



2025

ANNUAL
REPORT





Securing the Future

Continuing our mission to safeguard Africa's vultures, this Annual Report documents a year of decisive action and measurable impact. From local conservation wins to broad-scale advocacy, we are not just protecting a species but securing a future where these magnificent birds thrive as a cornerstone of our ecosystem for generations to come.



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Leadership and Strategic Overview



Leadership and Strategic Overview

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

2025 has been a year that tested our resolve to the core. It was a year of raw challenges and hard-won victories that forced us to evolve, adapt, and fight harder than ever before. While we anticipated growth, we could not have foreseen the sheer scale of the tests to our strength and spirit. Yet, in the face of these trials, the extraordinary response from our supporters, donors, and volunteers has been nothing short of humbling. You didn't just watch from the sidelines; you stood in the trenches with us.

This year, our perspective has shifted. We have come to see vulture conservation not as an isolated task, but as a vital pulse within a much larger, interconnected system. We are not just saving a species; we are safeguarding the natural machinery that sustains life itself. This conviction has driven every decision and every partnership we formed this year, reinforcing a simple truth: we cannot do this alone. We must work alongside communities, landowners, and partners who share our refusal to let these birds vanish.

“Each individual vulture matters and each individual counts to the survival of the wild populations”

The middle of the year pushed us to a breaking point. A wave of mass vulture poisonings, including devastating incidents within the supposed safety of Kruger National Park, was a brutal wake-up call. It laid bare the vulnerabilities within our national parks and underscored a critical need to pivot. We realized that the future of these birds lies in the hands of committed private reserves and community-managed lands.

By aggressively redirecting our resources toward these agile and dedicated spaces, we have established new safe havens for vulture populations. We are moving where the need is greatest and where the impact is immediate.

Despite the heartbreak, 2025 also delivered landmark achievements that prove our mission is working. We successfully completed the first phase of our historic relocation project, moving 160 Cape and African White-backed vultures to Shamwari Private Game Reserve.

This was a massive leap forward for our captive breeding and rehabilitation programmes. Furthermore, the hatching of a critically endangered Lappet-faced Vulture chick on Heritage Day served as a powerful symbol of hope—a living reminder that our efforts to build sustainable, releasable populations are truly bearing fruit.



To our donors, volunteers, and partners: I extend my deepest gratitude. Your belief in Vulpro makes this exhausting, vital work possible. Together, we are doing more than protecting a bird; we are securing a world where people and vultures thrive side by side.

As we look back on 2025, we do so with a sharpened sense of urgency. The world remains uncertain, but the sheer tenacity of the vultures we serve inspires us to persevere.

We remain unshakeable in our commitment to a future where vultures are recognised for what they are: the indispensable guardians of our wilderness.

Kerri Wolter

Chief Executive Office





Leadership and Strategic Overview

Message from the Chairman

Another “vulture year” has passed in the blink of an eye brought its own rewards and tragedies to vultures in South Africa. As expected, was the year 2025 a very busy year for Vulpro with so many different activities that it would be unjustified to present all of it in a brief chairman’s report.

From a corporate governance perspective is Vulpro on very sound footing. Its status as a not-for-profit organisation is current and in good standing, its compliance with statutory requirements is on the dot and its financial health is excellent. The fundraising efforts of the CEO, Kerri Wolter, resulted in a steady inflow of cash and other very important assets such as two new Landrover Discoveries that added to the solid sustainability of Vulpro as a world class conservation NGO. The financial support from Shamwari in terms of salaries and infrastructure at Vulpro-Shamwari boosted Vulpro’s conservation outputs significantly, but also catalysed a surprising increase in public interest in both Vulpro and Shamwari. The well established Vulpro Hartbeespoort, under the watchful eyes of Alistair Sinclair, has also been a great success especially with rescue operations for stranded vultures. All operations are always at a cost and it is comfortable to know that Vulpro is financially sound and can operate successfully due to its many sponsors.

The one thing that always encourages positive thinking about Vulpro is its staff. The dedication of all staff members including volunteer is commendable and should serve as a model for companies that operate in the formal business environment. An institution may have an impressive bank balance and state of the art facilities but if such facilities are not occupied by dedicated staff, is the institution doomed to failure. Vulpro is without doubt an institution that thrives on its staff and volunteers. The Vulpro Board of Directors is very grateful for what our staff accomplished during 2025, both for Vulpro and for vulture conservation in South Africa, We encourage all staff to maintain that personal motivation and dedication.

It is also my wish to acknowledge the Board of Directors for its support of Vulpro and Kerri in particular. The Board of Directors maintains a no interference policy at the operational level, but directs Vulpro, with Kerri at the helm on the journey of sustainability, compliance with all statutory

requirements, and growth for the sake of the sub-continent’s vulture population

Some board members offer direct support in the form of financial controls, research, legal services, establishing contacts with potential donors and veterinary services. These services are offered pro bona and add to the financial well-being of Vulpro. I therefore thank Professor Vinny Naidoo, Professor Katja Koepel, Ms Magda Kets, Mr Craig Natrass and Mr Mark Wolter for their continued support of Vulpro.

Vultures are the core of Vulpro and it is very exciting to see that the captive breeding of Cape Griffon Vultures and African White-backed Vultures has once again been very successful. What most people do not know is that it takes a mammoth effort from Kerri and her staff to assist the breeding vultures to successfully reproduce. Eggs are mostly artificially incubated which demands a 52-day sleep deprivation period from Kerri (per egg!) as the eggs must be turned at set time intervals to ensure healthy development of the foetuses. Once the eggs hatch, and the chicks are strong enough, they are placed back with their biological parent who instinctively rear their offspring to fledging stage. Vulpro releases the captive bred vulture into the wild and monitors their movements by tracking them via satellite. It produces truly remarkable and often very surprising results and proves that vultures move over massive areas in a very short period. One of 2025’s greatest success stories was Vulpro’s first captive-bred Lappet-faced Vulture. This success story will hopefully be repeated within the next few years with the Egyptian Vultures that Kerri organised from various facilities all over the world.

Vulpro’s outreach to communities and farmers also catalysed a growing interest amongst South Africans in the plight of vultures. Dr Johan Joubert who was the catalyst for the establishment of Vulpro at Shamwari also took it upon himself to reach out to livestock farmers who suffer losses due to predation. This resulted in a workshop organised and hosted by Shamwari (thanks to Joe Cloete for the very generous hosting of the workshop) where Shamwari, Vulpro, Kate Webster, Agri Eastern Cape, Wildlife Ranching SA and the Predation Management SA rubbed shoulders about poison free predation management.



It was very clear from the workshop that Vulpro and Shamwari already had the respect and appreciation from conservation minded farmers, and furthermore that these farmers wanted poisoning to be totally prohibited due to the potential for a massive negative impact on the Eastern Cape vulture population. The idea of using any poison to kill livestock predators is becoming scarier by the day as Cape Griffon Vultures are flocking to the Eastern Cape in large numbers. It was inconceivable five years to imagine Cape Griffon Vultures feeding on the remains of lion kills in the Eastern Cape, but 2025 proved that Vulpro “invited” them down to Shamwari, the Mountain Zebra National Park and private land across a wide region of the Eastern Cape. There are free roaming wild birds regularly visiting their captive mates around Shamwari at the Vulpro enclosures. To top the charts, a hooded vulture was spotted at the open enclosure towards the end of 2025.

Vulpro’s footprint is not limited to the Eastern Cape and the Magaliesberg area. It reaches out as far as Blouberg in the Limpopo Province which has the largest Cape Griffon Vulture population in the world. Regular colony counting and community outreach is part of Vulpro’s footprint at Blouberg while the institution also checks on other Cape Griffon Vulture colonies elsewhere in South Africa. If Vulpro together with all its supportive landowners can suppress the misuse of poison to kill predators, is it conceivable that once abandoned Cape griffon vulture colonies can once again have breeding inhabitants in the central, western and Camdeboo Karoo.

Sadly, the eastern parts of South Africa in and around the Kruger National Park suffered terrible losses of countless number of vultures to poachers that killed the birds with poisons. This is of grave concern to all conservationists as the Kruger National Park is and will hopefully always be a national flagship of biodiversity conservation.

Yet despite its international status as a prime conservation area, vultures are rapidly declining from the game reserve due to poisoning.

Another poisoning incident happened close to Cradock in the winter of 2025 but very little information was recovered about that incident. As a result of all the poisoning incidents, Vulpro and Shamwari reached out to farmers all over the country to terminate the use poisons to kill predators. Only time will tell how successful this campaign will be.

Vulpro also addressed the negative impacts of energy infrastructure on vultures in South Africa by actively objecting to the alarming rise in wind farm developments. Meagan Bromfield developed into a specialist on addressing issues in environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and represents Vulpro as an interested and affected party in EIAs where the proposed developments may threaten vultures.

Donors and funders remain a very important, if not critical part of Vulpro. Kerri and her team managed to solidify relationships with local and international funders, and while Kerri will convey Vulpro’s gratitude to all donors and funders in her report. Board of Directors can confidently say that donors and funders keep the vultures in the skies where they belong. It is also noteworthy that Dr Johan Joubert catalysed Shamwari’s owners and management host and co-fund Vulpro at Shamwari.

Lastly, a few words to Kerri as the CEO of Vulpro. Your life mission of taking care of the free roaming and largest captive group of vultures in the world, is rewarded not by what you earn, or what people say about you, but by every single captive bred fledgling that takes to the skies from Vulpro at Shamwari and Hartbeespoort. From humble beginnings more than two decades ago, you grew Vulpro to a world-renowned conservation institution with huge successes.

Dr. Gerhard H. Verdoorn

Chairman, Vulpro



Conservation Impact and Operations

Rescue and Rehabilitation

Rescue and Rehabilitation Summary

Throughout 2025, Vulpro maintained its critical efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, and release Africa’s vultures, addressing the persistent threats these birds face across southern Africa. Power line collisions, poisoning, electrocution, and habitat loss remain the most significant challenges. Our teams responded with swift rescue interventions, specialised veterinary care, and structured rehabilitation programmes, ensuring that each individual had the best possible chance of safe reintegration into the wild. This section provides an overview of admissions, principal causes of injury, rehabilitation outcomes, and strategic priorities.

