



**VULTURE PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT  
MAY2017**

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meet with</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Project title/reference/purpose</b>
05/05/2017	Anmar Koorts	Vet student	Site visit and discussion around her 2-week community service needs	Community service
05/05/2017	Retha van der Merwe	PHASA	Site visit and handover of donated items donated by the professional hunter's association SA's conservation fund	PHASA donation
06/05/2017	VulPro directors	Directors	Quarterly director's meeting	Director's meeting
10/05/2017	VulPro staff	Staff meeting	Monthly staff meeting	Staff meeting

16/05/2017	Rynette Coetzee	GDARD	Site visit for permit approval at Nooitgedacht for our release enclosure	Site visit for release enclosure
24/05/2017	PAAZA	PAAZA	Attended the PAAZA conference and gave a talk on vulture tracking. A total of 50 delegates attended the meeting and talk	Vulture tracking talk for PAAZA
24/05/2017	Samantha Page	EWT	Update discussion around collaboration of publications	Collaboration between EWT and VulPro
25/05/2017	Jakes Sward	Leopard Lodge	Discussions regarding arrangements for VulPro fundraising gala.	Gala dinner
26/05/2017	Anzelle van Wyk and Barend Craven	VulPro	Discussion and preparation around field work	Field work
29/05/2017	Humbu Mafumo and Wilma Lutsch	DEA	A meeting was held at the Department of Environmental affairs to discuss VulPro exporting non-releasable vultures to the UK for collaboration on captive breeding. The idea is to get government backing and do this in collaboration with government and the UK as the birds will still belong to SA	Vulture export discussion
30/05/2017	Clint Austin	Bayer	Update and donation of supplies by Bayer	Bayer donation and update

### **Media**

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout May; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 7536 on the VulProFacebook page. We have 887 followers on Twitter and now 303 followers on Instagram.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Comment</b>
08/05/2017	"Jong assvoel kies luilekker lewe bo vryheid"	<a href="http://lowvelder.co.za/385785/jong-aasvoel-kies-">http://lowvelder.co.za/385785/jong-aasvoel-kies-</a>	awareness and exposure	Article on our rehab work

		luilekker-lewe-bo-vryheid		
10/05/2017	"VulPro"	Big fish School of digital filmmaking	Awareness and exposure	RMB is showcasing all its sponsored projects through film
11/05/2017	"Vlerkloos help hyspesie red"	Die Beeld	Awareness and exposure	Article on the CV amputation due to a power line collision.
12/05/2017	"Kyk hoe word aasvoel se vlerkgeamputeer"	Netwerk 24	Awareness and exposure	Video on the CV amputation
12/05/2017	"On a wing and a prayer... a vulture victory"	Argi Orbit.com/wing-prayer-vulture victory	Awareness and exposure	Article and exposure on the CV having his wing amputated and what that means for the individual bird and the species in general.
15/05/2017	"VulPro"	Wingspan 26 No 1 May 2017	Awareness and exposure	Article written up by Jemima Parry-Jones of ICBP in the UK on the work VulPro undertakes to save vultures
17/05/2017	"Feathered friends – VulPro"	Hartbeesfontein No 96 circulation 320	Awareness and exposure	Article and update on our rehab work
31/05/2017	"Vultures have a helping hand with VulPro"	Africa Wildlife and Environment magazine, issue 65 – Autumn 2017	Awareness and exposure	Article on VulPro, our dedication and mission to saving vultures

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

## Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref*	Activity	Follow up	Comment
02-03/05/2017		Searched for CV166, near VulPro due to poor movement	N/A as the bird has been poached	After a couple of hours searching and finding feathers under a power line close to the last location data point, it became evident that CV166 had been poached by the locals in the area given his last location. We located the severed tracking device which was discarded in the field. We confronted the locals but were met with hostility and resistance so we had to back off.
03/05/2017	01.05	Collected an injured CV with a broken wing between Carltonville and Lichtenberg	Monitoring release	The bird has a broken wing tip from colliding into power lines. However, the break is not bad and we are hopeful for a full recovery and perhaps release.
04/05/2017	02.05	Collected barn owl chick from Lapalale	Monitoring for release	This owl is being cared for and fed at the VulPro facilities. It will be moved to an owl box in Skeerpoort in preparation for release.
08/05/2017	03.05	Collected a weak and emaciated first year AWB vulture from Pofadder in the Northern Cape	Monitoring for release	The young AWB vulture was having seizures due to his dehydration state. He was found to be weak and barely conscious but with loads of TLC throughout his 24-hour drive to VulPro, he made a remarkable recovery and is now recovering with the captive WB's at VulPro in prep for his release. He has already been fitted with tags and a GPS tracking device.
11/05/2017	04.05	Collected CV 258 from Askari Game Reserve.	Monitoring for release	This CV which was released last month remained in the same area for several days so we investigated. No injuries but we elected to catch him and transport him

				back to VulPro to be released at a later date.
19/05/2017		The 2 young barn owls were moved into their owl box in prep for their release	Monitoring for release	The 2 young owlets were moved into their nesting box in Skeerpoort where they will be released early in June.
28/05/2017	05.05	Collected a young barn owl which had fallen out of its nest and unfortunately the nest was inaccessible for us to put the nestling back.	Monitoring for release	The owl has since been taken to Skeerpoort to join the other 2 owlets for another 10 days before all 3 are released together.
30/05/2017	06.05	Collected an injured Spotted eagle owl from Onderstepoort	Monitoring for release	The owl is weak with a damaged weak. He is being fed up, treated and monitored to see if his wing will recover as there are no fractures.
31/05/2017	07.05	Collected a grounded and injured sub-adult African White-backed Vulture from the Lichtenberg Nature Reserve	N/A However she will remain at VulPro for breeding purposes	Bird flew into a power line resulting in a badly broken wing with the bone sticking out. Her wing will be amputated first week of June as we cannot save the wing.

