

Project Update: September 2017

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the outbreak of avian Influenza, VulPro has taken the decision to close its doors to tours and hide bookings as a precautionary measure. Birds are being affected all over captive bird facilities and although vultures should not be affected, we simply cannot take the chance. Thus for the next 2 or so months, our educational tours and public talks at VulPro will cease to continue.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
01/09/2017	VulPro supporters	Private	Fundraising gala dinner	Fundraising gala dinner
08/09/2017	Staff	ZK Techo	Site visit and project update	Site visit
10/09/2017	Simon Gear	Consultant	Discussion around the up and coming VulPro strategy meeting	Strategy meeting planning
10/09/2017	Gwen Harris	Oregon Zoo	Captive breeding discussion on vultures	Captive breeding
13/09/2017	Clinton Austin	Bayer	Project update and delivery of sponsored products	Sponsorship
14/09/2017	Clinton Klaaste	Standard Bank	Introduction to our new bank manager and took him around the Centre	Management of accounts
15/09/2017	Norma and Jessica	Monte Bird Gardens	Discussion around the Fish Eagle and Cape Vulture on loan by the bird gardens for educational purposes	Loan of birds for education
16/09/2017	VulPro staff and directors	Strategy meeting	Strategy meeting outlining priorities and objectives over the next 5 years	Strategy meeting

Date	Met with	Representing	Purpose	Project title/reference/purpose
20/09/2017	Charne Wilhelmi	VulPro	Strategy feedback and fundraising planning	Stakeholder Engagement
21/09/2017	Johan van Staden	Eskom	Site meeting at Nooitgedacht to assess the power lines	Power line assessment
22/09/2017	Michelle and Adam Scott	Insurance brokers	Update on VulPro's insurance and visit their adoptive vulture chick	Insurance and vulture adoption
25/09/2017	Barend Craven	VulPro	Strategy feedback and project planning	Project Planning
27/09/2017	Delegates	EWT, Birdlife SA, Ezemvelo KZN, private consultants	Workshop outlining conservation and research priorities to safeguard Cape Vultures from the negative effects of wind energy.	Wind energy workshop
29/09/2017	Shamaine Thulasie and Rudi Kruger	Eskom	Site meeting at Nooitgedacht to confirm way forward with regards to power line mitigation	Power line mitigation discussion

Media

Ongoing media, awareness and exposure through Facebook and Twitter, as well as other social media throughout August; with 5000 followers on Kerri Wolter's profile and 7899 on VulPro's Facebook page. We have 935 followers on Twitter and now 334 followers on Instagram.

Press releases sent out:

- New study finds veterinary painkiller lethally toxic to vultures
- Putting vultures first: data sharing for conservation
- Adopt your brick at VulPro

Date	Media	Publisher	Purpose	Comment
01/09/2017	"VulPro celebrates their tenth anniversary in vulture conservation"	Die Kwevoel	awareness exposure and	Awareness and exposure
02/09/2017	International Vulture Awareness Day	Radio Today	Awareness exposure and	Awareness regarding IVAD and the work we undertake to save vultures throughout southern Africa and abroad.
13/09/2017	"VulPro CEO nominated for prestigious global conservation award"	Platinum weekly	Awareness exposure and	Awareness and exposure
16/09/2017	"SA animal conservationist nominated for world's leading conservation award"	Rekord (Pretoria East)	Awareness exposure and	Awareness and exposure
18/09/2017	"South African nominated for world's leading conservation award"	Agri: Orbit.com	Awareness exposure and	Awareness and exposure
20/09/2017	"Local wildlife hero vie for top honour"	Platinum weekly	Awareness exposure and	Awareness and exposure
28/09/2017	"Putting vultures first: data sharing for conservation"	Grocott's mail	Awareness exposure and	Awareness and exposure

CONSERVATION

A. DIRECT ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation

Date	MR Ref	Activity	Follow up	Comment
20/09/2017	01.09	Collected a badly injured juvenile Cape Vulture from the Nooitgedacht vulture restaurant	N/A	Unfortunately the bird died shortly after, succumbing to its injuries from flying into the power lines in close proximity to the vulture restaurant.
23/09/2017		Collected our female Fish Eagle and male Cape Vulture from the Monte Casino Bird Gardens	Both birds are non-releasable. The CV will join the captive non-releasable Cape Vultures for future breeding and the Fish Eagle will be housed until a suitable home can be found.	Both birds were housed at the bird gardens for educational purposes. However both were no longer suitable for intense educational handling.
26/09/2017	02.09	Collected a grounded adult Cape Vulture from 60kms outside Tzaneen	Monitoring for release	The bird was grounded but not emaciated. He has a slight wing droop on his right wing and some sternum bruising from suspected power line collision.

