



**ANNUAL REPORT 2013**  
for  
**VulPro**

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

21 January 2014



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## 1. SUMMARY

### 1.1 Executive Summary

Global awareness of VulPro received a boost with founder/CEO, Kerri Wolter, being one of five finalists for Tusk Trust's inaugural Awards for Conservation in Africa. The awards were hosted on 12 September in London by Prince William, Duke of Cambridge. The event was widely covered by the BBC, CNN, South African television and radio and national and international newspapers and magazines. Kerri was also interviewed live on a BBC show.

The demands on VulPro's rescue, rehabilitation and conservation work for vultures in southern Africa have been as great as ever. This year's activities and achievements are summarized in this report.

VulPro acknowledges at the outset the very generous support of its sponsors, donors, volunteers and friends. VulPro could not accomplish its work and achieve its mission without this support. As always, VulPro offers a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the ongoing success of the organization in the past year.

### 1.2 Accomplishing the mission of VulPro

In line with VulPro's mission statement—*"To advance knowledge, awareness and innovation in the conservation of African vulture populations for the benefit and well being of society"*— VulPro continues to advance the cause of vulture conservation through the following activities, which have remained largely consistent from year to year. These activities include:

- VulPro's continuing rescue and rehabilitation service for vultures and other raptors
- the monitoring of breeding levels in the five principal Cape Vulture colonies
- the management and associated work around vulture restaurants
- community outreach, interaction and education
- involvement in research projects
- involvement in vulture conservation over and above VulPro's own responsibilities, including managing the Cape Vulture Task Force
- regular output of information and profile through the media, and
- breeding of non-releasable Cape Vultures for supplementation and reintroduction purposes

## 2. Non-Profit Company (NPC) matters

VulPro has been a formally registered NPC with a Board-directed management for over two years now. The Board meets four times a year, assisting the Management with the many issues that arise. These issues include management and oversight of financial matters, including tax, payrolls, insurance and fund raising; property management; permits; record keeping and general administration; legal matters and setting of targets for VulPro, including in respect of its long term vision and succession planning.

Sadly, VulPro lost a most valuable member of its Board with the death of Ian Geary during the year. Ian worked tirelessly for VulPro, and was a source of wisdom and a calm and rational voice over many years. Ian is greatly missed. However, VulPro is fortunate in that Ian's son-in law, John Roberts, has kindly availed himself available as a board member, taking over Ian's role as financial adviser and a source of knowledge on matters commercial, pending ratification at the next board meeting in February 2014.

### 3. Rescue and Rehabilitation

Rescue and rehabilitation remains a high priority for VulPro. Once again the past year has seen an increase in the numbers of birds in residence at VulPro and the numbers of non-releasable birds under VulPro's care. Table 1 summarises the rescue and subsequent event data for 2013 (a more current breakdown is given in the December 2013 issue of VulPro's newsletter, The VulPro Flyer, available on [www.vulpro.com](http://www.vulpro.com)).

As appears from the monthly reports in 2013, 23 of the 59 (39%) rescued birds were specifically described as young (including fledgling and immature), 10 with some level of mechanical injury, two with evidence of poisoning and one a victim of electrocution. Of the other 36 rescued birds, 12 had observable mechanical injuries, seven showed evidence of poisoning or toxicity and four had been electrocuted. Power line collision was suspected to have been the cause of most of the mechanical injuries among adult vultures. Not included in Table 1 are 13 vultures found dead from electrocution on a farm in North West Province in December. Particularly unusual was the case of three Cape vultures that died when lightning struck the pylon they were perched on during a storm in November 2013.

Journeys amounting to a total of 17 456 km were required for rescue work. It is pertinent to note, as in previous years' reports, that the average cost of feeding vultures in VulPro's enclosures is R6512.00 (US\$651.20 @ R10 to \$1) per week, exclusive of staffing, maintenance and other costs incurred in running VulPro.