Bird Species Admitted (Excluding Captive-bred)

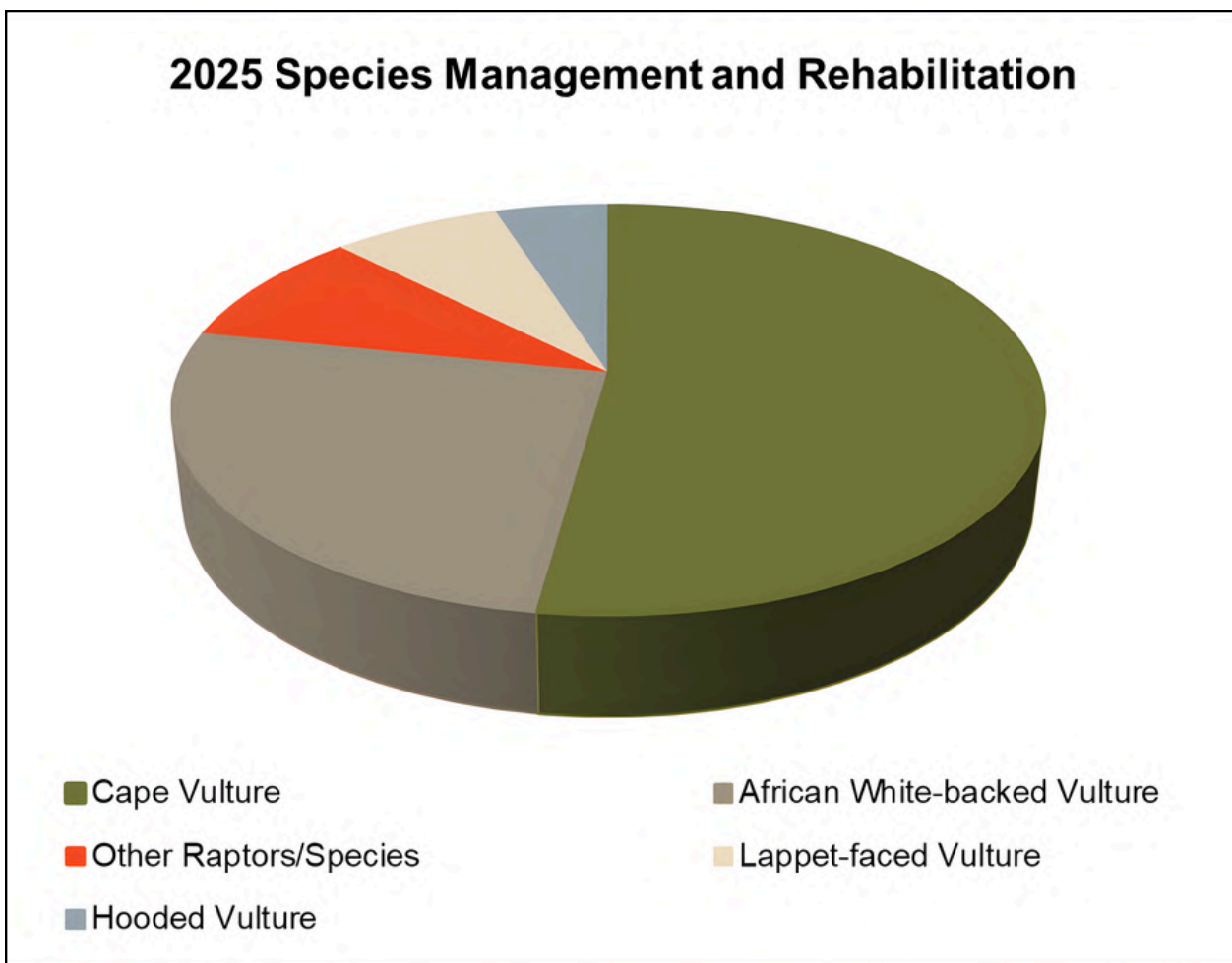
A total of 176 birds were admitted for rehabilitation throughout 2025, mirroring the high activity levels seen in previous years. The clinical data reveals that while anthropogenic (human-induced) threats remain the primary drivers of admissions, the specific causes shifted in frequency throughout the year.

Cause of Admission	% of Total	Primary Species Affected	Conservation Impact
Power Line Incidents (Electrocutions & Collisions)	38%	Cape Vulture, White-backed Vulture	Remains the leading cause of death and permanent physical trauma.
Poisoning (Direct & Secondary)	29%	White-backed & Hooded Vulture	Represents a significant threat to population stability.
Injuries (Physical Trauma)	14%	Various (High incidence in juveniles)	Collisions (fence, vehicle, window, hard landing, electric fence) & Entanglements
Orphaned / Weakened	12%	Cape Vulture	Sourced primarily from monitored breeding colonies.
Other Factors (Weather, Illegally held Human interference, Gunshot, Natural/Trapped)	7%	Lappet-faced & White-headed Vulture	Includes disease, persecution, illegal possession

While these statistics highlight the critical need for intensive focus on power line mitigation and rapid-response poisoning interventions, they further reinforce our commitment to a multi-faceted conservation approach that addresses the full spectrum of both established and emerging anthropogenic threats.

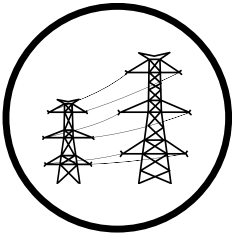
2025 Species Management and Rehabilitation Summary

The 2025 reporting period reflects the comprehensive involvement of Vulpro in the protection and monitoring of African vulture populations. This visual summary illustrates the distribution of species managed throughout the year, ranging from emergency onsite assessments to intensive long term rehabilitation. By responding to every call regardless of the species or condition of the bird, Vulpro continues to gather the essential forensic data required to address the primary threats to these birds within the region. The data highlights a significant focus on the Cape Vulture and the African White backed Vulture, both of which remain critical priorities for the organisation’s conservation mission.





Key Causes for Admission



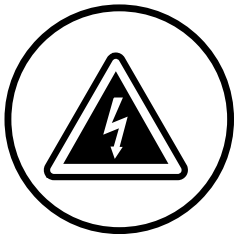
01. Powerline Collisions

A major cause of fractures and fatalities. Vultures struggle to detect powerlines, leading to frequent mid-air impacts.



02. Poisoning

Intentional and accidental poisoning remains a severe issue, especially through contaminated carcasses.



03. Electrocutation

Contact with high-voltage infrastructure causes severe burns, wing damage, and fatalities.



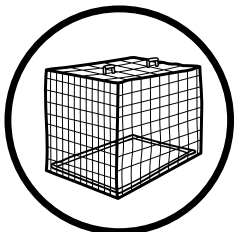
04. Habitat Destruction

Agricultural expansion and deforestation reduce safe nesting and foraging areas.



05. Vehicle Collisions

Birds scavenging near roadways face frequent risks from speeding vehicles.



06. Illegal Capture and Trafficking

Some vultures were captured for use in the illegal wildlife trade



07. Human Disturbances

Nesting areas disrupted by human activity, leading to abandonment or injuries.



Rehabilitation and Recovery

Vulpro’s rehabilitation programme prioritises species-specific care to maximise survival and support successful reintegration into the wild.

Key Rehabilitation Approaches:

- **Specialised Veterinary Care:** Individualised treatment including custom splints, wound management, and nutritional support.
- **Species-Specific Enclosures:** Tailored flight enclosures that promote muscle recovery and acclimatisation.
- **Long-Term Monitoring:** GPS tracking of released birds to evaluate post-rehabilitation survival.

52 

Outcome:

Successfully Released
(excluding captive bred)

Remarks:

Fully rehabilitated and reintroduced
into the wild.

65 

Outcome:

Ongoing Rehabilitation

Remarks:

Birds requiring extended care for
full recovery.

308 

Outcome:

Non-Releasable

Remarks:

Birds with permanent injuries
remain in conservation
programmes.

Looking Ahead 2026 Goals

As we move into 2026, Vulpro remains committed to strengthening the resilience of Africa’s vultures through targeted conservation action. Our priorities include expanding community engagement to cultivate local ‘vulture champions’, increasing nest monitoring across private and protected lands, and refining rehabilitation and post-release monitoring to maximise survival. We will continue collaborating with conservation partners, landowners, and policymakers to reduce key threats such as poisoning and collisions with energy infrastructure, while scaling up volunteer and internship programmes to build local capacity. By combining science, hands-on care, and community action, Vulpro will create safer habitats and deliver lasting, measurable conservation impact.

Annual Health Checks

At Vulpro, annual health checks are a cornerstone of our preventative healthcare strategy. Every bird in our care undergoes a full veterinary assessment each year, ensuring they remain in optimal condition for their roles in our breeding, rehabilitation, and education programmes. These comprehensive examinations combine hands-on physical evaluation with advanced diagnostics, enabling early detection of potential health issues and informing our long-term care strategies.

Health Check Components



Physical Examination & Body Condition Scoring

Each bird receives a detailed physical examination, including assessment of muscle mass, fat reserves, plumage condition, and overall symmetry. Subtle health changes are detected before they become visible.



Haematology & Biochemistry

Blood samples are analysed to monitor organ function, particularly liver and kidney health, identifying issues linked to environmental exposure, stress, age, or disease.



Lead Level Screening

Annual blood-lead tests ensure birds remain within safe physiological limits, mitigating the risk of lead poisoning.



Parasite Screening & Management

Endoparasite and ectoparasite screenings are conducted, with treatments administered as needed to maintain systemic and feather health.



Bumblefoot & Talon Care

Foot pad inspections prevent pododermatitis (bumblefoot), and talon care ensures natural perching and handling safety.

These annual health checks ensure every bird in our care remains strong, robust, and ready to contribute to Vulpro's conservation mission, safeguarding the future of Africa's vultures.

Captive Breeding Programme

‘Rewriting the Story’

Following the relocation of Vulpro’s captive breeding programme to the Eastern Cape, 2025 has proven to be a milestone year for vulture conservation. Vulpro’s breeding facility at Shamwari Private Game Reserve has continued to provide world-class, species-specific care for non-releasable birds, ensuring they remain healthy and capable of contributing genetically to wild populations. Through careful husbandry, advanced monitoring, and rigorous veterinary oversight, Vulpro has maintained high productivity while strengthening the resilience of its resident population.

Breeding Productivity and Milestones

The 2025 breeding season set new benchmarks for the programme:

- Total Chicks Hatched and Survived: 30 vulture chicks, a record for Vulpro.
- Historic Heritage Day Hatch: A Critically Endangered Lappet-faced Vulture chick hatched on 24 September, underscoring the success of our targeted ex-situ conservation efforts.
- Year-on-Year Growth: A 10% increase in hatching success compared to 2024, achieved through refined incubation protocols and naturalistic cliff-simulating enclosures.
- Active Nests: 50+ nests monitored across the Eastern Cape facility.

These results demonstrate that the relocated birds have fully acclimated to their new environment, thriving in purpose-built enclosures that simulate natural cliff habitats and encourage natural breeding behaviours.

Species Focus

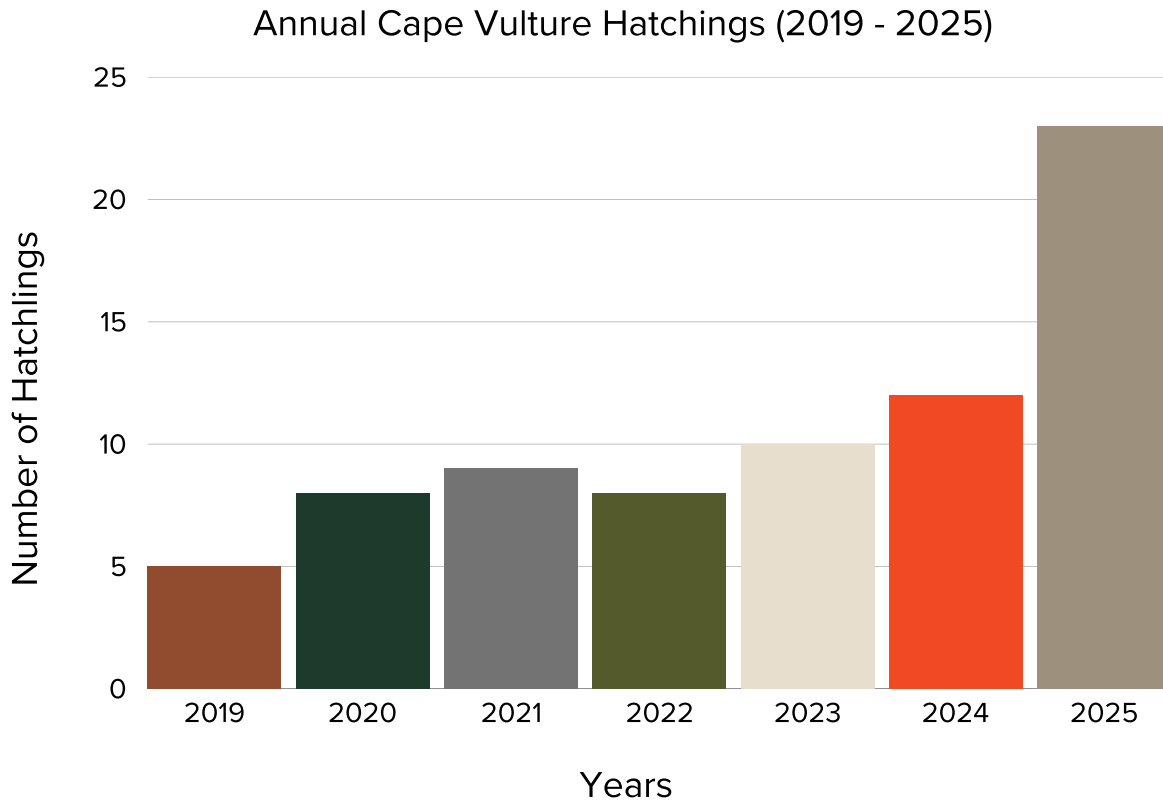
The 2025 season concentrated primarily on Cape Vultures, White-backed Vultures, and Lappet-faced Vultures.

