



**VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT**

**April 2019**

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/04/2019	Sprina Liu	Dallas Zoo	Site visit and catch up together with experiencing first-hand the work VulPro undertakes, and the activities which Dallas Zoo supports	Fundraising and relationship building
03/04/2019	Gareth Tate	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Relationship building and further discussions around the re-sighting database and the possibility of a combined database.	Collaboration
03/04/2019	Tiana Conradie	Private	Discussion on volunteering twice a week	Volunteer
04/04/2019	Gerda Swannepoel	Professional Hunting Association	Discussions around a collaborative effort to register feeding sites and get the PHSA branches in support of vulture conservation. The establishment of a suitable APP for resighting purposes and to generate data collection in support of the work VulPro undertakes	Research: Vulture restaurants
05/04/2019	Staff meeting	VulPro	Discussion around our Environmental Educational programme and building it up	Education
05/04/2019	Louise Nicolai	Boikarabelo Coal Mine	Discussions around possible PhD ideas as well as future captures and ongoing population breeding surveys	Research: Vulture surveys, captures and PhD studies
09/04/2019	David Scott	Raptor-Med	Ongoing training on the new rehabilitation database	Database
10/04/2019	Rita Groenewald	Roots and Shoots	Discussions on the educational holiday programme to be undertaken in June in conjunction with Roots & Shoots	Environmental Education
10/04/2019	Staff meeting	VulPro	Monthly meeting staff	VulPro
15/04/2019	Angela Matthews	Colchester zoo	Site visit and showcasing VulPro to Colchester Zoo	Sponsor and relationship building
16/04/2019	Neil Forbes	Private	Catch up meeting and brainstorming future research projects regarding veterinary aspects	Research: veterinary research
17/04/2019	Rita Groenewald	Roots and Shoots	Introduction of the Environmental Education afterschool programme at Kameeldrift West Primary School	Environmental education
23/04/2019	David Scott	Raptor-Med	Ongoing training on the rehabilitation database	Master Database

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
24/04/2019	Deidre Herbst and Warren Funston	Eskom	Discussions around previous as well as our partnership with Eskom and its partners, ensuring mutual respect and a productive relationship, all working towards vulture conservation	Quarterly meeting 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 11 478 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1170 followers on Twitter and 729 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
05/04/2019	Article	Kormorant	Awareness	Article showcasing the immense size of some Cape Vultures "Bielie van n Aasvoel"
09/04/2019	Article	Agri-Orbit	Awareness	Article highlighting how the general public can assist a grounded or injured vulture, and highlighting the need to contact us immediately for assistance "As n aasvoel val" <a href="https://www.agriorbit.com/as-n-aasvoel-val/">https://www.agriorbit.com/as-n-aasvoel-val/</a>
18/04/2019	Onlineblog post	Detroit Zoo Blog	Awareness and volunteer experiences	Sarah Woodhouse, a veterinary volunteer who assisted at the VulPro centre, wrote an article for Detroit Zoo, about the experiences she had at VulPro: "Notes from the field, treating endangered African Vultures" <a href="https://detroitzoblog.org/2019/04/18/notes-from-the-field-treating-endangered-african-vultures/">https://detroitzoblog.org/2019/04/18/notes-from-the-field-treating-endangered-african-vultures/</a>
22/04/2019	Television	Marta Alvarez Productions- A Qui La Terra	Awareness	The Marta Alvarez Productions broadcasted a video clip of the hatching process, on Spanish television, acknowledging VulPro for the footage and work we undertake.

## CONSERVATION

### A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

#### Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
01/04/2019		Released 3 captive bred Cape Vultures	Monitoring for re-sightings	All vultures were marked with coloured leg bands instead of patagial tags. We continue to monitor these individuals through re-sighting reports and camera traps

