

VULTURES

January - March 2024



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VULTURES



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A word from our CEO




Kerri Wotter

Without continual growth and progress,
such words as improvement, achievement,
and success have no meaning."

– Benjamin Franklin

VULTURES

Gyps coprotheres [Cape vulture]



January 2024 marked VulPro's 17th year in the vulture conservation field. Not only did we all grow older, hopefully wiser and more humble, but VulPro evolved into a much larger and healthier organisation, partnering with the Shamwari Private Game Reserve.

This partnership is a testament to VulPro's drive to secure the future of southern Africa's vultures into the future for generations to come. We are honoured and incredibly grateful to the entire team at Shamwari for making way for 163 vultures and all that goes into establishing a brand new arm of VulPro, now officially recognised as VulPro@Shamwari.

Last but not least, I am incredibly grateful to the VulPro team, WeWild Africa, Prof Katja Koepf from Onderstepoort and DHL in its entirety for pulling off what often felt like the impossible in relocating such a large number of vultures across hundreds of kilometres to their new home. A remarkable and coordinated team effort. To view this incredible event, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9TIGhC0-Mg&t=20s>.

Although we would like to continue with the celebrations, we are starkly reminded about the vultures' dire plight with the most recent poisoning event of just short on 100 vultures in the Kruger National Park. Moreover, two days before this report, on 17 March, 12 Cape Vultures were found drowned in a concrete farm dam; a week later, another 19 were at a different location but also a concrete dam, and earlier in the month, 17 vultures were found below power lines, electrocuted with just one survivor. It was a genuinely devastating month with dire consequences for our vulture populations. One of the key strategies with our captive breeding programme is producing enough offspring to counter the losses of each vulture lost, but how is this possible with such catastrophic losses? The vulture carnage is real, and species extinction is on our doorstep.

VulPro is fully committed to continuing to press on, and VulPro Harties and VulPro@Shamwari will continue fighting the vulture's plight with you by our side. We cannot do this without you, and together, we are stronger.

VULTURES

Vulpro Harties

By Alistair Sinclair, General Manager, Vulpro@Harties



With all the media hype around the moving of the breeding vultures to VulPro@Shamwari, a bit of confusion has occurred, with many people believing that VulPro@Harties is going to close or has closed down. Nothing can be further from the truth, as VulPro@Harties is here to stay.

VulPro@Harties continues the very important work of rescuing and rehabilitating grounded or injured vultures throughout South Africa and monitoring the nesting sites of vultures in the wild. Other important work undertaken includes our ever growing and extremely important educational programme and commenting on environmental impact assessments. Most of the tracking and research data is also funnelled through VulPro@Harties.

VulPro@Harties remains a very important and vital facility in the ever-increasing need to preserve our threatened and endangered Southern African vulture species. We have been extremely busy during this quarter, and there have been a number of changes in an effort to grow the organisation as a whole.

When the opportunity arose for a new vulture breeding facility to be established at Shamwari Private Game Reserve, a decision had to be made on the management of both facilities. Kerri Wolter, the CEO and Founder of VulPro, would move to VulPro@Shamwari to lead and manage the new breeding facility as well as continue as CEO. A further decision was made to create a new position of general manager to lead the VulPro@Harties team. This is where I come in, and I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to lead this dedicated team.

Alistair Sinclair

The big relocation



Transferring the unreleasable breeding birds from VulPro@Harties to VulPro@Shamwari was a mammoth undertaking requiring a great deal of planning at a local level, both before and on the day. Plans and lists were drawn up weeks in advance, and procedures were practised before the day, preparations were made to reduce stress on the vultures starting four days before with pre-crating, and then a time limit was put in place to have the birds crated and loaded, again to reduce stress on the vultures. I am very happy to say that everything went to plan, and within two hours, all the vultures, 163 of them, had been loaded into individual crates and transported to the two DHL super links. Within three hours from the start of the operation, the vultures were on their way to their new home 18 hours away. Due to the concerted efforts of all involved, all vultures arrived safely and in good health.

This would not have been possible without my dedicated team of staff members and volunteers. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to them all.

Transferring the breeding vultures gave us an ideal opportunity to refurbish and maintain the enclosures before transferring our remaining vultures into their new homes. Many days were spent scrubbing walls and water troughs, replacing perches, repairing shade cloth, repairing breeding boxes and giving every enclosure a general overhaul. I am proud to say that VulPro@Harties looks stunning.

Our state-of-the-art vulture clinic has been well utilised this quarter with a record number of vultures treated. Seven African White-backed Vultures and 23 Cape Vultures have been rescued and treated through this facility. Vultures from as far afield as Upington in the Northern Cape and Blouberg in the north-western section of the Limpopo province have been rescued. This often entails many hours of travelling by both staff and volunteers.

We are very grateful to Ford South Africa for loaning us the Ford Ranger, which has become indispensable in transporting rescued birds.

Environmental impact assessments

The ever-increasing infrastructure development in the country and the aligned need for more electricity supply networks has meant that VulPro@Harties has had to comment on eight Environmental Impact Assessments this quarter alone. Collisions with power lines and even electrocution constitute a significant hazard to wild vultures, and this needs to be mitigated. Each project proposal has its own uniqueness, and therefore, each needs to be studied individually and reported on. This can be very time-consuming, but it is essential if we are to help protect our wild vulture populations.

Volunteer Programme

VulPro@Harties has a 'live-in' volunteer programme whereby people from around the world volunteer to work at no cost. This quarter has been no exception, and we have had some valuable help and knowledge sharing. To these volunteers, many, many thanks, and we hope to see you all again.

Our local volunteer program continues and is a valuable and vital wing of our operations. Many of these volunteers offer up not only their time, but also assist by driving in their own vehicles at their own cost to rescue and transport vultures in need back to VulPro@Harties. These volunteers are the unsung heroes of VulPro@Harties. Your valuable contribution towards VulPro and the vultures cannot be adequately expressed in words.

Thank you

The successful sinking of a far more productive borehole is of significant importance to us. We can now pump 2000 litres of water per hour instead of the previous 400 litres per hour. A donor who wishes to remain anonymous came forward and donated funds to equip this new borehole. Your donation is truly appreciated.

Thank you to those who have supported me in the past few months.

I want to end by inviting you to visit VulPro@Harties and see our work first-hand, and join in our ethos of The Vultures Come First.

Thank you



Image credit: Alan Eason

Africa's largest vulture relocation marks a conservation milestone



The first phase of a project to secure the future of wild vulture populations in southern Africa has been successfully completed, with 163 Cape and African White-backed Vultures settled into their new home at Shamwari Private Game Reserve. The birds are the first step in a two-year project to establish a breeding facility, VulPro@ Shamwari, for sick or injured vultures that have been rehabilitated but are non-releasable.

In the largest relocation of vultures ever undertaken, the birds were transported the 1 042 km from VulPro's facility in Hartbeespoort to bespoke enclosures at Shamwari. The move involved over 50 people and took 18 hours, with all 163 birds loaded in just three hours.

Logistics company DHL provided transport and security, while WeWild Africa, an NGO specialising in animal rewilding and translocation, loaded the birds and funded the 160 transport crates. Prof Katja Koeppel from the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Sciences managed the birds' welfare, supported by Dr Johan Joubert from Shamwari.

Later this year, a second phase will see the relocation of breeding pairs of non-releasable Lappet-faced, White-headed and Hooded Vultures and some additional White-backed Vultures.

The Cape Vulture offspring will be released at Shamwari in keeping with its ethos of restoring the indigenous fauna and flora on the 250 km² reserve to their former glory. All the birds will be fitted with tracking devices.

Offspring from the other species will be transported back to VulPro's Hartbeespoort facility, where they will be sent to release sites identified by the National Vulture Breeding Steering Committee as areas that need bolstering and support.

Kerri Wolter, VulPro CEO, says the bespoke breeding facility at Shamwari will significantly boost vulture conservation efforts in southern Africa and the continent. "VulPro at Shamwari offers a safe, well-balanced ecosystem for both our in-situ and ex-situ conservation programmes and provides financial support and sustainability. Importantly, it limits risk because the largest captive breeding population of vultures isn't concentrated in one location. In addition, Shamwari's anti-poaching unit provides good security."





A growing programme

VulPro@Shamwari comprises three enclosures. One accommodates badly injured birds requiring constant attention and is near the veterinary hospital. A second, adjacent to the existing Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, includes an artificial cliff to provide optimal conditions for breeding pairs of Cape Vultures. The third is a pre-release enclosure built on high ground near the centre of the reserve, where healthy, young Cape Vultures will be released. Further enclosures will be added over the next three years.

Joe Cloete, Shamwari CEO, considers establishing these enclosures a significant milestone in the reserve's 32-year history. "To put it in perspective, in conservation terms, I consider this as significant as relocating 160 rhinos. Vultures are vital for a healthy ecosystem and are severely threatened. I cannot overstate how reintroducing Cape Vultures to Shamwari is crucial to our conservation journey and enhancing the ecological importance of the reserve and the Eastern Cape."

