

Project Update: May 2017

Lunguza and Sibane are two of nine Cape Vulture nestlings tagged with GPS transmitters from Collywobbles vulture colony in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Lunguza fledged on the 11th Decemeber 2015 and Sibane followed suit fledging on the 12th December 2015. They experienced a post-fledging dependence period of 118 and 134 days respectively. Thus Lunguza dispersed from the natal colony on 6th April 2016 and Sibane dispersed on the 23rd April 2016. Just a month short of a year since fledging, both birds were casualties of powerline collisions. Lunguza collided with a powerline close to Kokstad in KwaZulu-Natal on 11th November 2016, and Sibane suffered the same fate in the vicinity of Stutterheim in the Eastern Cape on the 12th November 2016.

Incidents were reported to SAFRING and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). Transmitters were collected from the birds, and it is hoped that these can be reused.



Left: A maze of powerlines stretching across the landscape. Right: A Cape Vulture found below a powerline, electrocuted.