

BE PART OF THE CHANGE

THE VULPRO FLYER

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2022



VulPro NPC- Vulture programme for the conservation
of vulture species in southern Africa Registration
no.2011/127419/08 (The Companies Act 2008,
Sec.14)

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WORD FROM OUR CEO

I often find myself doing some sort of self-reflection as I begin to organise my thoughts on paper, summarising three months of tireless work. A summary which is heartfelt and one that gives you a glimmer of insight into our daily lives as we commit to the preservation and protection of vultures. However, it is not always easy putting words down as sometimes our hearts break and bleed when we feel powerless over the hundreds of vultures lost, especially those lost in recent weeks.

Well over 150 critically-endangered vultures were poisoned, all for the purpose of 'muti' (medicine), clairvoyant beliefs, and witchcraft – call it what you want, but it all boils down to human greed. A greed which is unsustainable and which could potentially be the demise of many African vultures and even put our own lives in peril.

As we save as many vultures as we possibly can, giving them a second chance at freedom, or undertaking extensive captive breeding for restoration programmes, I find it extremely hard to grasp the magnitude of recent events and how we could possibly put back what is being lost to the wild populations. How do we possibly sustain a declining species when the losses outweigh what we can save or put back?

Over the past three months, we have worked tirelessly to nurture, conserve and protect vultures, and we will continue to do so with your help. But we **NEED YOUR HELP** to keep going, and there are various ways you can help us.

- * You can follow us on our social media platforms.
- * Offer financial assistance or leave a legacy for Vultures in your Will.
- * Volunteer at the Centre or even collect injured vultures.
- * You can also just be a voice for vultures and even shop at our small mini shop.
- * Lastly, you can get your My Planet cards and support us whilst shopping at no cost to you.

Let's stand together in support of preventing the extinction of our African vultures, and let's be part of the change: now, today and tomorrow.

Kerri, CEO

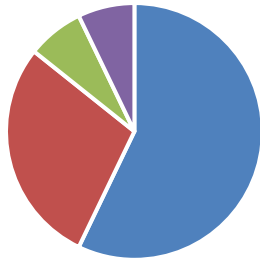


Be sure to support our mini shop when visiting us and purchase your vulture and wildlife goodies. There are some items which you simply cannot purchase at any other store and some items are limited editions.



VULTURE RESCUE & REHABILITATION

Species admitted to Vulpro's rehabilitation programme between 1 July and 30 September 2022



■ Cape Vultures ■ African White-backed Vultures
■ Lappet-faced Vultures ■ Long-Crested Eagles

With breeding season nearing its end, it has thankfully been fairly quiet regarding rescue and rehabilitation over the last three months at Vulpro. However, this part of our work never stops, and we still admitted an additional 14 patients between 1 July and 30 September 2022. Thirteen of these individuals were vultures, and the final individual was a Long-Crested Eagle.

Species admitted between 1 July and 30 September 2022

Species	Number of admissions
Cape Vultures	8
African White-backed Vultures	4
Lappet-faced Vultures	1
Long-Crested Eagles	1
Total	14

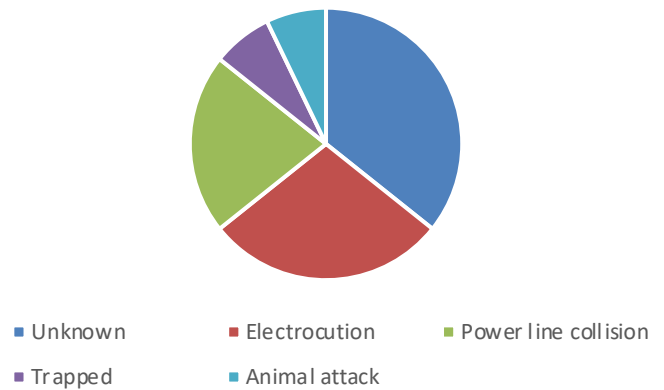
Our battle with power line infrastructure and the damage it is causing to our vulture populations is never-ending and, once again, in the last three months, nearly 50% of the individuals admitted to Vulpro came in as a result of power line incidents. Unfortunately, many of these birds had injuries beyond repair and five of the seven birds admitted for power line incidents died either on their way to Vulpro or shortly after their arrival. We are constantly reminded of the devastation that this infrastructure causes, but we continue to fight to have these lines mitigated to stop these issues at their source.



VULTURE RESCUE & REHABILITATION

Reasons for admission	Number of admissions
Electrocutions	4
Power line collisions	3
Trapped	1
Animal attack	1
Unknown	5
Total	14

Reasons for admission between 1 July and 30 September 2022



This quarter, however, we did have some successes and we were able to release three individuals from our programme, including two Cape Vultures and an African White-backed Vulture. We are always proud of these birds that are able to fly free once more, and we are closely monitoring their progress through our 'resightings programme'.

