



VulPro ANNUAL REPORT 2014

(VulPro NPC [Vulture Programme for the Conservation of Vulture Species in southern Africa]
Registration No. 2011/127419/08 [Section 14, Companies Act 2008])

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1. SUMMARY

1.1 Executive Summary

While nothing could quite match the global profile given in 2013 to VulPro with the presentation of Tusk Trust's inaugural Awards for Conservation in Africa by Prince William, Britain's future king, recognition of VulPro's significant contribution to conservation was again highlighted in 2014 in it being shortlisted for the 2014 Mail&Guardian Greening the Future Award and the establishment of "VulPro UK" by raptor enthusiasts and experts in Britain. The activities of VulPro UK in its first 9 months of existence are covered in section 5. In addition media coverage of VulPro's activities has continued unabated.

The mission and principal activities of VulPro remain unchanged and are listed as in previous reports in 1.2. Performance reviews and achievements for these activities are given in 2.1 to 2.6. We are pleased to be able to be strongly positive in all activity categories.

All communications sent out from VulPro include a list of our sponsors which is expanded on our website (www.vulpro.com) and in our newsletters to name further donors, volunteers and friends. We again sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude to all these organisations and individuals for their very generous support without which VulPro's work could not be carried out and its mission achieved.

1.2 Accomplishing the mission of VulPro

In line with VulPro's mission statement—"To advance knowledge, awareness and innovation in the conservation of African vulture populations for the benefit and well being of society"—VulPro seeks to advance the cause of vulture conservation through the following activities:

- an ongoing rescue and rehabilitation service for vultures and other raptors
- monitoring of breeding levels in principal Cape Vulture colonies within southern Africa. This has now been extended to a number of colonies of Hooded and African White-backed Vultures in the Limpopo Province in South Africa.
- management and associated work around vulture restaurants
- community outreach, interaction and education
- farmer and landowner awareness and educational extension activities
- involvement in research projects
- collaborating with other NGOs both locally and internationally on vulture related conservation activities
- regular output of information and profile through the media, and
- breeding of non-releasable vulture species, Cape Vultures in particular, for reintroduction purposes

2. Performance reviews

2.1 Rescue & Rehabilitation

Rescue and rehabilitation remains a major function for VulPro. Yet again 2014 has seen an increase in the numbers of birds in residence at VulPro and the numbers which are non-releasable birds (Table 1). The increases are substantial with, in the year 2014, a 46 % rise in the number of Cape Vultures and 33 % increase in the total number of birds in residence. Likewise the numbers of non-releasable Cape Vultures and of all species have risen over the year by almost 50 % and 45 % respectively. Clearly the demand for VulPro's rescue, palliative care and release services is not reducing. We are unsure what our 'ceiling' is but, in view of the continued increase, a satellite rescue and rehabilitation station is in the process of being established at the Highlands

Country Estate in Mpumalanga Province, most generously financed by owner Damian Boyce. Our second Cape Vulture breeding enclosure will be based here as well as the ongoing inflow of other smaller birds of prey for breeding and release programmes.

In the monthly reports in 2014 it is recorded that, of the 78 vultures collected or brought in:

- 22 (28 %) were specifically described as young (including fledgling, immature and sub-adult). This may be a minimum as the age category was frequently unrecorded. Most of the fledglings were found in December
- 24 (31 %) had some level of mechanical injury, 11 of these attributed to power line collisions
- 12 (15 %) showed evidence of poisoning; this excludes the ~ 40 vultures found poisoned on a farm in Zimbabwe in August and 50-100 known to have been poisoned in Zululand in September
- 7 (9 %) were victims of electrocution.

Journeys amounting to a total of 21 400 km were required for rescue work (this excludes field related work and travelling) and compares with 17 456 km in 2013, 28 365 km in 2012 and ~50 000 km in 2011.

The average cost of feeding vultures in our enclosures is R10 500 per week comparing with R5920.00 (US\$592) in 2012 and R6512.00 (US\$650) per week in 2013 per week, exclusive of staffing, maintenance and other costs incurred in running VulPro. In addition, the cost of food for the wild birds at the VulPro vulture restaurant amounts to R17 500 per week on average.