Cape Vultures and White-backed Vultures

Most chicks hatched in 2025 belong to these species, with careful pair management ensuring genetic diversity. Semi-flighted individuals continue to contribute genetically to the programme.

Lappet-faced Vultures

This hatch represents a milestone achievement for one of Africa’s rarest raptors. Given their low reproductive rates and sensitivity to stress, this chick is retained in the breeding programme to build a genetically robust assurance population for future releases.



Vulpro’s Captive Breeding Programme combines meticulous husbandry, species-specific veterinary care, and optimised facility design to maximise reproductive success and support long-term population viability.

Husbandry and Veterinary Management

- **Monogamous Pair Support:** Breeding pairs are guided in nest building, incubation, and chick rearing over a 54-day period, ensuring parental responsibilities are balanced.
- **Double-Clutching Techniques:** Eggs are carefully managed to stimulate a second clutch where appropriate, optimising reproductive output.
- **Record-Keeping and Genetic Management:** All breeding activities are documented to maintain accurate lineage data, preserving genetic diversity and supporting sustainable captive populations.
- **Health Monitoring:** Regular veterinary assessments, including physical examinations, blood analyses, and parasite management, underpin high chick survival rates and maintain overall population health.

Optimised Breeding Facilities

- **Nest Site Optimisation:** Enclosures and artificial cliffs replicate natural nesting environments, encouraging colonial breeding and improving egg viability.
- **Environmental Enrichment:** Daily enrichment promotes natural behaviours, reduces stress, and strengthens breeding pairs.
- **Advanced Monitoring Systems:** Remote nest cameras and continuous observation enable non-invasive tracking of egg development and chick care, supporting timely intervention where necessary.
- **Bio-Security and Facility Management:** Strict cleaning protocols, controlled access, and purpose-built habitat design prevent disease, contributing to zero health-related losses during the 2025 breeding season.



Strategic Vision: 2026 and Beyond

Vulpro's captive breeding programme serves as a critical safeguard against the ongoing decline of vulture populations in South Africa. Building on the significant milestones achieved in 2025, our strategy for the coming year focuses on three core pillars:

- **Non-releasable Birds as Conservation Assets:** We continue to utilise injured or disabled birds that are unable to return to the wild as vital genetic contributors, ensuring there is no requirement to remove healthy birds from fragile wild populations.
- **Long-term Population Security:** By maintaining a robust captive population, Vulpro provides a genetic and demographic safety net for species at risk of localised extinction.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Global Standards:** We leverage the data and husbandry techniques developed within our programme to support wider conservation efforts and refine best-practice approaches for vulture breeding and management globally.



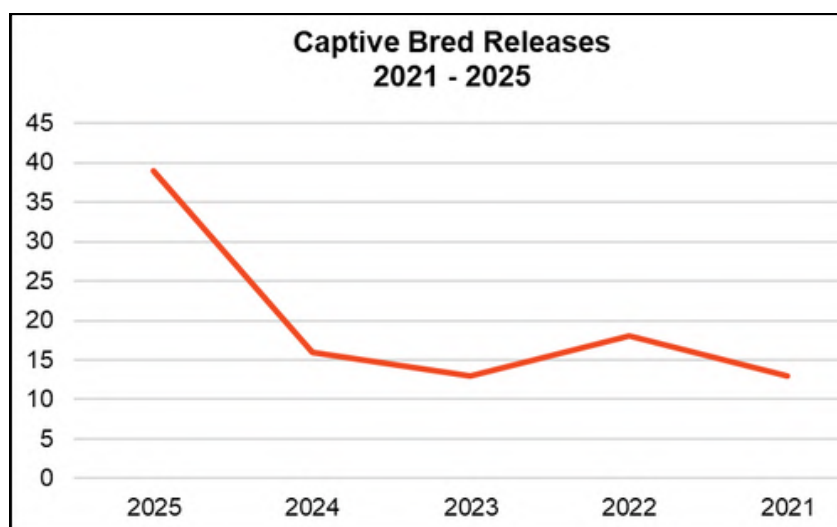
Vulpro is honoured to partner with Shamwari Private Game Reserve and SANBI / NBA; their shared dedication to our captive breeding programme is helping us rewrite the story of vulture conservation.

Post-Release Monitoring of Captive-Bred Vultures

Vulpro’s conservation efforts extend beyond captive breeding, emphasising the successful reintroduction of birds into wild populations. In 2025, a total of 39 Cape Vultures were released from Shamwari Private Game Reserve. Each bird was equipped with a GPS tracker, providing detailed information on post-release movements and survival, and allowing Vulpro to monitor their integration into wild foraging groups. This year’s release reflects a marked increase in output, demonstrating the effectiveness of both our breeding programme and pre-release conditioning protocols.

Captive-Bred Releases

Vulpro continues to release young vultures into the wild to supplement wild populations



Post-release telemetry data from our 2025 cohorts confirms that captive-bred vultures are seamlessly integrating into wild populations. Observations of these individuals roosting, socialising, and competing at carcasses alongside wild counterparts provide empirical evidence of their self-sufficiency. This successful transition is a vital indicator of long-term population viability, proving that our rewilding protocols are effectively bolstering the growth and stability of wild colonies.

Strengthening Our Impact: The Road to 2026

As we look toward 2026, Vulpro is moving from momentum to acceleration. Building on our proven breeding and release successes, we are scaling our operations to maximise every conservation outcome. Our strategy is clear. We will increase breeding productivity, expand our world class specialised facilities, and harness advanced monitoring to ensure every bird released doesn't just survive but thrives in the wild.

At the same time, we remain the frontline defence against the systemic threats of poisoning, powerline collisions, and human wildlife conflict. By bridging the gap between scientific innovation and community empowerment, we are ensuring that local people are no longer just spectators but the ultimate guardians of Africa’s vultures. Our mission continues until every vulture flies safely across an unthreatened sky.

Research and Scientific Contributions

Vulpro Monitoring Report 2025

Across Africa, vulture populations have plummeted by more than 80%, driven largely by poisoning, illegal trade, and hazardous energy infrastructure. To combat this crisis, Vulpro monitors critical breeding sites throughout southern Africa, gathering the essential data required for high-impact conservation. Our 2025 assessments of population health and breeding success reveal a complex landscape of hard-won progress and persistent challenges. This report offers our donors and partners a strategic overview of the current state of these species and the urgent interventions necessary to ensure their survival.

Monitoring Summary

- Surveys were conducted across multiple sites including the addition of multiple new sites in an effort to expand our monitoring activities: 20 sites across southern Africa.
- Notable trends were observed in cliff-nesting and tree-nesting sites, with both increases and declines in specific locations.

Survey Methods

- Monitoring took place at cliff and tree-nesting sites, with surveys conducted at least twice yearly.
- High-quality equipment was used for data collection (spotting scopes, cameras, drones).
- Surveys included walking, drone, and vehicle methods to ensure reliable data gathering.

Nesting Results

- 1,832 active Cape vulture nests, an increase from 1,463 in 2024 (representing approximately 39% of the global Cape vulture population).
- 201 active tree nests across over 20 properties, an increase from 139 in 2024.

Overall upward trend and expanded monitoring range:

- It is important to note that while the total number of active Cape Vulture nests has increased quite significantly since 2024, 278 active nests are accounted for by the monitoring of new sites in the Eastern Cape.





New sites were introduced, contributing to the expansion of monitoring efforts:

- **Eastern Cape Expansion:** The inclusion of 9 additional cliff nest monitoring sites since expansion began in 2024
- **Revisited Botswana Site:** Revisited for the first time since 2019

Breeding success varied across different sites, with some showing positive trends and others indicating potential concerns:

- Excluding new sites in the Eastern Cape and Botswana, the remaining provinces recorded 1,515 active nests are a 3.55% increase from 2024. This growth marks a recovery from the 6.75% decline observed between 2023 and 2024.
- Roedtan has experienced sharp decline of 73% from the previous year.

Conclusion

The 2025 monitoring data indicates a slight increase in some vulture populations, with variability in breeding success across monitored sites. New sites were successfully added to the programme, expanding our monitoring efforts. Vulpro will continue to focus on collecting and analysing data to guide targeted conservation actions, ensuring the ongoing survival of vulture species across southern Africa.

Cliff Breeding Vulture Surveys

Cape Vulture Colonies

Active nests were recorded across key sites, showing some increase from the 2024. These sites represent a sizeable portion of the global Cape Vulture population, highlighting their significance in the broader conservation efforts. Key trends suggest that continued monitoring is essential to assess the overall health of these populations and identify emerging threats, ensuring timely intervention when necessary to protect these vital species.

Breeding Site Performance

- The Ntlonze, Mountain Shadow and Kilchurn colonies all showed a slight increase of less than 4%.
- Soutpansberg showed a breeding success rate of 43%.
- Kransberg and Skeerpoort showing breeding success rates of 87% and 91%, respectively, relative to initial estimates which is a decline from 2024.

2025 Breeding Success Rates

Kransberg, Skeerpoort	Best-performing colony, Kransberg consistently reports high numbers, with notable peaks in 2019, 2023 and again in 2025.
Soutpansberg, Ntlonze, Kilchurn, Mountain Shadow	Increases across the board of varying degrees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ntlonze, Mountain Shadow and Kilchurn colonies all showed a slight increase of less than 4% in breeding success compared to estimates from the first annual visit.
Moletjie	Two confirmed chicks born in 2025 due to the critically low breeding population. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrounding threats: human development, habitat destruction, and poaching. • Urgent conservation is needed to prevent local extinction.

New Monitoring Site: Karmmelkspruit (Eastern Cape)

61 breeding pairs observed in 2024 and in 2025, 125 breeding pairs were observed at Karmmelkspruit, underscoring the site's significance for vulture conservation and the significance of the Eastern Cape region as a whole.

- New site added to expand monitoring reach and assess untracked populations.
- Significant for conservation, providing insights into previously overlooked areas.