We can never settle down too comfortably, and with that in mind we are gearing up to be ready for the rehabilitation season ahead. As the breeding season ends, we expect more youngsters to become trapped in compromising situations, leading to our busiest part of the year for rehabilitation at Vulpro in the coming months. As we get ready for this season, we would like to remind our supporters that should you come in contact with any vulture in need of urgent care, please do get in contact with us immediately. For vulture emergencies, please contact Kerri on 082 808 5113. This also means we are always on the lookout for volunteers who are able to assist during this busy period. If you would be interested in volunteering at Vulpro or would like more information, please feel free to contact us at info@vulpro.com.



A RESCUE STORY: LAURA NELSON

Doing vulture rescues can be exhilarating, heartbreaking or hilarious, or really fun and games. It all depends on the day and the bird. Volunteers have to be ready to do anything to get the birds to Vulpro alive.

On 16 August 2022, we had a rescue from a nature reserve just outside Vryburg. We started early, as usual, in very cold conditions – a temperature of -7°C! I collected Peter, another rescue volunteer, from Bryanston, and we went on our merry way. Everything went well on the road, but there is a twist in this tale.

My normal rescue vehicle is a Ford Bantam. However, it was in for repairs, and Philipp lent me his Opel Corsa for this trip. It has a canopy without side windows, and I was concerned about airflow in this canopy. We also had previously experienced that somehow the exhaust fumes get into it. Because of this, Philipp had taken it in for a modification to the exhaust. He felt sure that the problem was resolved. I was less easily convinced and told Peter that we have to check whether it will be safe for the bird to travel in the back. Peter was the guinea pig while I drove. He hung his head through the connecting window into the canopy and took deep breaths. The verdict – full of exhaust fumes! We then tried a few other alternatives, like driving with the back door partly or fully open and driving with the tailgate open, but none of these options made any difference. The fumes filled the canopy. Driving with the connecting window open put the fumes into the cab. Also not acceptable. Fortunately, Peter survived the testing procedures. The only alternative was that the vulture will have to travel with us in the cab, but the crate is too big. We had to get hold of a cardboard box. No way was the bird going to be euthanised with exhaust fumes or held on our laps without some protection for us! Luckily Peter managed to source some small boxes and tape in one of the towns on the route. We reached Vryburg with no further delays.

The African White-backed vulture was safely secured in a smallish enclosure and had to be caught. It was quite feisty and was prepared to put up a fight. It had a broken wing and had obviously been grounded for quite some time, and was very thin, but it was still strong. Apparently, it had been brave enough to walk into a kraal with the cattle on a nearby farm and could be rescued. The rescuers took it to the nature reserve, where it was fed and given water by the manager, Rikus. Peter fabricated a slightly bigger box by combining two boxes and taping them together, then punching holes into it for ventilation.

After safely depositing the vulture into the box, Peter held the box on his lap during the first part of the trip. By now, it was midday, the sun was shining, the temperature was much higher, and we drove with both windows open to ensure that the bird had enough airflow. I have to confess that for the first time ever, I was travelling with Karbadust but had completely forgotten to use it. That was to be regretted! It wasn't long before Peter informed me that the lice were coming out of the box through the holes! We changed places after a couple of hours, and I held the box, with the lice still crawling through the holes. We were both itching and scratching madly! One could only laugh at the situation and bear up. The bird did not seem to mind its slightly cramped quarters and finished the trip in good spirits.

Luckily the Corsa was also getting into the fast driving mode like the Bantam. It just wanted to get the vulture to Vulpro as quickly as possible. On reaching Vulpro, and after being assessed and 'karbadusted', it was given food. It could not eat fast enough. It was so hungry!

Although its wing would be amputated, and the vulture would become another permanent resident at VupPro, it was a successful and fun rescue. May its offspring get back into the wild and help save the species.



CAPTIVE BREEDING FOR POPULATION RESTORATION

As we reach the end of our captive breeding season, we reflect on the lessons learnt, and although we had an extremely busy and successful egg-laying season, our nestling success rate has been somewhat of a disappointment to us.

Unfortunately, some things are beyond our control, and we had to say goodbye to two of our 4-month-old nestlings: one after having fallen from its nest and breaking its wing in five places and the other completely blind, reasons yet to be determined. As such, our final nestling count has now come to:

- 2 African White-backed Vultures, both have fledged
- 14 Cape Vulture chicks
- 1 Pending Palm-nut vulture

Next year brings new opportunities.



Although our Hooded Vultures, Lappet-faced and White-headed, produced eggs, all were infertile. But we still need to focus on the positives, and each pair gave us two eggs each. We have to be hopeful that in the future, these pairs will finally produce fertile eggs. Until then, we will continue to explore options to give them the best possible chances of success.



TREE NESTING VULTURE MONITORING

The second part of Vulpro's tree nesting vulture monitoring surveys is near completion, with two of the three sites completed in September. We have been able to finalise the monitoring for both Dwaalboom and Mareetsane and will have our final site, Roedtan, completed in the coming weeks.