**Table 1: Up to date rescue and release data**

Species	In residence at (non-releasable)			In 2013					In residence at 31.12.13 (non-releasable)
	1.1.09*	1.1.12	1.1.13	Rescued/ brought in	Released	Died	Euthanased	Transferred or donated	
<b>VULTURES</b>									
Cape	22	55 (45)	72 (65)	42	24	10	4		76 (75)
African White-backed	4	4 (4)	4 (4)	3		1	2		4 (4)
Lappet-faced	2	2 (2)	5 (4)			1			4 (4)
Palm-nut		2 (2)	2 (2)	1					3 (3)
<b>OTHER RAPTORS</b>	7	15 (15)	15 (13)	13	7	4	1		16 (14)

\*At the time VulPro moved from its initial farm site in Skeerpoort to the present site

### 4. Non-releasable Cape Vulture breeding programme

As explained in last year's annual report, the breeding programme was started in 2011 with seven breeding pairs, using artificial cliffs built in the breeding enclosure. The challenges of captive breeding which including incubation failures and resultant low hatching rates; inexperienced parenting on the part of the parents; and the inadequate training of one chick that resulted in poor adaption after release were also covered in that report. Improvements to the artificial cliffs, modifications to the approaches to ensuring the safety of the embryo and newly hatched chicks and different training schedules for the fledglings prior to release have been taken in 2013, and, at the same time the parent birds have been learning better parenting skills through experience.

Table 2 summarises the progress of the programme so far. While hatching success improved this year over the previous two years, VulPro continues to grapple with a disappointing survival rate among the hatched chicks. Three fledglings resulted from this year's programme, although one was hand raised for educational purposes. Unfortunately also, one of the parent raised chicks was lost at three months of age due to a bad fracture believed to have resulted from the parents standing on its wing. In an attempt to overcome these challenges, VulPro will be undertaking a nutritional study of the type of carcasses fed to captive birds and how much calcium these carcasses provide to the parents and their chicks. Secondly VulPro is now looking at constructing a second breeding enclosure to reduce the numbers of vultures housed in one enclosure, thereby decreasing the disturbance of the breeding birds by non-paired adults. However, experience is vital, and until each breeding pair has a year or two years of experience of raising chicks successfully on their own, this is a challenge for them. It should also be noted that in the wild, only 20% of eggs result in birds reaching adult age.

**Table 2: Summary of breeding by non-releasable Cape vultures**

	2011	2012	2013
Breeding pairs	10	10	11
Eggs laid	9	9	11
No. hatched	3	6	9
No. chicks fledged	0	2	3*

\*Including one hand raised.

Plans for the Cape vulture recovery programme for Namibia, which was a primary long term target of the captive breeding project, remains 'on hold' pending Namibian government decisions on the direction that it wishes to take on this issue. Communications will be maintained with the Rare and Endangered Species Trust (REST) in relation to this but, in the meantime, the breeding programme is focusing on population supplementation for threatened or declining colonies within South Africa.

## 5. Monitoring Cape Vulture Breeding Pairs

Monitoring the Cape vulture colonies in South Africa, begun in 2011, has continued to be a major component of VulPro's work. The overall purpose of this important work is to assess the health and productivity of this population, which represents some 50% of the world's Cape vultures. The monitoring is carried out according to the "Standard Cape Vulture Monitoring Protocol", developed under VulPro's leadership three years ago. Table 3 summarises this year's counts and Table 4 compares this year's counts with those of the two previous years, since the programme was initiated. Fig. 1 shows changes apparent from available records.

