

Project Update: January 2018

I am currently analysing satellite-tracking data shared with me by Dr Keith Bildstein (Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, USA) and his colleagues from six African countries. In February 2018 I will travel to the US to complete the analysis of this data. We expect some interesting findings with regards to home range sizes and utilisation distributions of hooded vultures in West, East and Southern Africa. We are also collaborating with geneticist Dr Sandi Willows-Munro, who is genotyping individual birds, to determine levels of inbreeding and relatedness between hooded vultures in four African countries. Finally, we have also been busy with fieldwork, recording nest-site characteristics at unoccupied hooded vulture nests. We will use this data to determine which factors hooded vultures use when selecting their nest sites. This work is in collaboration with the Hawk Conservancy Trust in the UK.



Left: Volunteer Louise Monsey practising tree climbing. Middle: A Hooded Vulture nest tree. Right: Volunteer Louise Monsey recording habitat data near a Hooded Vulture nest site.



Left: Field kit kindly sponsored by the Rufford Foundation and the Hawk Conservancy Trust. Middle: Volunteer Louise Monsey showed great dedication even when measuring thorny trees. Right: Preparing for fieldwork measuring trees at a Hooded Vulture nest site.