/05/2018	Mike Behr	Wild Exposure	Site visit and discussion around the extension of the breeding cliff in the Cape Vulture breeding enclosure	Sponsorship of the extension of the Cape Vulture breeding cliff
30/05/2018	Timothy Jackson	Tusk Trust	Site visit and catch up regarding VulPro's progress and potential continued support	Continued relationship building and partnership
31/05/2018	Dean Polley	Aerial Vision Africa	Develop research methods using drones for vultures species.	Reduce disturbance of tree-nesting monitoring and to improve the quality of colony monitoring

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 8992 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1079 followers on Twitter and 529 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
01/05/2018	Radio	Cape Talk Radio	Vulture Awareness	Kate Webster was interviewed for a segment called "Alarming rise in vulture electrocutions on SA's power lines".
02/05/2018	Newspaper	Witness Newspaper	Vulture Awareness	Article entitled "Alarm as Cape Vulture deaths from power lines shoot up"
02/05/2018	Podcast	Marcia Sived	Vulture Awareness	Podcast discussing VulPro, the work we undertake, and the importance of vultures
02/05/2018	Film	Beautiful News	Vulture awareness	Short film about the work Kerri Wolter and VulPro undertakes and highlighting the importance of vulture conservation
02/05/2018	Online Article	IOL	Vulture Awareness	Online article "Electrocution of Cape Vultures leading to extinction"
03/05/2018	Article	Katie Adamson Conservation fund newsletter	Awareness about vultures and volunteering at VulPro	Short article written by a VulPro volunteer about their time spent volunteering at VulPro

03/05/2018	Radio	RSG	Vulture awareness regarding the threat of power lines	Radio segment about the power line threat currently faced by vultures in South Africa
06/05/2018`	Newsletter	Hartbeesfontein newsletter	Vulture awareness regarding the threat of power lines	Article “ Alarming rise in vulture electrocutions on SA’s power lines”
07/05/2018	Online article	Good Things Guy	Vulture awareness	Online article “Three endangered vultures were released back into the wild”
09/05/2018	Newspaper	Port Elizabeth Weekly	Vulture awareness	Article entitled “Alarming rise in vulture electrocutions on power lines”
11/05/2018	Newspaper	The Representative	Vulture Awareness	Article on “Concern over vultures”
13/05/2018	Newspaper	Timeslive	Vulture Awareness	Article “Cape vultures flies into trouble again”
16/05/2018	Magazine	Farmer’s Weekly	Vulture Awareness	Article on “Concern as Cape Vulture is driven closer to extinction due to power line collisions.”
16/05/2018	Television	SABC news	Vulture Awareness	Footage of power line injured birds and interview with Kate at Rookwood – to be aired later
26/05/2018	Newsletter	Hartbeesfontein newsletter	Vulture awareness	Article on “Alarming rise in vulture electrocutions on SA’s power lines”
28/05/2018	Newspaper	Times select	Vulture awareness	Article on “Vulture shock: Power lines fry one rare bird a day”
30/05/2018	Newsletter	NWK Arena	Vulture awareness	Article to raise awareness regarding the importance of vulture population monitoring

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
------	--------	----------	-----------	---------