The need for VulPro

VulPro is the only vulture conservation organisation of its kind on the continent and is spearheading population restocking and supplementation to address the severe decline of African vulture species. Human encroachment has particularly impacted African savanna raptors, with a recently published study in Nature Ecology & Evolution by Dr Phil Shaw et al. showing evidence of widespread population collapse.

According to the study, raptors, including vultures, are slow-breeding apex predators and scavengers whose disappearance can trigger extreme cascading events. Large raptors experience significantly steeper declines than smaller species.

"Many of Africa's raptors are at considerable risk from habitat conversion, prey-base depletion and persecution, driven principally by human population expansion," says the study. The many threats they face include shooting, trapping, intentional and unintentional poisoning, killing for food or belief-based uses, electrocution, and collision with infrastructure such as wind turbines.

The study also found that species in unprotected areas faced declines that were more than double that of birds in protected areas. For this reason, the researchers strongly supported the expansion of conservation areas. All five of the vulture species named in the study, including the White-backed, White-headed and Hooded Vultures, are considered critically endangered, with the exception of the Lappet-faced Vulture, which is endangered.

Thank You to Our Supporters

In a landmark moment for vulture conservation, 163 birds from two endangered species have been relocated to the Shamwari Private Game Reserve, heralding the beginning of an unprecedented breeding and rewilding endeavour.

The relocation of the vultures from Johannesburg to the Eastern Cape marks a significant milestone in our conservation efforts – a groundbreaking initiative. By moving these majestic birds to a new environment where they can thrive, we aim to bolster their population and preserve their species for generations.

The relocation of the vultures was a mammoth effort that would not have been possible without the support of our partners. VulPro extends our heartfelt thanks to the organisations below.

Relocation Partners

WeWild Africa: We extend our heartfelt gratitude to WeWild Africa for their generous support in funding the relocation of vultures from Johannesburg to the Eastern Cape. Their commitment to wildlife conservation has made this endeavour possible.

DHL: A special thank you to DHL for their invaluable assistance in transporting the vultures safely to their new habitat. Their logistical expertise and dedication to environmental causes have been instrumental in the success of this project.

Equipment Sponsors

Darwin Chambers Co (Portable Incubators): We appreciate Darwin Chambers Co for providing state-of-the-art portable incubators. These incubators have played a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of the vultures during transit and upon arrival in their new home.

National Centre of Birds of Prey (Incubators): We are grateful to the National Centre of Birds of Prey for their contribution of incubators, which have been essential in providing optimal conditions for the vultures' care and rehabilitation.



New incubation facility

As the vulture breeding season looms, the birds are already selecting their breeding ledges and gathering nesting material. In response, we've been hard at work setting up our new incubation facility. This includes seven incubators, one hatcher, and two brooders. We're eagerly preparing, cleaning, disinfecting, and making final adjustments to our facility to ensure the best possible conditions for our vultures.

VulPro is the only vulture conservation organisation of its kind on the continent and is spearheading population restocking and supplementation to address the severe decline of African vulture species. VulPro@Shamwari is spearheading vulture captive breeding to support population restocking and prevent further losses of vultures to our wild populations.

Vulpro@Shamwari offers a unique approach to vulture conservation. It provides a safe, well-balanced ecosystem for both in-situ and ex-situ conservation programmes. This includes financial support and sustainability measures. Crucially, it mitigates risk by dispersing the largest captive breeding population of vultures across multiple locations. Additionally, Shamwari's anti-poaching unit ensures excellent security, further enhancing the safety and well-being of our vultures.

Vulpro@Shamwari comprises four enclosures. One open-top enclosure accommodates disabled Cape Vultures, and another alongside, houses semi-flighted African White-backed Vultures with specifically designed ledges to optimise breeding. Both are off public view and are near the veterinary hospital. A third, adjacent to the existing Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, includes an artificial cliff to provide optimal conditions for breeding pairs of Cape Vultures. The fourth is a pre-release enclosure, built on high ground near the centre of the reserve, from where healthy, young Cape Vultures will be released. Further enclosures will be added over the next three years.



B
Breeding





Thank you to Darwin Chambers

Incubators are critical to helping vultures that can breed but cannot effectively nurture their eggs and young. The use of high-quality incubators protects future generations by ensuring they arrive safely into this world.

Founded in 2003, Darwin Chambers Company has been manufacturing, designing, and installing controlled environmental chambers for two decades. In 2021, the company donated a portable incubator to VulPro and recently generously donated an additional two portable incubators to support VulPro's growing population.

From everyone at VulPro, a big thank you to Chris Spangler and Darwin Chambers for these generous donations; they are invaluable in conserving vultures for future generations.



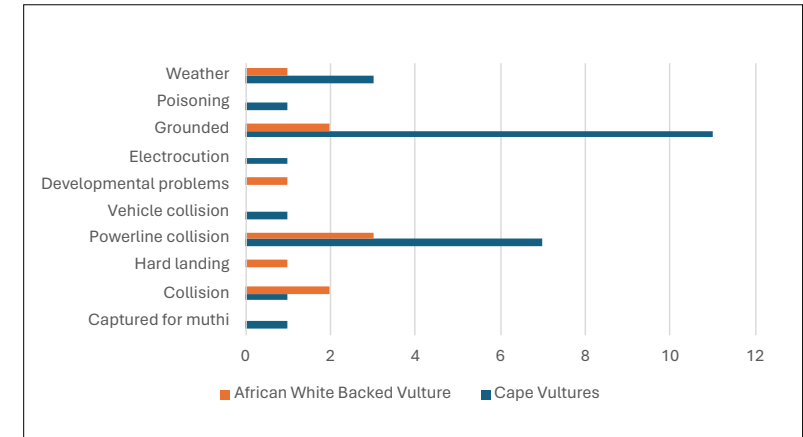
"We now have world-class incubation facilities. Ideally, each of our breeding pairs could be allowed to incubate, hatch, and raise their own chicks, yet for some breeding pairs this is not possible. Every year some chicks are hand-raised and returned to their parents after the first 12 days, at which time the pair takes over all responsibilities" – *Kerri Wolter*



Rehabilitation



Thirty-eight vultures were admitted to VulPro in the last three months, of which 29 were Cape Vultures and nine African White-backed vultures. Several parts of South Africa, including the North-West Province, have been experiencing severe rainstorms since December 2023, resulting in birds being grounded and falling victim to powerline collisions, as visible in graph 1.



Graph 1. Reasons for admissions for the first quarter of 2024.

A Rescue Story:

Blue white 35:

This African White-backed Vulture was admitted in January 2024 from the China Mall area of Johannesburg. It collided with a window and sustained a concussion and mild neuropathy. Following successful treatment, it was released at the end of Feb 2024 in the Kuruman area of the NC. We think it was a male fledgling.



Since release this bird has headed from the NC to the NW Province, then followed a pretty straight pathway up into Botswana and it is currently traversing and exploring regions around the Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park, and NE parts of Namibia.

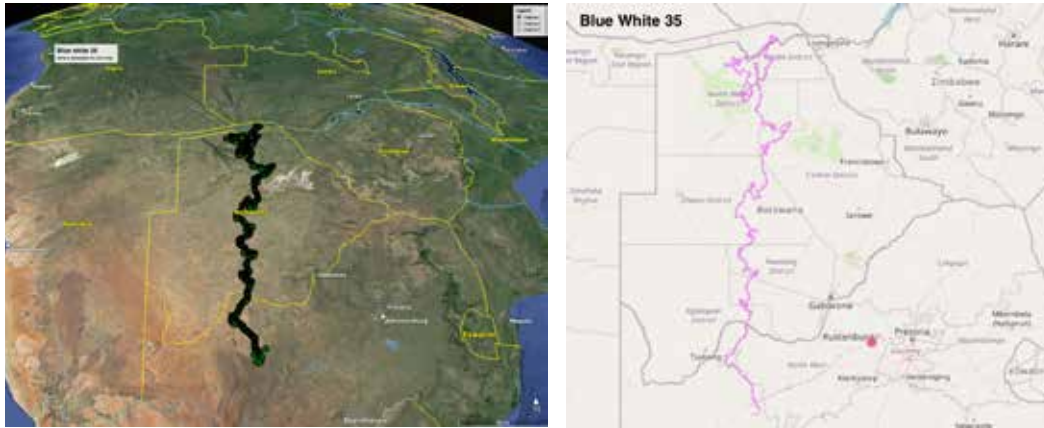
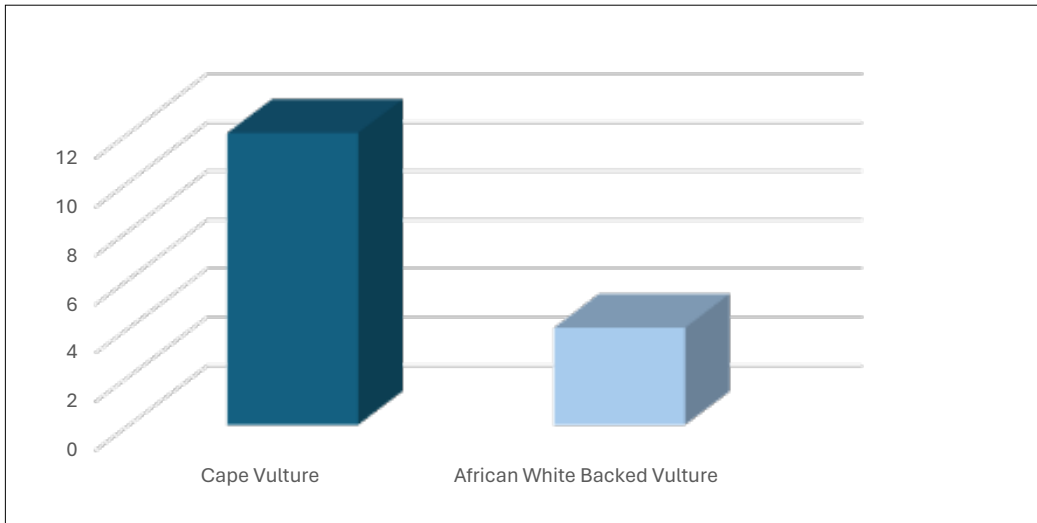


