



**VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT  
APRIL 2017**

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meet with</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Project title/reference/purpose</b>
03/04/2017	Jakes Sward	Leopard Lodge	Organising our gala dinner event for September 2017	Gala dinner
04/04/2017	Charne Wilhelmi	VulPro staff	Update on administrative duties and fundraising for VulPro	Staff meeting
07/04/2017	Samantha Ralston	Birdlife SA	Skype meeting on Wind farm development and VulPro and Birdlife's stance on these issues	Wind farms
09/04/2017	Dorianne Elliot	Bird & Exotic Animal Clinic	Discussion on the way forward with regards to vulture treatments, veterinary care and rehab	Vulture rehab and veterinary care

10/04/2017	Anzelle van Wyk	VulPro	Discussion on time management and schedules	Staff meeting
10/04/2017	Alvaro Camina Cardenal	Consultant for the World Bank	Update on the Kenya wind farm project and general vulture conservation work	Kenya wind farm project
12/04/2017	James Edwards	VW Brits	Sponsorship meeting to discuss possible support	Sponsorship meeting
13/04/2017	Samantha Page	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Discussion on vulture research papers and collaboration	Collaboration on scientific publications
13/04/2017	Craig Smith	Zeiss	Sponsorship meeting to discuss possible support	Sponsorship meeting
18/04/2017	Chris Look	Leadership for Conservation in Africa	Discussion on the possibilities of support for the purchase of Nooitgedacht	Nooitgedacht purchase
19/04/2017	Ndud Shonolu	Big Fish School of Digital Filmmaking graduates	Film recce site visit	Filming for RMB
19/04/2017	Tommy Erlank	Beier Film	Discussion on filming needs for the next 3 days for the programme "Animal Whisperers"	Vulture Whisperers episode

### **Media**

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout April; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 7438 on the VulPro Facebook page. We have 876 followers on Twitter and now 297 followers on Instagram.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Comment</b>
04/04/2017	"Call for appropriate special planning and rigorous impact assessment to minimize the risk wind farms pose to Cape Vultures"	Press statement distributed	Awareness and exposure	A joint statement between VulPro, BirdLife and EWT on the effects of wind farms and the need for proper and ethical planning so as to minimize the negative impacts to vultures.

13/04/2017	"Cape Vulture tracking in the Eastern Cape"	Birdlife Eastern Cape – March 2017	Awareness and exposure	Article on the movement of some of the tracked vultures in the Eastern Cape.
13/04/2017	"Kragdrade en aasvoels"	<a href="http://www.pmfesa.c.za">www.pmfesa.c.za</a> newsletter April 2017	Awareness and exposure	Article on the negative effects power lines have on vultures specifically in the Eastern Cape.
19/04/2017	"Regal sponsors CCTV and networking for VulPro"	Regal newsletter	Awareness and exposure	Article on the partnership and support between VulPro and Regal
27/04/2017	"Update on our feathered friends"	Hartbeespoortfontein Newsletter No 95	Awareness and exposure	Articles on our wind farm statement and the appeal by Amy Gear on protecting all bird species by being responsible

## CONSERVATION

### A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

#### *Rehabilitation*

Date	MR Ref*	Activity	Follow up	Comment
03/04/2017	01.04	Collected a grounded juvenile AWBV from Warmbaths	N/A as the bird passed away the next morning	The bird came in with head trauma and a swollen tongue. Severe infection was found internally after a full PM was done.
04/04/2017		DHL transported 3 vultures to VulPro from the Eastern Cape	The AWBV was released on the 21 April at Nooitgedacht with a tracking device. We will continue to monitor his movements. The other two are not releasable due to	All three birds were originally treated by Kate Webster and were reported on in the last monthly report.

			the extent of their injuries and will remain at VulPro for breeding and educational purposes.	
07/04/2017	02.04	Collected a grounded CV from Rietfontein which was water logged from heavy downpour	Monitoring for re-sightings	The CV was treated and released the next day as he was in good condition and was just grounded from the previous night's rainfall of 70mls.
18/04/2017	03.04	Collected a juvenile AWB vulture from the Vryberg region	Monitoring for full recovery	The bird was tagged as a fledgling at the Dronfield Nature Reserve and tagged incorrectly so the tags have now been removed for the sake of recovery. Both wing tips are broken but we are optimistic that the bird will recover fully to fly again as the breaks are not bad and just need time to fuse.
20/04/2017	04.04	Collected a poisoned AWB vulture from Kimberley	Monitoring for recovery and improvement	The bird was found poisoned and has a broken wing from balancing on it due to lack of co-ordination.
21/04/2017		Released 2 Cape Vultures that came in during January and February 2017	Monitoring for re-sightings	One of the CVs was released at Nooitgedacht and the other at VuPro.
25/04/2017		Released 2 Cape Vultures that come in during January and April	Monitoring for re-sightings	Both birds were released at Nooitgedacht and one with a tracking device, both with wing tags.
26/04/2017	05.04	Collected a badly injured adult CV from the boarder of Botswana close to Laphalale	N/A	The bird was found to be extremely dehydrated with a wound into its sternum. Unfortunately, the bird passed away before we could start treatment.
28/04/2017		Released the CV that came in from Skeerpoort in March 2017	Monitoring for re-sightings	The CV was released successfully at VulPro using a soft release method