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
04/05/2018		Collected CV female from Amahlati SPCA which had been brought through from Keiskammahoek	Permanent damage to wing	Extremely dehydrated. .Rehydrated and fed to regain strength and has joined the other permanent injured birds in the holding aviary at Rookwood
04/05/2018		Released captive bred CV 317, 369, and AWB 394 from the Nooitgedacht enclosure	Monitoring via GPS tracking	These 3 individuals seem to be adapting well, with 369 and 317 remaining close to the Nooitgedacht colony, and AWB 394 has started ranging towards Botswana
04/04/2018	01.05	2 Andean Condors and one King vulture arrived at VulPro	N/A	All three are privately owned and VulPro has been requested to take care of them. The Condors will be used for the international breeding programme and the American King Vulture will be used for educational purposes.
05/05/2018	2.05	Collected an injured AWB Vulture from the Sondela Nature Reserve	Monitoring for recovery but due to wing issues, he will remain in captivity at VulPro as will never fly successfully for survival in the wild	This individual was originally captured and treated by Sondela staff for suspected poisoning, and then released. Unfortunately, the individual also had a damaged wing which was overlooked and hence, he had to be recaptured after several days as he was unable to fly. We are monitoring for improvement.
07/05/2018		Released captive bred AWB 377 from Nooitgedacht	Monitoring via GPS tracking	This individual has shown great progress and range to date
09/05/2018	3.05	Collected an injured spotted eagle owl close to Magaliespark in the North-West after he was hit by a car.	The owl was released after a few days back where he was found.	The owl had an eye injury and was treated accordingly.
09/05/2018	4.05	Collected Marabou Stork from the Waltvulture restaurant in Polokwane	N/A	The bird had collided with a power line in close proximity to the restaurant. The wing was rotated and the bone exposed, thus the wing was amputated. He has since been donated to the Pretoria Zoo as a companion for their lonely Marabou Stork.
10/05/2018	5.05	Collected an adult CV from Thabazimbi which had injured its wing on a barbed wire fence	Monitoring for resightings	This individual only had superficial injuries and was released on the 31 May.
11/05/2018	6.05	Collected a Cape Vulture from Ottosdal with damage to both wings from a powerline collision	N/A as the bird will remain in captivity for educational and breeding purposes.	Both wings were damaged, however we remain optimistic about saving the left wing as injuries seem superficial. The right wing however has been amputated

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
15/05/2018	7.05	Kate collected 2 Cape Vultures from Stutterheim	Monitoring both birds for release	Both birds were found below a power line but their wings do not seem to have permanent damage. We are hopeful both can be released in due course.
22/05/2018	8.05	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from Carltonville which was stuck in fencing	Monitoring for resightings	The bird has no injuries and just bruising. He was released at Nooitgedacht on the 31 May.
25/05/2018	9.05	Collected a sub-adult Cape Vulture form Thabazimbi	Monitoring for release	This individual was found on a dirt road after a suspected collision. There seems to be no damage to the wings and we hope to release him shortly
28/05/2018		Released captive bred CV's 370 and 365 from Nooitgedacht release enclosure	Monitoring via GPS tracking	Monitoring range movements with GPS tracking units

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 22 eggs with the following details; one fertile White-backed vulture egg, 2 White-backed vulture eggs that have been lost due to birds being egg bound, 5 infertile Cape Vulture eggs, one cracked Cape Vulture egg, four eggs which are still too young to determine fertility making 9 known fertile Cape Vulture eggs.
23 - 27 05/2018	Magaliesberg monitoring	Skeerpoort and Nooitgedacht	Undertook the first breeding pair count for 2018 and recorded the highest pair count to-date. VulPro is extremely proud of this as this is a direct result of the work we undertake to save vultures.
28/05/2018	Limpopo Cape Vulture monitoring	Moletjie	Undertook the first breeding pair count at this tiny colony. With only 5 active nests and only 3 incubating adults, this colony is declining rapidly with muti and direct disturbance being the major threats.
28-30/05/2018	Limpopo Cape Vulture monitoring	Soutpansberg	Undertook the first breeding pair count. This colony is extremely difficult to monitor given its location, safety and heat haze and mist. However, we managed to records a total of 198 active nests, slight decline from last year but viewing conditions were extremely harsh this time round.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
May 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
May 2018	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database- Including repeat individuals, we have recorded 6834 re-sightings to date.
May 2018	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions.
07/05/2018	Power line survey	Rietfontein	A Power line survey was conducted behind FoodZone in Rietfontein where CV173 was electrocuted. Still awaiting a meeting with municipal power utilities representative.
09 - 11/05/2018	Power line survey	Kransberg	A powerline survey was conducted across the Kransberg colony 50 km buffer zone. no casualties were found, 217 structures were investigated.
16/05/2018	Cape Vulture Colonies	Eastern Cape	PhD student developing proposal with VulPro in the Eastern Cape to study colonies of Cape Vultures to determine movement, environmental factors of breeding colonies and conflict.
24/05/2018	Powerline Survey	Limpopo	A powerline survey was conducted on the edge of a hunting lodge 29 powerline structures were examined
May 2018	Strategic assessment of powerlines	VulPro	We have contiuned to develop buffer zone analysis around colonies and restaurants to assist in prioritising mitigation measures for Eskom.
May 2018	Aversion Therapy	VulPro	We advised Eskom on some mitigation measures of kite structures and we have been in discussions with Eskom to develop the life size prototype of a powerline structure to use in captivity to teach vultures not to sit on powerline structures
May 2018	Student meetings	VulPro	A number of catch up meetings with students have been conducted. Sharing of data and the first egg shape Cape Vulture captures were conducted. The study of different treatments for ulcerative pododermatitis contiunes.
May 2018	Summary of rehabilitation data for Eskom	VulPro	At the request of Eskom we have summarised the effect of poweline collisions on the survival of vulture that have been admitted to VulPro
May 2018	Raptor Research Foundation	VulPro	Three VulPro staff and student members have registered to the Raptor Research Foundation conference in November. Two abstracts will be submitted 1) Sexual Dimorphisim in African White-backed Plumage, 2) Captive breeding and rehabilitation of Cape Vultures in Southern Africa: Post-release Spatial-utilization patterns.