Fig 1. Flight path of Blue White 35 since its release on 25 February 2024.

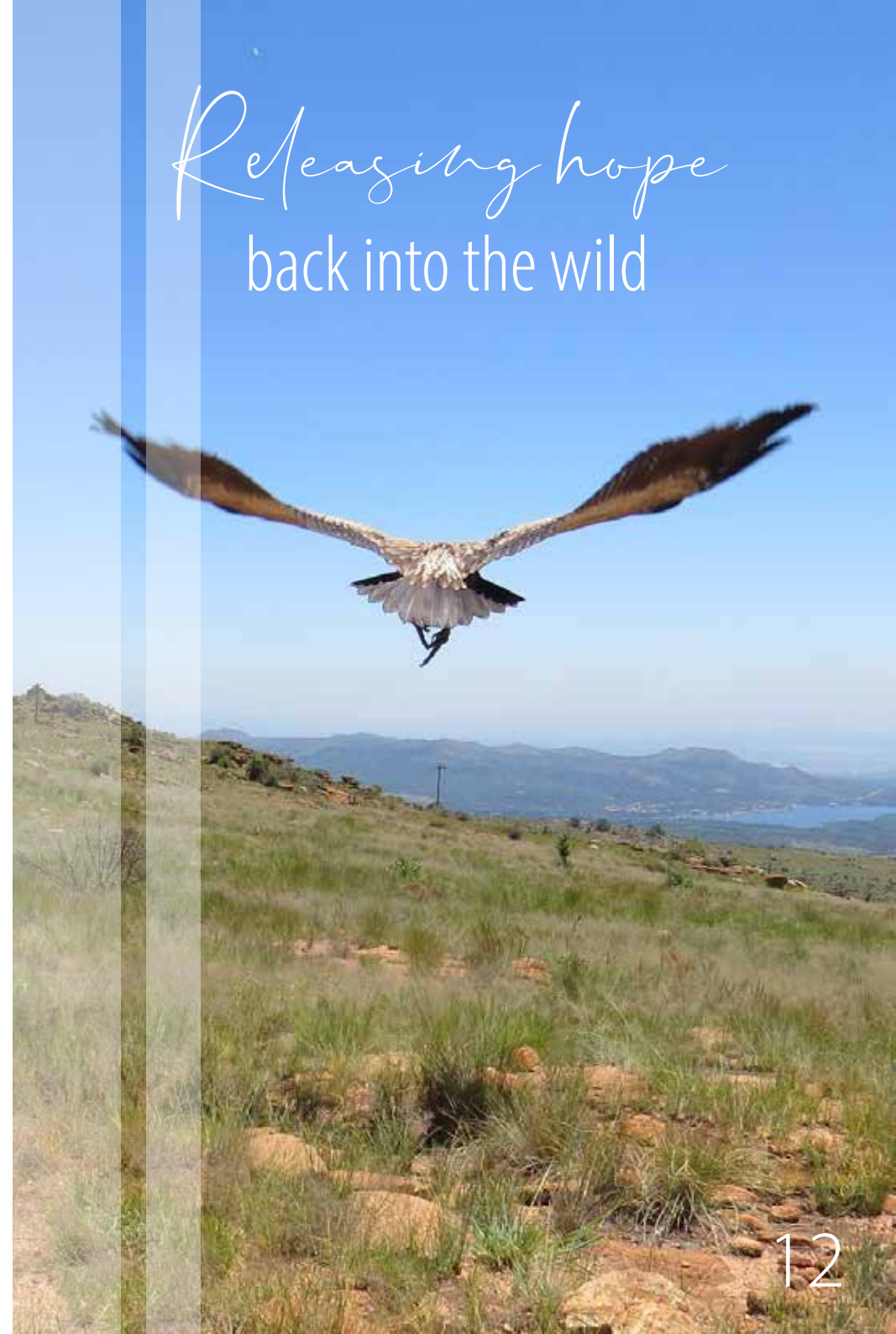
Release highlights

Five of the 2024 January admissions were released again in February 2024, compared to four vultures released during the same period in 2023.

VulPro has released 16 vultures in total over the last three months, of which 12 were Cape Vultures and four African White-backed vultures. Two of the 12 Cape Vultures were released in the Blouberg Nature Reserve in March, incorporating a school group as part of our educational outreach programmes.



Graph 2. Vulture releases for the first quarter of 2024



*Releasing hope
back into the wild*



The year 2024 has not been a good start for Cape vultures in the Eastern Cape. A total of 42 Cape Vultures have lost their lives through electrocutions, collision and mass drownings in this province.

Power line and collision incidents

Early in January, my first call came from a landowner, Andrew Cloete, who informed me of a bird lying under a powerline near his house. He kindly secured the bird by placing a cage over it; however, despite all efforts (including transferring the bird to Shamwari for advanced treatment), we lost this young fledgling.

About a week later, I received a second call from Kenny McGregor, who found that a fledgling could not take off from their vulture restaurant just outside Elliot. He secured the bird, and fortunately, with rehydration and food, it recovered sufficiently to be re-released.

The next devastating call was from a young lady, Alice Miller, from the Knapdaar area outside Burgersdorp, where she had found eight electrocuted vultures, one still alive. She sent as much detail as possible (see table below) and willingly caught the bird and fed and watered it until I could collect it the following day. I did this together with a Secretary Bird that the vet from Zastron had received for treatment, and I made contact with Kerri from Shamwari for assistance. The Knapdaar bird had nasty burns and maggots in the left wing and was immediately transferred to Shamwari, along with the Secretary Bird for further treatment. Sadly, this bird will now be grounded as the wing had to be amputated.

Structure Number	Co ordinates	Number of vultures	Comments
KNA 37/6	30.7115556; 26.1395000	3 dead Cape Vultures 1 live Cape vulture	All juveniles/ fledglings
KNA 37/7	30.71122222 26.13802778	1 dead Cape vulture	Juvenile/flegling
KNA 37/8	30.71072222 26.13536111	Old carcass	
KNA 37/9	30.71097222 26.13677778	2 dead Cape Vultures	All juvenile/ fledglings

Eastern Cape Report

January 2024 to March 2024



The last of the power line bird incidents happened last week when Kerri received a call and video of two Cape Vultures found under power lines in the Biesiesvlei area of the southern Free State. One of the birds soon took to the skies, and one can only hope the injuries were not life-threatening. However, the second bird could not move quickly and had a severe limp.

Our network of willing landowners, specifically Leon Petzer and his trusted staff member Shorty (a farmer from the area), assisted in securing the bird, and I collected it the following day. This bird, too, was transferred immediately to Shamwari as one leg seemed not responsive. The bird was found to have a broken hip and had to be euthanised.

Mass Drownings

Sadly, the beginning of this year has recorded two mass drownings of Cape Vultures in cement reservoirs in the Eastern Cape. The first report was of 12 birds found on a farm in the Stutterheim area near Wriggleswade. The Dept of Environment also stepped up and visited the farm and advised the recently widowed landowner to cover the reservoir with shade cloth to prevent further losses like this. My second report of a mass drowning incident was reported not long after this, where 19 Cape Vultures succumbed in a reservoir in the Winterberg area.