Conclusion

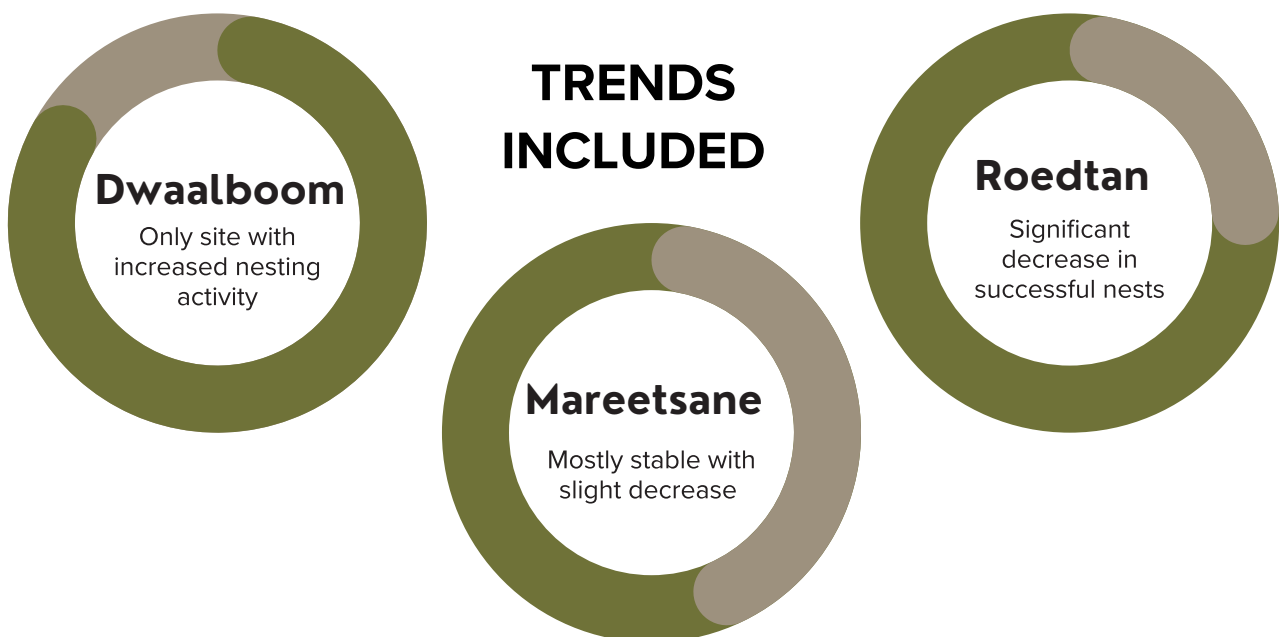
The 2025 data reveals a mix of challenges and opportunities for vulture conservation. Vulpro remains committed to enhancing monitoring and ensuring vulture survival across Africa.

Tree Nesting Vulture Surveys

White-backed, Lappet-faced, and Hooded Vultures

For over a decade, Vulpro has monitored tree-nesting vultures alongside cliff-nesting surveys. This includes the critically endangered White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*), endangered Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*), and critically endangered Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), all listed by the IUCN. Long-term monitoring sites, like Dwaalboom, Roedtan, and Mareetsane, have provided valuable insights into population trends.

Survey Results: Across over 20 properties, 201 tree nests were recorded.





Breeding Site Performance

- Roedtan: Successful nests decreased from 11 in 2024 to 3 in 2025, representing a sobering 73% decline.
- Mareetsane: Successful nests dropped from 57 in 2024 to 56 in 2025.
- Dwaalboom: Active nests increased from 73 in 2024 to 92 in 2025.

New Monitoring Site:

Steenbokpan, visited for the first time this year since 2016, surveys across 16 properties, including three new sites, recorded 38 active nests compared to 57 during the initial visit, reflecting a 33% decrease.

While some nest failures are expected due to factors such as predation or environmental conditions, new breeding activity was also observed on six previously unrecorded properties.

This finding demonstrates that the area continues to support important vulture populations.

Conclusion

This survey serves as a vital tool for proactive risk management of vulnerable tree nesting species.

- *The full monitoring report, containing detailed findings, is available upon request.*

The Importance of Long-Term Data Collection

Long-term breeding data is essential for understanding vulture population dynamics and identifying threats to breeding colonies. Vulpro uses data analysis and consultation with local landowners to prioritise conservation efforts in areas of greatest need.

Challenges in Data Collection and Monitoring

Vulpro overcame several operational hurdles this year through adaptability and persistence:

- Environmental Obstacles: Harsh sunlight and heavy rain hindered visibility and delayed drone-based monitoring.
- Logistical Strain: Rugged terrain, poor network coverage, and unreliable power disrupted field progress and equipment maintenance.
- Access & Interference: Land ownership changes and wildlife interactions required ongoing relationship management and situational flexibility.
- Despite these environmental and technical setbacks, the team maintained the continuity and effectiveness of their critical conservation efforts.



Tracking and Movement Research

Tracking devices provide critical data on vulture movement, behaviour, and habitat use, supporting all aspects of Vulpro’s conservation work, including research, monitoring, captive breeding, and rehabilitation. Data from these devices inform threat mitigation, programme evaluation, and regional conservation planning.

Current Active Tracker Statistics

- Total Active Trackers: 207 devices currently operational
- 2025 Deployment: 28 new units fitted, meeting planned targets with 100% accuracy
- Historical Growth (2019–2025): Cumulative total reflects all units deployed and maintained since programme inception

Species and Coverage

- Primary Species Monitored: Cape Vultures, African White-backed Vultures
- Tracked Individuals: Wild, rehabilitated, and captive-bred birds
- Geographical Range: Southern Africa (including Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe)
- Data Collected: Movement patterns, survival, dispersal, site fidelity

Applications and Insights

Threat Mitigation:

- Real-time alerts allow rapid response when birds stop moving, supporting early detection of poisoning events and other incidents.
- High-risk areas for powerline collisions and electrocutions are identified for targeted intervention.

Programme Evaluation:

- Data inform the effectiveness of captive-bred releases and rehabilitation efforts by tracking survival, behaviour, and integration into wild populations.

Research and Monitoring:

- Long-term movement data contribute to ecological studies, including investigations of climate impacts on nesting success and regional habitat use patterns.

Regional Conservation:

- Movement patterns highlight cross-border connectivity and emerging priority areas, supporting strategic conservation planning and collaboration.

The tracking programme provides a robust, evidence-based foundation for Vulpro’s conservation decision-making, delivering reliable data to safeguard vultures across southern Africa.

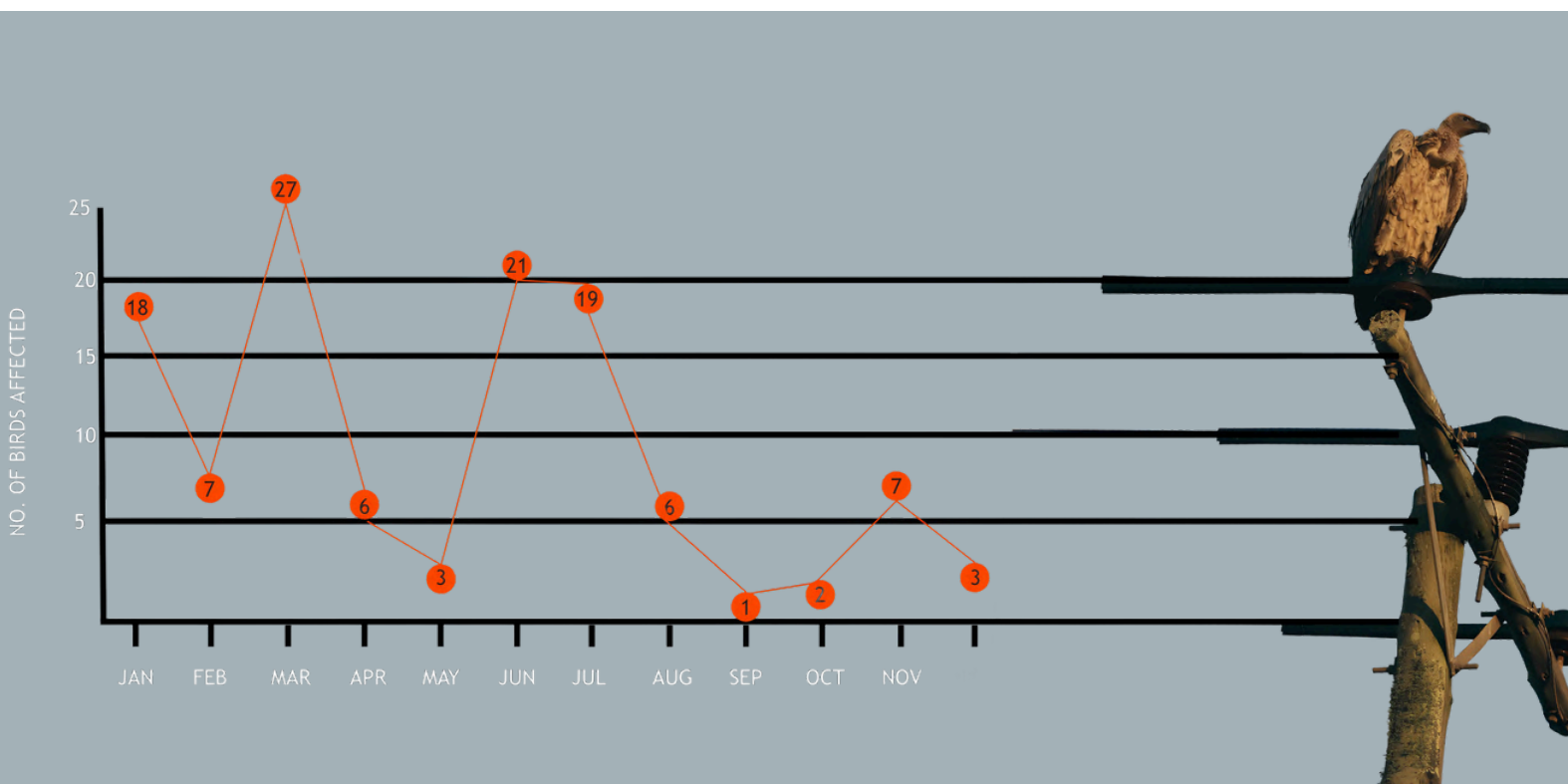
Power Line Fatalities

An Ongoing Challenge for Vulture Conservation

Power lines remain one of the greatest threats to vultures and other large birds in South Africa. A significant proportion of the birds Vulpro receives for rehabilitation are victims of power line collisions or electrocutions. These incidents are often fatal, and for survivors, injuries are frequently irreversible, requiring permanent residency at Vulpro. Affected birds either remain at the Hartbeespoort facility or are integrated into the breeding programme in the Eastern Cape.

Vultures, with their extensive flight ranges and preference for open landscapes for foraging and roosting, are particularly vulnerable to energy infrastructure, including power lines and wind turbines. Injuries from such incidents can range from burns to fractures and often demand intensive rehabilitation. Many of these injuries, however, are life-changing, preventing the birds from being released back into the wild.

In collaboration with Eskom and environmental consulting agencies, Vulpro continues to prioritise the identification and mitigation of hazardous power lines. Our approach combines educational outreach to raise awareness, collaboration on Environmental Impact Assessments to safeguard critical habitats, and advocacy for safer energy infrastructure. While these efforts have resulted in important interventions, available data indicates that progress in reducing power line-related threats remains gradual.