Education& Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
02/05/2018	Education Tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	3 Adults attended a tour at VulPro to learn about vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
04/05/2018	Volunteer	Volunteer	VulPro	Volunteer Bettina Boemans arrived from Germany for her 8 th visit to VulPro
05/05/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	6 Adults attended a tour at VulPro to learn about vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
06/05/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	4Adults attended a tour at VulPro to learn about vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
07/05/2018	Education Presentation	Vulture awareness and conservation input	VulPro	Skype presentation was given in contribution to the USA based SESYNC Pursuit conference about "Saving Africa's vultures"
08/05/2018	Education Presentation	Vulture awareness and conservation input	VulPro	Skype presentation was given in contribution to the USA based SESYNC Pursuit conference
09/05/2018	Farmer Engagement	Investigation into Kransberg colony decline	Limpopo (West side of colony buffer zone)	Contacted nine new farmers and vulture restaurant owners within the Kransberg colony buffer zone. Relationships are being developed to establish one of these areas as a capture site. One powerline incident many years ago had been discovered. Poisoning was mentioned as the potential problem for vultures in the area.
10/05/2018	Farmer Engagement	Investigation into Kransberg colony decline	Limpopo (East side of colony buffer zone)	Contacted eight farmers and vulture restaurant owners in the area and are developing relationships. One site was discovered with a potential new colony in the area.
11/05/2018	Farmer Engagement	Investigation into Kransberg colony decline	Limpopo	Three landowners and rangers were met with for more indepth discussions. Information was shared at a farmers meeting and 15 farmers signed up for our newsletter.
13/05/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	4 adults and one child attended a tour at VulPro to learn about vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
14/05/2018	Volunteer	Volunteer	VulPro	Raiden Hoxland spent the day at VulPro, assisting around the centre.
16/05/2018	Roots and Shoots learners activity day	Education and awareness	VulPro	10 learners from the Roots and Shoots programme spent the afternoon at VulPro and assisted with cleaning waters in enclosures.
22/05/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	2 adults and one child attended a tour at VulPro to learn about vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
22/05/2018	PMF Forum meeting of NWGA	Bi yearly meeting	Port Elizabeth	Attended bi yearly meeting, issue of misuse of poisoning and lead poisoning discussed.
25/05/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	4 adults attended a tour at VulPro to learn about vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
26/05/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	2 adults attended a tour at VulPro to learn about vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.

Hide booking

Judith Campbell- 2 People
 Byran Post- 1 Person
 Celia Human- 4 People
 Karin Wiesler- 4 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.