Why is this happening? The extreme dry conditions and hot temperatures that the Eastern Cape, in particular, has been experiencing since the start of this year, has made water very critical for both livestock and birds. Once a reservoir drops to a third full, it becomes extremely difficult for birds (and any animal) to exit the reservoir. The very high temperatures also result in increased water consumption (particularly cattle), which will drop the levels in reservoirs very quickly. Immediate mitigation is placing a pole diagonally in the reservoir for animals to cling to; however, covering the reservoir with shade cloth/netting is the first prize.

Mitigation from my side will be, once we have analysed the tracking data (thanks to my daughter Meagan, who is working on this) regarding where and what reservoirs they are regularly visiting in the Eastern Cape, I will work through my network of organised agriculture members to engage those landowners to mitigate these particular reservoirs.





VulPro@Shamwari

Shamwari and VulPro@Shamwari was born. I was fortunate to be at Shamwari with the launch and happy to witness some of my rehab birds return to this province. With all involved, this team effort was absolutely amazing, and I want to once again congratulate everyone involved. It was a relocation to be proud of, and I think VulPro has shown they ARE the hands-on vulture heroes of today and the future.

For me, the most emotional memory will probably always be the return of 'Kate's Pair' to this province. They will always be special as they were my first rehab vultures which I worked with way back in 2004. May they continue to breed captive-bred chicks to restock our precious wild birds in the skies. Mr G and Ms V, you are two very special birds for me!

Secondly, now I can transfer birds that need urgent attention immediately, with Kerri and Obert Gayesi always on hand to meet me halfway or in Queenstown as a relay back to Shamwari. This means so much to me, as so often, we have had to ask DHL for assistance, and sometimes, time has not been on our side.

In February, I was fortunate to be able to transfer two releasable birds, one called Baldy, a 2022 captive-bred, and the other an adult bird that came in for rehab, down to Shamwari and watch them join the group of 2023 captive-bred fledglings waiting to be released soon.

Some of my non-releasables will soon be making their way down that way too, as they are now reaching breeding age and can become part of that very special captive breeding programme too.

Conclusion

As the year progresses, I hope fewer birds will be lost. However, I, together with VulPro, will endeavour to work hard with landowners and engage with Eskom and wind developers (a nightmare for these precious birds) to make South Africa a better place for them. We cannot allow this species to slip away because it is our responsibility to safeguard them.

As always, thanks must go to Kerri, Obert, Johan Joubert, and her team at Shamwari, as well as to all the landowners who contact us and whom I also call upon for assistance. Without you, I cannot do what I am able to do.

Vultures and VulPro

Mr G, a Cape Vulture, sat in a small cage on the stoep at the school, waiting for me to take him home to be treated. My first ever vulture for rehabilitation!

This is how my journey into the vulture world started. At that time, I was the local person who rehabilitated raptors and belonged to the Raptor Working Group under the guidance of Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, who was well-known among the vulture fraternity. He was also working with Kerri Wolter at de Wildt Rehabilitation Centre at that time.

As time went by Mr G's partner in the vulture world, Ms V, became my second vulture and are now some of VulPro's oldest breeding pairs in their captive breeding programme. As I received more vultures, I was able to reach out to Kerri for advice and guidance in treating the birds. This is where VulPro and I became associates and partners.

After pairing up, Mr G and Ms V moved to VulPro, and so did many others who needed urgent medical attention or were permanently disabled and could become part of the captive breeding programme. It was during the COVID year that Kerri reached out to me with her captive-bred fledglings. This was a tremendous honour but also a huge step in the vulture world when these youngsters were then released from my enclosure in the Eastern Cape.

Today Mr G and Ms V, and others, have returned to the Eastern Cape with the VulPro@Shamwari partnership. A complete circle of life which could not have happened without VulPro as the leading vulture NGO in southern Africa.



Research and Statistics

The research department has begun 2024 relatively slowly. The team is currently following up with researchers and students to discuss their studies' progress in order to gauge timelines for specific project goals and gain a clear idea as to when certain aspects of their projects will be completed and potentially ready for submission for publication.

We are currently undertaking nine crucial projects, each at a unique stage of progress. Some are in the initial phases of data cleaning, preparing for the crucial analysis stage. Others are deeply immersed in the analysis, while one project is on the verge of finalising its analysis, aiming to have a manuscript ready for submission in the next few months.

At VulPro, we are always open to new projects and studies. We have a few exciting projects waiting for enthusiastic students or researchers to take the lead and produce impactful publications with the collected data. If you are looking for a project to contribute to, we welcome you to reach out to us for more details. Let's join forces to address vulture conservation in southern Africa.

Publications

At the end of 2023, one research project was submitted for publication, but unfortunately, it was sent back with comments the researchers needed to address and tackle for it to be accepted.

The researchers worked very hard to address all comments, and between January and March 2024, they were able to submit the paper again for comments from the peer review panel. The paper has subsequently been accepted, and it will be published once everything is in order.

Another team of researchers working on data relating to Pied crows and lead poisoning has completed their manuscript and submitted it for review; we hope the paper is accepted soon and the research can be published for all to read.

Two more research students are currently finalising their datasets, and we hope they will soon be able to submit a manuscript for publication.

Keep an eye on our newsletters to find out the results of all research and publications.

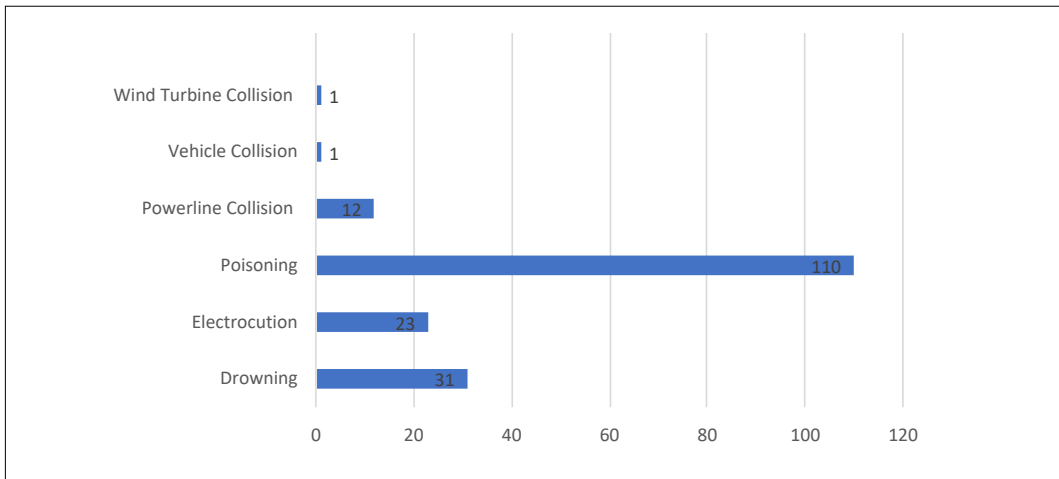
Threats

The threats vultures face appear to never end, and the first quarter of 2024 has seen numerous incidents reported and multiple species affected. To date, we have reported 24 incidents involving powerline collisions, wind turbine collisions, electrocutions, poisoning, and drowning events. The number of incidents reported in a short period of time is worrying, especially considering that for the whole of 2023, we only reported 42 cases.

Of the 24 incidences reported, total number of vultures affected was 178, 24 of those due to electrocution events, 12 due to powerline collisions, one collision with a wind turbine, one collision with a vehicle, 31 due to a drowning incident and the most worrying was the report of 110 vultures involved in poisoning events. Of the 110 vultures involved, 98 were African White-backed Vultures, a critically endangered species, eight were Lappet-faced Vultures (Endangered), one Cape Vulture (Endangered), two critically endangered Hooded Vultures and one critically endangered White-headed Vulture.

The prevalence of incidences so early in the year suggests 2024 may see vultures and other species succumbing to more threats and highlights the need for us to increase our efforts to raise awareness and do all we can to reduce the impact these threats have on our birds.

The poisoning events are of particular concern, especially given the number of vultures impacted. The most recent event in the week commencing 11th March was one of the worst to date. It resulted in the death of 72 African White-backed Vultures, four Lappet-faced Vultures, two Hooded Vultures, one Cape Vulture and one White-headed Vulture, as well as two Bateleurs, one Tawny Eagle, one Marabou Stork, one Black-backed Jackal, one Hyaena, and one buffalo. The worrying thing is the discovery of fresh lion spoor in the area, as this indicates more species have become at risk and may succumb to death as a result of this mass poisoning.