Table 1. Up to date rescue and release data

Species	In residence at (non-releasable)			In 2014					In residence at 31.12.14 (non-releasable)
	1.1.09*	1.1.13	1.1.14	Rescued/ brought in	Released	Died	Euthanased	Transferred or donated	
VULTURES									
Cape	22	72 (65)	76(75)	54	12	3	2		113 [†] (96)
African White-backed	4	4 (4)	4(4)	17	3	3	1		14 (14)
White-headed		1		1					1(1)
Lappet-faced	2	5 (4)	4(4)						4(4)
Palm-nut		2 (2)	3(3)						3(3)
OTHER RAPTORS	7	15 (13)	16(12)	8 [†]	9	1	1		14(13)

*At the time VulPro moved from its initial farm site in Skeerpoort to the present site. [†]Plus 12 captive bred.

[†]Also 1 marabou stork which later died and a secretary bird still not released.

2.2 Monitoring of breeding levels in principal Cape Vulture colonies

There are 32 recognized historical Cape Vulture breeding colonies in southern Africa 50 % of which are now extinct. It has been a major component of VulPro's activities to monitor the principal remaining ones of these since 2011 with a view to assessing the health and productivity of this population, which represents some 61 %

of the world's Cape Vultures. The monitoring is carried out according to the "Standard Cape Vulture Monitoring Protocol", developed under VulPro's leadership in 2010.

In 2014 nine colonies were visited and assessed, up from the original six in 2011 including one in Gaborone, Botswana. A detailed summary of the 2014 data was given in the December 2014 issue of VulPro's newsletter, the "VulPro Flyer" which can be viewed on the VulPro website (www.vulpro.com). The basic breeding pair data with comparisons with previous years are given in Table 2 (the three colonies in the Magaliesbergs taken together in this table). The data appear to indicate a reasonably stable breeding population at these sites, although we believe that, in reality, the smaller peripheral colonies are declining with the birds leaving those sites and joining larger colonies. This would skew the results, making the numbers appear to be stable or increasing while, in truth, the population in its entirety is still on the decline.

The Roberts Farm site was abandoned in 2011 and has not been recolonised. The reason for the abandoning of this site is attributable to the combined effect of power line collisions and electrocutions and indirect poisoning by the farmers and landowners in the surrounding area encompassing a radius of about 80km.

A major potential threat to these colonies is disturbance by climbers, base jumpers, hang gliders and other aviation. Meetings were held with the North West Nature Conservation Departments to address these issues. VulPro has sent through recommendations and the Magaliesberg Protectorate Act is to be updated to include these threats so as to make any disturbance of this kind to the birds illegal with immediate effect.

Table 2. Breeding pair counts since monitoring by the Standard Cape Vulture Monitoring Protocol began

Colony	2011	2012	2013	2014
Blouberg	572	851	1015*	nd [†]
Kransberg	638	661	611	632
Magaliesberg	332	273	309	319
Manutsa	539	434	444	563
Moletjie	nd	20	13	17
Soutpansberg	nd	182	168	187
Mannyelanong	nd	nd	nd	62
Kammelkspruit	nd	nd	nd	44

*provisional figure. [†]not done; monitoring prevented by severe floods in the area.

At a further site, Stonehenge in the Eastern Cape, although no breeding activity was apparent, 11 adults were seen roosting on the cliffs

2.3 Management and associated work around vulture restaurants

VulPro is now receiving reports of sightings of tagged vultures from many of the vulture restaurant owners and managers. In total, we have recorded 160 active feeding sites located throughout southern Africa with 98 % of these being in South Africa and 45 % being in the KwaZulu Natal Province. Of these feeding sites, 95 % are managed and owned privately by the landowners themselves with a handful operated by government. The late Prof Steven Piper started maintaining the vulture restaurant database some 20years ago and handed over the database to VulPro seven years ago to continue with his work.

The idea behind this work is the ongoing involvement of farmers and landowners, working together with them to provide regular safe food for the vultures to combat the threat of "lack of available safe food". In addition, with the annual surveys and questionnaires sent to all vulture restaurant owners and managers, we are able to analyse results, such as the most commonly used veterinary drug to which vultures are exposed, and to ascertain whether these drugs could be toxic or whether in fact they are safe for vulture consumption. We are also hoping to distribute a new smart phone app for anyone receiving carcasses to feed to vultures in order to make sure the

carcasses are safe and that certain questions are asked before any carcasses are used for vulture consumption. In addition to the questionnaires and surveys, we have distributed a leaflet to all restaurant managers/owners highlighting the toxic veterinary drugs which vultures should not be exposed to through the food supply.

