



## VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

September 2018

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
03/09/2018	Delicia Gunn	Loskop Dam Nature Reserve	Site visit and discussion around the possibility of attracting and bringing Cape Vultures back to the historical breeding site at Loskop	Possible Cape Vulture reintroduction programme
05/09/2018	VulPro Staff	VulPro	Monthly Staff Meeting	VulPro staff meeting
11/09/2018	Jen Dummer	Volunteer	Skype meeting to discuss volunteer work at VulPro, expectations and concerns from both volunteer and VulPro's side	Volunteering
18/09/2018	Gwen Harris	Volunteer	Skype meeting to discuss possible vulture research projects	Research
22/09/2018	Director's meeting	VulPro Directors	Quarterly director's meeting	Director's meeting
27/09/2018	Tumagola Berevolent and colleagues	City of Tshwane municipality	Site visit where the a vulture was found electrocuted at Xanado Eco Estates in Hartbeespoort	Vulture electrocution
28/09/2018	Jose Tavaras	Vulture Conservation Foundation	Discussion around vulture tagging, protocols etc and the up and coming RRF meeting in November	Vulture tagging

## Media

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout September; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 9911 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1119 followers on Twitter and 623 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
04/09/2018	Online Article	Global Guardian Project	Education and Awareness	An article about VulPro was featured in the Global Guardian "Desert Wonders" edition.
18/09/2018	YouTube	Group 25	Education/Volunteers	The group of students from the University of Pretoria who repainted our educational centre, created an online video of their experience at VulPro.

## CONSERVATION

### A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

#### *Rehabilitation*

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
01/09/2018	01.09	Collected an injured Sparrow Hawk from Klerksdorp	Monitoring for resightings	The bird came in with a dropping wing from a collision. The wing was strapped and he was kept in confinement for 3 weeks and then successfully released at VulPro.
03/09/2018	02.09	Collected a Cape Vulture which was electrocuted close to the Elephant Sanctuary in Hartebeespoort, North-West Province	Awaiting response from Eskom	Report submitted to Eskom, followed by their site visit to investigate the incident.
08/09/2018	03.09	Collected an electrocuted Cape Vulture from Rietfontein	Awaiting further response from the Municipality	Another mail and report was sent to the municipality with support from the Komorant newspaper, which is the local media forum for Hartbeespoort. This is the fourth bird electrocuted on the same structure and still no response or mitigation has occurred or been received.
19/09/2018		Searched for an injured Cape Vulture in the Eastern Cape near Thomas River but unfortunately could not find it.	N/A	Requested the landowner to keep an eye out should the bird show itself again. The bird has been sighted with a broken wing.
21/09/2018		Dewormed all the Lappet-faced vultures at VulPro	N/A	Given the high worm count we have recorded in the captive Lappet-faced vultures, they have been put on a course of deworming.
23/09/2018		Searched for CV370 near Lichtenburg	Monitoring via his GPS tracking device	Given the small movements of CV370, we were worried he was injured from a power line collision. We investigated the area and found him sitting on a T-structure, alive, strong and healthy.

**Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Project centered at</b>	<b>Comment</b>
06-09/09/2018	Tree nesting surveys	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	Undertook the second count and recorded Hooded vulture's incubating and White-backed vulture nestlings. So far the results are showing a positive and stable trend with many nestlings and successful breeding activity. We also took the opportunity to test a drone and the vulture's reaction to the drone flying 20 odd meters above the nest; their reaction was very favourable as adults remained on the nest and many Hooded vultures came to investigate the drone showing no signs of disturbance or stress to the birds.
11-13/09/2018	Tree nesting surveys	Boikarabelo	Undertook the second population survey of African White-backed Vultures at Boikarabelo. 26 Active nests were identified.
13-14/09/2018	Cliff nesting monitoring	Skeerpoort Cape Vulture colony	Completed the third count for the Skeerpoort colony. Noticed some failures, fledglings and nestlings. Age varies greatly this year but results are still stable.
14-16/09/2018	Tree nesting surveys	Morongwa	The first population survey of African White-backed vultures was undertaken at a new site, located in the Limpopo Province. 19 Nests were identified, of which 7 were confirmed active
17/09/2018	Cliff nesting surveys	Nooitgedacht Cape Vulture colony	Completed the third count for the Nooitgedacht colony. Records fledglings and nestling and success rate for this year's breeding is stable with acceptable losses.
18/09/2018	Tree nesting surveys	Curley Wee	The second population survey was undertaken at Curley Wee. Sadly only one active nest was identified
18-21/09/2018	Cliff nesting surveys	Manutsa Cape Vulture colony	Undertook the third count at the Manutsa colony. Results show some losses which is to be expected given the colony is north facing and temperatures have been over 40 degrees placing heat stress and pressure on the nestlings and adults.
19-20/09/2018	Tree nesting surveys	Omega	The second population survey of African White-backed vultures was undertaken at the Omega site. 29 out of 45 nests were confirmed active
21/09/2018	Cliff nesting survey protocol	VulPro	Completed the cliff nesting protocol in order to make sure everyone follows the same methodology of cliff nesting monitoring.
25-28/09/2018	Cliff nesting surveys	Kransberg Cape Vulture colony	Undertook the third count at the Kransberg Cape Vulture colony. Numbers were down from the second count, which is to be expected and results will be analysed shortly. A full monitoring report will be produced with the 2018 breeding results before the end of the year.

## Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
19-20/09/2018	Power line surveys	Rietfontein	Surveyed the power lines surrounding the hot spot areas within Rietfontein. Fortunately no vulture fatalities were found but after speaking to some of the locals, injured and dead vultures have been seen below power lines and in the open fields. (74 structures in total)
23/09/2018	Power line surveys	North West Province, Lichtenburg region	Undertook a power line survey whilst searching for CV370 and found 4 dead/electrocuted vultures. A total of 44 structures were surveyed and a full report given to Eskom requesting and recommending full mitigation.
27/09/2018	Marakele National Park	Marakele Towers	Surveyed some of the powerlines and the towers on top of the mountain where previous vulture incidents have been recorded. No fatalities were found this time around which is positive.
September 2018	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database- Including repeat individuals, we have recorded 33 786 re-sightings to date.
September 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
15/09/2018	Accepted abstract	VulPro	We have been accepted to speak at the Symposium of Contemporary Conservation Practice in November. We will present on 'Translocation of Cape Vultures ( <i>Gyps coprotheres</i> ) and spatial movement patterns'.
15/09/2018	Accepted abstract	VulPro	We have been accepted to present at the Raptor Research Foundation, presenting on 'Sexual dimorphism in African White-backed Vulture's ( <i>Gyps africanus</i> ) plumage.
15/09/2018	Accepted abstract	VulPro	We have been accepted to present at the Raptor Research Foundation, presenting 'Spatial-utilization patterns by captive-bred and rehabilitated Cape Vultures ( <i>Gyps coprotheres</i> ) in Southern Africa'.
September 2018	Accepted abstract	VulPro	We have been accepted to present a poster at the Oppenheimer De Beers Group Research Conference on 'Tree species selection and breeding success of African White-backed Vultures'.
September 2018	Moletjie Nature Reserve	VulPro	The Moletjie Nature Reserve Education project was accepted by the 'Belief-use of vultures steering committee' as a case study for a PhD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and SANBI. This study will assess the effects of education on vulture colonies in decline.

## Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
01/09/2018	Education	International Vulture Awareness Day	Pretoria Zoological Gardens	VulPro supplied educational materials to be utilized at the NZG International Vulture Awareness Day. An estimated 1600 people were exposed to these educational materials and messages
01/09/2018	Education and awareness	Educational tour	VulPro	A couple toured the VulPro facilities and learnt about the importance of our work and in saving vultures.
02/09/2018	Education and awareness	Educational tour	VulPro	A group of 6 guests toured the facilities and were given close-up experiences with the non-releasable vultures and learnt about the importance of our work.
07-09/09/2018	Education and Awareness	BirdFair	Walter Sisulu Gardens	VulPro formed part of several exhibitors who partook in the annual Birdlife BirdFair. An average of 200 people per day (400 in total) were exposed to the work VulPro does and the importance of vulture conservation
08/09/2018	Education and Awareness	Education	VulPro	14 children and 13 adults from the junior Honorary Rangers Club were given a talk and tour on the work VulPro does and the importance of vulture conservation
09/09/2018	Education and awareness	Educational tour	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre and learnt about the importance of saving our vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
10/09/2018	Volunteers	Volunteers	VulPro	Volunteers Jeff Wells and Emilie Barlier from Disney Animal Kingdom arrived to spend 2 weeks at VulPro
24/09/2018	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	A group of 5 people had a tour at the VulPro facility and learnt about the importance of vulture conservation and the work VulPro does.
25/09/2018	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	A group veterinary students from the USA had a tour at the VulPro facility and learnt about the importance of vulture conservation and the work VulPro does.
26/09/2018	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	8 learners from the Roots and Shoots/VulPro afterschool programme spent the afternoon at the centre and were taken on an educational tour
27/09/2018	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	80 learners from Laezonia primary spent the morning at VulPro, learning about the work VulPro undertakes and the importance of conserving vultures.
29/09/2018	Education and Awareness	Education	VulPro	A local Cub Pack spent the morning at VulPro and were given an educational talk and tour about the work VulPro undertakes and the importance of conserving vultures.

***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.