Our average breeding success rate for 2021 was 73%, and our findings so far for 2022 are somewhat consistent with this, with one final site to monitor to get final breeding success results. One farm that is of great concern to us is the La Rancho Farm in Mareetsane. This year we saw a big drop in nests as most of these nests are situated on power lines. Unfortunately, for two years in a row, we have found dead breeding birds below the nests, seemingly killed by electrocution events. We have consistently reported these events to our national power utility service, Eskom, but have had little to no result. With two more dead birds as a result of power lines on this farm this year, we have doubled down on our efforts to ensure Eskom takes responsibility for these tragedies and mitigates these lines. We have been ensured that these lines will take urgent priority, and we are cautiously optimistic that we will not lose any further birds on these lines.



TREE NESTING VULTURE MONITORING

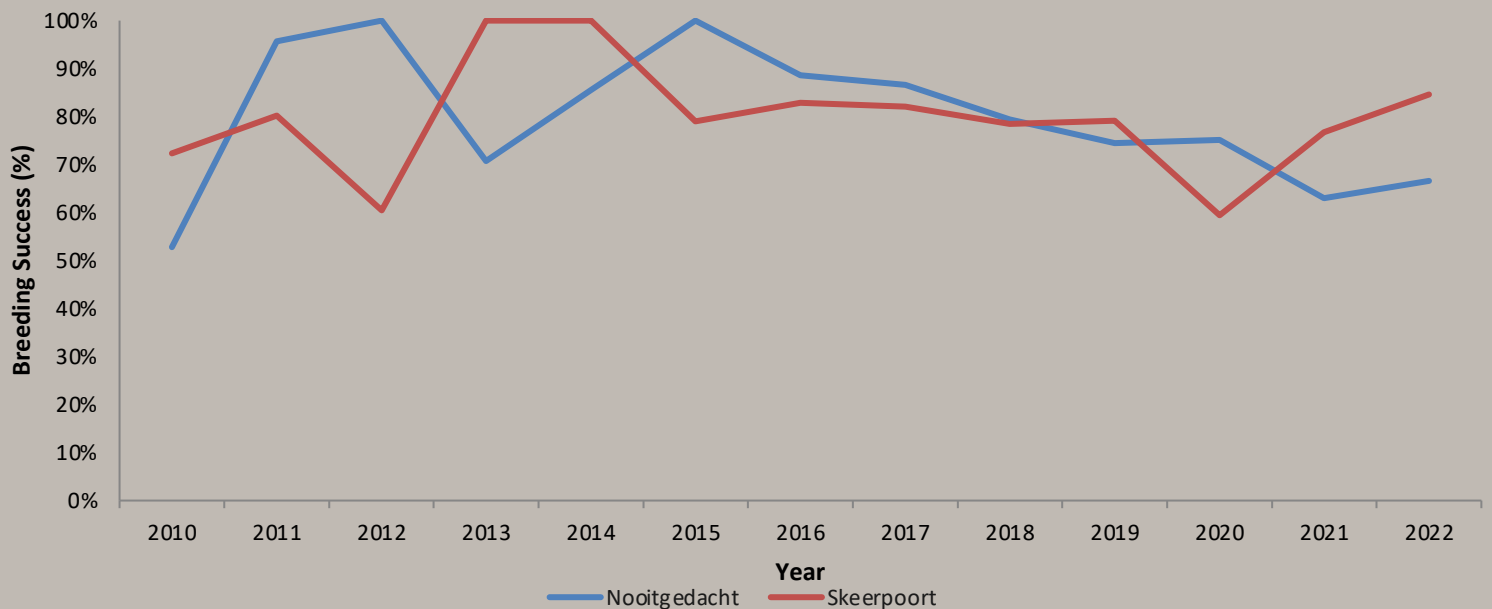
Location	Active nests (Jun/Jul 2021)	Active nests (Oct 2021)	Active nests (May/Jul 2022)	Active nests (Sep 2022)
Mareetsane	105	73	90	66
Omega Game Ranch	62	54	57	50
La Rancho	25	14	18	5
Woodside Lodge	15	4	5	4
Bakoven	3	1	3	2
Woodside Cattle (New)	-	-	7	5
Dwaalboom	76	61	84	62
Swartbos	22	18	14	7
Rooiderbokvale	16	8	13	10
Numzaan Safaris	12	10	13	8
Unknown roadside	8	8	6	5
Groenedal	7	6	5	3
Boelani	4	4	2	1
Laastepoort	2	2	2	1
Nando	2	2	1	0
Leeuwdoorn	1	1	0	0
Loggerinde Hoek	1	1	1	1
Dotreg	1	1	0	0
Kallie Lee Farm	-	1	1	1
Haakdoorn	-	16	22	18
Elandskloof (New)	-	-	4	7
Roedtan	7	4	13	TBD
Bosveld	4	3	2	TBD
Nooitgedacht (previously ACS Farm)	3	1	3	TBD
Harlou (New)	-	-	1	TBD
Renosterfontein (New)	-	-	7	TBD
Total	188	138	187	TBD



Cape Vulture Breeding Surveys

During the second quarter of the year, we conducted our 2022 breeding surveys of six Cape Vulture colonies across the northern parts of South Africa. We counted a total of 2030 active breeding pairs compared to last year's 1855. During July through to September 2022, we completed our monitoring for the Magaliesberg Cape Vultures. During the initial survey in June 2022, we counted 416 active pairs. During the second survey in August, 347 active nests were still observed, and a final count at the end of September of 324 successful nests. The remaining four Cape Vulture colonies will be completed in October, and we will report on this in our last newsletter for 2022.

