



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

October 2018

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/10/2018	VulPro Staff	VulPro	Staff Meeting	Staff meeting
08/10/2018	VulPro Staff and Volunteers	VulPro	Staff and Volunteer Meeting	Staff and volunteer meeting
08/10/2018	Nicola Gunay	WAG TV	Telephonic meeting to discuss upcoming filming	Filming
10/10/2018	Sarah Watson	Tusk Trust	Discussing KPI's of submitted and approved funding proposal	Sponsorship
10/10/2018	Linda Rostock	Namibia landowner	Discussions around the potential future of Cape Vulture conservation in Namibia	Namibian Cape Vulture reintroduction programme
11/10/2018	Andrew Tucker	CS Vets	Discussions around the establishment of a new satellite site in Bronkhorspruit and Middelburg	VulPro satellite stations
12/10/2018	Lichtenburg SAPS	SAPS	Pursuit of legal action against the individual who captured and kept CV 370 in the Lichtenburg area.	Illegal vulture capture
12/10/2018	Kishaylin Chetty	Eskom	Follow up on Eskom/ VulPro collaboration and the way forward	Eskom collaboration
24/10/2018	David van der Merwe	Volunteer	Meeting to discuss volunteering at VulPro for the remainder of 2018	Volunteer
25/10/2018	Munir Virani	Peregrine Fund	Skype meeting in preparation for the Raptor Research Foundation Conference, and the importance of sharing VulPro's successes at this conference	Raptor Research Foundation Key Note Address

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 10 076 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1121 followers on Twitter and 623 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
15/10/2018	Filming	50/50	Film about the work VulPro does and the importance of vultures	Awareness and exposure
23/10/2018	Online article	The Herald	"Boost for Keepers of Endangered Species"	Kerri Wolter was included in an article about several individuals who dedicate their life to conserving endangered species

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
01/10/2018		Two CV's Electrocuted in Thabazimbi	Awaiting on mitigation	Investigation was undertaken and report submitted to Eskom
01/10/2018		Two CV's Electrocuted in Eastern Cape	Awaiting on mitigation	Investigation was undertaken and report submitted to Eskom
04/10/2018	01.10	Collected an injured adult Cape Vulture in the Eastern Cape	Monitoring for improvement	The Cape Vulture has a limp and a severe infection in the leg joint. She is currently on antibiotics and the leg will be re-x-rayed in case any breaks were missed during the first examination.
08/10/2018		CV 317 electrocuted in Koster, North West Province	Awaiting on mitigation	Investigation was undertaken and report submitted to Eskom
08/10/2018		Released CV 244	Monitoring for re-sightings	This individual was brought in on the 25 th May 2018 with damaged wing. The bird had been grounded and got caught in barbed wire fence.
12/10/2018	02.10	Collected CV 370 from Lichtenburg after being caught by local farm workers	Monitoring for full recover	370 was captured and kept in a small enclosure by local farm workers in the Lichtenburg area. He was successfully rescued and is now recovering at the VulPro facility. VulPro in conjunction with Lichtenburg SAPS pursued legal action, although the individual was not apprehended.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
14/10/2018	03.10	Collected a Marsh Owl which was stuck on fence	N/A	Due to injuries, the most humane decisions was to euthanize this individual
19/10/2018		Collected electrocuted Cape Vulture from Hekpoort	Awaiting on mitigation	Investigation was undertaken and report submitted to Eskom
20/10.2018	04.10	Collected a CV from Polokwane with an open wing fracture resulting from a power line collision	Bird will remain in captivity and become part of the breeding programme	As the bone was sticking through the wing, the wing had to be amputated.
25/10/2018		Released CV 362 and CV 367 after being fitted with tracking devices	Monitoring GPS movements	362 was brought in as a sub adult with no obvious injuries, the bird has been released before in 2017. 367 is captive reared vultures and has been released previously but has not exceled in the wild. Monitoring GPS movements.
25/10/2018	05.10	Collected CV 322 from Groot Marico in the North West Province after nearly drowning in a shallow dam	Monitoring for improvement	The bird was found stuck in a concrete dam but luckily survived due to the low water levels. She was weak, starting and in shock.
27, 30 and 31/10/2018,		Searched for CV 367 at and around the Nooitgedacht are after showing some limited movement	Ongoing monitoring	After several attempts, we are still monitoring this bird closely and continue to attempt to visually sight the bird to make sure he is safe and well.

Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild

Date	Project title	Project centered at	Comment
03/10/2018-06/10/2018	Tree Nesting Surveys and Tagging	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	Undertook the third 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. We were able to tag 14 Vulture chicks on the nest and this will provide information for understanding survival of vultures.
08/10/2018	Ringling of captive bred chicks	VulPro	Four CV and 1 AWB captive bred chicks were ringed, this ensures that we can keep track of the genetics of the flock.
11/10/2018	Two Cape Vultures return to VulPro	VulPro	Two of Congo wildlife Ranch captive bred Cape Vultures were transported to VulPro for long time housing and for breeding

October	African White-backed Vulture breeding programme	VulPro	The two African White-baked Vulture chicks that were placed under a Cape Vulture for rearing are both doing excellently!
30/10/2018	AWBV Fledged	VulPro	The parent reared AWBV chick fledged and is integrating well into the flock.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
October 2018	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database- Including repeat individuals, we have recorded 34 000+ re-sightings to date.
October 2018	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions. Currently there are still 8 active with cellular tracking units and 9 active transmitters with Movebank
October 2018	Oppenheimer De Beers Research Group	VulPro	A poster was presented on the African White-backed vultures tree nesting characteristics and survival, and accepted to be presented at the conference in October.
October 2018	Resighting data	VulPro	The core of the resighting data has been checked and the data set readied to start analysis
October 2018	Eskom Report	VulPro	Eskom report mapping buffer zones and powerline incidents was completed and sent to Eskom.
October 2018	Dimorphism in the African White-backed Vulture	VulPro	A publication has been drafted for submission to Ostrich.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
01/10/2018	Volunteers	Volunteers	VulPro	Rinus Steyn arrived to volunteer at VulPro for a week.
02/10/2018	Volunteers	Volunteers	VulPro	Volunteer Bettina Boemans from Germany arrived for her 10 th visit to VulPro, and will be assisting at VulPro for 2 weeks
02/10/2018	Volunteers	Volunteers	VulPro	Volunteer Jen Maslow arrived from USA to volunteer at VulPro for the next 6 months.
03/10/2018	Volunteers	Volunteers	VulPro	Volunteer John Turner arrived for his second visit to VulPro, and will be staying on for the next 3 months

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
08/10/2018	Educational and awareness	Education and Training	VulPro	4 Adults and 2 children undertook a tour at VulPro, learning about the importance of vulture conservation and the work VulPro does
11/10/2018	Educational and awareness	Education and Training	VulPro	Two people undertook a tour at VulPro, learning about the importance of vulture conservation and the work VulPro does
16/10/2018-17/10/2018	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	Oppenheimer and De Beers Conference, Johannesburg	VulPro presented a research poster on " <i>African White-backed vulture tree species selection and breeding activities</i> " at the 2018 Oppenheimer Conference.
18/10/2018	Training	Education, awareness and training	VulPro	VulPro held a training day at our facility, which was attended by 15 individuals. We provided basis theoretical training on aspects such as population surveys, monitoring of artificial feeding sites, and undertaking power line surveys.
22/10/2018-27/10/2018	Training and education	Training, education and awareness	VulPro	Two individuals who are championing the plight of vultures in the Eastern Cape, spent a week at VulPro undergoing training in handling, cliff nesting surveys and power line surveys. This knowledge will now be taken back and applied in the Eastern Cape, in order to enhance vulture conservation in the area
23/10.2018	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	VulPro	Five people underwent a tour of the VulPro facility, where they learnt about the importance of vultures and the work we do
24/10/2018	Volunteer	Volunteers	VulPro	David van der Merwe joined us for his first day of volunteering. He will be volunteering at VulPro for the remainder of 2018
26/10/2018	Training	Training	Onderstepoort	Kerri Wolter underwent a training course on performing avian post-mortems. This information and training will be passed onto VulPro staff and volunteers

Hide booking

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.