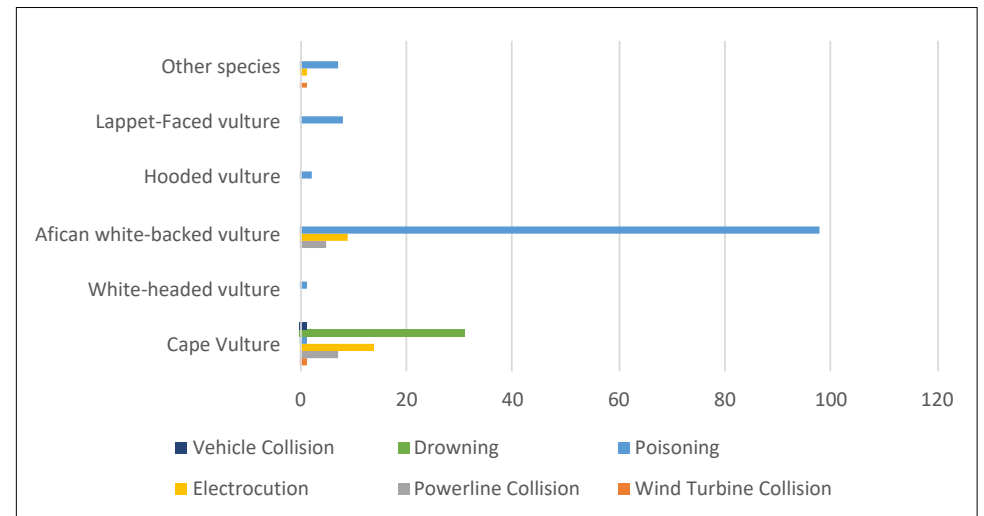
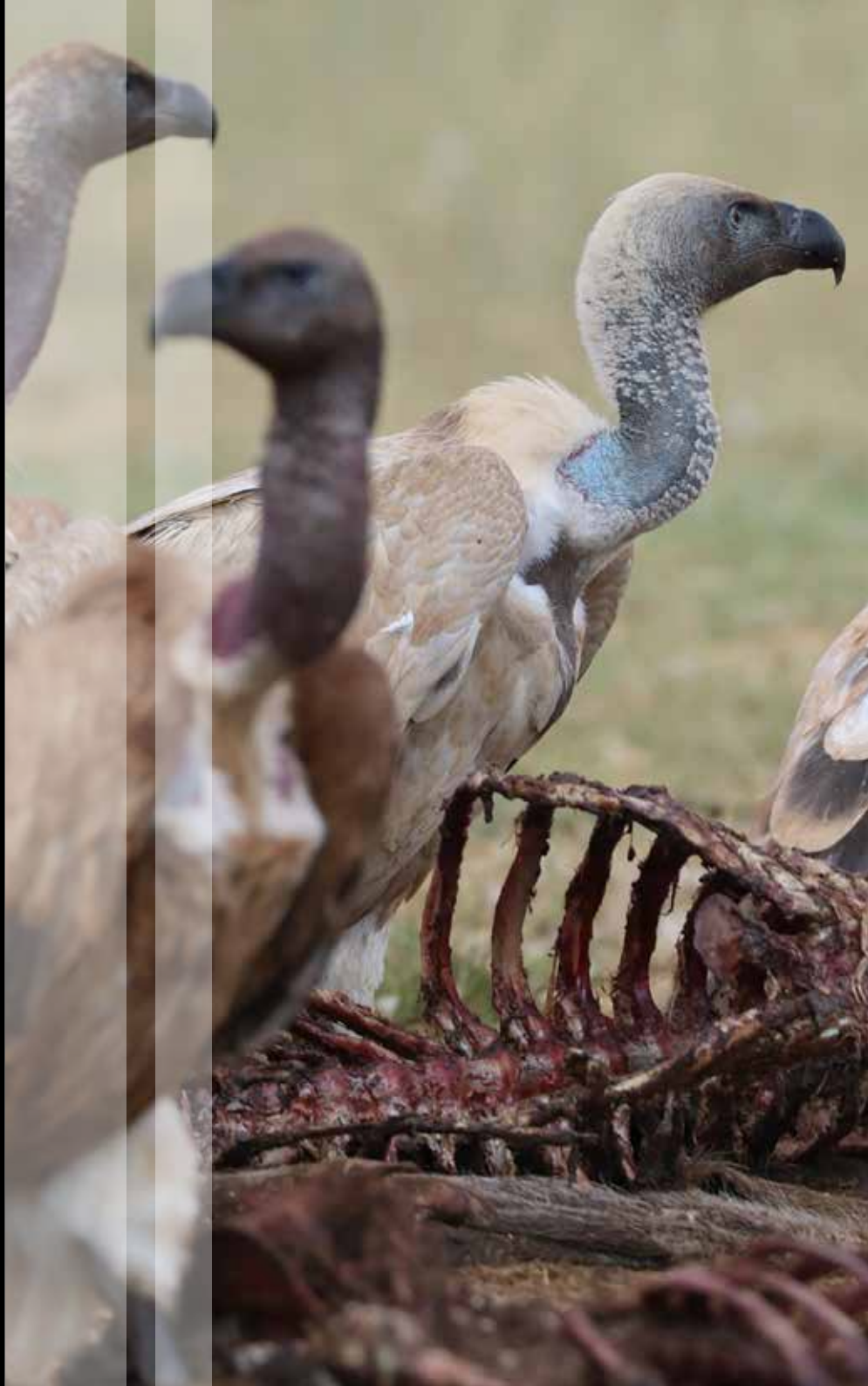


Graph 1: Number of incidents involving vultures between January and March 2024.



Our mission at VulPro is to protect African vultures through collaboration and innovation.

– Kerri Wolter, Founder



Graph 2: Total numbers per species involved in incidents reported January to March 2024.

These events continue to highlight the need for more education and awareness across the board, not just in small remote communities but amongst all regions of our country and further afield. To tackle these issues, VulPro continues to build up our educational programmes and work within the highest-risk areas and across southern Africa in our continued fight to save vultures.

We continue to work with Eskom and other stakeholders in reporting all incidents and ensuring they are actively investigating and mitigating these events. In addition to our engagement with Eskom, we must ensure that future developments have also been mitigated for and are developed in a manner that considers the risks that infrastructure places on vultures and other species. We actively participate in commenting on proposed developments, Environmental Impact Assessment reports and frequently appeal decisions made surrounding proposed developments to ensure vultures receive as much protection as possible.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)

Vultures are constantly threatened by existing and new powerline construction, wind turbines, and solar power developments. As an interested and affected party, VulPro has been actively commenting on such EIAs.

These projects are proposed in all parts of South Africa, and we play a vital role in fighting for all avian species affected by these structures because of the damage to the environment and disturbance of ground-nesting and tree-nesting birds.

In 2024, we already commented on eight project proposals affecting hundreds of birds' flight paths, including ones fitted with tracking devices in the North-West province, Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, and the Free State Province. Some of these structures are placed close to vulture colonies, roosting sites and/or vulture restaurants (supplementary feeding sites), increasing the many threats imposed on vultures and other species.

The development of solar-powered systems has increased drastically, and all eight EIAs commented on since the start of 2024 were for these types of developments. These developments often include the building of powerline structures in areas with no existing powerline infrastructure, which poses an increased number of threats faced by vultures. Site visits are arranged in high-risk areas to allow affected parties to observe and assess areas before comments are submitted.

One example of a high-risk site is the electrical grid connection infrastructure for the Kiara PV Solar Cluster in Limpopo, which is currently open for public participation. It will be constructed in a high-traffic area for vultures near Lichtenburg, and if institutions like VulPro don't assess and evaluate these sites, many more vultures will be lost to the environment.

The Ngxwabangu Wind Energy Facility and Associated infrastructure was declined by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) in January 2024. VulPro strongly opposed this Project, which proves that our comments can make a difference for vultures and other avian species.

A multitude of proposed energy infrastructure projects are planned across various provinces, including solar and wind energy facilities as well as mining operations. These developments span locations such as the Free State, Limpopo, North West, Western Cape, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, and Eastern Cape. In response to the potential risks posed by these projects, proactive measures have been taken to mitigate environmental and societal impacts.



African Vultures
soar with wisdom,
reminding us that
even in the bleakest
moments, there
is grace in the
cycle of life.



Lead poisoning and its impact

Poisoning of vultures is rising and is one of the more challenging threats to mitigate, prevent and manage. There are cases where it has been an unintentional event; these can occur when vultures consume poisoned baits set out for other species viewed as 'problem animals' to livestock or other farming practices or when they consume carcasses of animals that have died from poisoning. In addition to this, when vultures feed on the carcasses of animals treated with NSAIDs and other veterinary drugs which are known to be harmful to them, fatalities occur.

Lead poisoning can also be a cause of secondary or unintentional poisoning in vultures. This type of poisoning is caused by the ingestion of spent lead ammunition used by hunters and wildlife managers to kill animals. Lead ammunition fragments upon impact in order to cause as much damage as possible; these fragments disperse and are easily absorbed into the bloodstream. Vultures feeding on the carcasses of animals killed using lead ammunition are exposed to high levels of lead, which can lead to fatalities.

