

Vulpro Volunteer Handbook

Contacts & Website

- **Eastern Cape:** kerri@vulpro.com
- **Hartbeespoort:** alistair@vulpro.com
- **Website:** www.vulpro.com

Welcome

Welcome to Vulpro, the Vulture Programme. This handbook sets expectations for your volunteer experience. You will also receive the **Volunteer Contract** and **House Rules**. Please read both carefully.

Meeting Us

Hartbeespoort / Pretoria Base	Eastern Cape Sites
OR Tambo Airport (Johannesburg)	Port Elizabeth Airport
1 hr from airport, 40 mins from Pretoria	Transfers can be arranged at visitor expense
Shuttle available (not included)	Accommodation & daily arrangements communicated in advance
Overnight if arriving after 19:00	Supervised trips to nearby reserves or release sites may occur
10 mins from Hartbeespoort town	

Volunteer Contribution

- **Monthly accommodation fee:** R7,500 per person (approx. R250/day).
- **Deposit:** 50% to secure placement; balance payable in cash on arrival.
- **Minimum stay:** 2 weeks (fee adjusted accordingly).

Important Notes:

- No refunds.
- Contributions must be paid on arrival.
- Travel changes due to unforeseen circumstances may be rescheduled, subject to availability.

Included:

- Single/shared rooms, shared kitchen/bathroom.
- Linen, Wi-Fi, water, electricity, bathroom cleaning.
- Training and supervision by Vulpro staff.
- Participation in research and conservation activities.

Not Included:

- Travel to/from South Africa.
- Airport shuttle (unless arranged separately).
- Passport and visa fees (visas required for stays >90 days).
- Travel, medical, and cancellation insurance (mandatory).
- Vaccinations (tetanus required).
- Meals, drinks, personal hygiene items, towels, laundry detergent.

Living & Household Responsibilities

- Rooms usually private; communal kitchen & bathrooms.
- Smoking in designated areas only.
- Volunteers: share chores, purchase/cook own food, use utilities responsibly, inform staff of allergies, plan weekly shop trips.

Volunteer Requirements

- Flexibility, enthusiasm, independence, patience, perseverance, positive attitude.
- Notify Vulpro of medical conditions, disabilities, or special needs.
- Physical work expected; care for equipment required.



Weather Guidance

- **Summer:** up to 35°C, hot & sunny.
- **Winter:** days ~15°C, nights ~5°C.
- Bring clothing suitable for sun, rain, and cold mornings/evenings.

What to Bring

Essential	Recommended
Passport, visa & copy	Binoculars, camera, laptop, memory cards
International driving licence	Pocketknife, alarm clock
Insurance & emergency contacts	Lightweight shoes for indoors
Electrical adapter (SA)	Personal first-aid kit
Warm clothing, jumpers, fleece, gloves, scarf, slippers	
Long trousers & long-sleeved shirts	
Walking/closed-toe shoes & work boots/wellingtons	
Insect repellent	
Torch/flashlight + batteries	
Sunscreen, sunglasses, sun hat	
Work gloves & heavy-duty gloves	
Water bottles, medicines, notebook, pen/pencil, daypack	
Comfortable evening clothes	
Towel/washcloth (linen provided)	

Volunteer Activities

Husbandry	Cleaning & Maintenance	Enrichment & Rescues	Data & Research
Feed & care for vultures & large birds	Remove unconsumed food/bones	Daily enrichment activities	Record daily activities & behaviour
Clean enclosures	Monitor water ponds	Assist with rescues under supervision	Enter data into digital database
Prepare food & offload carcasses	Minor repairs	High season: November – April	Report unusual behaviour immediately
Clean vehicles	Check perches & enclosures		Standardised counts from viewing hide

Work Schedule: 7–8 hrs/day, 5 days/week; 2 days off (not always weekends).



Social Media & Communications

We encourage volunteers to follow and engage with Vulpro responsibly. More awareness = more support = more birds protected.

Official Platforms:

- Facebook: Vulpro
- Instagram: @vulpro
- LinkedIn: Vulpro
- Twitter/X: Vulpro
- Website: www.vulpro.com

Data & Media Guidelines:

- All data, photographs, and media remain Vulpro property.
- Submit all content to **Kerri Wolter (Eastern Cape)**.
- Authorisation required for publication.
- Public sharing requires prior written approval.

Volunteer Stories & Biographies

We invite volunteers to share a short reflection on their experience.

Example Reflection:

Volunteering at Vulpro has been incredible. I assisted with feeding, enrichment, and enclosure maintenance. Recording behaviour and learning from the team gave me real insight into vulture conservation. The experience made me feel I was contributing to the survival of these amazing birds.

Visual Content: High-resolution photographs or good-quality video clips.

Notes: Submissions may be used in Vulpro communications and remain Vulpro property; material may be edited for clarity.

General Information – South Africa

- Tap water safe; malaria not a concern near Vulpro (except Kruger NP).
- Currency: South African Rand (ZAR).
- Language: English (Afrikaans/Zulu useful).
- Safety: follow common-sense precautions; avoid valuables; never hitchhike; caution with ATMs.
- Wildlife: snakes & dangerous animals present; do not handle unless trained.

Thank You

Thank you for volunteering and giving your time to the vultures.

Through your dedication, support, and collaboration, you help safeguard these iconic birds.

Circling Together for Vultures