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
02-03/04/2019		Continued with health checks	N/A	Completed health checks on all individuals in the Cape Vulture rehabilitation enclosure
08/04/2019	01.04	Collected a Cape Vulture with a broken wing from the Free State	NA- individual will be incorporated into our captive breeding programme	Individual suffered a power line collision and the wing had to be amputated due to the severity of its injury. Relevant reports have been submitted to Eskom, This individual will be incorporated into our captive breeding programme
15/04/2019		Released 3 captive bred Cape Vultures at the Nooitgedacht breeding colony	Monitoring for visual re-sightings as well as via tracking devices	All vultures were marked with coloured leg bands in place of tags. One was also fitted with a tracking device. We continue to monitor their progress through re-sightings and monitoring the GPS tracking movements
17/04/2019	02.04	Collected a Cape Vulture with a broken wing from the Free State.	NA-individual will be incorporated into our captive breeding programme	The bird was found with an open wing fracture, the severity of which resulting in a wing amputation. Eskom personnel recovered the bird and reports have been sent to Eskom as the structures will need to be mitigated accordingly.
25/04/2019	03.04	Collected an African White-backed vulture next door to VulPro	Monitoring for release	The bird was found disoriented and water logged. We suspect that the bird has been exposed to poison but will be released in due course. Suitable treatment is being provided.
25/04/2018	04.04	Collected Cape Vulture 369 off the N1 highway after someone was trying to capture the bird	Monitoring for future release	The bird was found to be extremely thin grounded. No further injuries were present. He continuous to improve and will hopefully be released shortly
26/04/2019	05.04	Collected an injured Komorant fledgling from Hartbeespoort Dam	N/A	The bird had a broken leg and wing, Due to the severity of the injuries, it was decided that euthanasia was the only human option.

### Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
April 2019	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	After discussions with EWT, VulPro has been reformatting the existing VulPro resighting database into the same format as EWT. The aim is to amalgamate both datasets to have one national resighting database. In addition, we continued to update the re-sighting database which now stands at 33 140 re-sightings including repeat individuals.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
April 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 20 active with cellular tracking units and 9 active transmitters with Max Planck
April 2019	Power line surveys	Ventersdorp	Power lines surveys were undertaken on the farm Grootbos and a total of 28 power line structures were surveyed , these are Cross rope and Self-supporting structures.
07/04/2019	Ground truthing	Skeerpoort	Searched for AWB G35318 in Skeerpoort because of limited tracking movement. Found roosting on a Pylon in the rain. Bird seemed in good health, with no obvious injuries.
07/04/2019	Ground truthing	Rustenburg	Searched for AWB G35312 in the Rustenburg area in close proximity to power lines, but bird was not found. Will continue to monitor his movements.
10-18/04/2019	Summary movement statistics and maps	VulPro	Compiled maps of tracking devices and movement statistics
12-26/04/2019	Rehabilitation publication	VulPro	Compiled summary statistics from RaptorMed programme in order to draft a publication identifying the causes of injury, rehabilitation success rates and demographic predictors.
26/042019	European Vulture Research Conference	VulPro	Abstract submitted to showcase VulPro's research at the first European Vulture Research conference.

### ***Captive breeding***

Date	Project title	Comment
April 2019	Captive breeding	During April, the first three Cape Vulture eggs of the breeding season were produced. These are currently being housed in our artificial incubators. We look forward to many more to come
15/04/2019	Captive breeding	The last three captive bred vultures of 2018 were released from the Nooitgedacht release enclosure, with a total number of 3 African White-backed, and six Cape Vultures released for the 2018 breeding season. Through re-sightings, camera traps, and the use of GPS trackers, we have been able to monitor these individuals and have found that they are showing very positive dispersal, and foraging behaviours.

## **Education & Training**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment</b>
17/04/2019	Education and Awareness	Education	VulPro	Two adults were taken for a tour of the VulPro facility, and learnt about the importance of vultures and the work we undertake
24/04/2019	Education and Awareness	Education	VulPro	Presented an education talk to 80 learners from the Kameeldrift Primary school learners, as part of the VulPro/Roots and Shoots after school programme.
27/04/2019	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	Long term supporter and partner, Neil Forbes, along with four other guests undertook a tour of VulPro. They were taught about the importance of vultures and the conservation activities we undertake.
30/04/2019	Education and Awareness	Education	VulPro	Heiko Van Rijthover partook in a tour of the centre, where he learnt about the importance of vultures, and the work VulPro undertakes.

## **Hide booking**

17/04/2019-Gill Heward- 2 people  
22/04/2019- Craig Boyley-4 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.