Lead is found naturally in the environment, and we are all exposed to it at varying levels in the air we breathe, in the soil, in dust particles and in the water supply in some areas. Vultures face an increased exposure to this through the use of lead ammunition. Feeding on the carcass of an animal killed by a lead bullet might not kill the vulture immediately, as exposure depends upon the levels of lead found in the blood cells. The higher the levels and increase in exposure will inevitably result in a fatality.

African White-backed and Cape Vultures in South Africa and other regions within southern Africa have been found to have elevated levels of lead in their blood cells. Areas, where game hunting is prevalent, pose an increased risk of lead exposure to vultures, and it is vital to raise awareness within these areas about the dangers lead ammunition poses to vulture populations.

Vulture chicks are at an increased risk due to being fed by their parents, who have ingested food from carcasses with traces of lead in the meat. Elevated lead levels can be detrimental to vultures, impacting breeding productivity, reducing mobility, causing lethargy, impairing the digestive tract, causing developmental problems, and affecting the nervous and circulatory systems.

Much of what vultures ingest and are exposed to, in terms of lead, might be at sub-lethal levels. However, increased exposure over time builds up in the system, making them susceptible to bioaccumulation. This could significantly affect vultures' fecundity, immune response, and behaviour, resulting in secondary causes of death, such as collisions with infrastructure due to reduced mobility.

We must do all we can to reduce exposure to lead, especially from man-made lead-containing items. Exposure to lead in nature is unavoidable, given that it occurs naturally in the environment. These levels are low and potentially do not have as significant an impact on vultures. However, when coupled with exposure to man-made items containing far higher levels of lead, the risk to vultures grows exponentially.

Project Update



The individuals caught and released in April 2023 have been collecting data for nearly a full year, giving us an full season of tracking data.

The new year has brought exciting new steps in our project as we move forward. With fieldwork finalised, we move into the thicket of the next phase of the project: the data analysis.

Assessing the effects of thermal factors on the spatial ecology of a critically endangered African vulture

As mentioned in previous reports, it has been an interesting and exciting challenge to start to work with climate data and the analysis of it. The main focus of the last three months has been on unpacking the effects of air temperature and precipitation on the breeding success of African White-backed Vultures in seven sites across southern Africa. Our preliminary analysis has focussed on the impact of maximum temperature and total precipitation on the breeding success of African White-backed Vultures, focussed on the months between the initial laying of the egg and the fledgling leaving the nest.

While there is still lots of work to be done to finalise these models and results, results in either direction will bring about interesting insights, as either there is cause for concern for the breeding success of these birds under future conditions, or there may be an adaptive trait of these birds to withstand these extreme temperatures. This can also serve as a baseline for future research into whether there are other chronic effects on the youngsters hatched during extreme weather events or whether these birds hold special adaptations to cope with these weather conditions.

We are also looking into other variables to ensure we understand the effects of their thermal environment properly before we can make final conclusions.

March 2024 also marks an exciting time for the tracking chapters of this study. In April 2023, the final devices for this study were fitted to five African White-backed Vultures, meaning that they have now been tracked for just short of an entire year. This coincides perfectly with the finalisation of the breeding chapter, allowing us to begin the analysis of this data shortly. We are looking forward to putting together these models soon and bringing some exciting results to light about the foraging, roosting and movement of African White-backed Vultures in a changing thermal environment.

2024 is gearing up to be an exciting year for the project, and it would not be possible without the contributions of our collaborators and partners who have made this project possible until now. These include Dronfield Nature Reserve, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Leibniz Institute, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe, Max Planck Institute, North Carolina Zoo, Raptors Botswana, University of Eswatini, University of Pretoria, Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, and Wildlife ACT.

Blouberg Nature Reserve

Blouberg Nature Reserve: Thirteen pupils from Maromafase High School and Boikutso Primary School, along with their teachers and Mr J Tlouamma, the Tourism Officer from the Blouberg Municipality, assisted with the release of rescued vultures. By involving the community, we aim to spread awareness about the crucial role vultures play in our ecosystem, a role that directly impacts our lives. Simultaneously, we are educating about the importance of wildlife conservation.

Mr Tlouamma praised the experience, saying, "It was a wonderful experience, and as a Heritage official from Blouberg municipality, I appreciate the good work you are doing to conserve nature. Involving learners from both schools is a great step in the right direction. The youth are the country's future and we should thank their educators for their work."

Seshigo High School in Moletjie

VulPro engaged with 110 grade 10 and 11 pupils from Seshigo High School in conjunction with Mr Makwela, Circuit Manager, who all showed keen interest in VulPro. We are planning to continue our education with him and the students.

VulPro is very grateful that what we do is appreciated, especially involving the youth. Indeed, involving learners in our initiatives is a crucial step forward. The youth are the custodians of tomorrow's environment, and by instilling in them a love and understanding of nature, we're sowing the seeds for a more sustainable future.

We couldn't agree more about the importance of acknowledging the educators who play a pivotal role in shaping the minds of our youth. Their dedication and passion deserve our utmost gratitude. We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to conserve our natural heritage and foster environmental stewardship among the younger generation.



Education and Outreach

Educating the country's young people is an essential part of VulPro's outreach programme to highlight the plight of vultures and their importance to the ecosystem as a whole. This year, we have already hosted two educational days during which learners were introduced to the world of vultures.



Education

Since the start of the year, VulPro-Hartbeespoort has presented tours and hide visits to 58 visitors, 55 of whom were adults and three of whom were minors. A group of 30 veterinary students visited the facility for a tour to learn about vultures.

Over the last three months, VulPro staff presented to the public and students at Pecanwood College, the Schaumburg school, and a group of Honorary Rangers. In total, 660 people, including 610 children, were reached.

In addition, Obert presented a tour of the vulture enclosures to five guests at Shamwari.

Clarence Mabasa visited Maromafase High School and Boikutso Primary School in Blouberg, Limpopo, recently. He also included seven primary school and six high school children in the release of two Cape Vultures. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the adventure and learning about vultures and their role and importance in the environment.



Simply apply for your card in-store, online, or using the new MySchool/ MyPlanet app, nominate VulPro as your beneficiary, and you will be supporting conservation while you shop at participating stores.

Media

VulPro-Shamwari was initiated, and more than 160 vultures were moved on the 21st of January 2024 from VulPro@Hartbeespoort. This historical moment created coverage of 60 media posts since the start of 2024 before and after the move, including television, radio, magazine articles, newsletters, and online articles.

Students Visit



Wildlife group will strive to be a platform to connect students, companies and veterinarians within the Wildlife field. We aim to expose students to all different aspects of the wildlife field including research, practical workshops and academic enrichment.



Students visit and learn

On Wednesday, March 6th, VulPro hosted 30 enthusiastic veterinary and veterinary nursing students from the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA). They were taken on an eye-opening tour that showcased our incredible work in vulture conservation.

From the expansive enclosures to the heart of our operations in the ICU camps and hospital rooms, they got an exclusive peek into our world. Our dedicated team walked them through the intricacies of treatments, X-rays, and the magic that happens with our anaesthesia machines.

They explored our hospital, where the passion for wildlife preservation truly comes to life. They witnessed firsthand the challenges and triumphs of vulture rehabilitation and gained insight into the critical role veterinarians play in the conservation process.

The students were immersed in interactive sessions, delving into vulture behaviour, ecology, and the challenges the vultures face in the wild. Our seasoned staff shared profound insights into the rehabilitation process, underlining the pivotal role each individual plays in the overall conservation effort.

We hope this unforgettable experience at VulPro will serve as a catalyst for their future endeavours in wildlife conservation. We are grateful for the support of the next generation of veterinary professionals.

A report from a student

Tyler Hancox, a student, attended the open day and had the following to say after the visit: "The afternoon at VulPro was one of the most amazing and eye-opening experiences I've ever had. As vet students, we focus a lot on companion and production animals, and we sometimes forget about the other animals that need help.

"Before the visit, I had no idea how special and important vultures are and how incredible the work being done at VulPro is. VulPro not only does amazing work rehabilitating the birds when they are injured but also focuses on breeding and education. During the visit, I was not only exposed to different breeds for the first time but also got the opportunity to see the ICU and treatment/surgery facilities.

"We were educated on vultures' different behaviours, medical treatments, and common causes of injury. I also learnt about the role vultures play in our ecosystem and disease control for the first time. I'd definitely recommend visiting this facility to learn about animals that are often forgotten and overlooked despite their importance.

"In addition to their ecological importance, vultures also still have a right to have people fight for them in the same way many fight for our typical companion animals, and this facility is doing a great job of ensuring that happens."

VulPro welcomes the Multi-species Biodiversity Management Plan

VulPro welcomes the publication of the Multi-species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures in South Africa. It's encouraging to see the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment engaging with stakeholders over the last five years to draft and gazette this critical plan.