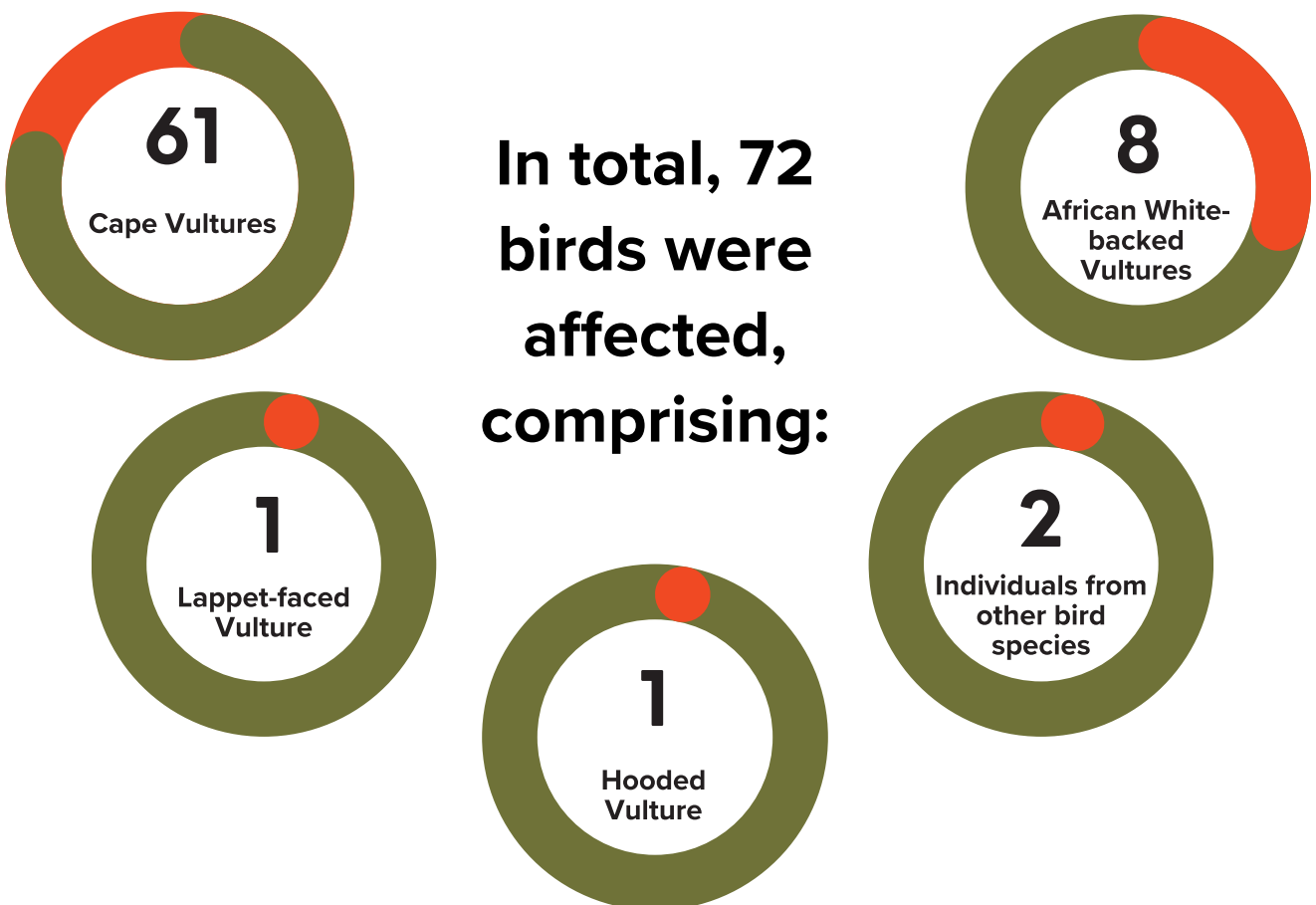


2025

Overview

In 2025, Vulpro recorded 72 power line incidents, representing a notable increase from the 48 incidents documented in 2024. Of these, 10 cases were resolved through successful mitigation efforts, 22 remain active pending the physical implementation of interventions, and one case is awaiting formal recommendations. Each reported incident is submitted to Eskom, and Vulpro maintains regular follow-ups to provide actionable recommendations and ensure ongoing progress is monitored.

These incidents involved a total of 72 birds, comprising the following:



Despite these figures, they represent only a fraction of the true impact, as many incidents remain unreported. Given the extensive network of power lines across vast and remote areas, the scale of the issue is likely to be considerably greater.

Historical Data

2012 -2025

Yearly Trends (2012–2025)							
Year	Cape Vultures	African White-backed Vultures	Hooded Vulture	Lappet-faced Vultures	Unknown Vulture Carcasses	Other Species	Total Birds
2012	3	0	0	0	0	4	7
2013	17	15	0	0	1	7	40
2014	49	7	0	1	0	14	71
2015	62	4	0	1	0	15	82
2016	57	5	0	0	1	34	97
2017	99	1	0	3	1	14	118
2018	60	12	0	0	0	1	73
2019	50	16	0	2	0	13	81
2020	68	6	0	1	0	28	103
2021	59	8	0	0	0	18	85
2022	34	7	0	0	2	49	92
2023	56	7	0	1	0	2	66
2024	61	8	0	1	0	2	72
2025	81	32	1	1	0	2	117

Energy Infrastructure Collisions and Electrocutions

The ongoing expansion of renewable energy developments and associated infrastructure across southern Africa continues to present increasing challenges for vulture conservation. Wind turbines and power lines pose significant risks to vultures as they move across vast landscapes, often resulting in serious injuries such as fractures, internal trauma, and electrocution. Electrocution typically occurs when a bird comes into contact with two live wires, or a live wire and an earthed structure, frequently leading to immediate death or fatal injuries.

For vultures that survive these incidents, rehabilitation and veterinary intervention are essential. Vulpro’s veterinary clinic is equipped to manage many cases in-house, reducing the stress of transporting injured birds. In more severe cases, Vulpro works in collaboration with the University of Pretoria’s Faculty of Veterinary Science, where specialised veterinary care supports advanced treatment. Where injuries are irreversible and amputation is required, affected birds may be incorporated into Vulpro’s captive breeding programme, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to the long-term conservation of their species.



Mitigation Efforts: A Collaborative Approach

Reducing the risks posed by energy infrastructure remains a key priority for Vulpro, in collaboration with Eskom and other partners. Power lines continue to represent a significant threat to vultures through collisions and electrocutions, making mitigation interventions essential for the long-term survival of wild populations. Encouraging progress has been made at Shamwari Private Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape, where Eskom has implemented important mitigation measures, including power line insulation and the installation of bird flight diverters. These actions contribute to reducing risk and improving safety for vultures and other wildlife species within the region.

Vulpro continues to apply a multi-faceted mitigation approach through education and awareness initiatives, engagement in Environmental Impact Assessments to protect critical habitats, advocacy for safer energy infrastructure, and the reporting of power line incidents to ensure appropriate corrective action is taken

By combining rescue efforts with research, education, and advocacy, Vulpro remains committed to reducing human-related threats to vultures. However, continued collaboration and strengthened action are still urgently required, and Vulpro calls on government authorities, energy providers, and conservation organisations to accelerate efforts to address the growing pressures posed by energy infrastructure.

While on-the-ground mitigation remains essential for reducing current risks, Vulpro also prioritises preventing new threats through early engagement in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, ensuring vulture sensitivity is considered before developments are approved.





Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) Infrastructure Risk Mitigation for Vultures

Vulpro plays a vital role in South Africa’s Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process by providing specialist technical input on developments that may pose risks to vulture populations. Through early-stage engagement, Vulpro helps ensure that potential impacts are identified in advance and addressed through appropriate avoidance measures, project redesign, or effective mitigation.

As renewable energy infrastructure continues to expand across the country, Vulpro’s involvement in protecting key flight corridors, nesting areas, and foraging landscapes remains increasingly important.

2025 Highlights

- **Review Volume:** Vulpro provided expert input for 47 EIA reviews by mid-year, a further 45 in Q4, and 49 during the first quarter of 2026.
- **Sector Focus:** Assessments largely related to wind energy facilities, solar developments, electrical grid infrastructure, and proposed powerline routes.
- **Strategic Flagships:** Targeted interventions were undertaken for high-priority projects, including the Berlin Wind Energy Facility (Eastern Cape) and the Verkykskop Wind Energy Facility Cluster (Free State), due to their scale and proximity to key vulture activity areas.

Key Trends and Risks

- **Cumulative Impact:** Increased clustering of developments in ecologically sensitive regions, alongside expanding grid infrastructure near active feeding sites in areas such as Polokwane and Bela Bela, continues to elevate collision and displacement risks.
- **Geographic Shifts:** Accelerated expansion into the Northern Cape presents growing threats to African White-backed and Lappet-faced Vulture populations, further compounded by limited regional baseline data and reporting gaps.

Vulpro’s Strategic Response

- Vulpro continues to advocate for responsible and low-risk siting, with early engagement across all stages of the EIA process remaining central to our approach.
- Through collaboration with consultants, government stakeholders, and the public, Vulpro promotes avoidance as the primary safeguard, supported by strong mitigation recommendations and ongoing monitoring requirements.
- To support timely reporting and engagement, stakeholders are encouraged to contact Vulpro via energy@vulpro.com.

2025 EIA Statistics	
Metric	2025 Total
EIAs reviewed	141
High-risk species monitored	3 (Cape, White-backed, Lappet-faced)
Flagged high-risk projects	2 (Berlin WEF & Verkykskop Cluster)
Regions of concern	Eastern Cape, Free State, Limpopo, Northern Cape



Education, Outreach and Media Impact



Raising Awareness

Education, Outreach, and Media Impact in 2025

Community Stewardship and Educational Outreach

Vulpro transitioned from passive observation to active community guardianship. By bridging the gap between scientific research and public engagement, we reached record numbers of stakeholders. Our strategy focused on addressing the "silent loss" of Africa's vultures by fostering an emotional connection to nature and empowering local communities to preserve biodiversity.

School and Community Programmes: Off-Site Impact

The cornerstone of our outreach is our off-site education programme, which reached 3,256 participants in 2025. These initiatives are vital for building knowledge in areas where communities live alongside critical vulture habitats. Highlights include:

- *Regional School Outreach:* Structured sessions in Blouberg at Boikhutsho Primary, Marumofase Secondary, and Maboi Primary Schools engaged 340 learners, creating a new generation of vulture ambassadors.
- *Vulture Club and Resources:* We established the Vulpro Vulture Club at the Makuleke Cultural Centre and utilised the PACE Vulture Resource Workbook to ensure our educational message reached both English and Lusophone communities.
- *Advocacy in Action:* In addition to school visits, we delivered off-site presentations to 248 participants, directly addressing human wildlife conflict and reporting practices.

Volunteer Engagement: The Foundation of Operations

Volunteers remain central to Vulpro's ability to scale its conservation efforts. In 2025, our mission was bolstered by a dedicated network of supporters who provided essential manpower for both daily operations and community engagement:

- *Local Volunteers:* 752 individuals from the surrounding areas contributed their time and skills to support our mission.
- *Resident Volunteers:* 8 long term volunteers lived on-site, providing critical support for rehabilitation and daily facility management.

On-Site Engagement and Immersive Education

Our centres served as vital hubs for hands-on conservation, allowing visitors to connect emotionally with these species. In 2025, on-site engagement reached a significant audience through various interactive formats:

- *On-Site Presentations:* We hosted 1,603 participants for specialised talks, making this our primary method of on-site educational delivery.
- *Immersive Tours and Visits:* Beyond presentations, we conducted tours for 399 visitors, provided 91 on-site education sessions, and hosted 15 hide visits for close up observation.

Through these combined efforts, Vulpro has successfully converted public curiosity into a robust network of informed supporters, ensuring our conservation mission is carried forward by the communities most vital to the vultures' survival.