Vulture breeding statistics: Captive and wild

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
11-15/09/2017	Boikarabelo vulture tree nesting survey	Boikarabelo	Undertook the second survey on Boikarabelo property. Recorded 34 active nests to-date with 30 of these with young chicks seen.
18-21/09/2017	Kransberg colony monitoring	Kransberg (Marakele National Park)	Undertook the nestling count for the Kransberg colony and recorded 616 active nests with small and large nestlings.
22/09/2017	VulPro captive breeding	VulPro	Ringed 5 Cape Vulture chicks and 1 African White-backed vulture chick in preparation for their fledgling and to be able to identify each individually captive bred vulture
25/09/2017	Skeerpoort colony monitoring	Skeerpoort	Undertook the third and last count for the 2017 Skeerpoort colony. Recorded 238 active nests with both fledglings and older nestlings seen.
26/09/2017	Moletjie colony monitoring	Polokwane	Undertook the second nestling count for the tiny colony in the heart of Polokwane and recorded only 4 nestlings.
29/09/2017	Nooitgedacht	Nooitgedacht	Started the third and last count for the Nooitgedacht colony. Unfortunately the count was not completed and will be finished during the first week of October.

Research

Date	Project title	Location	Comment
September 2017	Vulture restaurant database	VulPro	Continued to update the vulture restaurant database
September 2017	Vulture re-sighting database	VulPro	Continued to update the re-sighting database
September 2017	Vulture tracking device studies	Southern Africa	Continue to monitor the vultures with tracking devices and assess their movements and investigate any stationery positions.

Education & Training

Date	Activity	Project title	Location	Comment
06/09/2017	Roots & Shoots after school programme	After school programme	VulPro	The after school programme continues every Wednesday with the same first group of kids that initially joined.
13/09/2017	Roots & Shoots after school programme	After school programme	VulPro	The after school programme continues every Wednesday with the same first group of kids that initially joined.
13/09/2017	Education awareness	/ Education / awareness	VulPro	A group of 12 residents from the M-WIG Group (retirement) toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake.
14/09/2019	Education awareness	/ Educational talk	VulPro	Two small groups of 3 people in each toured the Centre and also took the opportunity to photograph the birds.
19/09/2017	Education awareness	/ Educational talk	VulPro	23 Learners from Mount Cambridge school ranging from grade 4 to grade 12 toured the Centre and learnt about the work we undertake to safeguard vultures. Each learner was given our biodiversity book.
20/09/2017	Education awareness	/ Education / awareness	VulPro	A family of 5 toured the Centre and experienced vultures from close-up, learning about their importance and the need to save them.
21/09/2017	Education awareness	/ Education / awareness	VulPro	13 Students from the Glen Afric School toured the Centre and each student was given our biodiversity book and educational interactive booklet.
25/09/2017	Education awareness	/ Education / awareness	VulPro	A scout group of 41 individuals from 37th Springvale Nature Club toured the Centre and had close-up experiences with the vultures. Learning about their importance and therefore the need to conserve them.
26/09/2017	Education awareness	/ Education / awareness	VulPro	A couple toured the Centre and offered their assistance to monitor colonies and breeding sites.

Hide booking:

- 14/09/2017 Andre le Roux (3 people)
- 22/09/2017 Hans Bal (2 people)

Administration and Pending

Collection of donated carcasses
Maintenance of VulPro vehicles
Ongoing treatment and care of vultures and birds of prey at VulPro.
Ongoing care for captive vultures and supplementary feeding of wild birds at Nooitgedacht.
Fundraising
Report writing
Proposal submissions to various funders
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.

