



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

May 2019

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
03/05/2019	Martin Wikelski	Max Planck	Discussions on the growth and increased support and collaboration between VulPro and Max Planck through a joint research venture which is to be implemented in the near future	Collaboration and fundraising
06/05/2019	Zane Van Wyk	Harties Print and Sign	Discussing VulPro Merchandise	Fundraising
09/05/2019	Rita Groenewald	Roots and Shoots	VulPro Recycling workshop	Recycling
10/05/2019	Neil Kruger, Marelize Van Dan Berg, Alex Holder and RikeNel.	Sonic Sound, Leopard Lodge, Holder Photography and Private Musician.	Gala Dinner proceedings	Fundraising
10/05/2019	Alexandra Howard	VulPro Research	Update about research findings.	Research
10/05/2019	Bonnie Van Dam	VulPro Breeding	Update about breeding activities and wellbeing of the eggs retrieved.	Captive Breeding
15/05/2019	Richard Prentis	Commodity & Chemical Trading	Discussions around the disposal of bones for the manufacture of bone meal	Carcass disposal
17/05/2019	Kishaylin Chetty	Eskom	Discussion about mitigation methods, sensitivity maps and research projects.	Eskom collaboration
18/05/2019	VulPro Directors	VulPro Directors	Quarterly director's meeting	Director's meeting
19/05/2019	Ian Hooper and Suniti Kala	CNN	Meeting to discuss a 25 minute insert with CNN	International filming
21/05/2019	Dewald Kleynhans	Private	Discussion on the use of photography for awareness campaigns	Awareness
24/05/2019	VulPro Staff	VulPro	Monthly staff meeting	Staff meeting
23/05/2019	Carine Gouws	Upperdeck Restaurant	Discussions regarding potential fundraising events and initiatives.	Fundraising
24/05/2019	Taryn Weare	To-the-T Events	Discussions regarding décor for VulPro's Fundraising Gala Dinner	Fundraising
31/05/2019	Henk Bruwer	Aviators	Discussions about potential fundraising projects	Fundraising

Media

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout May; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 11 790 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1178 followers on Twitter and 356 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
15/05/2019	Newspaper	Kormorant	VulPro Fundraising Gala	Publication of the VulPro Fundraising Gala Invitation, aimed at promoting the event.
29/05/2019	Television	CNN	Awareness and exposure	A 25-minute insert is being produced for CNN over the next 2 months. It will be aired in August and will highlight VulPro through the eyes of VulPro's CEO

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
15/05/2019	01.05	Collected an injured Black Chested Snake Eagle, which had suffered physical trauma.	Monitoring for recovery and hopefully release	This individual was admitted after suspected trauma. A full work up was done, including X-Rays, which revealed a leg fracture. The fracture has been surgically pinned, and she is showing positive signs of recovery. A radiograph will be taken of the leg again after a 4 week period, in order to determine if the surgery has been successful. We hope to release this individual if her recovery allows.
20/05/2019	02.05	Collected an injured African White-backed Vulture from Rievolie in the North West Province, close to Vryburg.	N/A	The bird was grounded, emaciated and has a permanently injured eye resulting in the bird being blind in his right eye. As vultures rely on their keen eye-sight, expert opinion is that the bird is not releasable and will thus remain in captivity and be integrated into our captive breeding population.
22/05/2019	03.05	Collected 3 African Harrier Hawks and one Pale chanting Goshawk from Mike Bester's facility in Pretoria which has closed down	Monitoring for release	All four individuals have been examined, ringed and relocated to their release site in preparation for their soft release in due course.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
24/05/2019	04.05	Collected an African White-backed Vulture in the Vryburg area	Monitoring for recovery and release.	The bird came in with signs of poisoning and lead poisoning was confirmed. She was put on a 5 day course of EDTA which is the antidote for lead poisoning and which has now resulted in her lead levels dropping substantially from 32 to 6,6. She will remain in captivity for another 2 weeks. Her lead levels will be checked again and then we hope to release her shortly after.
31/05/2019		Euthanized the Hooded vulture	N/A	After months of trying to save our only Hooded Vulture and after pinning each leg to rectify the original break, we made the very hard decision to let Wobbles to. We assessed her quality of life and decided that the road was still too long and she was not coping with the added stress of physio. She will be sorely missed