We are particularly pleased to be able to announce the launch of our new newsletter, 'Restaurant News', dedicated specifically to keeping vulture restaurant managers/owners in touch with and sharing experiences, sightings and other information with other vulture restaurant managers/owners, as well as keeping them up to date with the developing database. The first issue of *Restaurant News* came out in December with an opening article on a featured restaurant followed by educational and instructional material on vultures and vulture restaurants, listings of various sightings and invitations to participate with submissions of news, sightings and pictures. The newsletter will be put out and sent to vulture restaurant owners/managers biannually. It will also be accessible on our website (www.vulpro.com).

2.4 Community outreach, interaction and education

A firm 'constant' in VulPro's philosophy is its view of the importance of its educational outreach work as essential to the awareness of the value of vultures to the ecosystem and of their threatened status. Consequently this continues to constitute a very major part of the VulPro team's work. To ensure the message is reaching people when they are young, work with school groups remains a high priority. A particular highlight this year was the establishment of a "VulPro Kids' Club" with its first meeting held in December. The aims and activities of the club are covered in the December issue of 'The VulPro Flyer' and on the website, www.vulpro.com. As has always been the policy, where children are involved, every child is given educational interactive sheets and the booklet produced in 2013 entitled "What's Cool About Vultures? (and what YOU can do to help)".

A clear idea of the investment of time and energy into VulPro's educational outreach endeavours is apparent from the month-by-month summary below. The considerable amount of effort that went into the planning and execution of the Vulture Awareness Campaign in April, involving presentations focused particularly on the problem of vulture poisonings, to conservators, farmers, landowners and other members of the public in Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe as well as South Africa, was described in the June/July "VulPro Flyer". This can be seen on the VulPro website (www.vulpro.com) and the formal report can be obtained from kerri.wolter@gmail.com. It was estimated that well over 4000 people were reached through this campaign.

VulPro is again hosting a 3rd year student, Merlyn Nomusa Nkomo, from the Forest Resources and Wildlife Management Department of the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo, on a 10-month attachment in partial fulfillment of her degree requirements. This is the seventh NUST student we have housed and it has clearly been a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Over the year, 2014, some 40 small groups (1 to 6 or 7 individuals) were hosted at the VulPro centre, mostly members of the public, also including a number of visitors from other countries.

Events for large groups included presentations to audiences of

- In February, April and July
 - 30-40 at Leopard Lodge situated below a vulture colony
- In March
 - 30 at the VFWT, Zimbabwe
- In April
 - 20 home schooled children
- In May

- 30 disadvantaged children and their teachers from “Lessons4Life” and “Kids4Life” hosted at VulPro
- 60 Grades 10-11 children at the Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre, Mamelodi
- 92 children at Peaconwood Primary School
- 40 members of the SA Hunter Association in Edenvale

- In June

- 110 children aged 6-7 at St Peter’s Girls School
- 80 children at Bryanston Nursery School
- 150 Eskom staff at Megawatt Park on Eskom’s Environmental Day

- In July

- 31 VW Beetle club members
- 22 home schooled children
- 30 other members of the public
- 58 Peacanwood Primary School children

- In August

- 13 members of the public
- 3 boys from St Stithian's school did their community service at VulPro

- In September

- 50 Cuckoo Bird club members

- In October

- 20 members of the public at Brits
- 15 scouts with their leaders
- 25 Magaliesberg Mountain Club members
- 92 farmers on “Farmers’ Day”

- In November

- 35 professionals at the “Avian Health Workshop” hosted at VulPro
- 42 members of the public

Of special importance among the above, in view of the never-ending problem of collisions and electrocutions of vultures associated with power lines, was the open VulPro stand on 5 June during the Eskom’s Environmental Day. Some 150 Eskom staff members visited the stand and learnt about vultures and the problem of power line-related vulture mortalities. Similarly, in view of the other serious problem of vulture poisonings, the "Farmers' Day" in October was a very significant event.

Further educational actions were the dispatch of copies in booklet form of an article from *Wildlife Ranching* magazine entitled "Let Vultures Soar" to farmers and landowners and interactive sheets for distribution to children to the Casino Bird Gardens.