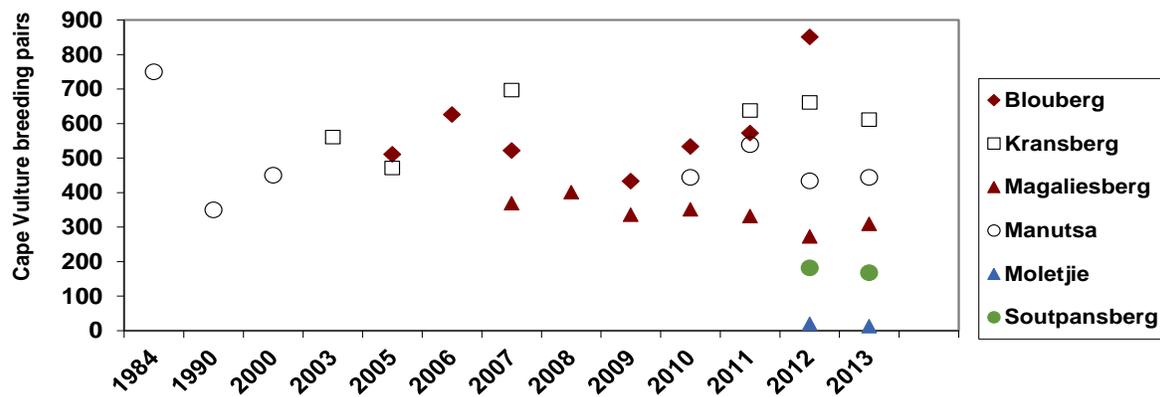
Breeding figures for 2013 in Tables 3 and 4 reflect a fairly stable breeding population of Cape vultures within these particular colonies. Although some of the breeding pair numbers appear to be lower than the nestling numbers, this can be attributed to the visibility and viewing conditions under which the data are gathered. For example, Soutpansberg breeding pair figures appear much lower than last year's figures but, in addition to the distance from which this colony has to be monitored, viewing conditions at the time of monitoring were particularly bad making it extremely difficult to be accurate. More focus is needed for these breeding sites in mitigating the ongoing threats – power line collisions and electrocutions, lack of available and safe food and direct and indirect poisoning – with a better coordinated effort to address the poisoning issue that these vultures are facing. Although 2013's breeding figures reflect a fairly stable population, there is reason to believe the reality is that poisoning alone is causing an overall decline in the Cape Vulture population. Further research and modelling methods are needed to determine the true situation.

**Table 3: Breeding colony counts 2013**

Colonies	Breeding pair count (April-May)	Chick count (August-September)	Fledgling count (October)
Magaliesberg			
- Skeerpoort	219	207 nestlings seen 225 active nests	189 fledglings seen 14 nestlings 214 Active nests in total
- Nooitgedacht	90	81 nestlings seen 90 active nests in total	71 fledglings seen 1 nestling 9 tenanted nests 81 active nests in total
- Robert's Farm	-	-	2
Soutpansberg	168	189 nestlings 192 active nests in total	-
Moletjie	13	12 nestlings seen 14 active nests in total	13
Kransberg	611	513 nestlings seen 546 active nests in total	-
Manutsa	444	456 nestlings seen 471 active nests in total	-
Total	1545		

**Table 4: Summary of breeding pair counts since monitoring of according to the Standard Cape Vulture Monitoring Protocol began**

Colony	2011	2012	2013
Blouberg	572	851	1015
Kransberg	638	661	611
Magaliesberg	332	273	309
Manutsa	539	434	444
Moletjie	Nd	20	13
Soutpansberg	nd	182	168



**Fig. 1: Breeding pair counts since records began**

## 6. Research

### 6.1 Tracking and monitoring

As with 2012, research in 2013 was largely concerned with following and monitoring vultures fitted with tracking devices and patagial (wing) tags. The breakdown of these fittings in 2013 is:

- 28 Cape Vultures were fitted with tracking devices and 93 with patagial tags, making a total of 902 tagged and 61 Cape Vultures fitted with the devices and tags since 2007
- Five tracking devices were fitted on Hooded Vultures and one of these birds was fitted with patagial tags
- 18 African White-backed Vultures were tagged with patagial tags and six fitted with tracking devices

VulPro has fitted a total of 79 tracking devices onto vultures since January 2007.

In 2013, 1410 re-sightings, particularly at vulture restaurants, were recorded in Southern Africa on Cape Vultures alone. Five of the capture and processing operations were done in collaboration with KZN-Ezemvolo, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Eastern Cape Parks Board and Dana Berens of Department of Ecology - Conservation Ecology, Fachbereich Biologie, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany.

Although it appears that many vultures have now been tagged and tracked, this still represents a small and not wholly representative proportion of the respective vulture populations. Studies need now to be expanded to cover colonies which so far have not been monitored and extended to include different age groups. The purpose of the tracking and tagging studies is firstly to identify the vulture foraging and distribution ranges and then to assess the threats these birds face within these activities and ranges, finally leading to mitigation of these threats. Efforts in 2014 will be focused around the Eastern Cape areas and more specifically Queenstown as, not only have power lines been identified to be the major threat in this area, but pending wind farms threaten to have a devastating effect on the survival of species here.

