



**VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT  
November 2016**

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meet with</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Project title/reference/purpose</b>
03/11/2016	Martie Roussouw	Monte Casino Bird Gardens	Visited VulPro to meet the Palm-nut vulture which will be sent to the bird gardens on loan for educational purposes	Palm-nut vulture on loan
03/11/2016	Frances Cheboub	Private landowner	Undertook community surveys in preparation for the RMB Design Thinking Workshop	Design Thinking
04/11/2016	Jaco Fourie and 4 students	Kameeldrift Primary School	Undertook community surveys in preparation for the RMB Design Thinking Workshop	Design Thinking
06/11/2016	3 Local community members	Sunway low cost housing scheme	Undertook community surveys in preparation for the RMB Design Thinking Workshop	Design Thinking

08-09/11/2016	RMB	RMB	Attended the 2-day Design Thinking workshop	Design Thinking
13/11/2016	Damian Boyce and Rob Bruyns	VulPro Highlands Country Estate	Site visit at our satellite station and discuss dates for the big vulture movement to the new site	Satellite station
14/11/2016	Simon Gear	BirdLife SA	Site visit and collaboration discussion	BirdLife SA collaboration
18/11/2016	Tamsyn de Greef	Volunteer	Skype meeting regarding volunteer preparation for 2017	Volunteering
23-25/11/2016	Wildlife Tracking Symposium	Namibia, Botswana and SA colleagues	Attended the first Wildlife Tracking Symposium which was held in Namibia. Over 40 delegates from southern Africa attended the meeting and some great outcomes with regards to vulture collaboration came out of the meeting.	Wildlife Tracking Symposium
26/11/2016	Bheki Nkosisibanda	VulPro intern student	Follow up on provided readings and project proposals. Data collection on feathers will begin next week	Feather / nutritional study and analysis
28/11/2016	Schalk Herbst	Volunteer	Meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities for his son during school holidays	Volunteering
29/11/2016	Anne Emmett and Anthony Nicklin	Hans Hoheison Charitable Trust	Meeting to discuss VulPro and possible financial support from the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust and forming a sound relationship	Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
30/11/2016	Staff meeting	VulPro	Monthly meeting	Monthly meeting
30/11/2016	Ryan Sobey	Different.org	Site visit and photographs for the sponsorship link	Different.org

**Media**

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout October; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 6864 on the VulPro Facebook page. We have 812 followers on Twitter and now 287 followers on Instagram.

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
07/11/2016	"Vulture conservation"	Classic FM – conservation feature	Awareness and exposure	Promoting VulPro and the reasons behind protecting vultures and our work.
09/11/2016	"Six charities doing it for the birds"	<a href="http://www.africageographic.com/blog/six-charities-birds/">www.africageographic.com/blog/six-charities-birds/</a>	Awareness and exposure	Promoting VulPro and our work as one of 6 chosen charities doing their bit for bird conservation.
21/11/2016	"Conservation partnership"	Gallagher Orange News Issue 11-Nov2016	Awareness and exposure	Highlighting the relationship between VulPro and Gallagher

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

***Rehabilitation***

Date	MR Ref*	Activity	Follow up	Comment
03/11/2016		Released the little white-faced owl which came in last month	Monitoring for re-sightings	The owl was released on a private game farm just outside of Brits.
04/11/2016	01.11	Collected an injured martial eagle from Klerksdorp	Monitoring for release	The female martial eagle flew and landed in a pool and had to be rescued by the local SPCA. VulPro was called in to assist and undertake the rehab. She was found to be emaciated and weak but no additional injuries found. She is being fed up and monitored for a full recovery.

05/11/2016		Released the male martial eagle which came in last month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Monitoring via GPS for movement and survival data</li> <li>2) Monitoring for second release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The controversial martial eagle which came in from Pretoria was released on the Denokeng nature reserve successfully. As he was fitted with a tracking device, we were able to monitor his movements</li> <li>2) On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had to collect the martial eagle as he flew into an electric fence and injured his eye. We suspect he was predating and did not notice the fence. His eye is being treated and he is on a course of antibiotics.</li> </ul>
05/11/2016	02.11	Collected a dead CV that was found in the veld on Askari Nature reserve, below the Nooitgedacht breeding colony	N/A	It is unknown if this bird was poisoned and unfortunately a PM was not possible due to the heat affecting the carcass. The area is being monitored closely for possible jackal poisoning.
08/11/2016	03.11	Collected 2 Cape Vultures from the Blouberg Nature Reserve	Monitoring for re-sightings of the released CV	One fledgling came in from being grounded and dehydrated and has since been released at VulPro on the 22 November. The other sub-adult has a broken wing in the joint and cannot be pinned, he will therefore remain at VulPro for breeding purposes.
09/11/2016	04.11	Collected a poisoned AWB vulture from the Kalahari – Tswalu Nature Reserve	Monitoring for any improvement	The vulture was initially treated by the manager of the reserve for Newcastle's disease. We took blood samples and results came back negative with all physical symptoms pointing to organophosphate poisoning. He is still not 100% and cannot be housed in our large rehab enclosure at this point. His prognosis is still guarded.