Quarterly Participation by Programme Type				
Quarter	On-Site Education	Off-Site Education	Guided Tours	Hide Visits
Q1	78	651	114	9
Q2	186	1,328	125	2
Q3	309	1,042	26	4
Q4	142	263	50	0

Events and Special Initiatives: Combining Education with Engagement

Community events and workshops enabled Vulpro to bridge the gap between theoretical conservation and active public participation. These forums encouraged meaningful dialogue, strengthened cross sector partnerships, and highlighted the indispensable role of local communities in protecting vulture populations. Notable initiatives in 2025 included:

- *World Wildlife Day Soccer Tournament, Paterson*: Approximately 250 participants engaged in this event, which successfully blended sport with conservation education to reach a diverse local demographic.
- *Farming and Conservation Workshop, Shamwari*: Attended by 60 delegates, including farmers and conservancy representatives, this session focused on mitigating human wildlife conflict and promoting sustainable, bird friendly agricultural solutions.

Volunteer Engagement: Extending Our Conservation Footprint

Volunteers remain central to the operational success and outreach capacity of Vulpro. In 2025, our mission was supported by 15 resident volunteers and over 450 local day volunteers. These individuals contributed significantly to daily operations, education, and community engagement, effectively extending our conservation message into broader society. Their dedication directly supports both on site and off site programmes, providing the essential manpower required to maintain our high standards of care and advocacy.

Training and Capacity Building: Developing Future Professionals

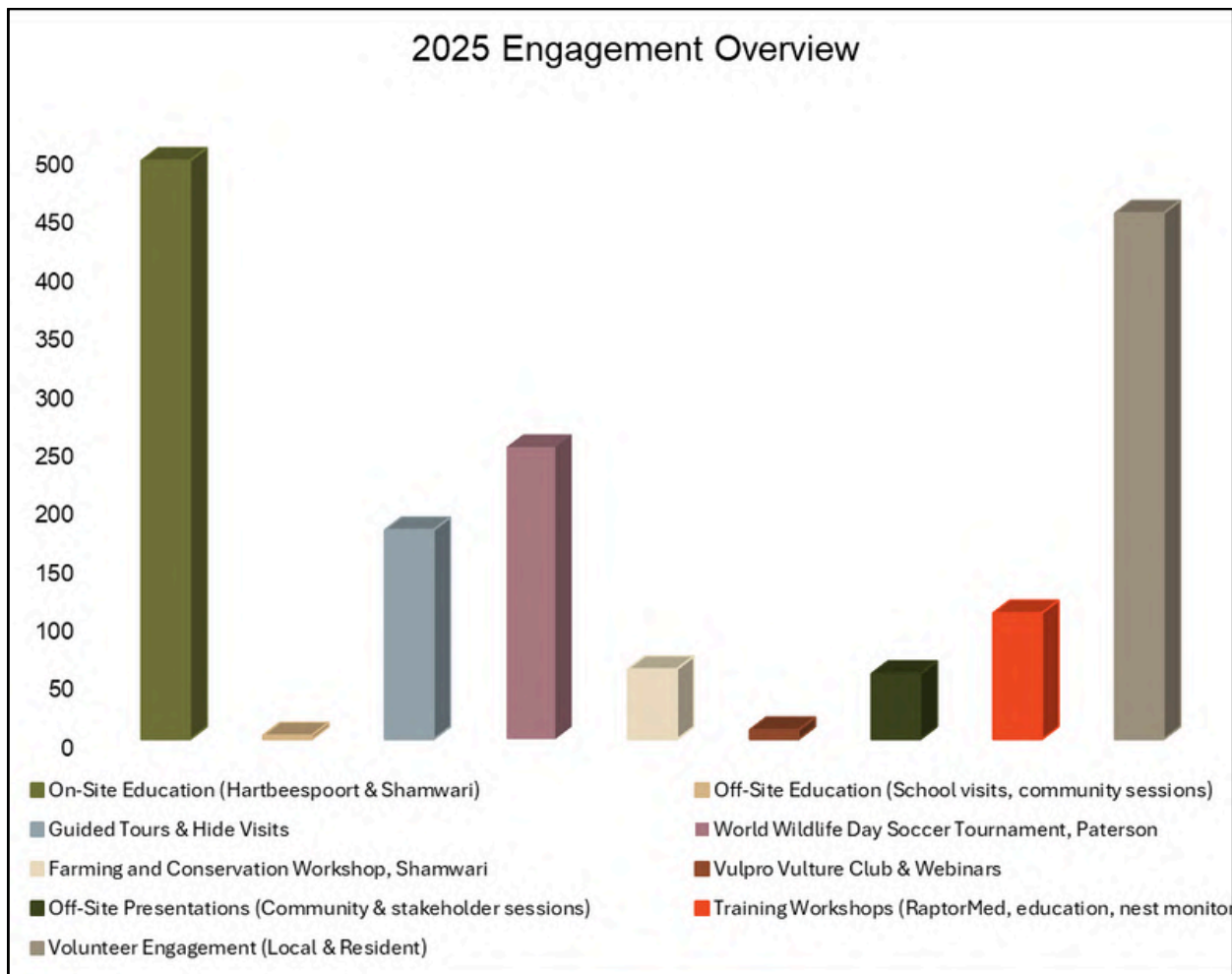
Vulpro prioritised the development of the next generation of conservation professionals through intensive workshops and practical training. In 2025, over 100 participants, including international veterinary students, African wildlife veterinarians, and community representatives, received specialised training in vulture rehabilitation, nest monitoring, and threat mitigation. By combining theoretical knowledge with practical field based learning, these sessions have strengthened local and regional capacity, ensuring sustainable conservation outcomes for the future.

Landowner and Community Engagement: A Model for Grassroots Stewardship

In 2025, Vulpro’s outreach initiatives reached over 3,000 community beneficiaries, reflecting a strategic move toward inclusive, community-led conservation. This engagement has successfully cultivated local stewardship, transforming landowners and rural residents into active guardians of their local biodiversity.

By establishing high levels of trust within the agricultural sector, Vulpro has integrated landowners into our formal monitoring network. This collaboration currently encompasses 189 active nests across more than 30 private properties in high priority regions such as Dwaalboom, Mareetsane, and Boshof. These partners are now essential for the real-time reporting of threats and the safeguarding of nests during sensitive breeding cycles.

This grassroots involvement ensures that our conservation outcomes are both sustainable and practical. By converting public awareness into tangible on the ground protection, we have created a robust security network for vultures that operates far beyond the boundaries of formal reserves.





Media and Global Reach: Amplifying Conservation Impact

In 2025, Vulpro strengthened its national and international media presence by using strategic communication to raise awareness of vulture conservation, highlight urgent threats, and reinforce the ecological importance of these endangered scavengers.

Media served as our most powerful tool for advocacy in 2025, highlighting both the successes of our breeding programmes and the urgent requirement for safer energy infrastructure. Through strategic engagement, Vulpro amplified its conservation message to global audiences, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for vulture protection across diverse stakeholders and verifying the impact of our donors' investment.

Rapid Response Advocacy

In May 2025, Vulpro's communication infrastructure was tested by two catastrophic vulture poisoning events. On 6 May, an incident in Kruger National Park claimed 123 vultures, followed by a second event on 18 May in Mpumalanga where 102 vultures were killed, including 92 White-backed and 9 Hooded Vultures.

Vulpro's GPS tracking data allowed our team to locate the scenes immediately, and our subsequent media coverage prompted a national call for a government led poisoning working group. Online reporting of these events reached an estimated 3.5 million unique users, demonstrating the power of rapid response media in driving conservation policy and public transparency.

Global Recognition and High Impact Stories

Vulpro's digital storytelling captured international attention through several key milestones that showcased our conservation successes. The Heritage Day hatching of a Critically Endangered Lappet faced Vulture at Shamwari became a viral success, featured in African Birdlife and South Africa Good News, symbolising hope for a species with only 180 breeding pairs remaining in the wild.

Other significant stories, including the historic relocation of 160 vultures to the Eastern Cape and the Return of the Cape Vulture, were featured by global outlets such as Mongabay and The Good Things Guy. These placements extended Vulpro's reach and ensured that our mission to Rewrite the Story of Africa's vultures was shared with a worldwide audience.

Strategic Media Growth

Vulpro's media footprint grew substantially in 2025, reflecting a deliberate strategic pivot towards digital and online platforms while maintaining vital print media for local advocacy. This growth is evidenced by our increased engagement metrics and our ability to turn urgent threats into national dialogues, ensuring that the conservation of vultures remains a priority for both the public and policymakers.



Media Reach Overview: 2024 vs 2025

Media Channel	2024 Total	2025 Total	Year-on-Year Growth	Primary Impact Area
Online News & Digital	82 Articles	148 Articles	80%	Global reach & crisis alerts
Print Media	18 Features	24 Features	33%	Landowner & farmer trust
Radio & Podcasts	12 Interviews	21 Interviews	75%	National advocacy & awareness
Social Media Reach	~450,000	~1,200,000	166%	Viral conservation milestones

Targeted Outreach: Digital and Print Advocacy

In 2025, Vulpro's outreach strategy focused on accessibility and transparency, ensuring that our conservation progress was visible to both global stakeholders and local land managers. By tailoring our communication to specific audiences, we have ensured that donor support is translated into measurable awareness and on the ground action.

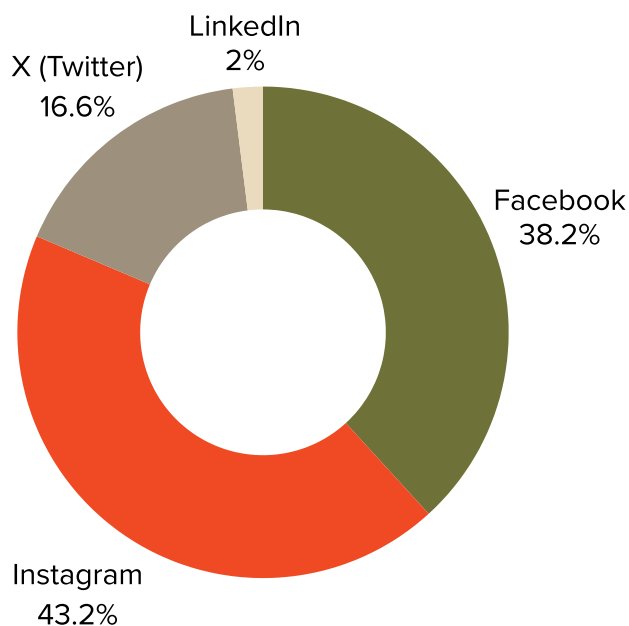
Digital Advocacy and Social Media

Social media has become a cornerstone for both transparency and real time advocacy. Our platforms enabled Vulpro to share urgent updates, celebrate milestones, and engage stakeholders worldwide. These platforms allowed Vulpro to convert awareness into action, inspiring communities, donors, and conservation partners to protect Africa's vultures.