On the basis of the known working life of the tracking devices and the colonies, age groups, etc., it is anticipated that these studies will continue for the next 5 years. This timescale allows the work to include the recording of survival rates among first year birds to the point of breeding, and where these first year birds establish their breeding sites (to what extent this is in the colony where they themselves were reared or at other sites), as well as

their foraging ranges. The resulting five-year database will ensure that our mitigation efforts, against the threats are being accurately targeted and monitored.

During tagging or fitting of tracking devices, faecal swabs have been collected from the captured birds for an avian influenza survey in collaboration with the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science. The samples have been stored until sufficient funding can be secured for the analysis to be carried out.

### 6.2 Vulture restaurant database

The vulture restaurant database from 140 active vulture feeding sites, over 50% of these situated within the KZN borders but also including all known and active vulture feeding sites in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, continues to grow. From VulPro's tracking data, it is able to assess:

- how regularly the birds are using these sites
- whether the birds are finding new unregistered feeding sites which VulPro was not previously aware of, and
- whether vultures are dependent on these feeding sites for their survival

VulPro continues to update this database on a regular basis and has regular contact with the vulture restaurant owners and/or managers for the first time since the database was established.

As covered in the December issue of VulPro's newsletter, The VulPro Flyer, in 2013 VulPro was asked by Keith Bildstein of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in the USA, for assistance in conducting a study of the ecology and conservation of Hooded Vultures in Africa. For VulPro, this was a chance to learn about this lesser-known species, which breeds in trees and is much smaller than the *Gyps* species VulPro is more familiar with. The first capture operation was carried out in October 2013, to fit tracking devices on three nestlings, and took place in the Olifants Private Game Reserve, adjacent to the Kruger National Park and where these birds occur in South Africa. A fourth nestling was tagged in November 2013. It is thought that this species of vulture only breeds every second year. The study hopes now to be able to confirm or disprove this in the foreseeable future.

### 6.3 Publications

Publications emerging this year from research involving VulPro are:

- Do Power Lines and Protected Areas Present a Catch-22 Situation for Cape Vultures (*Gyps coprotheres*)? WL Phipps, K Wolter, MD. Michael, LM MacTavish, RW Yarnell. PLoS ONE 8(10): e76794, 2013.

This study with experts at Nottingham Trent University in the UK involved tracking adult and immature Cape vultures across southern Africa using GPS technology, to build up a picture of their movements and home ranges.

- Effect of rehabilitation on survival rates of endangered Cape vultures A. Monadjem, K. Wolter, W. Naser and A. Kane. Animal Conservation (ZSL). Print ISSN 1367-9430, 2013.

This collaborative work with the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Swaziland, the Institute, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, and the Department of Zoology and Centre for Biodiversity Research, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, concluded that, despite receiving treatment, rehabilitated birds suffered significantly lower survival rates when compared with wild conspecifics of identical age underscoring the importance of tackling the causes of harm to Cape vultures before rehabilitation becomes necessary.

- Foraging Ranges of Immature African White-Backed Vultures (*Gyps africanus*) and Their Use of Protected Areas in Southern Africa. WL Phipps, SG Willis, K Wolter, V Naidoo. PLoS ONE 8(1): e52813. 2013.
- MSc, feeding behaviour among Cape Vultures

C.W. Vermeulen completed his MSc on "The behaviour of Cape Vultures (*Gyps coprotheres*) around a carcass" in the Department of Natural Science, North West University, Potchefstroom, in August. CW carried out the project work at VulPro, looking at ages and sex of the vultures feeding at the restaurant and their 'pecking order' for feeding.

- Broadsheet entitled “Handling of Vultures” by Kerri Wolter, Walter Nesper and Mllue Nsikani.  
This has been drawn up for the benefit of bird ringers, veterinarians, biologists and others who need to handle vultures in the course of their duties. Submitted to Vulture News.
- Broadsheet entitled “Protocol for Fitting of Tracking Devices” by Kerri Wolter and Walter Nesper.  
This covers protocols for fitting the Backpack harnesses used with success on vulture species in southern Africa. Submitted to Vulture News.