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
May 2019	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	The re-sighting database has been updated and has already been merged in to the SAFRING database with 38 772 entries. We are now awaiting on the Endangered Wildlife Trust where we hope to merge and finally amalgamate both organisations re-sighting databases.
May 2019	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Nine Max Planck tracking devices and 25 Cellular Tracking devices are currently active for May 2019. We continue to monitor these daily with movements being shown across southern Africa.
May 2019	Vulture sensitivity maps for Eskom	VulPro	Currently preparing updated pilot study sensitivity maps overlaid with vulture tracking data following meetings with Kishaylin Chetty from Eskom
1/05/2019	Rehabilitation and release success of an African vulture conservation programme	VulPro	Abstract submitted for the European Vulture Research Conference. Currently waiting for acceptance before conference registration.
10/05/2019	Ground truthing	Holfontein, North West/Gauteng Province	A site visit (ground truthing) was undertaken to investigate one of our tracked individuals which had limited movement for several days in the area of Holfontein on the border of Gauteng and North-West Province. The bird was sighted on a powerline structure in the area and appeared to be strong and healthy.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
15/05/2019-16/05/2019	Power line survey	Holfontein, Randfontein and Krugersdorp in North-West and Gauteng Province	Power line surveys of 54 Transmission structures and 29 Distribution structures were undertaken over 14.3 kilometres at four locations – Farms in Holfontein and Randfontein; the Rhino & Lion Game Reserve and Teak Place Guesthouse. All relevant reports have been submitted to Eskom.
31/05/2019	Rehabilitation and Release success of two endangered African Vulture species by a specialized wildlife Rehabilitation Centre	VulPro	Draft of manuscript in preparation to be submitted shortly

Captive Breeding

Date	Project Title	Comment.
May 2019	Ex-situ Breeding	Breeding season has come early for our captive vultures and to-date, we have had 27 Cape Vulture eggs and 2 African White-backed vulture eggs laid. We are still expecting a few more before our first chicks arrive which will be from the second week of June already. In addition to this, for the first time ever, our 2 adult breeding pairs of Lappet-faced vultures have attempted to copulate. Although it is still early days, we are thrilled with their progress of nest building and their want to begin their breeding.

Wild Vulture Population Monitoring

Date	Project title	Project centered at	Comment
27/05/2019-28/05/2019	Skeerpoort Cape Vulture Colony Monitoring	Skeerpoort, North West Province	VulPro undertook the first breeding surveys for the 2019 Skeerpoort Cape Vulture colony. During the initial survey, 287 breeding pairs were identified, showing a stable population trend.
30/05/2019	Nooitgedacht Cape Vulture Colony Monitoring	Nooitgedacht, North West Province	VulPro undertook the first count of the Nooitgedacht Cape Vulture colony, during which 145 breeding pairs were identified. This colonies population count appears to remain stable as compared to the 2018 surveys.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
May 2019	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	VulPro	During the month of May, during talks, tours, and presentations, VulPro distributed over 250 educational brochures and booklets, aiding in spreading awareness about the importance of vulture conservation

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
03/05/2019	Education and Awareness	Education, awareness and collaboration	Zurich University.	Kerri Wolter travelled across Zurich in Switzerland and Germany in May. During her travels, she gave a talk to the University in Zurich – exotic animals where a group of 15 guests attended her talk.
04/05/2019	Education and Awareness	Education, awareness and collaboration	Stuttgart Zoo	During Kerri's travels in Germany, she gave a talk per invitation, on the work VulPro does for vulture conservation, and the importance of saving the species to the Stuttgart Zoo. The animal keepers and curators attended the talk (25) and through this, the Zoo has now agreed to assist with some financial support towards VulPro's rehab expenses.
07/05/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and awareness	Benoni Interest Group	One of our directors, Craig Natrass presented a talk to 60 individuals on VulPro and the work we undertake in an effort to save the species.
15/05/2019	Education and Awareness	After-School programme	VulPro	12 learners from the Roots and Shoots/ VulPro after school programme were taken on a tour and shown some of the new patients admitted to VulPro
18/05/2019	Education and Awareness	Presentation and Tour	VulPro	Junior Honourary Rangers visited the Centre with 28 of their club members. They were given a talk on the work VulPro undertakes, but they enjoyed a tour of the facilities and a close up experience with the captive vultures.
22/05/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and awareness	Kameeldrift Primary school.	Presented a talk and presentation to 100 learners from the Kameeldrift Primary School, regarding the importance of conserving vultures.
27/05/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and awareness	Lory Park	VulPro was invited to give a talk and presentation to 32 pre-veterinary students who are currently visiting Africa as a part of the LOOP programme.

Hide booking

- 01/05/2019- Jorge Barraho (4 guests)
- 04/052019-MaryoleinScorgie(3guests)
- 08/05/2019- Mariza Hamman(4guests)

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