



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

March 2019

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
04/03/2019	Jakes Swart, Marlien DuPlessis, Marelize van den Berg, and Niel Kruger	Leopard Lodge and Sonic Productions	Follow up meeting regarding VulPro's Fundraising Gala Dinner scheduled for August	Gala dinner
05/03/2019	VulPro Staff	VulPro	Monthly staff meeting	VulPro staff
06/03/2019	City of Tshwane Municipality	City of Tshwane Municipality	Site visit and assessment of needs where current vulture power line incidents are taking place	Powerline mitigation
18/03/2019	Ashleigh Enslin	Walkhaven Dog Park	Discussion about local fundraising ideas utilizing the Park and facilities available at Walkhaven	Fundraising
18/03/2019	Vusikhaya Nayo	Private	Interview for VulPro's head of research position	VulPro Staff
19/03/2019	Gareth Tate	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Catch up, ongoing building of the existing relationship and building on collaborative projects	Collaboration
20/03/2019	Calvin Griffith	Private	Interview for VulPro's head of research position	VulPro Staff
20/03/2019	Kuda Musengi	Private	Interview for VulPro's head of research position	VulPro Staff
20/03/2019	Alexandra Howard	Private	Interview for VulPro's head of research position via Skype.	VulPro Staff
25/03/2019	Tracy Rhese	National Zoological Gardens	Discussion about vulture ex-situ breeding for conservation purposes and the continuation of the collaboration between VulPro and NZG.	Collaboration
26/03/2019	Alexandra Howard	Private	Interview for VulPro's head of research position.	VulPro Staff
27/03/2019	City of Tshwane Municipality	City of Tshwane Municipality	Follow up meeting to discuss quotations of the mitigation installation measures necessary on selected powerline structures.	Powerline mitigation

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
27/03/2019	Sarah Watson	Tusk Trust	Site visit, catch up and discussion around the up and coming Tusk conservation symposium in October	Sponsor: Collaboration and relationship building.

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 11 006 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1162 followers on Twitter and 729 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
14/03/2019	Radio	Cosmos Namibia	Awareness	Short radio interview about the importance of conserving vultures and how the general public and landowners can assist