While progress has been made, much work lies ahead to secure resources and build capacity for nationwide implementation. Vultures, among the most endangered species globally, face daily threats. This management plan is crucial for ensuring their thriving in a safe environment.

For the past 17 years, VulPro has focused on conserving southern Africa's vulture populations. We collaborate with partners to address threats like poisoning and establish Vulture Safe Zones.

The recent review of the Mid-Term Implementation Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures revealed ongoing challenges, including severe problems like intentional poisoning and collision risks. Emerging threats like climate change and Avian Influenza further endanger these vital species.

South Africa is home to nine vulture species, and the Multi-species Biodiversity Management Plan covers all breeding residents, aiming to create a safe environment for their population growth.

The plan's vision is to create a secure environment for vultures to fulfil their crucial ecosystem services while benefiting humans and their livelihoods. It aims to put an end to intentional poisoning, reduce lead exposure, and significantly expand protected areas, providing a comprehensive strategy for vulture conservation.

The Multi-species BMP is a crucial mechanism for local conservation action and cross-border cooperation, essential for preventing the extinction of vultures in South Africa.



B
Biodiversity

A volunteer's experience



By Jaime Soto

My name is Jaime Soto, and I volunteer internationally with different organisations for approximately nine months a year to combat the plight of vultures. Though financially taxing, my devotion to seeing this species' betterment drives me forward.

I am lucky to have found myself in the lush cloud forests of Costa Rica, the mountainous terrain of Ecuador, and the expansive untouched lands of South Africa. My first experience in South Africa was in 2014, and after a short hiatus, I was able to return in 2021 to join VulPro's vulture conservation efforts. Since this initial return, I have come to VulPro numerous times to continue to grow and expand my knowledge of vulture conservation.

January 2024 marked a monumental moment in the history of VulPro and conservation with its expansion to Shamwari Game Reserve. When I returned to VulPro in December 2023, the property was in full swing, preparing for the move to the Eastern Cape.

I quickly fell in line and got to work, helping to make things run smoothly throughout the day. January 22nd was upon us in the blink of an eye, and before we knew it, we were catching birds, crating, and hitting the road. What a rush!

The day's high took us late into the night as we checked the birds alongside the vets throughout the 18-hour journey to the Eastern Cape. And finally, with not even one casualty, the caravan of vultures arrived at Shamwari.

The birds were quickly transferred to various smaller trucks so that they could be brought to their respective enclosures. Off again, we went to the new breeding enclosure for the Cape Vultures. And what a stunning enclosure it is! A massive multi-level nesting wall, a water bath big enough for a king, and perches galore!

It was an absolutely breathtaking enclosure. The Vultures were now unloaded from the transport trucks, waiting to have their crates opened. We all lined up, hands gripping the door of the crates, pulling upward as the vultures flocked from the crates with a gusto. Home at last!

It was a marvellous sight to behold. VulPro continues to pave the way for what should be the world's gold standard for vulture conservation. I am continually grateful for all they do for the vultures and all that they have allowed me to be a part of.

VulPro continues to foster my learning and provide real-time experience with vultures. I am truly grateful for this and for all they continue to do.





Image credit: Johan Swanepoel

VulPro volunteer profile – Jon Maxwell

I am a veterinarian from the US who graduated from Colorado State University in 2023 with a focus on free-ranging wildlife conservation. I am currently researching endangered vultures of southern Africa for my PhD at CSU, but I am studying at the College of Natural Resources Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology instead of the veterinary school.

My field areas are in northwest Zimbabwe, and the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust is hosting me. This amazing organisation works on a variety of conservation and community development programmes. They aim to expand their vulture initiatives, and I will focus on investigating the various threats to the resident birds in the area. As in most places, poisoning is the main threat, and my PhD will primarily focus on this. I am incredibly fortunate for this opportunity to do work I am passionate about, work in such incredible, wild places, and work with people holding similar missions.

Volunteering at VulPro has been an excellent way to gain experience handling and equipping GPS transmitters on birds, which will be an integral part of my research. Furthermore, working in the clinic at VulPro has been very fulfilling, and it feels impactful to use my clinical knowledge to benefit the care of our patients.

The employees here are amiable and fun to be around, and I feel right at home. I want to have a lasting partnership with this group as we work toward the same goals of improving the outlook of these oft-misunderstood animals.

When I'm not working, you can find me enjoying nature, gardening, drinking coffee, or cooking up our next meal!



Jon Maxwell



VulPro's new bone-crusher

One of our dedicated VulPro supporters, Barry Nortje, invested countless hours of his free time in the meticulous design and construction of a bone-crushing machine for our cause. While undeniably beneficial, this machine also poses significant risks, necessitating the utmost caution from our staff when using it.

While it may sound like something from a horror movie, the bone-crushing machine is important because it crushes bones down for our vultures to eat. Bone chips are an essential part of a vulture's diet.

According to VulPro CEO, Kerri Wolter, "Calcium is an absolutely essential part of vulture diets, providing essential nutrients such as calcium and phosphorus, which are crucial for maintaining the vulture's skeletal structure and overall health. In the wild, vultures naturally consume bones that other scavengers and predators have crushed. However, in captivity, they lack this vital nutrient. This is why it is of utmost importance for us to provide our vultures with crushed bones. This is also a critical item to provide at vulture restaurants, where the natural scavengers may not always be present as they would be at an animal kill. Without sufficient calcium, vultures' growth is stunted, and their bones become weaker, making them more prone to fractures."

Vultures have robust digestive systems that allow them to consume and digest bones effectively. Their acidic stomachs and specialised digestive enzymes enable them to break down tough bone material, extracting any remaining nutrients. In regions where carrion is scarce, vultures may feed on bones when other food sources are unavailable. This ability to use a wide range of food sources increases their chances of survival, especially in challenging environments.

"Overall, bones are an integral part of a vulture's diet and contribute to its survival, health, and ecological role as a scavenger," adds Kerri. "Manually crushing bones takes ages, so the machine is a game changer in terms of quantity and time."

Hard work to build a tough machine

Telling the story of the machine, Barry says he had to work late, on weekends, and after the factory closed to get it done on time. "I decided to use two identical motors as that cancels the use of gears. I was done with the machine a day before the due date, with only the testing to be done, but it did not work properly. So, I had to strip the machine. That involved taking the motors off and removing all the motor mountings and electrical installations. Furthermore, I had to turn the shafts so both long ends face the same way."

Building this machine was a big project for such a short time. It has 30 movable cutting blades made of high-carbon steel. The cutting edges are hard and will not wear away easily. There are also 30 spacers and 30 fixed blades. The gearbox unit is a 2.2 KW 4-pole 3-phase motor with 1440 input rpm and 18 rpm output, reduced to 13 rpm through chain gears. The electrical starter box has its overload set at four amps (when it will stop the motor); it can be adjusted to a higher value if required."



Bone-crusher

Barry warned of the dangers of using a machine like this: "This is a hazardous machine. It's not a toy. This is a crusher, not a cutter. Once it grabs your fingers, it will pull your whole arm in. Be sure to apply stringent rules."

PLATINUM

Tusk Trust

GOLD

AZA Conservation Grants Fund
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
DHL

Ford Wildlife Foundation
Holtzman Wildlife Foundation

SILVER

AE Solutions
AZA SAFE Project partners
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Detroit Zoo
Different Foundation
Ernst Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
Hair of the Dog Conservation Fund
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
Jacksonville Zoo

Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust
MaxPlanck Institute
Nashville Zoo
Natural Encounters Conservation
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
WeWild Africa
Wilhelma Zoologisch
BotanischerGarten Stuttgart Zoo
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BRONZE

Abraham Foundation
Animal Survival International
Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park
City of Little Rock
Colchester Zoo
Cybercom
Dallas Zoo
Designline Graphics
Duxbury Networking
First Consulting Alliance
Fondation Ensemble
Fresno Chaffee Zoo
Gauntlet Conservation Trust
GHB Farms Pty Ltd
Greenville Zoo

Hamman Donation GPS
Idea Wild
National Aviary in Pittsburgh
National Center for Birds of Prey
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo
R&R Abattoir
Regal Security
Rheinmettal Denel Munition
Tandy Foundation
The Tax Shop
Tulsa Zoo
World Bird Sanctuary
Zoo Atlanta
Zoo Miami Wildlife
Conservation Fund

BLUE

Chessington World of
Adventures Operations Ltd
Darwin Chambers
Little Rock Zoo
Roger Williams Park Zoo

Thea Erasmus
Wan4U
Zoological Society of Hertfordshire
Paradise Wildlife Park



Image credit: Alan Eason

Sponsors

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors. We so appreciate your support in saving Africa's vultures.