Figure 1. Annual breeding success of Cape Vultures at the Nooitgedacht Colony and Skeerpoort Colony



VULPRO EASTERN CAPE UPDATE:

KATE WEBSTER

The winter months tend to be very quiet down in the Eastern Cape with regards to rehabilitation and calls for injured vultures. This winter was exceptionally quiet with no calls coming in for birds that needed assistance. I am not sure if the exceptional rains we experienced during these winter months had anything to do with this, however, we remain very wet. I do think there have been numerous stock losses in the agricultural sector particularly in the north-eastern Cape/Transkei areas, so food has remained in abundant supply for the birds.

My main focus in the past three months has really been on the captive-bred fledglings that we finally managed to release earlier this year (delayed also due to excessive rains). Of the initial group of birds, we do not get any readings from two of them at all, and this was after they had headed towards the north-western Free State and Northern Cape near the Douglas area. Another two fledglings headed up towards KwaZulu Natal, and one remains in this province. However, the other seems to fly between KwaZulu Natal and Lesotho in the Sani Pass area, but both obviously seem to be doing ok. One other fledgling (PW06) seemed to be heading back towards Vulpro but seemed to fly in an area from Kimberley down towards Jagersfontein (no it was not in that area when the dam burst!).



The balance of the fledglings...well the five youngsters (strangely enough two of these were wild fledglings) decided that they preferred staying at home and pushed/squeezed back into the enclosure with all the permanently injured birds at Rookwood. Clearly Cape Vultures enjoy being in a crowd instead of operating alone. We have subsequently re-released them, and three of these remain at Rookwood on top of the enclosure. Home birds, I should call them. However, the rest have now moved off into the Eastern Cape, visiting various roosts and directions. They have also started showing the typical spring/summer migration pattern, too, by heading down towards the Winterberg range and onto the Bedford/Patryshoogte flats. No doubt they are joining the wild birds there.

While this process remains a learning curve regarding Cape Vultures and captive-bred releases, a couple of fantastic aspects are clearly evident. These birds tend to adapt quite comfortably and quickly once released and although some do return to the enclosure to come and feed with the wild birds at the restaurant, one can truly say that at least 80% have been successfully re-introduced into the wild populations. We are fortunate to be able to monitor them with their tracking devices, which assist greatly in our understanding of where and what they are doing. A huge thank you to the Max Planck Institute (and Louis), but it must be stressed that like all things some of these devices do fail, and, unless the bird typically shows signs of being in trouble in an area, we can only assume the device has become redundant. The second most wonderful and probably more important aspect is that some very old existing roosts in the Eastern Cape are now being re-inhabited. One such roost is close to me near Cathcart, where the farmer reports that this year 'suddenly these kranzes were filled with vultures every evening'.

EASTERN CAPE CONTINUED...

I was informed by the late Carl Vernon of this roost but never in my lifetime here at Rookwood (in excess of 36 years now) was it ever reported active. Studying the movements of the birds, I can identify a couple of more or less active roosts that now seem to be more active. To add to this positive news is that a couple of the previous captive-bred released birds are also flying with these youngsters, as they have also been recorded on this roost.

Two other rehabilitated birds that I fitted with devices continue to give me readings. The first is a bird that flies between Giant's Castle in KwaZulu Natal down to the Mzimvubu river area in the Transkei (Eastern Cape) and occasionally comes across towards the Stormberg range. This bird has now been flying for more than 3 years. The second is a bird I received from the Tarkastad area that seems to fly between the Kruger Northern Province /Mozambique area and Polokwane. This is still a young bird, so it could still fly anywhere. I was extremely grateful it was not one of those poisoned at the Kruger National park recently. On the educational side, I had two groups visit the vulture holding facility recently. The first was a group from one of the local high schools, Hangklip (environmental club). These young minds are very important in the future of all our wildlife, so it was great to expose them to Cape Vultures (and there were a couple of wild birds at the restaurant too). The second group was a group from Birdlife SA who were doing a birding bash to cover areas that have not been assessed. For most of these young persons, it was also the first close-up visit to see the Cape Vultures.

An online magazine, Karoo Sisters, published an article of my work with Vulpro and the vultures. It is a very well-written article, and I would like to thank them for this.

At Rookwood, spring has arrived with more copious rains. However, the vultures continue to fill the skies above the farm. It is also now a busy time with lambing, calving and shearing taking place.

