



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

January 2019

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
04/01/2019	Staff meeting	VulPro	Monthly meeting	Staff monthly meeting
05,07, 10 and 12/01/2019	Job interview	Private	Undertook job interviews with various suitable candidates to fulfil the position of research manager	Job interviews for Research Manager position at VulPro
09/01/2019	Staff meeting	VulPro	Follow-up staff meeting given the number of rehab cases coming in and the pressures involved	Staff meeting
09/01/2019	Gerhard Uys	Farmers Weekly	Interviewed for a article in the Farmer's weekly magazine regarding vultures and VulPro	Interview
12/01/2019	Directors	VulPro	Quarterly director's meeting	Director's meeting
14/01/2019	RabolaoTiisetso, Olley Julia	Backer and McKenzie Attorneys	Discussion around HR issues	Human Resources
17/01/2019	Lindy Thomson	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Catch up meeting	Collaboration
23/01/2019	RabolaoTiisetso, Olley Julia	Backer and McKenzie Attorneys	Discussion around HR issues	Human Resources
25/01/2019	Bill Hansson	MaxPlank	Discussion around research opportunities and collaborative research	Collaboration
25/01/2019	Clinton Klaaste	Standard Bank	Meeting to sign additional documents outlining the new VulPro directors	Finance
30/01/2019	Jessica Briner	Monte Casino Bird Gardens	Meeting to discuss the Palm-nut vulture and his wing treatment	Palm-nut vulture loan
31/01/2019	Flamingo colleagues	PAAZA, NZG and Private	Meeting to discuss the flamingo crisis and a way forward	Flamingo crisis

Media

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout January; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 10 707 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1149 followers on Twitter and 623 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
08/01/2019	Radio	Plaas Media	Awareness	Radio interview about the number of vultures being found dehydrated due to environmental conditions.
08/01/2019	Radio	Cape Talk Radio	Awareness	Radio interview about the number of vultures being found dehydrated due to environmental conditions.
08/01/2019	Newspaper article	Beeld and Netwerk 24	Awareness	Article on the number of vultures being found dehydrated due to environmental conditions. "Aasvoels wys daar is groot fout" / NGO warns of looming disaster of globally endangered vultures"
08/01/2019	Radio	Radio FM	Awareness	Radio interview about the number of vultures being found dehydrated due to environmental conditions.
08/01/2019	Radio	Radio RSG	Awareness	Radio interview about the number of vultures being found dehydrated due to environmental conditions.
09/01/2019	Newspaper article	Mercury Newspaper	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures "Vultures on the brink of starvation"
11/01/2019	Newspaper	Brits Pos	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures "Environmental collapse – vultures in South Africa at risk"
11/01/2019	Newspaper	Herald	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures "Bringing hope to our vultures"
11/01/2019	Radio	Radio Algoa FM	Awareness	Radio interview about the number of vultures being found dehydrated due to environmental conditions.
11/01/2019	Newspaper	All African News	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures "SA: NGO

				warns of looming disaster of globally endangered vultures”
13/01/2019	Newspaper	Sunday Times	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures “Dry death circles South Africa’s dying vultures”
14/01/2019	Newspaper	SA Hunters Association	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures “Environmental collapse of Cape and African White-backed vulture fledglings in South Africa
17/01/2019	Newspaper	The Independent on Saturday	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures “Vultures could counter rabies outbreak”
17/01/2019	Online	Bedfordview EdenvaleKnews	Awareness	Article advertising VulPro talk and presentation to be presented to Modderfontein Conservation Society
17/01/2019	Newspaper article	Kempton Express	Awareness	Article advertising VulPro talk and presentation to be presented to Modderfontein Conservation Society
17/01/2019	Newspaper article	Edenvale News	Awareness	Article advertising VulPro talk and presentation to be presented to Modderfontein Conservation Society
20/01/2019	Magazine article	Getaway	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures “Fight or flight: African White-backed vultures under threat”
21/01/2019	Online	The Whale Dreamer	Awareness	Article and write up on the Cape Vulture and VulPro
21/01/2019	TV	406 DSTV station	Awareness	Filming on VulPro and our rehabilitation work
28/01/2019	Newsletter	Hartbeesfontein Newsletter	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures “Environmental collapse of African White-backed and Cape Vulture fledglings in southern Africa”
30/01/2019	Newspaper article	Platinum Bushvelder	Awareness	Article highlighting the number of vultures coming in due to the high temperatures “Save the vultures”