Generous international conservation support

Known as the 'Greenest Zoo in America', the world-famous Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is committed to inspiring visitors to care about wildlife and wild places. In a typical year, over 1.7 million people visit the Zoo's award-winning exhibits and more than 500 animal and 3000 plant species. The Zoo, an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), is internationally known for its success in the protection and reproduction of endangered animals and plants, and engages in research and conservation projects worldwide.

Lily Maynard, Ph.D., the Director of Global Conservation at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, explained that the team responsible for sharing conservation stories about African wildlife, including vultures and hippos, chose VulPro as a partner for wildlife conservation.

"This passionate, hard-working animal care team works hard to provide excellent animal care while prioritising the health and experiences of the animals at the Zoo," she added. "On top of that extensive work, they also lead engaging behind-the-scenes tours allowing Zoo visitors to get close enough to the animals to be inspired to support their conservation. Our offer of support to your organisation comes from these tours' revenue."

VulPro equips releasable vultures with satellite tracking devices for daily monitoring, providing data on their movements, flight patterns, environmental conditions, and survival status. This information helps map their foraging ranges and habits, and alerts conservationists to threats such as poisoning incidents, aiding in timely intervention.

Dr Maynard said, "We are celebrating animals, plants, and landscapes in our communities and worldwide, inviting everyone to join us in taking action for positive impact. We look forward to continuing our partnership with VulPro, building relationships between our staff, and sharing the story of your great work with our millions of visitors and online followers. We are committed to highlighting your work and helping you achieve your conservation goals."

VulPro CEO, Kerri Wolter, expressed her gratitude for the generous donation, noting it assists with collecting invaluable data to assist in further conservation efforts. "VulPro is dependent on sponsors located around the world and we appreciate their support, which makes everything we do possible."



Thank you

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden made a very generous donation to VulPro, which we will use for tracking devices for releasable vultures. The tracking devices are used to monitor the survival rate of the birds.



Together, let's embrace nature's wonder!

Adopt a vulture, join our family!

For just R4,500, support a vulture's well-being for a year. Name your vulture, display your adoption certificate proudly, and stay updated on their progress with regular updates. Enjoy unlimited visits to VulPro (by appointment only). Your generosity safeguards over 260 resident vultures, ensuring their safety and well-being.

Join us in preserving these incredible birds and making a real difference in their lives.

Vulture adoption feedback

VulPro remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting vultures and their habitats.



Image credit: Johan Swanepoel

Vulture adoptions play a crucial role in supporting our efforts towards vulture conservation and rehabilitation. Through the generous contributions of our adoptive 'parents' we have been able to continue our mission of protecting vultures and their habitats.

Adoption statistics

- Total vulture adoptions: 29
- Breakdown by species:
 - Cape Vultures: 16
 - White-backed Vultures: 15
 - Lappet-faced Vultures: 16
 - Hooded Vultures: 1

Impact of adoptions: The adoption programme has allowed us to provide essential care, rehabilitation, and conservation efforts for vultures in need. The financial support received from adoptive parents has contributed directly to the upkeep and vet related costs for the individual adopted vulture.

Alexander H (Silke)	4 adoptions
Hanre Ferreira (Virbac)	1 adoption
Nicole Schöppner	
Andrea Schreier	2 adoptions
Hans and Ute Schute	1 adoption
Rheinmetall Denel Munition	2 adoptions
Christina Elena Hanga	1 adoption
Katey Parson	1 adoption
Rick Harness	
Clive Vardakis	1 adoption
Kim Caldwell	1 adoption
Robyn (was Rob Rankine)	1 adoption
Frank Schöppner	1 adoption
Mariza Hamman	5 adoptions
Sascha Wwinner (for Julie Edgley)	2 adoptions
Mike and Amy Latimer	1 adoption

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each adoptive parent who has chosen to support VulPro's vulture adoption programme. Your commitment and generosity are invaluable and make a noticeable difference in the lives of these magnificent birds and contribute to the broader conservation efforts aimed at preserving vulture populations for generations to come.

Support VulPro's vital work in treating and caring for vultures by considering a donation from our wish list below.

Stationary

- Laminating sheets
- Super glue
- Printer paper
- Printer ink (HP 912XL)
- Lithium batteries (AA)
- Pens

Cleaning Products

- Washing powder
- Clean Green
- Toilet paper
- Sunlight liquid
- Domestos and Savlon
- Dettol hand wash
- Scrubbing brushes
- Outside brooms
- Washing sponges
- Clothes pegs

Maintenance Equipment

- Large and medium cable ties
- Insulation tape
- Duct tape
- Garden rakes
- Garden shears
- Welding gloves
- Knives for cutting carcasses
- Wood oil
- Epoxy (green and white box)

Hospital Equipment

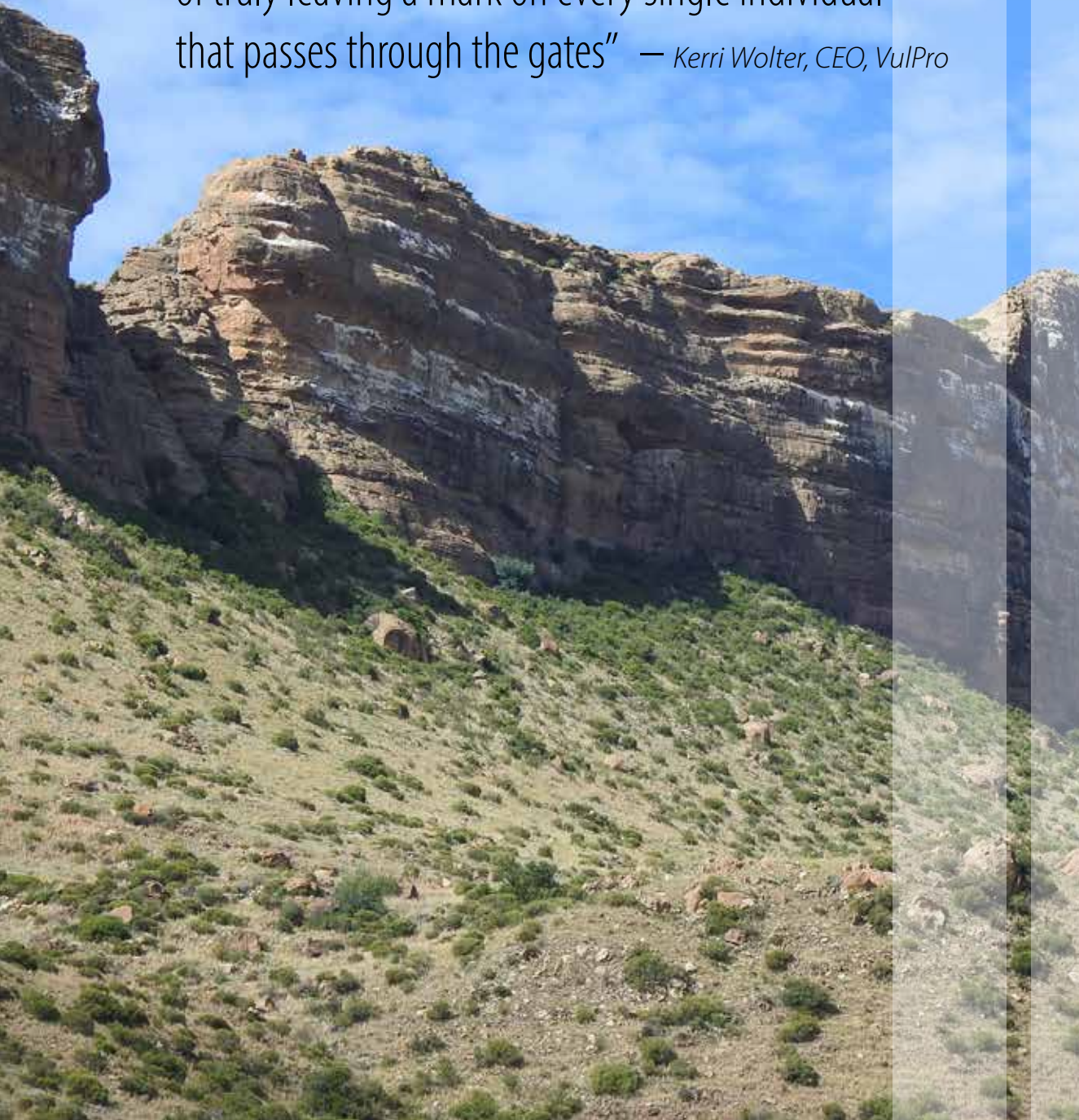
- Drapes
- Gowns
- Drill and hand chuck
- Ex Fix cement
- Suture material
- Cold sterilization trays
- Karbodust

Wishlist

Your contribution
will make a
meaningful
difference in
our mission to
conserve and
protect vultures.



“VulPro has a way of changing peoples lives,
of truly leaving a mark on every single individual
that passes through the gates” — *Kerri Wolter, CEO, VulPro*



The future of vultures



is in our hands