I continue to feed the wild birds who clearly have identified this area as a definite feeding spot. It is also utilised by some of the captive-bred released birds who re-visit 'home'! I am still able to supplement my food supply from No 2 piggeries (who are now also operating a restaurant in the Ida area). My staff and Joy are always diligently on hand for feeding and maintaining the enclosure or helping me with whatever else I need assistance with. I also must mention that I have an extremely passionate young lady, Mareli Grobbelaar, who will even leave school early to come and assist in either releasing, feeding, cleaning or anything else vulture related. She has been booked for a visit to Vulpro at the end of this year. This young lady must be nurtured.

Once again, thank you to Kerri, Ryno and Caroline and her team for the support from Vulpro. It means a lot to me.

I must just conclude by saying that when it comes to food. Cape vultures most definitely prefer mutton to pork...why do I say this? Well, when a sheep dies at Rookwood, it obviously goes to the restaurant and, literally within hours, the carcass is devoured, But pork takes a little longer, depending on the number of birds.



EDUCATION STATISTICS

Vulpro continues to engage with the public and interact with individuals to educate them and raise awareness of the importance of vultures and the work we do to protect them. The following is a summary of our education, awareness and media work over the last three months

290 people visited Vulpro between 1 June and 30 September 2022, through private tours and events and school tours. A further 440 people were indirectly reached through tours and events at associated facilities that house birds originally from Vulpro.

Vulpro also presented to groups on a number of occasions over the last quarter, with 11 presentations reaching approximately 700 people. These included conferences, webinars and talks at local schools.

We were also able to reach conservation professionals this last quarter through training on our current protocols. This quarter we conducted pelvic leg loop harness training for four individuals.

Vulpro was also featured in four online articles over the last quarter, on sites such as Getaway Magazine and Al Jazeera.

Vulpro's website continues to be active and, in the last three months, our website has been visited 6 239 times.

Our social media pages remain active and a great way for us to connect with our followers. Currently, we have 17 168 followers on Facebook, 1 975 followers on Twitter, 816 followers on Instagram, and 423 followers on YouTube. We have also been able to get our LinkedIn page active again and currently have 97 followers on LinkedIn.

International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) falls on the first Saturday of September every year, and this year Vulpro was able to host an awareness event called the Mountain Matinee. The event included live music and a four-course meal to raise awareness and funds for vulture conservation: it was attended by approximately 133 people. We also participated in an IVAD event at the Wilhelma Zoologist-Tiergarten in Stuttgart, Germany, this year. We explain more about this in volunteer, Bettina Boeman's update on page 17.



