



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

August 2018

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
02/08/2018	Tebogo Mashua and colleagues	DEA and other stakeholders	First National Vulture Working Group meeting was held to discuss and incorporate the multi species action plan for vultures focusing in South Africa	National Vulture Working Group
03/08/2018	Mcedid Cindi and colleagues	DEA and other stakeholders	First Poison Working Group meeting was held to discuss and set up a working group to implement and work together to address the threat of poisoning on all wildlife and species	Poison Working Group
06/08/2018	Mr Ramatseba, Mr Moloto, Mr Makgakga and Mr Mpyana	Moletjie Nature Reserve, Committee members and community leaders	To discuss ways to reverse the decline of the Cape Vulture breeding colony at the Moletjie Nature Reserve	Moletjie Nature Reserve
08/08/2018	Michael Mace and Andrew Stehly	San Diego Global	Discussion around ex-situ vulture breeding and the movement of 10 non-releasable vultures to be loaned out to San Diego for breeding and release purposes	Ex-situ breeding and vulture loan
10/08/2018	Tracy Rhese, Mike Jordan, Ben Hoffman, Alvaro Camiña Cardenal.	Ex-situ breeding advisory group	A Skpye meeting was held with a group of specialists to give advice on the development of the Cape Vulture translocation programme and the development of a pilot study on African White-backed vultures	Ex-situ Advisory Board
10/08/2018	Lara Jordan	VulPro	Weekly update meeting to arrange weekly schedules and research tasks	Weekly meeting
23/08/2018	Lara Jordan and Mark Wolter	VulPro	Weekly meeting and formal work discussions on duties and responsibilities	Weekly meeting
23/08/2018	Nicole Gunary	WAG TV	Discussion around filming and the possibility of close-up feeding shots of wild and captive birds	Filming
31/08/2018	Lara Jordan and Charne Wilhelmi	VulPro	Weekly meeting and discussion around power line surveys for September and unity within the VulPro family	Power line discussions and VulPro unity

Media

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout August; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 9699 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1100 followers on Twitter and 529 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
08/08/2018	"Violent hailstorm kills rare African vulture brought to the US to help save the species"	The Washington Post	Awareness and exposure	Article was published on the magnitude of the loss of one of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Cape Vultures hit from a severe hail storm.
22/08/2018	"Power lines threaten Cape Vultures' future – wildlife organization	Birds and Renewable Energy – Birdlife SA	Awareness and exposure	An article on VulPro's findings on vultures and power lines was included in the Birdlife SA's update.
29/08/2018	Online Article	Global Guardian Project	Vulture Awareness	Online article was featured about VulPro and the work our organization undertakes as part of their Global Guardian Project's A-Z Endangered Animals e-course.
31/08/2018	"Helping them soar again"	sandiegozoo.org	Awareness and exposure	Highlighting International Vulture Awareness Day and the work VulPro undertakes with the support from San Deigo Zoo
August 2018	Vulture Awareness Day and VulPro	USA and UK captive facilities	Awareness and exposure	Throughout the month, VulPro and our work has been showcased on social media posts and articles in preparation for IVAD and the support we receive around the world.

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
02/08/2018 and 13/08/2018		Searched for CV 364	Monitoring GPS movements	VulPro staff and volunteer went to check on CV364 after his GPS transmitter showed his location not being ideal. The bird was found roosting in a tree with no apparent problems. We continue to monitor his movements

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
04/08/2018	01.08	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from Mogale's Gate	N/A as the bird will remain in captivity for breeding purposes	The bird had a shattered wing from flying into power lines and the bone was exposed. Unfortunately the wing had to be amputated due to the severity of the break.
07/08/2018	02.08	Collected a juvenile Cape Vulture at VulPro	N/A as the bird won't be released due to the type of fracture	The bird was found sitting inside the vulture restaurant unable to fly due to a fracture in his elbow joint. As the fracture was in the joint, it was unable to be pinned and thus the bird will never fly well enough to successfully survive out in the wild.
12/08/2018	03.08	Collected an injured adult African White-backed vulture in Centurion	N/A as the bird will remain in captivity for breeding purposes	The bird was found in Centurion on a landowner's roof. He was found to be emaciated, blind in his left eye and with some degree of head trauma. It is unsure how or why this bird got into this state.
25/08/2018	04.08	Collected an injured adult Cape Vulture off the N1 highway just before the Bela Bela turnoff	N/A as the bird is not releasable and will remain in captivity for breeding purposes	The bird flew into power line cables and broke his wing in his elbow joint. Thus we cannot pin the break as it is in the joint. From his brood patch, we can deduce he was an active breeding bird which means his chick will not survive with just one parent and another breeding pair has been lost to the wild population.

Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild

Date	Project title	Project centered at	Comment
August	Captive breeding	VulPro	To-date we have 4 Cape Vulture and 3 African White-backed vulture chicks. All are currently doing very well. What makes this year different from last is that 2 of the AWB vulture chicks are being raised together by a Cape Vulture foster pair as the parents of the AWB vulture chicks were not interested. We will be writing this up but so far, we are extremely excited with the results. This gives us many more options for foster parents in the future as well as the opportunity of foster parents raising 2 chicks at the same time should the need arise.
06/08/2018	Moletjie Colony Monitoring	Moletjie Limpopo Province	Conducted the second population monitoring count for Moletjie and found only 2 active nests.

07-08/08/2018	Soutpansberg CV Monitoring	Soutpansberg - Limpopo Province	Conducted the second annual population monitoring count for Soutpansberg and recorded 174 active nests.
13-17/08/2018	Manutsa CV Monitoring	Manutsa - Limpopo	Conducted the second annual population monitoring count for Manutsa and recorded 782 active nests. This makes this the largest count for this colony to date and the second largest Cape Vulture colony for 2018.
18-21/08/2018	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	Olifants – Limpopo	Undertook the second tree nesting survey at the Olifants River Private Game Reserve and recorded a total of 76 active nests for AWB and Hooded vultures jointly.
21-23/08/2018	Mannyelalong CV Monitoring	Mannyelalong - Botswana	Conducted the second population monitoring count for Mannyelalong. 79 Active nests were recorded.
27-30/08/2018	Kransburg CV colony	Kransburg - Limpopo Province	Conducted the second population monitoring count for Kransburg. 648 Active nests were recorded.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
August 2018	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database - Including repeat individuals, we have recorded 33 140 re-sightings to date.
August 2018	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationary positions. Currently there are still 9 active with cellular tracking units and 9 active transmitters with Movebank
August 2018	Oppenheimer De Beers Research Group	VulPro	A second abstract has been submitted on African White-backed vultures tree nesting characteristics and survival.
August 2018	IUCN reintroduction workshop and conference	Chicago – USA	Completed the poster entitled “The interface between vulture rehabilitation, translocation and conservation” This will be presented in November.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
01/08/2018	Volunteer	Volunteers	VulPro	Anton arrived from the USA to volunteer at VulPro for 7 days.
06/08/2018	Educational Talk and Tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	62 learners (Grade 2) from Eeufees Primary school attended and educational talk and tour to learn about the importance of conserving vultures.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
07/08/2018	Educational Talk and Tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	59 learners (Grade 2) from Eeufees Primary school attended and educational talk and tour to learn about the importance of conserving vultures.
08/08/2018	Educational Talk and Tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	62 learners (Grade 2) from Eeufees Primary school attended and educational talk and tour to learn about the importance of conserving vultures.
11/08/2018	Volunteer	Volunteers	VulPro	Jennifer Leung arrived to volunteer for the next 3 weeks.
11/08/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	Six local guests toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake to save vultures.
12/08/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	VulPro volunteer toured the Centre with his son to get a better idea of the work VulPro undertakes and to find out where additional help is needed at the Centre and with any of our activities.
13/08/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre and close-up experiences with our vultures.
15/08/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	An international group of 5 toured the Centre, learnt about the work we undertake as well as the importance of vulture feeding sites and how piggeries can assist with supplying safe food for the birds on a regular basis.
18/08/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake and the importance of saving our vultures.
20/08/2018	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	A local couple toured the Centre and learnt about the importance of vultures and the importance of our work in trying to save the species.
22/08/2018	Community Service	Community Service	VulPro	A student from Saint Stithians undertook 5 hours of community service at VulPro. Devan Casey has come through to us now for the past 2 years and we enjoy his enthusiasm and hard work during his community hours at VulPro.
29/08/2018	Educational Tour	Education and Awareness	VulPro	Four students from the Netherlands, along with their two guides undertook an educational tour at VulPro, learning about the importance of vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
29/08/2018	Educational Tour	Education and Awareness	VulPro	Provided display items for National Zoological Gardens for International Vulture Awareness Day and gave them a tour of the Centre as new staff members had not been to VulPro before.

Hide booking

- Zelda Harmse – 2 people
- Rudger – 3 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.