



VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT

November 2019

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
04/11/2019	Michael Barnes, Chris van Rooyen and colleagues	Wind farm EIA consultants and specialists	To discuss a research project in the Western Cape on the Potberg Cape Vultures to identify their movement patterns and ranges	Potberg tracking project associated with wind farms
05/11/2019	David Scott	RaptorMed	Ongoing updates and work on the RaptorMed rehab database	Rehabilitation database
6-8/11/2019	Delegates	Conservation Symposium	Attended the KZN's Wildlife Conservation Symposium and presented VulPro's rehabilitation, tagging and lead research projects and pending and approved publications	Research
08/11/2019	ShamaineThulasaie and Kishaylin Chetty	Eskom	Site visit at Nooitgedacht to identify mitigation strategies on existing structures	Power line mitigation discussions
08/11/2019	Daleen van den Berg	BoehringerIngelheim	Discussion of potential funding support and site visit	Funding liaisons and networking
13/11/2019	VulPro Staff	VulPro	Staff meeting	VulPro
15/11/2019	David Scott	RaptorMed	Ongoing updates and work on the RaptorMed rehab database	Rehabilitation database
19/11/2019	Fiona Miles	FourPAws	Discussion of potential Funding support	Fundraising
19/11/2019	Kishaylin Chetty and Warren Funston	Eskom	Quarterly update meeting	Eskom and VulPro Quarterly meeting
20/11/2019	GDARD	GDARD	VulPro attended the first GDARD Conference discussing environmental factors in the Gauteng Province	Conference and networking
20/11/2019	Ted Hart	CAF America	VulPro attended a presentation given by Ted Hart of CAF America, discussing the role and benefits which they can provide to non profit organisations	Collaborations and relationship building
25/11/2019	Rita Groenewald	Roots and Shoots	Discussion of 2020's educational programme	Education
26/11/2019	Ephraim	Emoyenhle game farm	Consultation for the establishment of a vulture restaurant and correct site placement	Vulture restaurant consultation
26/11/2019	Andrew Tucker	CS Vets- Veterinary consultancy	Presentation regarding health and safety when working with carcasses	Health and Safety

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 13 293 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 1 335 followers on Twitter and 1061 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
01/11/2019	Radio	RSG	Education and Awareness	Ten minute interview discussing the effects of climate change on vultures, and how the public can assist and report grounded/injured vultures

CONSERVATION**A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES*****Rehabilitation***

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
9/11/2019	021.11	Collected a juvenile African White-backed Vulture from Silver Oaks Farm, Hartbeespoort	This individual has undergone multiple release attempts and will now remain in captivity for his own protection	This individual, tagged as Red/white 32 was found trying to drink from a cattle trough and caught in a cattle kraal. This was his fourth release attempt which has been unsuccessful.
14/11/2019	02.11	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture fledgling from Magaliespark, Skeerpoort	Monitoring for resightings	This individual landed in one of the pools at the Magaliespark Waterpark, and became waterlogged. He was successfully released on the 24 November 2019 at Nooitgedacht.
15/11/2019	03.11	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture fledgling from Skeerpoort	Monitoring for resightings	This individual found himself in less than ideal circumstances but still in good condition. He has since been released on the 24 November 2019 at Nooitgedacht.
20/11/2019	04.11	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture fledgling from Skeerpoort	Monitoring for resightings	One of the tagged Skeerpoort fledglings which was fitted with a tracking device on its breeding ledge in October, was found grounded on a farm but still in good condition. He has since been released on the 24 November 2019 at Nooitgedacht.
22/11/2019	05.11	Collected a grounded Cape Vulture juvenile from Thabazimbi	Monitoring for resightings	This individual had no injuries, and was released on the 24 November 2019 at Nooitgedacht.

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
26/11/2019	06.11	Collected an injured Cape Vulture fledgling from Thabazimbi	N/A	Unfortunately this individual suffered a broken left wing from a power line collision, and cannot be released. He will be incorporated into our captive breeding programme
26/11/2019	07.11	Collected a Spotted Eagle Owl which was hit by a car from Thabazimbi	N/A	This individual had extensive damage to the eye which could not be repaired, so we made the decision to humanly euthanize him

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
09-12/11/2019	Vulture captures	Olifants River Private Game Reserve	We managed to capture another 2 adults, possibly a breeding pair, of African white-backed Vultures. They were fitted with coloured leg bands, a metal Safring leg band and blood lead levels assessed.
18/11/2019	Powerline Survey	N14 Farm near Magalisberg	A power line survey was undertaken on the property where two Cape Vultures with their tracking device were found electrocuted on the 11 th of November 2019. A full incident report has been submitted to Eskom and no further fatalities were found.
November 2019	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	The re-sighting database has been updated and currently sits at 40 591 entries of reported sightings and re-sightings of tagged vultures across southern Africa
November 2019	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	27 Max Planck tracking devices and 23 Cellular Tracking devices are currently active for November 2019 including 20 devices on the Skeerpoort Cape Vulture fledglings
November 2019	PhD Thesis Publication	Southern Africa	The first publication of Christiaan Brink's PhD in collaboration with VulPro was accepted for publication titled "Quantifying the spatial distribution and trends of vulture supplementary feeding sites in South Africa and their potential contribution to vulture energetic requirements. by Brink CW, Santangeli A, Amar A, Wolter K, Tate G, Krüger S, Tucker AS and Thomson RL.
November 2019	VulPro Research Publication	Southern Africa	The publication of VulPro's monitoring records titled "Population growth rates in northern Cape Vulture (<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>) colonies between 2010 – 2019" by Hirschauer MT, Wolter K, Howard A, Rolek BR and McClure CJW is due for submission by the end of December 2019.
November 2019	VulPro Research Publication	Southern Africa	The publication of VulPro's rehabilitation records titled "Rehabilitation injuries and release rates of Cape Vultures (<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>) and African White-backed Vultures (<i>Gyps africanus</i>) in South Africa" by Howard A, Hirschauer MT, Monadjem A, Forbes N and Wolter K is still in preparation for submission.

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
November 2019	VulPro Research Publication	Worldwide	Requests have been sent to collaborating partners and zoos across USA and Europe for feathers and measurements of African White-backed Vultures to complete our study titled "Sexual dimorphism in African White-backed Vulture (<i>Gyps africanus</i>) plumage and biometrics" for publication in the coming months.
20 November 2019	MSc Thesis "Vultures on the wire"	Napier Edinburgh University	Final draft stages of Sarah Aspenstrom-Oguguo's MSc project based on high risk areas of power line mortalities in the Cape Vulture and African White-backed Vulture in South Africa

Captive Breeding

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
November 2019	Vulture Captive Breeding	VulPro	Our captive bred Cape and African White-backed Vulture chicks are all doing extremely well, and growing phenomenally fast with all but four chicks having already fledged

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
01/11/2019	Volunteers	Volunteers	VulPro	Volunteer Charlie Russel arrived from the UK, to volunteer at VulPro for the next 8 months, assisting around the centre and aiding with research
02/11/2019	Volunteers	Volunteers	VulPro	Volunteer Kelly Lewis arrived to volunteer at the centre for three weeks, learning about the importance of vultures and the work we undertake
03/11/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and awareness	VulPro	10 learners from the Rover Crew spent the morning at VulPro for their community service hours
16/11/2019	Education and Awareness	Education and Awareness	VulPro	7 individuals undertook a tour of the centre, learning about the importance of vultures and the work we undertake

Hide Bookings

30/11/2019 - Anne Opperman- 4 Adults

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