



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

June 2019

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
03/06/2019	HulisaniMbofholowo	TUT	Discussion around the students undertaking their practical year at VulPro	Internships
04/06/2019	David Scott	RaptorMed	Ongoing discussions and training on the RaptorMed database	Database
11/06/2019	Amanda Ellis	Private	Meeting to discuss the design and printing of a Vulture Coffee Table book, which will be the first of its kind ever created	VulPro Coffee Table Book
17/06/2019	Martin Wilkeski	Max Planck	Discussion and cementing the relationship around vulture research collaboration	Research
27/06/2019	Rogger Parry	Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust	Discussion around a joint funding proposal and collaborative efforts to curb poisoning	Vulture poisoning
28/06/2019	Mike Daymond	Dinokeng Game Reserve	Site visit to assist with the establishment of a vulture feeding site	Vulture restaurant

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
June 2019	Film	CNN	Awareness and education	Throughout the month, CNN continued with their filming covering VulPro's conservation activities and programmes. This will form part of a 25-minute segment that will be featured on CNN, about the importance of vulture conservation, and how VulPro is trying to halt the decline of the species.
21/06/2019	Written	New York Times	Awareness and education	Article featuring the recent Botswana mass vulture poisoning
21/06/2019	Written	UK Daily Telegraph Newspaper	Awareness and education	Article featuring the recent Botswana mass vulture poisoning
21/06/2019	Written	BBC	Awareness and education	Article featuring the recent Botswana mass vulture poisoning "Endangered vultures poisoned on masse Botswana"

22/06/2019	Written	CNN	Awareness and education	Article featuring the recent Botswana mass vulture poisoning "More than 500 endangered vultures die after eating poisoned elephant carcasses"
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CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
02/06/2019	01.06	Collected an emaciated African White-backed Vulture from Uppington	Monitoring for release	This individual was collected from Uppington in an emaciated condition after being found grounded at a Guest House. Luckily he has no other physical injuries, and will be released once his body condition has improved.
06/06/2019	02.06	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture adult from the Coves	Monitoring for re-sightings	This individual was caught between electric fencing on a security estate. We monitored this individual for two days to ensure that he was in a good state of health, after which he was released.
21/06/2019		Collected an injured Cape Vulture from Polokwane.	N/A	Unfortunately this individual suffered a power line collision, and had to undergo a wing amputation due to the extent of the injury. He will now become a part of VulPro's ex-situ breeding programme
27/06/019	02.06	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from a farm near Elliot E Cape. Powerline incident (another one dead)	Assessment will be done in consultation with Kerri after xrays.	Booked in for xrays as no movement in legs so possible spinal injury or paralysis.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
June 2019	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	The re-sighting database has been updated and currently sits at 39 058 entries of reported sightings and re-sightings of tagged vultures across southern Africa.
June 2019	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	7 Max Planck tracking devices and 27 Cellular Tracking devices are currently active for June 2019. We continue to monitor these daily with movements being shown across southern Africa.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
13/06/2019	Power line surveys	Nooitgedacht	Powerline surveys were undertaken on the Nooitgedacht property, where 22 structures were surveyed. Two mortalities were identified, and the relevant reports have been submitted to Eskom
21/06/2019	MSc Tracking Project	VulPro	Skype meetings and a data agreement has been finalised with Sarah Aspenstrom from Napier Edinburgh University in regards to her MSc Project using VulPro tracking data. Waiting on Eskom's agreement.

Captive Breeding

Date	Project Title	Comment.
June 2019	Ex-situ Breeding	The 2019 breeding season has been very productive, with a total number of 37 Cape Vulture eggs, and 5 African White-backed vulture eggs laid to date. We have had the privilege of welcoming some of the first individuals into the world, with 3 Cape Vulture chicks and 1 African White-backed chick having hatched thus far and are doing well. Unfortunately we did lose 2 Cape Vulture chicks, one during the hatching process, and one after being returned to the breeding enclosure.

Wild Vulture Population Monitoring

Date	Project title	Project centered at	Comment
03/06/2019-05/06/2019	Cape Vulture Colony Monitoring	Soutpansberg	Initial surveys were undertaken of the Cape Vulture Colony located in the Soutpansberg, with 225 active pairs were identified.
6/06/2019-10/06/2019	Tree nesting surveys	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	The first population surveys of the 2019 breeding season were undertaken at the Olifants River Private Game Reserve. 56 breeding pairs were observed during the first count.
11/06/2019-14/06/2019	Cape Vulture Colony Monitoring	Manutsa Ranch	The first population survey of the 2019 breeding season were undertaken at the Manutsa Cape Vulture Breeding Colony. Population trends are looking positive, with 737 breeding pairs identified.
18/06/2019-20/06/2019	Cape Vulture Colony Monitoring	Mannyelalong Botswana	The first population surveys of the Mannyelalong Cape Vulture Colony were undertaken. There has been a slight increase from 2018, with 89 active pairs being identified.
25/06/2019-28/06/2019	African White-backed Vulture Tree Nesting Survey	Boikarabelo coal mine-Limpopo Province	Initial surveys were undertaken of the African White-backed breeding colony located at the Boikarabelo coal mine. 29 Active nests were identified during the count, which is in line with the previous years population trends.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
04/06/2019	Education and awareness	Volunteers	VulPro	Volunteer Jess Murray arrived from the UK, to undertake the VulPro "Boots on the ground" experience. During her time with VulPro, she was exposed to the importance of vulture conservation, along with various facets of field work.
14/06/2019	Education and Awareness	Education	VulPro	Three individuals undertook a tour of the VulPro facility, to learn about the importance of conserving vultures, and the work we undertake in an effort to save the species.
19/06/2019	Education and awareness	Science communication	VulPro	Dewald Kleynhans took photographic portraits of the daily activities, volunteers, staff and conservation actions at VulPro and has kindly donated them for any use without copyright.
22/06/2019	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	Riana Naven along with 19 members of a local birding club undertook a tour of VulPro, to learn about the importance of conserving vultures and the work VulPro undertakes.
22/06/2019-23/06/2019	Education and awareness	Education	Upperdeck-Hartebeespoort	VulPro held an exhibition at a local restaurant in Hartebeespoortdam to raise funds and awareness. Upperdeck has also agreed to add an "add to your bill" option in support of Vulture conservation.
24/06/2019	Education and awareness	Volunteers	VulPro	A volunteer from the USA, along with her partner, spent the day volunteering at VulPro, and experiencing first hand some of the work we undertake in an effort to conserve the species.
30/06/2019	Education and awareness	Education	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre and learnt about the work VulPro undertakes to save vultures in Africa

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