***Vulture breeding: Captive and wild***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Project centered at</b>	<b>Comment</b>
May 2017	Captive breeding	VulPro	<p>Throughout the month, we have had loads of eggs laid by our captive non-releasable vulture population. So far, we have had 5 African White-backed vulture eggs but 2 of these were by unpaired females and thus infertile. Our 2 paired AWBs laid fertile eggs and both pairs have been double-clutched where we hope to give the unpaired females the opportunity of raising a chick each as we have placed dummy eggs with them. The fifth egg was from again a single female which was egg bound and we had to remove the egg in order to save her life.</p> <p>The Cape Vultures have given us a total of 15 eggs so far and all except 3 are fertile. Unfortunately, one egg died after 14 days of artificial incubation and we are unsure as to the reasons for this. All</p>

			other eggs are doing well and we are still expecting several more eggs. We have double-clutched 5 pairs this year and three of these 5 pairs are now sitting on their second eggs for them to incubate naturally without our management. Their first eggs will be given to pairs with infertile eggs as well as the pair where the egg died, in order to give all these pairs a chance to raise their own chicks.
22-23/05/2017	Skeerpoort vulture monitoring	Skeerpoort	Undertook the first count of Cape Vulture breeding pairs at the Skeerpoort colony and counted a new record of 289 pairs
25/05/2017	Nooitgedacht vulture monitoring	Nooitgedacht	Undertook the first count of the Cape Vulture breeding pairs at Nooitgedacht and counted 120 pairs this year. A little lower than last year but between the 2 colonies, the breeding population remains stable.
31/05/2017	Moletjie vulture monitoring	Moletjie	Undertook the first count of the Cape Vulture breeding pairs at the Moletjie nature reserve in Polokwane. Only 5 breeding pairs were found which is disappointing as this colony is now becoming unsustainable and we expect to see extinction of breeding activity within the next year or two.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Project centered at</b>	<b>Comment</b>
01/05/2017	Vulture capture	VulPro	Took the opportunity to capture a first-year African White-backed vulture at VulPro and fitted him with tags and a tracking device. VulPro is seeing more and more White-backed vultures feeding at our restaurant and we are trying to understand where these birds are coming from and more about their movements.
May 2017	Biobank samples	VulPro	Several samples from our rehab cases throughout the month were collected and taken to the NZG's Biobank for storage and future studies.
May 2017	Calcium study	VulPro	Two infertile eggs and one egg that died was taken to Onderstepoort as part of the ongoing calcium study in collaboration with Lauren Naidoo as part of her PhD

09/05/2017	Power line survey	Askari Game Reserve	A power line survey was undertaken below the Nooitgedacht breeding colony on the Askari Game Reserve. Several vulture carcasses were found over a short span and a full report has been sent to Eskom for immediate attention. We await their response.
17/05/2017	Assessment of power lines near VulPro for flappers	Area near VulPro where CV 166 was poached	Line distance was assessed in order to determine the number of flappers that would be required.
May2017	Re-sighting database	Southern Africa	Ongoing updating of the re-sighting database.
May2017	Vulture tracking	Southern Africa	Ongoing monitoring of new and old vultures with tracking devices.
May 2017	Vulture restaurant database	Southern Africa	Continued to update the vulture restaurant database

### **Education & Training**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Project centered at</b>	<b>Comment</b>
02/05/2017	Educational tour	Educational and awareness	VulPro	Two guests, one local and one international guest came through and toured the Centre.
03/05/2017 10/05/2017 24/05/2017 31/05/2017	Educational programme	After school Roots & Shoots educational programme	VulPro	Ongoing weekly environmental after school programme. Ongoing group of 32 children.
03/05/2017	Educational and awareness talk	Rotary Hall, Randjes Estate, Highlands North	VulPro	A group of 40 elderly guests attended the talk on VulPro. Guests loved the talk and were hugely supportive of our efforts.
04/05/2017	Educational tour and volunteer work	Educational and awareness	VulPro	A group of 4 Monte Casino Bird Garden's staff visited the Centre, had a tour and volunteered a couple of hours at the Centre. Assisting us with day to day activities in support of our work.

09/05/2017	Educational talk	Educational and awareness	Birdlife Northern Gauteng at the Tuks campus	Gave a talk to the Birdlife Northern Gauteng where 70 guests attended the talk. It was well received and a few guests have since made contact to visit VulPro directly.
11/05/2017	Educational talk	Educational and awareness	Bela Bela	A talk was given to the management and staff of Meisies Vlei piggery and vulture restaurant on the importance of vultures, the importance of the vulture feeding site and the feeding programme involved in supplying safe food to the vultures. In addition, mention was made about the legal ramifications of vulture trade and that it is indeed a criminal act.
20/05/2017	Educational talk and tour	Educational and awareness	VulPro	25 Guests from Birdlife Northern Gauteng toured the Centre to see first-hand what our work entails.
21/05/2017	Educational tour	Education and awareness	VulPro	One of our adoptive parents visited the Centre and their adopted bird.
27/05/2017	Training	Training	Skeerpoort	Undertook a training session for staff and volunteers on the correct monitoring methods of cliff nesting vultures. Four volunteers and 3 staff members attended the training session.
28/05/2017	Community service	Community service	VulPro	A group of 7 scouts and 3 parents undertook 5 hours of community service at VulPro.

**Hide booking:**

- 07/05/2017 Pieter van der Merwe (1)
- 27/05/2017 Christa Koekemoor (4)

**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
- Proposal submissions to various funders
- Press release writing

- Bi-annual newsletter
- 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