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
03/01/2019		Released 3 Cape Vultures at the Nooitgedacht breeding colony. Two came in during December and the third was a captured captive bred vulture which we recaptured to remove tags and fit leg bands	Monitoring for resightings and via their tracking devices	All three were fitted with leg bands for visual resightings and two with tracking devices for research and monitoring purposes.
03/01/2019	01.01	Collected a dehydrated African White-backed vulture from Carletonville	Monitoring for recovery and release	The AWB vulture was found to be dehydrated and thin. He is still receiving care, fluids and food and in time will be released.
03/01/2019	02.01	Collected 7 Cape Vultures from the Blouberg Nature Reserve where the birds were captured due to various conditions and reasons	Monitoring for recovery and resightings from some of the released birds	All 7 were found to have calcium deficiency and treated accordingly. Two had bad limbs and are still under treatment but we expect full recoveries. Three have already been released.
03/01/2019		Released 4 Cape Vultures at the Nooitgedacht breeding colony. Two came in during December and the other two were captive bred vulture which we recaptured to remove tags and fit leg bands	Monitoring for resightings and via their tracking devices	All four were fitted with leg bands for visual resightings and three with tracking devices for research and monitoring purposes.
05/01/2019	03.01	Collected an African White-backed vulture from Mpumalanga	N/A	The bird was found to be emaciated, burnt and extremely thin. He later passed away
05/01/2019	05.01	Collected a Cape Vulture from Leloko in Skeerpoort	N/A	The bird had a badly broken leg and was thus humanely euthanized the following day.
06/01/2019	06.01	Collected a Cape Vulture from Leopard Lodge in Skeerpoort	N/A	Unfortunately the bird had a spinal fracture and after 2 weeks of intensive treatment, we decided to humanly let him go.
06/01/2019	07.01	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture fledgling from the Eastern Cape, Penhoek Pass	Monitoring for recovery	The bird has an injured leg which is possibly due to a power line collision. He is being treated accordingly and being monitored for further improvement.
07/01/2019	08.01	Collected an injured Yellow-billed Kite from Broederstroom	N/A	The Kite was paralyzed from soft tissue damage possibly from a vehicle collision. After a few days, he passed away.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
08/01/2019	09.01	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture from the Mabalingwe in the Limpopo Province	Monitoring for visual resightings	The CV was found in a dam and waterlogged. He was otherwise healthy and was just given a little TLC before released.
09/01/2019	10.01	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture from the Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve in Gauteng	Monitoring for release	Bird came in with minor injuries from a collision. He is being treated and given some TLC before releasing him.
09/01/2019	11.01	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture fledgling from Skeerpoort	Monitoring for resightings	The bird was found to be dehydrated and emaciated. He was treated accordingly and released a few weeks later.
10/01/2019	12.01	Collected a waterlogged Cape Vulture from Leguaan Leap in Skeerpoort	Monitoring for re-sightings	Individual became waterlogged after heavy thunderstorms but was release shortly after recovery.
10/01/2019	13.01	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture from Green Leaves in Skeerpoort	Monitoring for release	Individual came in after being found in Green Leaves parking area. He is currently being cared for and fed at our facility, and we are monitoring him for improvement and future release.
10/01/2019	14.01	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture from Leopard Lodge	Monitoring or release	Individual came in severely dehydrated and emaciated, but no physical injuries. We hope to release him shortly when his condition improves
11/01/2019	15.01	Collected a White-backed Vulture from Petrusberg Free State	He has since joined our WB captive birds for future breeding	Bird was caught on barbed wire fencing and as a result, has a broken wing.
13/01/2019	16.01	Collected an electrocuted Cape Vulture from Thabazimbi	Monitoring for improvement and release	This individual seems to only have superficial wounds. We will continue to monitor him for potential release.
15/01/2019		Released 4 vultures which came in during December and earlier in January which have already been mentioned in MR Ref: 02.01	Monitoring for visual resightings	All four birds were released at the Nooitgedacht vulture restaurant and Cape Vulture breeding colony.
17/01/2019	17.01	Collected young CV from Skeerpoort who appears to have flown into a barbed wire fence	Monitoring for visual resightings	The individual was admitted with superficial wounds and was treated accordingly. He was released shortly after.
19/01/2019	19.01	Collected a young Cape Vulture from Skeerpoort	Monitoring for improvement	Due to the nature of her wounds and her paralysis, she was humanely euthanized