## **7. Education and community outreach and interaction.**

### *7.1 Philosophy*

VulPro’s view of the importance of its educational outreach work as essential to the awareness of the value of vultures to the ecosystem and to their threatened status is unchanged. This continues to constitute a fundamental part of VulPro’s work. The importance of getting the conservation message across to people when they are young is well recognized by VulPro as vitally important. As such the work with children and school groups remains a high priority. Each child receives educational interactive sheets and the booklet produced this year entitled “What’s Cool About Vultures? (and what YOU can do to help)”. Children take these away with them after their visit or talk.

### *7.2 Activities*

Two open days were held, one in June and the second in December 2013, where 130 adults and children were hosted and given an educational experience at the VulPro site. In addition over the year some 45 family and other small groups (two to nine individuals, a total of 73 South African adults with 43 children and a further 29 adults from other countries) were given tours of the facilities. Further to these ‘in-house’ activities, talks were given to

- 16 people from a Pretoria Lutheran Church Young Learner’s group at Beluite Investments in March 2013
- 20 young adults at the De Wildt centre in April 2013
- 80 members and guests at the SA Hunters Association in Centurion in May 2013, and
- 45 participants at a bird club seminar given at the Polokswana Koral Retirement Village in June 2013

## **8. Media**

Media attention continues to be viewed by VulPro both as part of its educational awareness role and as a means of attracting sponsorship and donations. While time and energy consuming for VulPro staff, this is worthwhile. The media-related events that took place in 2013 are listed below. A significant number of these from March 2013 onwards relate to Kerri being chosen as one of five finalists for Tusk Trust’s inaugural Awards for Conservation in Africa.

### *January*

- Filming by Triosphere a for a documentary, “Faces of Africa” to be aired on a Chinese DSTV channel

### *March*

- One hour pre-recorded interview for Radio 702 on the work of VulPro for “The Nature Journal”
- Article on a poisoned Fish Eagle, “Visarend wat gif inkry, vegterug”, by *Die Beeld*
- Pre-recorded interview for Radio RSG, also on the poisoned Fish Eagle
- Photograph and caption for the *Sunday Times*, again on the poisoned Fish Eagle

### May

- “Limpopo Vulture Tracking Project” – a two-minute insert aired at prime time after the DSTV E-TV news
- *Kormorant* – a half-page feature on Kerri Wolter’s nomination for the Tusk Trust’s inaugural Awards for Conservation in Africa
- *Fourways Review* – Front page article, again on Kerri Wolter’s nomination for the Tusk Trust’s Awards
- Radio 702 – a five-minute interview with John Robbie on Kerri Wolter’s nomination for the Tusk Trust’s Awards

### June

- Classic FM live radio one-hour interview with four other conservationists on vultures, lions, oceans and hunting
- Article for a French magazine on the captive breeding programme
- Interview about vulture conservation and the Tusk Trust nomination with Wynette Theart for the Dagbreek early morning DSTV channel show
- Filming for a Tusk Trust documentary to be aired by SpunGold TV and CNN, relating to Kerri Wolter’s nomination for the Tusk Trust’s Awards
- Radio 702 interview covering Kerri Wolter’s nomination for the Tusk Trust’s Awards and the VulPro Gala dinner

### July

- Filming vultures with GoPro cameras for *Mother Nature*
- *Brits Pos* – “Vulture Hide Opening”
- *Die Beeld* – Article “Aasvoels so van naby bekyk” on the vulture hide at VulPro
- *Kormorant* – Article “Vulture Numbers Declining at Alarming Rate” on the Magaliesberg populations and VulPro’s conservation efforts here

### August

- *Die Beeld* – Article “Vir My aasvoel Kinders” on the vulture hide
- *Veldtalk Newsletter* (local newsletter for the Hekpoort Conservancy) – “Vultures in the Royal Limelight”
- One-hour pre-recorded interview for Radio 702’s Nature Journal on the vulture hide and latest poisoning incidents
- Tusk Trust Press release on Kerri Wolter’s nomination for the Tusk Trust’s Awards