VULPRO
PACE webinar with the Vulpro team



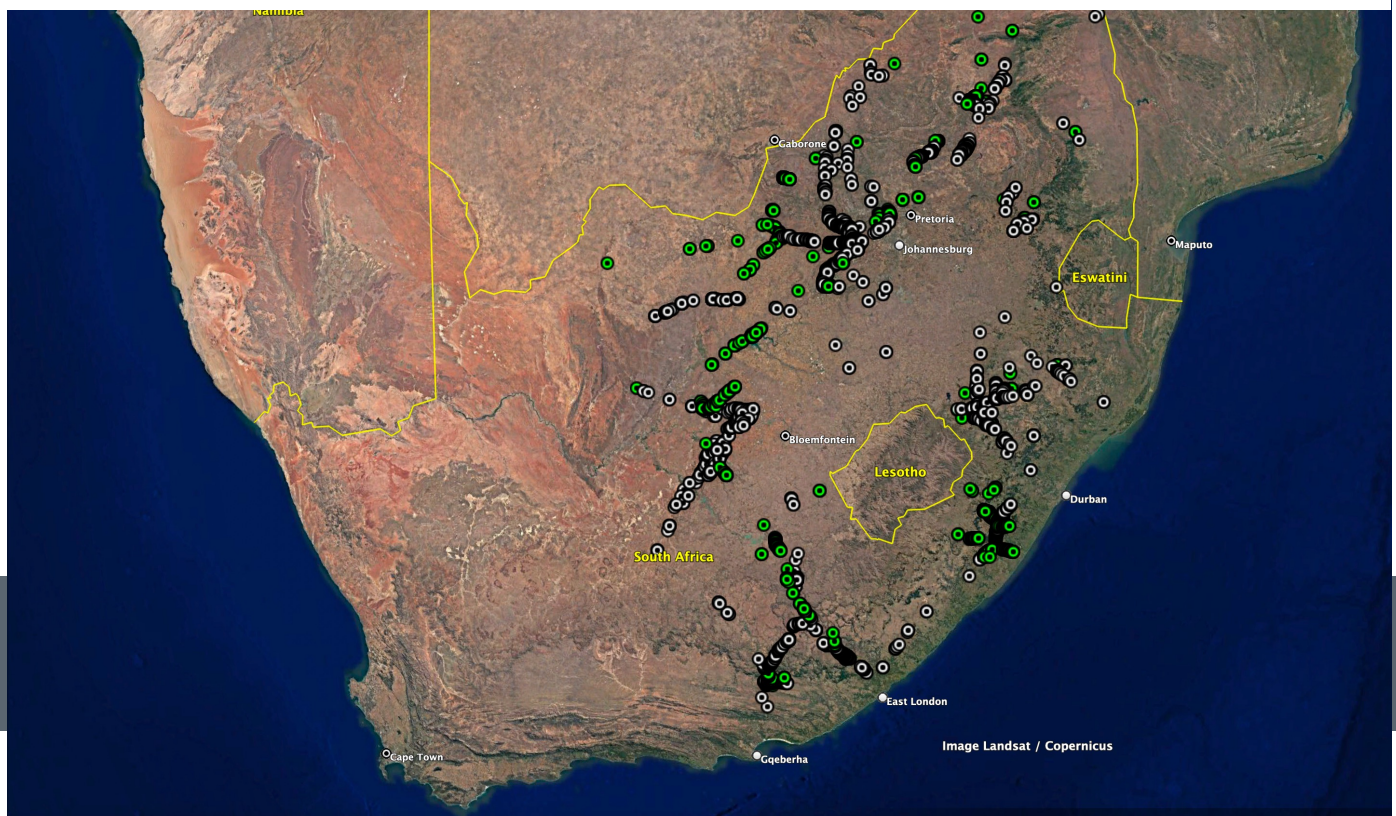
Research

Our research portfolio continues to grow. We are collaborating on 25 research projects to better understand vulture species' ecology and implement more robust conservation strategies through our already impactful work. We have published two scientific articles this year, and another two have been accepted; however, we are still waiting for the journals to be published. In addition, we have another scientific publication in prep and it will be ready for submission in the next couple of weeks with another couple of articles to be completed before the end of the year (see page 16 for more details on specifics). Our work has also already been cited 214 times this year, compared to last year, which was cited 190 times, and the year is not over yet, a great success so far for us, which we are proud of.

The most exciting update to share with you, though is a new study which we started in September, developing guidelines for environmental impact assessment (EIA) power line assessments in South Africa. This project aims to understand the requirements for EIA assessments to ensure that only approved safe power lines are used. Specialists will further use these guidelines to monitor and maintain these lines throughout the year, as has to be done with wind farms, as well as to be compelled to inform landowners and NGOs of any power-line-related incidents. We are very excited about what this research project could mean for vultures and its potential positive implications in preventing further losses of vultures because of power line incidents

A second study which is in its final stages is the identification of high-probability roosting areas on power lines. This study will allow us to inform the necessary authorities to implement proactive mitigations on power lines. This collaboration is between Vulpro, the Max Planck Institute, Philipps Universitat Marburg and the University of Pretoria. Below are some preliminary results of 2-hour roosting locations on transmission and high voltage lines throughout South Africa. It is fascinating how frequently these birds spend more than two hours of the day roosting on these dangerous structures, which is further proof of the necessity to address this major threat to vultures.

Each point represents where a Cape Vulture roosted for two hours and more on transmission (white) and high voltage (green) lines



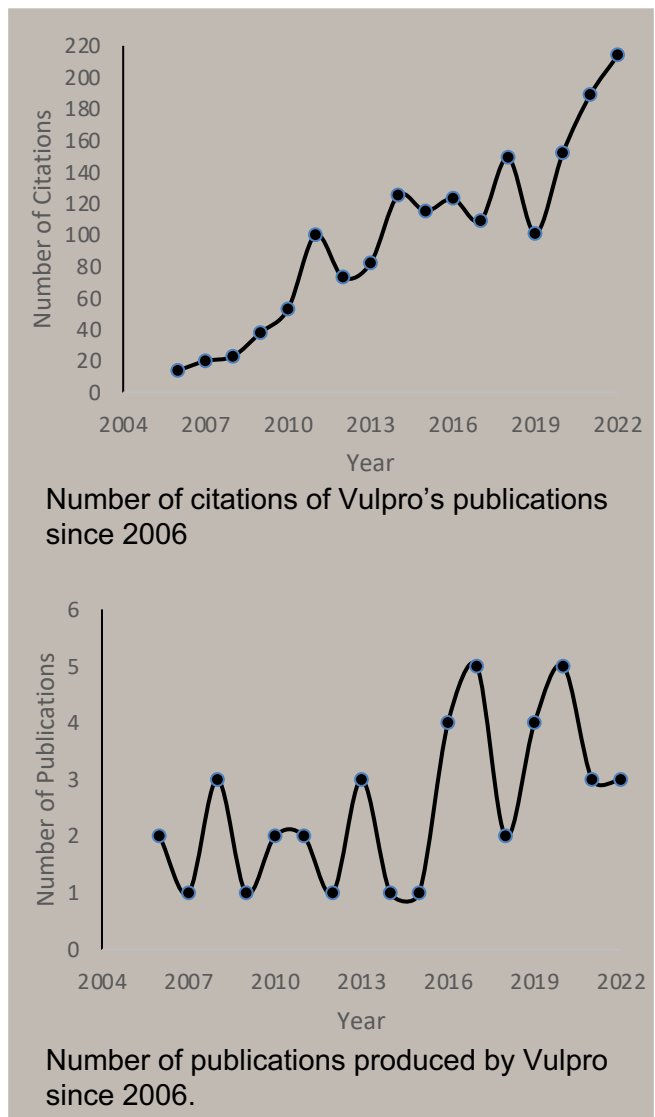
Publications

Publications for 2022:

