



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

July 2019

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/07/2019	Sheron Edward	Private	Discussion about Sheron's role at the Gala Dinner as the MC for the evening	Gala Dinner
02/07/2019	John Kinghorn	Outliers Coffee Roosters	Discussion on launching a coffee line in support of VulPro and our fundraising initiatives	Fundraising
03/07/2019	City of Tshwane Municipality	City of Tshwane Municipality	Follow up meeting with the city of Tshwane to continue talks around power line mitigations surrounding VulPro	Powerline Mitigation
08/07/2019	Ansunette Snyman	SANParks Midrand	Discussion around Kerri Wolter – VulPro giving a talk for IVAD in support of their evening fundraising function	Awareness
09/07/2019	David Scott	RaptorMed	Ongoing training on the RaptorMed database	Rehabilitation database
10/07/2019	Peter Wystheizen	The Coves	Meeting about potential fundraising and general awareness ideas within the Coves in support of VulPro	Fundraising
10/07/2019	Mckayla Simons	Harties Cableway	Meeting about potential fundraising and general awareness ideas in collaboration with the Cableway in support of VulPro	Fundraising
16/07/2019	Anne Emmett and Anthony Nicklin	Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust	Annual meeting for feedback, project updates and discussions around governance and ongoing support	Sponsorship
17/07/2019	Kishaylin Chetty and Sarah Aspenstrom	Eskom and MSc student respectively	Meeting to discuss and give feedback on the powerline-vulture risk maps in collaboration with Eskom	Research
20/07/2019	Julie Lundt	VulPro Social Media	Discussions on boosting and improvement our social media strategies and posts	Social Media
20/07/2019	Geraldine Kinghorn	Outliers Coffee Roosters	Update to where the coffee line is at as well as sampling and choosing which brand of coffee VulPro will run with	Fundraising
24/07/2019	Andre Gentler	Die Ou Pastorie	Meeting about potential fundraising and general awareness ideas within Die Ou Pastorie in support of VulPro	Fundraising
25/07/2019	National poison working group	National poison working group	Second meeting to brainstorm strategies in which to address poisoning in South Africa	National Poison Working Group

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
25/07/2019	Rita Groenewald	Roots and Shoots South Africa	Meeting to discuss upcoming events under the Environmental education programme	Education and Awareness
26/07/2019	Marylize Botha	Leopard Lodge	Final meeting to discuss the way forward around the gala dinner and the lack of confirmed guests	Gala Dinner
31/07/2019	Amanda Irving	Painted Wolf Wine	Update on the gala dinner and way forward with a smaller number of guests making the evening more intimate	Gala Evening

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 12 200 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1199 followers on Twitter and 600 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
18/07/2019	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.
22/07/2019	Written Article	Hartebeesfontein Conservancy Newsletter	Awareness and education	Vulture poisoning in KZN and Botswana

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
09/07/2019	01.07	Collected an injured Cape Vulture from the Lichtenburg Game Reserve	N/A	This individual sustained damage to both wings from a power line collision. Due to the extent of his injuries, we decided to let the bird go.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
10/07/2019	02.07	Released an African White-backed Vulture at Nooitgedacht	Monitoring for re-sightings	African White-backed juvenile (leg band green/white 39) was released from the Nooitgedacht release site, and we continue to monitor his movements through re-sightings. This bird originally came in with lead poison and was treated accordingly with EDTA.
11/07/2019	03.07	Cape Vulture	N/A	This individual was collected from Elliott, and showed signs of paralysis. No improvement was made over the coming days, and thus, it was decided to humanely euthanize him.
15/07/2019	04.07	Collected a juvenile Cape Vulture from Derby which had been treated by a local rehab lady in the area	Monitoring for release	This individual was originally treated by a local rehabber for dehydration and emaciation. VulPro was contacted to assist with his release to avoid further human imprinting and to make sure release monitoring protocols were followed and that the bird was marked for monitoring purposes.
25/07/2019	05.07	Moved four African White-backed Vultures and one Lappet-faced Vulture to the release enclosure at Nooitgedacht	Monitoring for re-sightings and via GPS devices	All five individuals were released on the 28 th of July 2019, to join their wild counterparts. We continue to monitor via tracking devices and re-sightings
28/07/2019	06.07	Collected a sub-adult Cape Vulture from Holfontein which was found with a broken wing	N/A	Due to the nature of injuries and both wings being broken, the vet decided to humanely euthanize the bird.
30/07/2019	07.07	Moved four Cape Vultures to the Nooitgedacht release enclosure	Monitoring for release	These individuals will all be released within the next few weeks, once acclimatised to the release site. All have been given leg bands and another fitted with a GPS tracking device.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
July 2019	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	The re-sighting database has been updated and currently sits at 39 255 entries of reported sightings and re-sightings of tagged vultures across southern Africa.
July 2019	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	8 Max Planck tracking devices and 26 Cellular Tracking devices are currently active for July 2019. We continue to monitor these daily with movements being shown across southern Africa to potential new roosting and feeding sites.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
July 2019	Publications published		<p>Venter JA, Martens FR, Wolter K. Conservation buffer sizes derived from movement data of adult Cape vultures (<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>) in South Africa. African Zoology. 2019 Jun 25:1-4 was accepted and published online. The pdf is available on VulPro's website.</p> <p>Oluwasegun Adawaren E, Lillian Mukandiwa L, Chipangura J, Wolter K, Naidoo V. Percentage of faecal excretion of meloxicam in the Cape vultures (<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>). Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, Part C 215 (2019) 41-46.</p> <p>Tucker M.A, Alexandrou O, Avgar T, Barnhardt A, Berens D, Bierregaard Jr. R.O, Bildstein K.L, Böhning-Gaese K, Bracis C, Brzorad J.N, Buechley E.R, Cabot D, Calabrese J.M, Carrapato C, Chiaradia A, Davenport L.C, Davidson S.C, Desholm M, De Sorbo C.R, Domenech R, Enggist M, Enggist P, Exo K.M, W.F, Farwig N, Fiedler W, Fleming C.H, Franke A, Fryxell J.M, García-Ripollés C, Grémillet D, Griffin L.R, Harel R, Kane A, Kays R, Erik Kleyheeg E, Lacey A, LaPoint S, Limiñana R, López-López P, Mellone U, Mojica E.K, Nathan R, Newman S.H, Noonan M.J, Oppel S, Prostor M, Reading A, Rees E.C, Roesner S, Romero M, Ropert-Coudert Y, Sapir N, Schedler D, Schmidt M, Schulz H, Najafabadi M, Silva J.P, Henrik Skov, Spiegel S, Takekawa J.Y, Teitelbaum C, van Toor M.L, Urios V, Vidal-Mateo J, Wang Q, Watts B.D, Wikelski M, Wolter K, Žydelis R and Mueller T. Movement distances of birds are longer in homogeneous environments. 2018. Global Ecology and Biogeography, (DOI) - 10.1111/geb.12875</p>
July 2019	Publications accepted and in press		<p>Hirschauer MT, Wolter K and Forbes NA. 2019. A review of vulture wing anatomy and safe proapatagial tag application methods, with case studies of injured vultures. Journal of Wildlife Rehabilitation.</p> <p>Christiaan W. Brink, Andrea Santangeli, Arjun Amar, Kerri Wolter, Gareth Tate, Sonja Krüger, Andrew S. Tucker and Robert L. Thomson. Quantifying the spatial distribution, contribution and trends of vulture supplementary feeding sites in South Africa. Animal Conservation. (In press)</p>
July 2019	Publication in preparation		<p>“Rehabilitation and release success of an African vulture conservation programme” currently in preparation as a publication</p>