2.5 Involvement in research projects

Research in 2014 largely centred around the monitoring programmes initiated in 2012 and ongoing for a fairly indefinite period into the future. These are based on monitoring the health of breeding colonies as described in 2.2. above, tracing the movements of vultures fitted with tracking devices and developing the population database from re-sightings at vulture restaurants (see 2.3 above) and elsewhere.

The importance of ‘personality’ in individual behaviour and dispersal of Cape Vultures and the relation of this to

rehabilitation success is being studied as part of a PhD student's programme at Swansea University, UK. Vultures follow each other to carcasses, and once on the ground compete with other individuals for access to that carcass; under study is how the success of an individual depends on personality factors enabling them to locate carcasses, follow or lead others and determining their dominance at the carcass

A study on the entire breeding programme and more specifically, the release or success of the release of captive bred vultures from VulPro's captive breeding programme is the subject of a MSc student's project at Grahamstown University.

VulPro is collaborating with the National Research Gardens, Pretoria, in a genetic profiling study of captive bred birds. This is part of the Google Forensic Project focusing on control of trafficking.

The studies initiated in 2013 on the movement ecology, feeding behavior, and conservation of Hooded Vultures and, to a lesser degree African White-backed vultures, in the Olifants river game reserve was continued in 2014. This was detailed in the June/July issue of "The VulPro Flyer" (available on the VulPro website www.vulpro.com). The study has now been extended to the area of the Boikarabelo coal mine in Limpopo Province, focusing here on African White-backed and other tree nesting vulture species and this will now be part of VulPro's annual survey projects.

Publications:

- Let Vultures Soar - Vultures and Farmers 2014, Wildlife Ranching Magazine 2014
- "The safety of pharmacokinetics of carprofen, flunixin and phenylbutazone in the Cape Vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*) following oral exposure" – in prep
- "South African Cape Vulture released in Namibia in 2005 is back in South Africa" – Safring journal

2. 6 Regular output of information and profile through the media

The Media evidently remain intrigued by VulPro giving its activities and issues considerable attention. VulPro welcomes this as part of its educational awareness campaigns and also as a means of attracting sponsorship and donations. While time and energy consuming for VulPro staff, this is judged worthwhile. The following media coverage occurred in 2014:

January

- Kormorant – articles on (i) proposed power line adjacent to VulPro and in flight path to the VulPro vulture restaurant, and (ii) Tusk Trust awards
- Radio Today, with links to DSTV Audio Channel 869, WHAM! Media and "Fine Lines" – "Changing Destiny"

February

- Wild World – article on effect of power lines on vultures
- E-TV News – interview for World Wildlife Day

March

- eNCA – video clip for World Wildlife Day
- CNN -- interview and filming
- Algoa FM – interview for 'The Green Zone'
- Africa Albida (Zimbabwe wildlife magazine) -- interview

April

- The Northcliff Times – 'Threat to near extinction of vultures' and 'Vultures in dire straits'
- Thee Ngami Times – 'Plight of the Vulture'

- Cheetah Conservation Facebook page – publicity on vultures
- BirdLife Botswana – 'Flight for the plight of vultures'
- Botswana TV News Channel -- 'Flight for the plight of vultures'
- WildAid.org – TV interview on poaching
- Environment magazine -- 'Flight for the plight of vultures'
- Radio 702 – vulture conservation
- SABC News – vulture conservation

May

- AAN News channel – 'Vulture poisonings'

June

- Brits Pos – 'Vultures are under threat'
- Ensia.com (online magazine) – 'Soaring with vultures'
- Radio Overberg – 'Vulture conservation \nd VulPro'
- 'Show Me Harties' online magazine – educational programme at VulPro

July

- Brits Pos – 'Help secure the next generation of Cape Vultures' for Nelson Mandela Day
- Wildlife Ranching magazine – 11-page feature on farmers and vultures
- Zambezi Traveller – 'One vulnerable vulture'
- Diamond Fields Advertiser – 'Poisoned vultures die'

August

- Hartbeesfontein Newsletter – 'Vulture update'
- eNCA – publicity on failure of appeal against power line construction adjacent to VulPro
- Kormorant – as eNCA above
- TheScotsman – '39 endangered African vultures killed by poison'
- DriveSouthAfrica.co.za blog – Vulture rehabilitation programme at VulPro