- Kane A, Monadjem A, Bildstein K, Botha A, Bracebridge C, Buechley ER, Buij R, Davies JP, Diekmann M, Downs C, Farwig N, Galligan T, Kaltenecker G, Kelly C, Kemp R, Kolberg H, MacKenzie M, Mendelsohn J, Mgumba M, Nathan R, Nicholas A, Ogada D, Pfeiffer MB, Phipps WL, Pretorius M, Rösner S, Schabo DG, Spiegel O, Thompson LJ, Venter JA, Virani M, Wolter K, Kendall C (2022) Size doesn't matter, it's how you use it: Using continent-wide variation in ranging behaviour of vultures to assess the feasibility of Vulture Safe Zones in Africa. *Biology Conservation*
- Hirschauer MT, Hannweg CG, Kemp R & Wolter K. (2022) Vulpro: An overview of Africa's Vulture Conservation Centre. *Vulture News*

Publications Accepted/In Prep:

- Aspenström S, Kemp R, Howard A, Hannweg, CG, Chetty K, Briers RA & Wolter K. (Accepted) The threat of power lines on two African Vulture species.
- Cervantes F., Murgatroyd M., Allan D., Kemp R., Kruger S., Maude G., Mendelsohn J., Rosner S., Schabo DG., Tate G., Wolter K. and Amar A. (Accepted) A partially explicit collision risk model for the Endangered Cape Vulture to guide wind energy development.
- Casey, J., Kemp, R., Hannweg, CG., Hirschauer MT., Naidoo, V. & Wolter, K. (In Prep) Lead poisoning may not contribute to power line collisions amongst African Vultures.
- MacLeod N., Kemp R., Hannweg CG., Wolter K., Warren B. and Keith M. (In Prep) Examining the foraging ranges and behaviours of two African Vultures in Gauteng and North-West Provinces of South Africa.
- McKechnie, AE., Kemp, R., Freeman, MT., Hannweg, CG., Wolter, K. & Naidoo, V. (In Prep) The impact of lead exposure on the thermoregulatory capacity of Pied Crows.



VOLUNTEER INSERT: BETTINA BOEMANS

Vulpro flies high in Germany

In July, I got a message from Kerri that she was invited to represent Vulpro at the Species Conservation Day at Wilhelma–Zoologisch-Botanischer Garten, Stuttgart, Germany, on 4 September. Travelling from South Africa to Germany just for one day would be a would have been difficult, so she asked me if I would like to go to Stuttgart and represent Vulpro. What a privilege! I did not have any other plans, and I just wanted to be amongst the vultures on Internal Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD). When Wilhelma Zoo told me they also celebrate International Vulture Awareness Day and I could help at the vulture information desk, too, the plan was fixed!

Wilhelma Zoo's contact, Stefanie Reska, was brilliant, and we quickly made a plan for my weekend in Stuttgart. I also got in contact with Felicitas, a former Vulpro volunteer living in Stuttgart. We had never met, but when I asked her if she would like to join, she immediately said yes to the Species Conservation Day. I just love it when pieces fall into place, and everything seems so easy. Together for vultures!

On Friday, Giant Gustav and I headed 450 km to Stuttgart by car and arrived just in time to build up the information desk and prepare everything for IVAD. I also met some of the other wonderful staff members who ran the information desk on this special Saturday.



VOLUNTEER INSERT: BETTINA BOEMANS CONTINUED...

At IVAD, there were different stations at the information desk so that the visitors could get an overview of how amazing vultures are. The information covered basics like feathers and eggs, the 23 different species, Diclofenac, vulture restaurants and, finally, Vulpro's conservation work. We also had a vulture quiz, where kids could win little prizes and not to mention make long-lasting memories about vultures. Close to the vulture enclosure, people could take selfies with a banner showing the wingspan of Cape Vultures from South Africa. At lunchtime, there was a special keeper's talk and a Griffon Vulture was fed. I was even allowed to go inside the enclosure and get a closer look at the beautiful birds.

We spoke about vultures for the whole day, answering thousands of questions, raising awareness and even some funds for Vulpro. I can't thank Wilhelma Zoo's incredible team enough for making IVAD 2022 very special for me, the birds and the many, many visitors. The whole time I felt like I was part of the team! And Giant Gustav even got to enjoy some hugs and cuddles from our little guests.



VOLUNTEER INSERT: BETTINA BOEMANS CONTINUED...