Captive Breeding

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
July 2019	Vulture Captive Breeding	VulPro	The 2019 breeding season has been very productive, with a total number of 39 Cape Vulture eggs, and 7 African White-backed vulture eggs laid to date. We have had the privilege of welcoming some of the first individuals into the world and now have 8 healthy Cape Vulture chicks with their parents and a handful more to come shortly. Unfortunately we have had some losses which is to be expected, but we are happy to report that we have doubled the number of captive bred Cape Vulture chicks from last year's breeding season.

Wild Vulture Population Monitoring

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
15/07/2019	African White-backed Vulture population surveys	Curley Wee, North West Province	The first surveys were undertaken at Curley Wee and only two active nests were recorded. Although results are poor, it is still a slight increase from the 2018 survey at the same time of year.
16/07/2019-17/07/2019	African White-backed Vulture Population surveys	Omega Farms, North West Province	The first breeding surveys were undertaken for this year and 30 active nests were recorded.
21/07/2019-24/07/2019	Cape Vulture population surveys	Kransberg Colony, Limpopo province	The first breeding pair counts were conducted at Kransberg and a total pair count of 757 was recorded. The majority of the nests (524) were seen already brooding implying they had nestlings already.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
09/07/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	VulPro	A tour group of 32 guests visited and VulPro, where they learnt about the importance of conserving vultures and the critical work VulPro undertakes
11/07/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	VulPro	Adoptive parent, Mariza Hamman, visited VulPro and came to visit her two adopted Cape Vultures
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.
20/07/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	VulPro	A group of 3 guests toured the Centre and learnt about the work VulPro undertakes as well as the importance of conserving Vultures

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
27/07/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	Queenstown	Addressed a group of 40 senior citizens at the NG Kerk in Queenstown and showcased the work VulPro undertakes together with the importance of vultures
31/07/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	Kameeldrift Primary School	VulPro in collaboration with Roots and Shoots South Africa, gave a talk to the Kameeldrift Primary school students in dedication to Word Ranger day.
28/07/2019	Exhibition	VulPro stand at The Coves Estate Fun Day	The Coves	VulPro was invited to exhibit at The Coves Family Fun Day where more than 150 people were exposed to our work and the importance of vultures

Hide Bookings

12/07/2019- Jan Saunders- 1 person
13/07/2019- Patsy Stone- 4 people
20/07/2019- Linda Harvey- 4 people

Administration and Pending

1. Collection of donated carcasses
2. Maintenance of VulPro vehicles
3. Ongoing treatment and care of vultures and birds of prey at VulPro.
4. Ongoing care for captive vultures and supplementary feeding of wild birds at Nooitgedacht.
1. Fundraising
2. Report writing
3. Proposal submissions to various funders
4. Press release writing
5. Administration
6. Vulture restaurant feeding at the Vulture Centre
7. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter updates
8. Maintenance
9. Management of volunteers and students
10. Management of the vulture hide and bookings
11. Management of HR issues
12. Management of VulPro as a whole
13. Management and co-ordination of vulture research
14. Maintain updated captive breeding and rehabilitation records
15. Continual updates to website, including range maps of tracked birds, sponsor logos, and publications