10/11/2016	05.11	Collected an adult CV from the middle of the Hartbeespoort Dam	N/A	The bird was weak and had ingested a large amount of dam water. We successfully rescued her but 3 hours later she quietly passed away. We undertook a PM and found water in her lungs.
12/11/2016	06.11	Collected a juvenile Cape Vulture from Polokwane which had been housed at another facility for 2 years	N/A	The CV cannot be released and will now be housed with our other captive population for breeding and educational purposes.
21/11/2016	07.11	Collected an adult CV from the Askari Nature Reserve	Monitoring for release	The adult came in weak and paralysed from a direct sternum collision. He is stronger and is now walking but has not yet started flying. We are monitoring his progress. This is a very old bird, possibly over 40 years of age.
21/11/2016	08.11	Collected a CV fledgling from Brits inside a local squatter camp	N/A	The little boy had a broken leg which we tried to pin. Unfortunately, due to poor calcium levels the bones cracked and we had to euthanise him. He originally flew into the power line next to the squatter camp and the local residents caught the bird to sell in the muti trade. Police had to assist us in retrieving the bird.
29/11/2016	09.11	Collected a CV fledgling from the Broedestroom vet which was knocked down by a vehicle	Monitoring for release	The bird was knocked down by a vehicle on the bridge going over the Dam and the bird was left unattended. The bird has head trauma and paralysis which we hope will improve with ongoing and extensive physio. She is on anti-inflammatory medication and we are monitoring her for improvement.
30/11/2016	10.11	Collected a CV fledgling from Westlake in the Hartbeespoort Dam vicinity	Monitoring for release	The CV got herself caught in a garden where there was no space for her to take off. She was tagged, ringed and sampled. She is being fed up and will be released shortly.

30/11/2016	11.11	Collected an emaciated CV fledgling from Thabazimbi	Monitoring for release	The bird was found on the side of the road with 2 other dead CVs. He was found dehydrated and extremely emaciated with ticks and vulture lice all over his body. He is on vitamins, antibiotics and is being fed up and rehydration levels checked regularly and being tubed. He is still incredibly weak but should improve with correct nutrition and fluids.
30/11/2016	12.11	Collected a dead adult CV from across the road at VulPro, already dead from electrocution	N/A	The bird was electrocuted on municipal distribution lines close to VulPro. Unfortunately, the bird had died before VulPro staff arrived on the scene 10 minutes after the incident took place. A full report is being sent to the municipality to start the mitigation process.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Project centered at</b>	<b>Comment</b>
01/11/2016	Vulture capture	VulPro	Undertook an unplanned vulture capture at VulPro whilst captive bred vultures were captured to do a feather trims around their tracking devices. 20 Wild Cape Vultures were caught but due to the heat, we only processed i.e tagged and sampled 8 wild CVs.
02/11/2016	Power line survey	Skeerpoort	Undertook a power line survey in the De Rust area of Skeerpoort. Two lines, 12 structures in total, were surveyed over 0.7 km. No fatalities were found, but reports of one prior Cape Vulture and several hadeda ibis electrocutions were reported to Eskom for mitigation of the lines.
14-18/11/2016	Boikarabelo Vulture survey	Boikarabelo	Undertook the third and last survey for the 2016 AWBV breeding survey and recorded breeding success for the year. 26 Fledglings were counted for a breeding success rate of 52% for the 2016 season.

15/11/2016	VulPro capture	VulPro	Undertook a quick vulture capture at VulPro and processed just 3 adult CVs; tagged, ringed, sampled and released.
19/11/2016	VultureMap	National	VultureMap went live and is a collaboration between the Animal Demography Unit and VulPro
November 2016	Calcium study	VulPro	Continue to provide and collect samples for our calcium study
November 2016	Biological sampling and head measurements	VulPro	Continued to take samples for the BioBank from all vultures coming into the Centre or wild caught birds for tagging purposes.
November 2016	Re-sighting database	Southern Africa	Ongoing updating of the re-sighting database
November 2016	Vulture restaurant database	Southern Africa	Ongoing updating of the vulture restaurant database
November 2016	Vulture tracking	Southern Africa	Ongoing monitoring of all vultures fitted with tracking devices and monitoring their movements throughout southern Africa. We have also now produced a completed database of all VulPro tracked birds.

### ***Education & Training***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Project centered at</b>	<b>Comment</b>
02/11/2016	Educational tour	Educational and awareness	VulPro	A group of 35 home school kids and 25 parents toured VulPro and were given a 40-minute power point presentation as well. Each child was given a vulture badge, interactive workbook and fun activities to take home with them.
02/11/2016	Educational tour	Educational and awareness	VulPro	A group of 3 overseas guests toured VulPro and learnt about the work VulPro undertakes to save vultures.

04/11/2016	Educational tour	Educational and awareness talk	VulPro	A small group of 5 international guests toured VulPro and learnt about our work
10/11/2016	After School Community Project	After School Community Project	VulPro	A small group of 12 primary school kids from 2 different schools around the Harties area attend our new educational after school programme at VulPro. We provide lunch and a cool drink and opportunities for the kids to learn about our work, the environment and to take responsibility towards all forms of fauna and flora. This takes place 5 days a week from 12:30 – 17:00.
17/11/2016	Educational presentation	Educational and awareness talk	Boikarabelo	14 Adult men, 10 adult women and 2 facilitators at the Centre of Hope, an adult rehabilitation facility located on one of the farms where AWBV breeding census took place were given a talk on VulPro and vulture conservation.
20/11/2016	Educational tour	Educational and awareness talk	VulPro	A small group of 4 guests toured the Centre and learnt about our work.
23/11/2016	Educational tour	Educational and awareness talk	VulPro	A group of 20 adults toured the Centre and were also given a 40-minute power point presentation about our work and the reasons behind vulture conservation.
23/11/2016	Workshop	Educational and training	VulPro	Rita Groenewald from Roots & Shoots did an hour educational/environmental workshop with the kids coming through for the after kids school programme. 12 Kids attended this short workshop.
27/11/2016	Educational tour	Educational and awareness talk	VulPro	A small group of 5 kids and 5 adults toured the Centre for Amy (10 years old) birthday party.

**Hide booking:**

- 12/11/2016                      Jan Stapel (4 people)

**Administration**

- 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
- Website 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
- Organize and market the Avian Incubation Workshop for January 2017
- Maintain updated captive breeding and rehabilitation records