In 2025, total digital engagement surpassed 155,000 interactions, representing a 29% increase from 2024. our platform specific reach includes:

- Facebook: 42,500 followers focusing on community support and rescue updates.
- Instagram: 48,000 followers dedicated to visual storytelling and breeding milestones.
- X (Twitter): 18,500 followers utilised for policy advocacy and rapid news.
- LinkedIn: 2,200 followers engaging the academic and professional networking circles

Social Media Followers

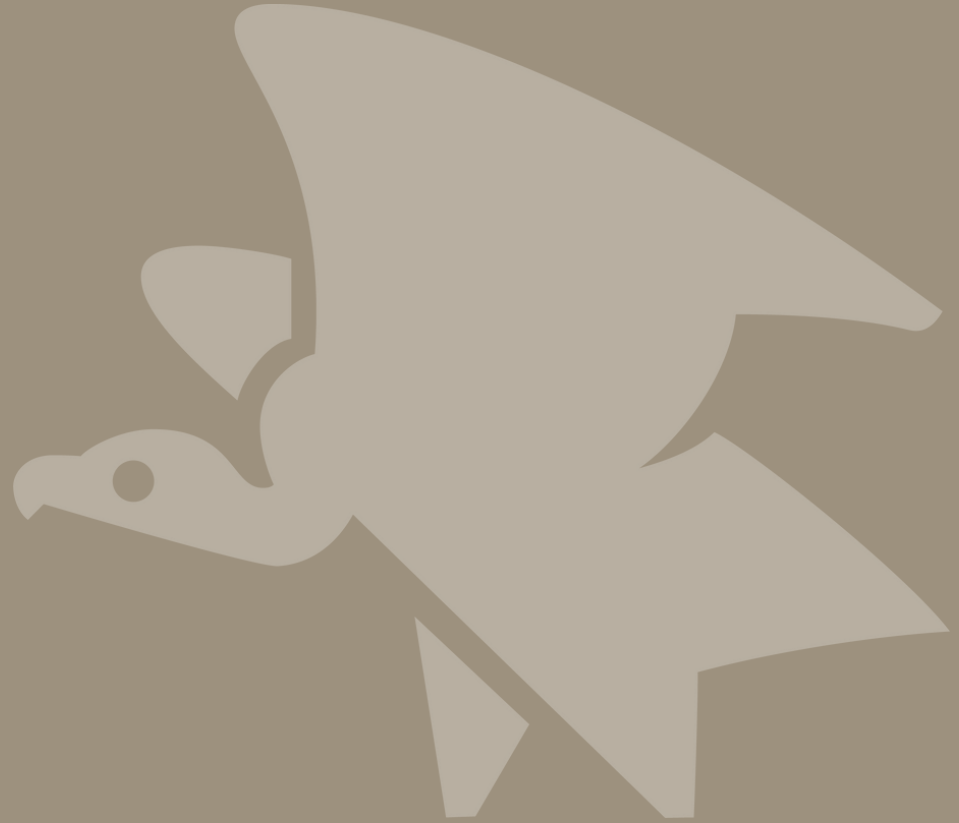


Print Media for Local Advocacy

Print media continues to play a vital role in reaching farmers, landowners, and rural communities who may be less active online. Features in local newspapers and specialist magazines such as African Birdlife focused on sustainable carcass management, reporting powerline incidents, and using the PACE Vulture Resource Workbook to support education. This ensured that key messages were accessible, enduring, and actionable for those directly managing critical vulture habitats.

Conclusion

In 2025, Vulpro harnessed the power of strategic media to Rewrite the Story of Africa’s vultures. By leveraging digital, print, and broadcast channels, we transitioned from passive observation to active advocacy, turning localised threats into national dialogues. These efforts have verified the critical role vultures play in safeguarding our ecosystems and have strengthened the public and professional support necessary for their survival. For Vulpro, media is more than communication; it is a catalyst for accountability and tangible conservation outcomes, ensuring that every resource is directed toward protecting these iconic birds for generations to come.



Scientific and Peer- Reviewed Publications

Scientific and Peer-Reviewed Publications

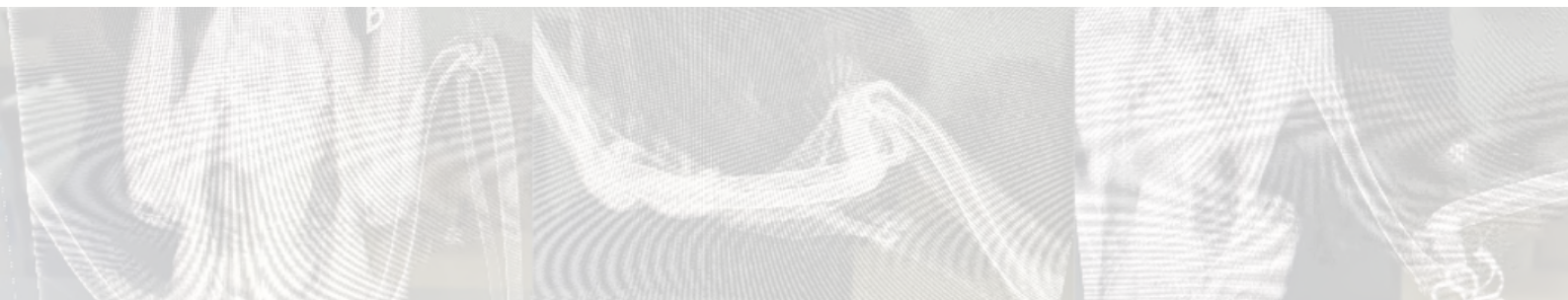
Scientific research remains central to Vulpro’s work. Through peer-reviewed publications and collaboration with leading academic and conservation institutions, our team advances understanding of vulture ecology, behaviour, health, movement, and threats. This knowledge directly informs conservation strategies, mitigates human-wildlife conflict, and ensures all actions are evidence-based, reinforcing Vulpro’s global leadership in vulture research.

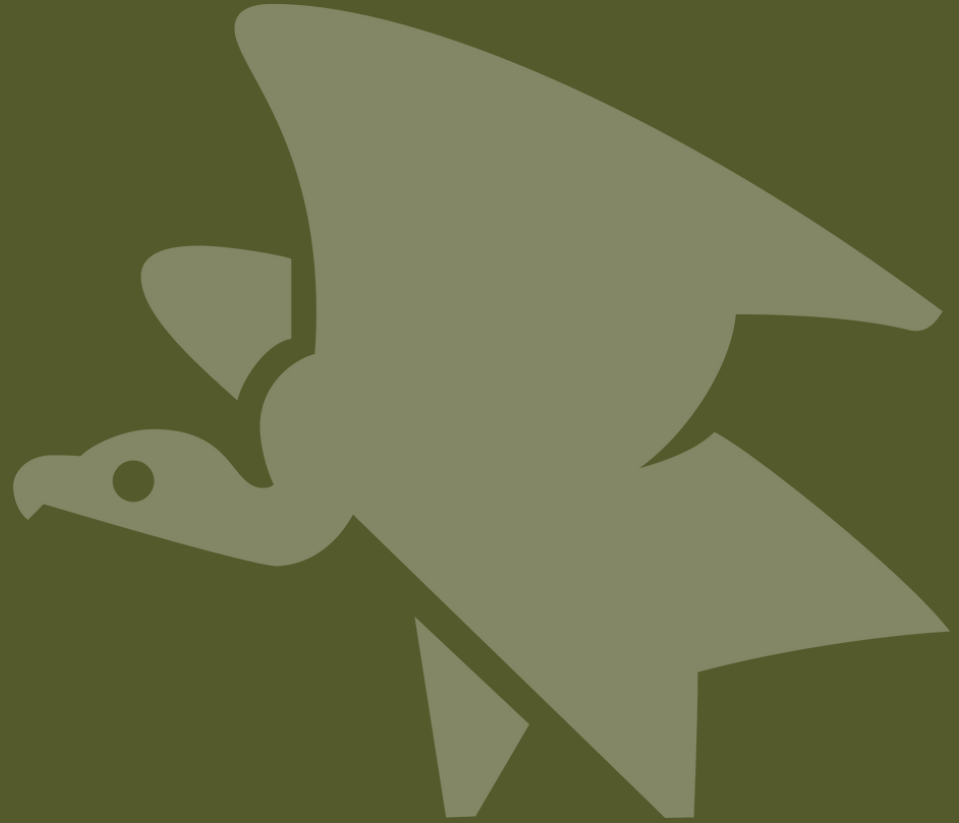
2025 Publication Highlights

- Pilcella, S., Wolter, K., Pinto, J., Kuhn, B. and Fielder, W. (in review). Causes of mortality and survival probabilities of a small population of Cape vultures (*Gyps coprotheres*) in north-western South Africa, using data obtained from GPS tracking devices. Ostrich.
- Wolter, K., Hannweg, C.G., & du Plessis, L. (2025). Vultures on the Brink: Understanding climate change’s impact on Africa’s essential scavengers. Daily Maverick/Science Research Series.
- Hannweg, C.G. et al. (In progress). Assessing the effects of thermal factors on the spatial ecology of a Critically Endangered African vulture. (Collaborative research with the University of Pretoria and Max Planck Institute).

Current Submissions (2025): 4 Manuscripts currently in peer review or preparation.

Building on its pioneering research in vulture toxicology and veterinary care, Vulpro will continue to advance conservation, translating knowledge into action to safeguard the species’ future.





Organisational and Financial Overview



Organisational Leadership and Operational Overview

Governance and Organisational Structure

Vulpro’s governance framework ensures the effective delivery of our mission to safeguard and conserve vulture species. A committed board of directors provides strategic oversight, informed by regular reviews and performance monitoring, to keep day-to-day operations and long-term initiatives aligned with our mission and values. Working closely with the executive team, the board upholds accountability, compliance, and best practice across all programmes, strengthening trust with partners, funders, and stakeholders. This collaborative approach allows Vulpro to remain focused on achieving measurable conservation outcomes while responding effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities in vulture protection.

The Directors of Vulpro for 2025 are:

Name	Role	Since
Prof. Vinny Naidoo	Director	2013
Magda Kets	Director	2019
Craig Nattrass	Director	2017
Prof. Katja Koeppel	Director	2022
Dr. Gerhard Verdoorn	Chairman	2022
Kerri Wolter	CEO & Founder	2011



Team Members

Vulpro's successes are made possible by the passion and expertise of our team. Each team member brings vital skills that support the organisation's conservation work, both through hands-on field efforts and strategic roles.

Name	Position	Employment Type
Kerri Wolter	CEO	Full-time salaried
Alistair Sinclair	General Manager	Full-time salaried
Obert Phiri	Operations Manager	Full-time salaried
Devilliers Baint Disi	Deputy General Operational Assistant	Full-time salaried
Clarence Mabasa	Operations and Field Assistant	Full-time salaried
Nadia Opperman	General Supervisor	Full-time salaried
Notice Phiri	Head Driver and Maintenance	Full-time salaried
Shelton Mathe	Vehicle Manager and Maintenance Assistant	Full-time salaried
Anesu Chauke	General Bird Assistant	Full-time salaried
Gerald Mateza	Facility Assistant	Full-time salaried
Takadzwa Katsukunya	Facility Assistant	Full-time salaried
Kate Webster	Eastern Cape Representative & Fieldworker	Associate
Meagan Bronfield	Renewable Energy Consultant	Consultant
Tracy Karam	Branding, Marketing and Outreach	Full-time salaried
Jamie Venter	Communications Officer	Full-time salaried
Phillipine Makhubela	Education and Community Outreach Intern	Full-time salaried
Esther Mapope	Front line Officer	Full-time salaried
Elizabeth Mosupi	Housekeeping	Part-time salaried





Training and Capacity Building: Enhancing Operational Expertise

In 2025, Vulpro continued to prioritise professional development and skill acquisition across its entire workforce. By combining immersive field experience with structured mentorship, the organisation ensured that staff and volunteers attained the high levels of expertise required for complex vulture rescue, rehabilitation, and clinical care.