### September

- *Magaliesberg Biosphere Newsletter* – “Local Conservationist on Shortlist for Award” and “Vultures in Magaliesberg”
- “Vulture Poisonings for Muthi” – AAN, the new SABC news channel on DSTV
- BBC World News – a pre-recorded interview, a documentary and three clips on various days entitled, respectively, “Care to love vultures”, “Vulture decline could affect humans”, “Poisoned vulture makes recovery”, “Can we learn to love vultures?”, and “Poachers target vultures in Africa”. These items were part of the interest in the Tusk Trust awards
- Sky TV – pre-recorded interview relating to the Tusk Trust awards
- *Brits Pos* – “In royal company”
- *Animal Planet* – “Vultures”; documentary with the Lion Man
- CNN – “New father, new hope”
- *Kormorant* – “Kerri enjoys a royal treat in London”
- *People’s Magazine* – “The Prince and me”

### October

- Animal Planet (Discovery Communications, global TV) – documentary with Paul O’Grady
- *Magaliesberg Biosphere Newsletter* – “Open conversation”
- *Brits Pos* – “Stockil receives Prince award”
- Fourways Review – “Film festival for the fearless”. Short clip of the original 14 minute “Path into the Future” selected as the top SA short film for the BANFF film festival
- DSTV weather channel – repeated showing of short clip of the original 14 minute “Path into the Future” for one week
- MSN-Now – “The woman who flies with vultures: they might look mean but they are gentle and intelligent”
- *Sarie Magazine* – “Aasvoelkenner Kerri Wolter”; an article on the Tusk Trust awards

### November

- Nature Journal Radio 702 – live interview on VulPro
- Sappi Radio – Pre-recorded interview on VulPro’s open day
- Radio Channel Islam International – live 15-minute interview with Julie Allie reaching worldwide Muslim listeners

### December

- *Die Beeld* – “Kraglyn kom bedreigde voels se area”. Article on power line adjacent to VulPro and in vulture flight path to the VulPro restaurant
- *Veldtalk 69*—“Vultures and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge”

## 9. Administrative issues

### 9.1 Board and salaried staff

VulPro is an independent NPC managed as by CEO Kerri Wolter under the direction of the Chairman and the five-member Board.

VulPro employs CEO Kerri Wolter, assistant manager Walter Naser, and three general support staff, Orbert Phiri, Notice Phiri and Charles Bunda, who help with collection of carcasses, feeding the birds, cleaning and maintaining the enclosures, rehabilitation and general farm management.

### 9.2 Volunteers

As ever, VulPro continues to rely heavily on its small staff to keep it well-managed. Funding is insufficient to employ further salaried staff, although more staff would be desirable both to increase the organisation’s capacity and to alleviate the burden on existing staff. Assistance with administrative issues (fundraising, report writing, proof reading), running the education centre, fundraising, preparation of press releases, remains largely dependent on the dedicated input of volunteers and, in the case of research projects, personnel from collaborating institutes. Most of our research is in partnership with the University of Pretoria’s Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and their research department headed by Prof Vinny Naidoo together with Prof Ara Monadjem (a professor at the Swaziland University).

VulPro’s volunteer programme has gone from strength to strength with both local and international volunteers joining it. Long term volunteers, Peter Turnbull and Karen Kruger, continue to provide invaluable administrative assistance. Peter prepares our biannual newsletter, annual report and funding proposals; Karen, now aided by

Laura Nelson, mans the Centre and assists with the collection of carcasses when Kerri and Walter are out in the field. Laura ensures all human accommodation is clean and assists with driving duties. Wahl Fitzgerald, residing in Pretoria, SA, assists us with carcass collections every weekend, with vulture pick-ups as and when necessary and re-sightings of vultures at our vulture restaurant. Agnieszka Wlodarski also joined the team for a short period of time, addressing fundraising, producing a marketing strategy for VulPro and other related PR and HR activities, all aimed at improving the operation of VulPro in line with good corporate governance.

VulPro's visiting international volunteer force has grown, simply by word of mouth, and VulPro was fully booked for 2013. Bettina Boemans stayed and volunteered for six months and later Bridgette Cahill joined the team and stayed for two months, promising to return to undertake her masters in 2014 at VulPro. In view of the growth of its volunteer programme, VulPro will need to consider additional facilities such as a volunteer sitting area in addition to the lapa area as well as a separate volunteer kitchen.