On Species Conservation Day, I finally got to meet Felicitas, and I absolutely understand why Vulpro has such fond memories and is keeping her close. She is such a wonderful, open-hearted person! There were only the two of us at the information desk, and we decided to focus on some vulture basics and our volunteering trips to Vulpro. Wilhelma Zoo has been sponsoring Vulpro for a couple of years, and most of the support comes directly from the daily visitors, who add an extra Conservation Euro to their entrance fee. It was beautiful to see how happy the visitors were when we explained how their contribution makes a huge difference to Vulpro and the other conservation projects that were represented at the Species Conservation Day.

Talking about vultures all day is one of my favourite pastimes, especially when people ask interesting questions and we get to the point where people start smiling and completely change their minds about vultures. First, for many people, vultures are just big birds in a zoo, later they become lovely creatures that are worth fighting for! And many people were so grateful for our work that I really had to hold back the tears.

I enjoyed my weekend at Wilhelma Zoo so much, and I am deeply impressed by the fantastic organisation of the two events! Previously, I've supported vulture information desks five times in two other zoos, but the friendliness and companionship experienced at Wilhelma Zoo are unparalleled! Special thanks to Felicitas, Stefanie, Ewa, Miriam and all the others members of the wonderful vulture crew! What a great honour to meet you!

Another highlight of this trip, I was allowed to stay in a guest room right in the middle of the zoo, close to the vulture enclosure and the information desk. From sunrise to sunset, I was free to walk around the enclosures and watch the animals before and after opening hours when they were more relaxed. And I could listen to parrots and some other animals and even hear the lions roar all night. I've always wanted to spend a night inside a zoo, and staying at Wilhelma Zoo made my dream come true!

A perfect vulture weekend in Stuttgart!



WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Gold:

- ❖ Tusk Trust
- ❖ Holtzman Wildlife Foundation

Blue:

- ❖ Thea Erasmus
- ❖ Little Rock Zoo
- ❖ National Centre for Birds of Prey
- ❖ Idea Wild
- ❖ National Aviary
- ❖ Send-it
- ❖ Zoological Society of Hertfordshire,
Paradise Wildlife Park

Silver

- ❖ Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
- ❖ Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- ❖ Detroit Zoo
- ❖ Natural Encounters Conservation
- ❖ Lush Cosmetics
- ❖ Dallas Zoo
- ❖ San Diego Zoo
- ❖ Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust
- ❖ DHL
- ❖ St. Augustine Alligator Farm
- ❖ Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- ❖ Nashville Zoo
- ❖ Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
- ❖ Knoxville Zoo
- ❖ Scottish African Safari Park
- ❖ Martin Ramstrup Holdings Aps

Bronze:

- ❖ The Abraham Foundation
- ❖ Scottish African Safari Park
- ❖ Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
- ❖ IAATE
- ❖ National Aviary in Pittsburgh
- ❖ Friends of the Greenville Zoo Inc
- ❖ Hamman Donation GPS
- ❖ Landgoed Hoenderdaell B.V Gierendag
- ❖ Different.org
- ❖ Sophie Danforth Award – Roger Williams Zoo
- ❖ Fresno Chaffee Zoo
- ❖ Wilhelma Zoologisch-Botanischer Garten Stuttgart
Zoo
- ❖ Atlanta Zoo
- ❖ Loch Lomond Bird of Prey Centre
- ❖ Gauntlet Bird of Prey Centre
- ❖ Blair Drummond
- ❖ Sacramento Zoo
- ❖ Fondation Ensemble
- ❖ Brits Poles



WITH THANKS TO OUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

We would like to thank our adoptive parents for their continued support of their adopted birds

Clive Vardakis – Cape Vulture, Brizzle

The Fenn Bell Conservation Project – Lappet-faced Vulture, Veronica

Jonathan Chaplin – Cape Vultures, Conan and Sherry

Xyla Holland – Cape Vulture, Cosmic Goddess

Alexander H – African White-backed Vulture, Kira-Mathilda, and Cape Vulture, Bacchus Carlo

Ian Burton – African White-backed Vulture, George

Andrea Schreier – Lappet-faced Vulture, Johnny

Annemieke de Wit – White-headed Vulture, Isabis

Suzanne Corrigan – Cape Vulture, Fionnbharr

Kim Caldwell – Cape Vulture, Percy

Tracey Robinson – Cape Vulture, Delilah

Frank Schoppner – Lappet-faced Vulture, Fenja

Mariza Hamman – Cape Vulture, Isolde; White-headed Vulture, Orpheus; and Lappet-faced Vulture, Abigaille

Foxfeather Zenkova – King Vulture, Cozcacuahtli

Rod Rankine – Cape Vulture, Phoenix

Julie Edgley – Cape Vulture, Amala

Hans and Ute Schute – Cape Vulture, Lucky

Nicole Schoppner – Cape Vultures, Elani and Chuma; African White-backed Vultures, Bahati and Vuyo

Louette De Beer – African White-backed Vulture, Jo

Dawn Griffard – Cape Vulture, Bubba



If you would be interested in adopting a vulture of your own and helping to sponsor their time at Vulpro please email us at info@vulpro.com.



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