Daily participation in medical treatments and field rescues provides essential on the job learning, while specialised internships offer targeted professional growth. A notable example includes Philippine, from the Blouberg region, who gained intensive experience at the Hartbeespoort facility under the direct supervision of Vulpro management. Furthermore, operational safety was bolstered through specialized Defender vehicle training, generously sponsored by Defender, ensuring that rescue teams can navigate challenging terrains safely and effectively. These initiatives collectively strengthen our internal capabilities and directly enhance the measurable impact of our conservation programmes.

Organisational Culture: Well-being, Diversity, and Inclusion

Vulpro remains committed to fostering a professional environment where staff, volunteers, and partners are valued for their unique contributions. In 2025, we continued to promote a culture of collaboration and ethical conduct, recognising that our team's diverse backgrounds and perspectives are fundamental to our success.

This diversity enriches our conservation strategies and brings a multifaceted approach to problem solving. Through an established open door policy and a commitment to constructive dialogue, Vulpro ensures that all team members can contribute to our mission in a space defined by inclusion and equal opportunity. By navigating cultural differences with respect and transparency, we reinforce the social foundation necessary for impactful and enduring conservation outcomes.

Achievements and Recognition: A Legacy of Excellence

While 2025 was defined by operational consistency rather than formal accolades, Vulpro's influence within the global conservation sector remained significant. Our ongoing excellence in captive breeding, rehabilitation, and community advocacy continues to set a benchmark for the protection of endangered scavengers.

The expertise and dedication of the Vulpro team remain our most vital assets, ensuring that we continue to earn the trust and respect of international conservation bodies. This ongoing recognition is a testament to the consistency of our work and our essential role in safeguarding Africa's vultures and their critical habitats.

Strategic Partnerships and Future Growth

As we look toward the future, Vulpro's expansion will be driven by strategic collaborations and the targeted recruitment of specialised personnel. Our future staffing framework includes the integration of dedicated rescue volunteers and the expansion of our internship programme to bolster educational initiatives in rural communities. These roles will be central to sustaining our conservation momentum and ensuring the long term survival of the species we are pledged to protect.



Administrative & Operational Overview

Throughout 2025, Vulpro’s operational focus remained on the efficient and meticulous delivery of our core conservation initiatives. The activities detailed below represent the essential logistical and administrative tasks undertaken across South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe to sustain the organisation’s captive breeding, rescue, rehabilitation, and educational programmes.

Every operational facet required rigorous planning and cross border coordination to ensure both the safety of the avian populations under our care and the maximum effectiveness of our field interventions. The following table provides a comprehensive summary of these key activities, detailing their specific objectives and their critical contributions to the broader mission of vulture conservation in Southern Africa.

Key Activity	Description
Vulture Carcass Collection	Timely collection of vulture carcasses for mortality analysis and use as a food source for vultures undergoing rehabilitation.
Rescue and Rehabilitation	Transporting injured or poisoned vultures to the rehabilitation centre for treatment and ongoing care.
Bird Release	Releasing rehabilitated vultures back into the wild within suitable and monitored habitats.
Captive Breeding	Managing breeding within the reserve, including regular monitoring and providing care to support reproduction, parents and chicks.
Educational Outreach	Fieldwork, talks, and training initiatives aimed at raising awareness and strengthening conservation knowledge.
Training	Practical training provided to staff, volunteers, and community members.
Monitoring, Surveys	Conducting field surveys and vulture population monitoring,
Conferences and Meetings	Participation in conferences and meetings to strengthen collaborations, share research findings, and discuss conservation strategies.
Ground Truthing for Bird Monitoring	Locating and monitoring at-risk vultures in the field to enable early detection and prompt intervention.
Power Line Investigations	Investigating and addressing risks posed to vultures by power line infrastructure.
Transport for Veterinary Services	Coordinating the safe transport of vultures to veterinary services and maintaining vehicles to ensure operational readiness.



Operational Data

Detail	Information
NPC Registration Number	2011/127419/08
Tax Number	9888246155
VAT Number	4240308793
PBO Number	930038988





Financial Overview

Vulpro's financial stability is supported by the ongoing commitment of institutional funders, corporate partners, philanthropic foundations, and individual donors. These contributions provide the necessary capital to sustain operations and support the expansion of our conservation activities across southern Africa.

In 2025, funding was sourced from a diversified mix of direct financial contributions and in-kind support. This multi-channel approach enables Vulpro to meet strategic conservation objectives and cover the substantial costs associated with specialised veterinary care, long-distance vulture relocations, field monitoring, and captive breeding operations.

International donations, material support, and cross-border partnerships continue to play an important role, helping mitigate local economic pressures and supporting long-term planning. Internal revenue streams, including sponsorship programmes, adoption initiatives, and cost recovery services, further strengthen operational stability and reduce dependence on external funding.

Financial Oversight and Governance

Vulpro maintains a structured financial oversight and governance framework to ensure fiscal discipline, transparency, and operational efficiency. The financial strategy focuses on prudent reserve management, conservative asset allocation, and careful cash flow planning. These measures have maintained stability despite rising veterinary and feed costs and general inflation.

Internal controls and expense management practices were strengthened in 2025. All expenditures are assessed to ensure they directly support core conservation activities and long-term sustainability. Procurement processes, supplier engagements, and project budgets are reviewed regularly to ensure effective use of donor-funded resources. Monthly financial reviews enable proactive decision-making and adjustments to funding allocations, ensuring operational resources are deployed efficiently.

Vulpro's investment portfolio is conservatively managed, with returns reinvested into infrastructure, rehabilitation, and research initiatives. This approach maintains adequate reserves to manage periods of financial uncertainty while supporting capital projects and long-term planning. Audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting and regulatory requirements and are available to stakeholders on request. Oversight by the Board of Directors ensures compliance with South African NPO, PBO, and Section 18A regulations, reinforcing Vulpro's commitment to transparency and good governance.



Operational Sustainability and Outlook

Entering its 19th year, Vulpro remains committed to long-term sustainability through continued investment in infrastructure, human capital, and responsible governance. The organisation's model ensures consistent delivery of high-impact conservation services while maintaining resilience to environmental and economic challenges.

The Board provides strategic direction, ensures statutory compliance, and maintains accountability. Regular reviews of operational processes, risk controls, and conservation priorities enable proactive adaptation to changing funding patterns, emerging environmental threats, and evolving regulatory requirements.

A key focus for 2026 is the continued diversification of donor and partner networks, both locally and internationally. Broadening support reduces concentration risk, strengthens financial stability, and enhances Vulpro's capacity to expand research, rescue, rehabilitation, breeding, and advocacy activities. International collaborations provide access to specialised expertise, equipment, and conservation partnerships that increase impact.

Operational priorities for the coming year include:

- Expanding captive breeding capacity to counter declines in wild vulture populations.
- Upgrading infrastructure, including rehabilitation facilities, aviaries, and monitoring equipment.
- Strengthening field research and monitoring to improve survival outcomes and track released birds.
- Maintaining community engagement and anti-poisoning initiatives to mitigate human-induced threats.
- Building partnerships with landowners and farmers to support coordinated conservation efforts, promote safe land management, and raise awareness of vultures' ecological role.
- Securing long-term funding to support capital projects, operational growth, and sustainability of Vulpro's programmes.

Vulpro remains dedicated to responsible stewardship of resources and the sustainable expansion of its conservation impact. With continued donor support and strategic investment, the organisation is well positioned to meet future challenges and safeguard vulture species for generations to come.

Acknowledgements

We thank Shamwari for their partnership, which has supported two years of successful vulture reintroductions in the Eastern Cape. We are also grateful to our donors, funding partners, and collaborators, as well as individuals who recognise the ecological importance of vultures. Their support enables Vulpro to maintain and expand its conservation work and advance its long-term strategic priorities.



Acknowledgments and Supporters



SPONSORS

PLATINUM

- *Defender*
- *Shamwari Private Game Reserve*
- *Tusk Trust*

GOLD

- *DHL*
- *Ford Wildlife Foundation*
- *Nashville Zoo*
- *Olsen Animal Trust*
- *Zoo Zlin/Lesna*

SILVER

- *Abraham Foundation*
- *Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park*
- *Cheyenne Mountain Zoo*
- *Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden*
- *Colchester Zoo*
- *Dallas Zoo*
- *Detroit Zoo*
- *Different Foundation*
- *Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust*
- *Fort Wayne Children's Zoo*
- *Hair of the Dog Conservation Fund*
- *Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust*
- *Humane World for Animals*
- *Ingrid and Rudi Gerlo*
- *Jacksonville Zoo*
- *Max Planck Institute*
- *National Center for Birds of Prey*
- *Natural Encounters Conservation*
- *Roc Conservation Tech*
- *San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance*
- *Wilhelma Zoologisch BotanischerGarten Stuttgart Zoo*



BRONZE

- *Animal Survival International*
- *Bateleurs*
- *David L Tandy Foundation*
- *Gauntlet Conservation Trust*
- *Greenville Zoo*
- *IDEA WILD*
- *IT Ex Gracia*
- *Lincoln Children's Zoo*
- *Little Rock Zoo*
- *Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust*
- *Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo*
- *Rheinmetall Denel Munition (RDM)*
- *Sophie Danforth Award – Roger Williams Zoo*
- *St Augustine Alligator Farm*
- *The International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators*
- *Tulsa Zoo*
- *World Bird Sanctuary*
- *Zoo Miami Wildlife Conservation Fund*

BLUE

- *Akron Zoo*
- *Centurion Systems*
- *Cybercom*
- *Darwin Chambers*
- *Design Dragons*
- *Duxbury Networking*
- *GHB Farms (Pty) Ltd*
- *Longside Piggery*
- *National Aviary*
- *R&R Abattoir*
- *Suffolk Owl Sanctuary*
- *Summerplace Game Reserve*
- *Veterinary Conservation Coalition*
- *Wan4U*



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- Rowan and Jeremy Welcome
- SA Hunters (SAHGCA) Tembo branch
- Sarel Venter
- Sascha Winninger (for Julie Edgley)
- Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
- Terri Tucker

Strategic Partnerships: Adoption Partners and Sponsors

The achievements documented throughout this report are a direct result of the steadfast commitment of our sponsors, partners, and adopters. These collaborations represent more than financial support; they are a strategic alliance dedicated to converting awareness into large-scale ecological resilience. By investing in Vulpro, our partners ensure a measurable future for Africa's vultures and the vital ecosystems they underpin.

Each contribution serves as a vital investment in the protection of a sentinel species and the preservation of our shared natural heritage. It is through these enduring relationships that we are able to maintain our high standards of care, rehabilitation, and advocacy on a global stage.



Closing Remarks



On behalf of everyone at Vulpro, we thank our sponsors, supporters and adopters. Your commitment to vulture conservation is vital to protecting these extraordinary birds and the ecosystems they sustain.

Your support allows us to respond swiftly to rescues, provide expert rehabilitation, advance our breeding programmes and drive research and education that make a real difference. Every contribution strengthens our ability to tackle the threats vultures face, from poisoning and power line collisions to habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict.

At Vulpro, our mission is simple: to give vultures a fighting chance and to change how they are perceived. With your partnership, we are implementing sustainable solutions that safeguard not just individual birds but entire ecosystems for generations to come.

Together we are turning challenges into opportunities. With your continued support, we are shaping a brighter future for vultures and the landscapes they inhabit.

Thank you for being an integral part of Vulpro's mission. We look forward to achieving even greater conservation impact with you in 2026 and beyond.



Chris_Eley



Contact us



www.vulpro.com



kerri@vulpro.com



+27 82 808 5113