### *9.3 Students*

VulPro's student programme also continues on an annual basis. VulPro hosts one student every year for a 10-month period. This programme is in its fourth year now and VulPro is proud to be a part of these young scholars' chosen career paths and hopes to continue to positively influence as many young individuals as it possibly can. VulPro has also cemented this student programme through the newly established Ian Geary Memorial Scholarship Bursary in which VulPro is now in a position to offer each student a small amount of income for their 10 month stay at VulPro.

### *9.4 Travel*

As stated in section 3 above, collection of birds needing rescue and rehabilitation involved approximately 17 456 km of travel. Other activities requiring travel were:

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

The total distance travelled throughout 2013 came to 69 869 km.

## **10. Cape Vulture Task Force**

Kerri Wolter was appointed in 2009 as Coordinator of the Cape Vulture Task Force (CVTF) for South Africa, part of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Birds of Prey Programme. The aim of the CVTF is to co-ordinate all conservation efforts and monitoring for the species, collate the information and drive and implement new and existing conservation strategies for the overall purpose of turning around the existing trend of decline in this species.

After three years in the post of Coordinator, Kerri has resigned from this position but will continue with her Cape Vulture duties as set out by Vulpro, its scientific committee and directors

## **11. Costs**

Operational costs are broken down into:

- Salaries (see 9.1 above)
- Travel (detailed in 9.4 above)
- Veterinary services
- Feeding
- Property maintenance
- Security
- Electricity, phone, etc.
- Office costs
- Research (section 6 above), including colony monitoring (section 5 above)

The full audited financial report will be published at the end of February 2014.

## **12. Fundraising , sponsorship and acknowledgements**

Since the inception of VulPro, fundraising has always consumed a considerable amount of operational time and effort. Meetings, telephone discussions and correspondence with current and potential sponsors continue to behave be the principal approaches, with added income from voluntary collections at educational outreach and other events. The combined Gala/IVAD (International Vulture Awareness Day) event held on September 6 raised R90 000 and VulPro's guests and friends that participated did the organization proud.

As always, VulPro thanks all our friends, sponsors, donors, family members, volunteers and supporters for their ongoing commitment, enthusiasm and help towards enabling VulPro to continue achieving its aims and mission, and particularly to reverse the decline of the Cape Vulture population.

VulPro's sincere thanks to its company and trust donors (in alphabetical order): AngloGold Ashanti, Beluit Investments, Bioweb Pty (Ltd), Boehringer-Ingelheim, Centurion, Chester Zoo, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (Colorado, USA), Computer Facilities, Copper Sunset Trading (Pty) Ltd, DHL Supply Chain, Eland Platinum Mines, Herculite Ferrochrome, Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust, Mazda Wildlife Fund, National Birds of Prey Trust (UK), Natural Encounters Inc.(USA), Rand Merchant Bank, Samancor Western Chrome Mines, Stafix, SW Living Creatures Trust, The Tusk Trust (UK), Virtryx and Wild Exposure.

VulPro also extends its warmest thanks to adoption parents: ABC Auto Parts, Jika Africa, the Van de Biezen Family and the Behr family. Mike Behr also assisted with the construction of the artificial cliffs in the breeding enclosure.

VulPro also thanks those individuals who support it through the MySchoolMyVillageMyPlanet programme. During 2013 months, a valuable R15 600 was raised this way.

Further special mentions this year go to the following for particular items this year:

- Copper Sunset Sands (Pty) Ltd kindly donated a used Ford Single cab vehicle it had retired from its mining activities
- DHL Supply Chain is generously covering the servicing of this vehicle and keeping it roadworthy
- Further to the above, Castle 2 Palace generously donated a vehicle crane for carcass collections and this has been attached to the Ford
- The Monte Casino Bird Gardens, Fourways, raised just over R4500 in a collection held over an activity weekend in September 2013
- Lewis Phillips, dedicated conservation and vulture enthusiast who raised UK£250 for VulPro at his market stall in Greenwich, England

As in previous years VulPro has been extremely fortunate and grateful to get assistance at cost price from top veterinary surgeons at the Bird and Exotic Animal Hospital at the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Sciences as well as from Zodiac Animal Clinic in Brits.

### **13. Report from the treasurer**

The full audited financial report will be published at the end of February 2014.