September

- Dresage Africa – 'Shop till you drop for a good cause'
- Cape Times – International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD)
- Radio Pretoria – IVAD
- Brits Pos – IVAD
- Kormorant – IVAD and 'cycling for vultures'
- Hartbeesfontein newsletter – November seminar at VulPro

October

- Gauteng Smallholder – "Captive breeding rules"
- Radio 702 – "VulPro's vulture restaurant"
- The Scientists Magazine – "Asian vulture recovery programme and diclofenac"

November

- Caxton in the 'What's on column' for the week – "Vulture culture art fair"
- Animal channel – "Vulture culture art fair"
- 'Going Places' Bridgestone magazine – "Let our vultures soar"
- SABC – "VulPro and vulture use in muti"
- Network 24 – "Kuiken sterk aan na val uit nes"
- Kormorant – Join the kids vulture club"

December

- Radio Sonder Grensa – “Kalahari Vulture”
- BirdLife Eastern Cape – “PE Vulture doing well at VulPro NPO”
- Buite Burger – Eastern Cape – “Weldoeners red yong aasvoel in Kalahari”
- Hartebeesfontein Newsletter – “Vulture fledgling season”
- Die Beeld – “Meer aasvoels raak verlaam”
- DSTV KykNet channel – “Vulture rehabilitation and conservation”
- Radio Today – “VulPro”
- Radio 702 – “VulPro”

2.7 Breeding of non-releasable vulture species, Cape Vultures in particular, for reintroduction purposes

Year 4 of this programme finds us with 5 healthy young Cape Vultures. We consider this a major achievement which, as covered in past special reports, newsletters and previous annual reports, has not been achieved without a considerable number of challenges resulting from incubation failures and consequent low hatching rates, inexperienced parenting on the part of the parents and the inadequate training of the one chick that was released in 2011 to adapt to the wild. A sharp learning curve led to improvements to the artificial cliffs, modifications to the approaches to ensuring the safety of the embryo and newly hatched chicks, better diets for both parents and chicks and different training schedules for the fledglings prior to release. No less important, the parent birds have been learning better parenting skills through experience.

Three of this year’s 5 fledged birds are being prepared for release together with the two from 2013 in February 2015 (Table 3). The 2 younger ones from this year will be held over for a future release. In addition 3 captive bred vultures raised at the National Zoological Gardens will also be released. Release will take place at VulPro by a ‘soft release’ method. They will be transferred from the rehabilitation enclosure to our open top enclosure where the birds can decide for themselves when they prefer to leave. In addition, they can leave and come back as they please until they are then ready for their breakaway from VulPro, hopefully to one of the Magaliesberg Cape Vulture breeding colonies.

Table 3 summarises the progress of the programme so far.

Table 3. Summary of breeding by non-releasable Cape vultures

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Breeding pairs	10	10	10	10
Eggs laid	9	9	11	11
No. hatched	3	6	3	8
No. chicks fledged	0	2	2	5
Ready for release	1	2	2	3

3. Administrative issues

3.1 Board, staff, volunteers, students

As an independent NPC, VulPro is managed by CEO Kerri Wolter under the direction of the Chairman and members of the 6-member Board.

Income to VulPro continues to cover the employment of CEO Kerri Wolter, assistant manager, Walter Nesor, and three general support staff, Orbert Phiri, Notice Phiri and Charles Bunda who help with the feeding of the

birds, cleaning and maintenance of the enclosures, rehabilitation and general farm management. The Ian Geary bursary in Ian's memory supplies a small remuneration to the intern student, this year Merlyn Nomusa Nkomo (see 2.4 and below).

VulPro continues to rely heavily on this small quota of staff to keep it well run and in optimal condition. Funds remain insufficient to take on further salaried staff. Assistance with administrative issues (fundraising, report writing, proof reading), running the education centre and preparation of press releases remains dependent on the dedicated input of volunteers and, in the case of research projects, persons from collaborating institutes. Our permanent volunteers, Peter Turnbull and Mandy Schroder, are hugely instrumental in helping with the administration. Peter assists with preparation of our annual report and funding proposals; Mandy assists with media, press releases, articles, fundraising proposals and the kids website.