30/04/2017	06.04	Collected an injured adult CV from Hekpoort	Not-releasable and the bird will remain at VulPro for captive breeding purposes.	Bird has a burnt right wing from a power line electrocution. Unfortunately, due to the severity of the damage, the wing has to be amputated to prevent bone infection.
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### ***Vulture breeding***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Project centered at</b>	<b>Comment</b>
28, 29 and 30/04/2017	Captive breeding	VulPro	Our first three CV eggs of the season have been laid and taken for artificial incubation. We are also double-clutching these pairs as they each produce fertile eggs (first and second eggs) which gives us the opportunity to give pairs with infertile eggs chicks as well as each original pair with their own chicks to raise. All three of these pairs will lay another egg within a month and will incubate their second egg naturally and hopefully raise their chicks on their own without our assistance.

### ***Research and monitoring***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Project centered at</b>	<b>Comment</b>
03-07/04/2017	Meloxicam pharmacokinetic study	Onderstepoort	An intense week was undertaken on 6 CVs researching the digestion of meloxicam where blood and faeces were taken for analysis. This is part of a PhD study where we hope to find the reasons for this drug being safe to and for vultures whereas all other NSAIDs appear to be unsafe.
March 2017	Research publications	VulPro	Our publication entitled "A first assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on Cape vulture occurrence." has been published in the Biology Conservation journal
April 2017	Re-sighting database	Southern Africa	Ongoing updating of the re-sighting database.
April 2017	Vulture tracking	Southern Africa	Ongoing monitoring of new and old vultures with tracking devices.
April 2017	Vulture restaurant database	Southern Africa	Continued to update the vulture restaurant database

## Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Project centered at	Comment
April 2017	Community service and volunteer work	Community service and volunteer work	VulPro	Volunteer and community work throughout the month: Daniel Collin, Bernette Louw, Michaela van Schaik, Beks Fletcher, Rhys du Raadt and friend and Lucy Church and friend
01/04/2017	Educational programme	Educational tour	VulPro	A guest from Swaziland visited the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake to save vultures.
08/04/2017	Training	Volunteer and staff training	VulPro	Undertook training of staff and volunteers on correct methods of handling and tagging of vultures.
12/04/2017	Educational tour	Educational and awareness	VulPro	A small group of local visitors toured the Centre and learnt about our work and the importance of vultures to our environment.
12/04/2017	Educational talk	Educational and awareness	Rooseveldt Park Recreation Centre	Gave a talk on "Saving our vultures" to a small group of birders from the Horticultural group in Preller Street. A total of 15 guests attended.
15/04/2017	Educational tour	Educational and awareness	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake
19/04/2017 26/04/2017	Educational programme	After school Roots & Shoots educational programme	VulPro	Ongoing weekly environmental after school programme programme. Ongoing group of 29 children.
23/04/2017	Educational tour and talk	Education and awareness	VulPro	A small group of 12 people from the President Ridge bird club visited VulPro, attended the power point talk and toured the facilities.
28/04/2017	Educational tour	Educational and awareness	VulPro	Two groups of visitors totaling 10 guests toured the Centre and learnt about the importance of vultures and our work.

29/04/2017	Educational talk	Educational and awareness	Diepsloot Squatter camp	Gave a talk to 200 children at the Diepsloot squatter camp in Gauteng during World Frog Day on vultures and the importance of the species.
30/04/2017	Educational talk	Educational and awareness	VulPro	Two guests toured the Centre and learnt about VulPro and the importance of protecting vultures.

**Hide booking:**

- 10/04/2017 Jenny Nicholson (3 people)

**Administration and Pending**

- Collection of donated carcasses
- Maintenance of VulPro vehicles
- Ongoing treatment and care of vultures and birds of prey at VulPro.
- Fundraising
- Report writing
- 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.
- Continue to draft VulPro's Vulture Rehabilitation Manual manuscript.
- Construction of our release enclosure at the Nooitgedacht breeding colony