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
05/03/2019		Searched for CV 133 close to Rhino Lion Nature Reserve	Monitoring via GPS tracking	The individual showed limited movement for a few days, raising some concerns. The individual was not found, but we continue to monitor his movements via his GPS tracking device.
06/03/2019		Released four Cape Vultures at Nooitgedacht	Monitoring for re-sightings	These four rehabilitated individuals were released at the Nooitgedacht breeding colony, amongst wild birds and at the vulture restaurant.
06/03/2019	01.03	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from Carolina in Mpumalanga	N/A this bird will remain at VulPro and become part of our ex-situ breeding programme	Due to the severity of the injury, the individual had to have his wing amputated.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
07/03/2019		Moved 11 Cape vultures and 3 African White-backed Vultures to our release enclosure in Hekpoort	Monitoring until release	These individuals will be housed at the release site for a few weeks to acclimatize, after which they will be released in a staggered structure.
12/03/2019		Moved a rehab African White-backed vulture to our release enclosure to avoid human acclimatization so he can be successfully released in due course	Monitoring until release	This individual will be housed with the others inside the release enclosure at Nooitgedacht until their release
12/03/2019		Released 2 rehab Cape Vultures at Nooitgedacht out of our release enclosure.	Monitoring for re-sightings	Both individuals were released outside of our release enclosure and successfully joined the wild birds thermalling above.
15/03/2019		Released another 2 Cape Vultures from the release enclosure (1 older captive bred and 1 rehab)	Monitoring via GPS tracking devices and re-sightings	Both individuals were released outside of our release enclosure and took to the skies. This is the final release attempt for CV101.
17/03/2019	02.03	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from Petrusburg	N/A as will remain in captivity	This individual suffered a broken wing as a result of a power line collision, requiring a wing amputation. He will remain at VulPro and be incorporated into our captive breeding programme. Reports have been sent to Eskom.
17/03/2019	03.03	Kate Webster collected an injured Cape Vulture from Colesburg	N/A as the bird will remain in captivity	This individual also suffered a broken wing as a result of a power line collision. Relevant reports have been submitted to Eskom.
18/03/2019	04.03	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from the Boons area on the way to Lichtenburg	N/A as the bird will remain in captivity	This individual suffered a negative interaction with a power line structure, resulting in an open wing fracture which had to be amputated. Eskom has already undertaken the investigation and mitigation is now pending
22/03/2019		Released two Cape Vultures (older captive bred birds) and one African White-backed Vulture (2018 captive bred) from the Nooitgedacht release site	Monitoring for re-sightings and via their GPS tracking devices.	Both individuals were released at our Nooitgedacht site and all three flew off towards the C-section of the breeding colony.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
March 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. In addition, after discussions with EWT, VulPro will be amending our database to fit in line with the EWT's format so when the opportunity arises, both EWT and VulPro's database can be united into one larger database. This will take some time to transfer the data to the new format.
March 2019	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor vultures via their tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions. Currently there are still 28 active with cellular tracking units and 9 active transmitters with Movebank. We have also just received another 10 tracking devices from Max Planck for either the flamingo chicks we assisted with or a Hooded vulture pilot study.
07-08/03/2019	Power line survey	Witpoort - Bloemhof	Power line surveys of Delta transmission lines were undertaken in this area as it is frequently utilised by vultures. All relevant reports have been submitted to Eskom
12-13/03/2019	Site visit/Power line survey	Kuruman and Kathu	A site visit was undertaken to investigate one of our tracked individuals which had limited movement for several days. Power line surveys of Cross rope and T-structures were undertaken. All relevant reports have been submitted to Eskom
14-17/03/2019	Wild Capture	Olifants River Private Nature Reserve	Managed a successful capture and managed to capture and tag: 1 White-headed vulture 2 Hooded vultures 4 African White-backed vultures Of these, the White-headed vulture and 1 African White-backed vulture were fitted with tracking devices. All others were tagged and ringed for research and re-sighting purposes.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
02/03/2019	Education and Awareness	Education	Skeerpoort	Presented an educational talk to ten, 13 year old cub scouts, and their two scout leaders in Skeerpoort.
05/03/2019	Education and Awareness	Education	Loskop	Presented an educational talk to seventy people part of the Middleburg bird club.

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
11/03/2019	Education and Awareness	Education	VulPro	A film student, Suprise Malaila came to VulPro to learn more about the important roles vultures play, as she wishes to create a documentary about them in the future.
12/03/2019	Education and Awareness	Volunteers	VulPro	Volunteer Manueal along with her two children spent the morning assisting at the VulPro centre, while learning about the importance of these birds and the work we undertake.
22/03/2019	Education and Awareness	Volunteers	VulPro	Four volunteers spent the morning at VulPro, helping to gather nesting material for the breeding birds, and learning about the importance of vultures.
24/03/2019	Education and Awareness	Education	VulPro	Three adults and one child undertook a tour of the VulPro facility, learning about the importance of vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
28/03/2019	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	Six adults from Belgium undertook a tour at VulPro to learn about the importance of vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
29/03/2019	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	Two adults undertook a tour at VulPro to learn about the importance of vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
30/03/2019	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	Four people undertook a tour at VulPro to learn about the importance of vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
31/03/2019	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	Five people undertook a tour at VulPro to learn about the importance of vultures and the work VulPro undertakes

Hide booking

- 02/03/2019- Philip Ridgwel- 4 people
- 29/03/2019- Colleen Mortiz- 2 people
- 30/03/2019- Kerry Wood- 4 people
- 31/03/2019- Lynne Simpson- 5 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.