As covered in 2.4 above, Merlyn Nomusa Nkomo, our 3rd year NUST student mentioned in 2.4 above is spending 10 months at VulPro where she contributes to all aspects of the programme. Hannah Williams, the Swansea University PhD student referred to in 2.5, spent 4 weeks at VulPro in March. Grahamstown University MSc student, Maggie Hirschauer, also referred to in 2.5, is spending a full 24 months at VulPro. Other short-term volunteers were Jessie Griswold from the Animal Health Center, Birmingham Zoo, Birmingham, Alabama, USA, who was with us for 3 weeks in September, Bettina Boemans, back for the third time, spending 3 weeks with us in November and Cody Raab who spent 2 weeks with us in December. The personal profiles of these students and volunteers featured in the mid-year and December issues of '*The Vulture Flyer*' which can be seen on the website (www.vulpro.com).

3.2 Travel

As stated in section 2.1 above, collection of birds needing rescue and rehabilitation involved approximately 21400 km of travel. Other activities requiring travel were:

- Collection of carcasses from farms for feeding the birds
- Management and visitations to vulture restaurants
- Travel as required for research projects
- Travel as required for field work i.e. vulture monitoring
- Travel as required for transporting birds for veterinary attention
- Travel to schools, clubs, and other places for the Educational Outreach work
- Travel to meetings relating to vulture conservation aspects, funding, research projects, media interviews etc.
- Travel for vehicle service

All in all the total distance travelled throughout 2014 came to 65 000 km.

4. Costs

Operational costs are broken down into:

- Salaries (section 3.1)
- Travel (section 3.2)
- Veterinary services
- Feeding
- Property maintenance
- Security
- Electricity, phone, etc.

- Office costs
- Research, including colony monitoring (2.5)

The major structural investments made in 2014 were the construction of the Condor enclosure sponsored by Bioweb, the Open top enclosure sponsored by Boikarabelo Coal Mine and the cold room sponsored by Tracey Murray in her individual capacity.

The full audited financial report will be published at the end of April 2015.

5. Fundraising, sponsorship and acknowledgements

Fundraising inevitably continues to occupy a considerable proportion of operational time. Regular meetings, telephone discussions and correspondence with current and potential sponsors have been the principal approaches, with some income from voluntary collections at Educational Outreach events. The newly formed ‘VulPro UK’, in its first 9 months of existence, has already set up fund raising events and raffles and developed a ‘shop’ selling VulPro polo shirt, hats, fluffy vulture toys, keyrings and posters and our website (www.vulpro.com) features our own online ‘shop’ from which photos and prints can be obtained.

As always, we thank all our friends, sponsors, donors, family members, volunteers and supporters for their ongoing commitment, enthusiasm and help towards enabling VulPro to continue achieving ever more of its aims and mission to stabilize the Cape and all other vulture populations

Also as always, our special thanks to our long-standing donors, AngloAmerican - Platinum, Bayer SA, Bioweb, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Boikarabelo Coal Mine, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Computer Facilities, Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd, DHL Supply Chain, GH Braak Trust, Glencore Xstrata, Herculite Ferrochrome, Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust, National Birds of Prey Trust - UK, Natural Encounters Inc., Rand Merchant Bank, The Tusk Trust, SW Living Creatures Trust. The only major change is that Mazda and Ford split up during the year and the Ford Motor Co have not renewed our sponsorship. They have, however, donated to VulPro the vehicle previously on loan from Mazda; we are most grateful to Ford for that and also, of course, to Mazda for their generous support in the past.

Our sincere thanks again to adoption parents, Steve’s Trailers and Linings (Pty) LTD, Van da Biezen Family, the Vardakis Family and Jika Africa.

Once again we would like to remind our well-wishers that they can support us greatly at no cost to themselves through the MySchoolMyVillageMyPlanet programme, which helps to raise essential funds for schools, charities and environmental concerns throughout South Africa. Over the last 12 months, a valuable R15 600 was raised this way, which amounting to approximately R1300 per month. Warm thanks to those individuals who support us this way.

6. Report from the honorary treasurer

The financial year ending 2015 is looking very positive and healthy and we can expect to publish our results by the end of April 2015.

Comparing figures as at 31 December 2013 and 2014, Donations / Sponsorships are up 58% with Vulpro UK contributing 9.75% of the 2014 revenue. 5% of all revenue is being added to the current StanLib Investment Portfolio, which is growing nicely.

In light of the above, 2015 should see Vulpro in a strong position to achieve its goals.