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
23/01/2019	20/01	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture from Skeerpoort	Monitoring for improvement	The CV came in with a bruised leg and a bad limp. He was treated accordingly and is still currently being housed in our hospital camp until his limp improves.
23/01/2019	21.01	Collected an electrocuted Cape Vulture next door to VulPro	N/A	The vulture was electrocuted and died on impact. A report was sent to the municipality as the fatalities occurred on their power line structure. A follow-up meeting was also undertaken to address this threat and their commitment to ensure future fatalities do not occur on their lines surrounding VulPro.
24/01/2019	22.01	Collect an injured Cape Vulture from Broederstroom in Hartbeespoort	N/A	The bird came in dehydrated and severely malnourished. We treated him with IV fluids and put him in ICU but after 48 hours of no improvement, we decided to let him go.
24/01/2019	23.01	Collected injured African White-backed from the Rhino Lion Reserve	N/A	The bird came in with severe wounds and a broken femur. We managed to hydrate him but given the femur was an open fracture in the joint, we had no option but to euthanize him.
29/01/2019	24.01	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from Hoedspruit	Monitoring for improvement and hopeful release	Individual has a broken wing which has now been pinned. He was also showing signs of organo-phosphate poisoning
28/01/2019	25.01	Collected a Cape Vulture 06 from Kroonstad, after he was captured on the N1 highway bridge	Monitoring for release	Individual has no injuries, but has lost some weight. We are monitoring for improvement and potential release

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
January 2019	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database- Including repeat individuals, we have recorded 33 140 re-sightings to date.
January 2019	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 9 active with cellular tracking units and 9 active transmitters with Movebank

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
January 2019	Calcium study	Onderstepoort	4 captive bred CV fledglings were taken for x-rays as part of an ongoing calcium study
17 – 19/01/2019	Vulture captures	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	Undertook vulture captures again at the Olifants River Private Game Reserve. Managed to capture 1 African White-backed vulture and will continue in February.
21/01/2019-22/01/2019	Power line surveys	Thabazimbi	No fatalities were found during the survey. A report will be submitted to Eskom shortly

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
07/01/2019	Volunteers	Volunteering	VulPro	Vet Nurse Cassey Ure volunteered for 3 days. Helping us deal with the number of critical patients we were dealing with.
12/01/2019	Education and awareness	Education and awareness	VulPro	15 members of the Honorary Rangers society attended a talk and tour at VulPro, where they learnt about the important work we undertake
17/01/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and awareness	Modderfontein Conservation Club	Volunteer Laura Nelson gave an educational talk and presentation on behalf of VulPro, which was attended by 40 members of the Modderfontein Conservation Club
22/01/2019	Education and awareness	Education and awareness	Thabazimbi	Gave a talk to 50 learners from the Thabazimbi Primary School on vultures and what VulPro undertakes to conserve them.
23/01/2019	Education and awareness	Education and awareness	VulPro	Three guests toured the facilities and learnt about the work we undertake to save vultures in Africa.
24/01/2019	Education and awareness	Education and awareness	VulPro	Four people toured the Centre and learnt about the important work we undertake to save Africa's vultures
26/01/2019	Education and awareness	Education and awareness	VulPro	A family of three toured the Centre and had close up experiences with the captive vultures and learnt about the work we undertake.
27/01/2019	Education and awareness	Education and awareness	VulPro	A group of 10 people toured the facilities and learnt about the importance of vultures and what VulPro does to conserve them.

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.