



THE VULPRO FLYER



&

RESTAURANT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

“ To advance knowledge, awareness and innovation in the conservation of southern African vulture populations for the benefit and well-being of society.”



VulPro NPC - Vulture programme for the conservation of vulture species in southern Africa

Registration no.2011/127419/08 (The Companies Act 2008, Sec.14)



Executive Summary

The last 6 months of 2017 have proven to be both challenging, and rewarding, all at the same time. Vulture conservation is most certainly not for the meek and mild and as we pour every breath and energy into saving these species, we are often left either on a high note or rock bottom in depression with the magnitude of what we are trying to achieve. The odds are against these underappreciated and yet such deserving species that we cannot give up. We are reminded of this constantly through our rehabilitation and conservation breeding work. We are often asked “why do you spend so much effort i.e. human and financial resources on collecting vultures from hundreds of kilometres away?” and the answer is simple “Because every individual bird matters and is worth it”. Each individual makes up a population and without all those individuals, what do we have left? VulPro has come a long way in our 10 years of existence and the single release of 35 captive bred and rehabilitated vultures was a game changer for the VulPro team. We are even more dedicated and committed to making a difference and showcasing the magnificence and importance of vultures. We are now more committed than ever to fighting the good fight and to do all we can to prevent the extinction of vultures not only in southern Africa, but Africa. Our strength lies in our committed team but also with YOU; our loyal supporters, sponsors, friends and families as you give us the strength, the support both in kind and financial and the belief, that we can achieve our dreams by all working together towards a common goal. This edition of our newsletter highlights some of our work as well as some of the exceptional people we have met along the way.

Lastly, VulPro would like to wish each and every one of you a blessed and Merry Christmas. May you stay safe over the festive season and we look forward to renewing and continuing our relationships with you all in 2018.

The VulPro Flyer

- ☐ **Rehabilitation update**
- ☐ **Vulture Restaurant Report - Boikarabelo Coal mine**
- ☐ **VulPro Extravaganza Gala - Another great success!**
- ☐ **Meet one of our amazing supporters – Lucas van der Merwe**
- ☐ **Comic Relief**
- ☐ **Conservation Breeding**
- ☐ **Making History - VulPro releases 35 vultures back into the wild**
- ☐ **VulPro- Never a dull day**
- ☐ **Powerline survey updates - Anzelle van Wyk**
- ☐ **Eskom and VulPro Working Together- Kishaylin Chetty- Eskom Partner**
- ☐ **Meet our Volunteer - John Uptown**
- ☐ **Eastern Cape Report- Kate Webster**
- ☐ **Meet one of our collaborators – Juergen Dämmgen**
- ☐ **With thanks to our sponsors**



Rehabilitation Update



Between 1 June to 30 November 2017, VulPro has experienced a vulture rescue and rehabilitation season of note! We have collected and rehabilitated 27 vultures over the past 6 months and released 35 individuals.. In addition, we have also assisted with basic first aid and rehabilitation needs on other raptor species. The table below refers and provides a complete list to-date.

The combination of keeping an eye on our newly released conservation bred and rehabilitated vultures, fledgling season, as well as additional vulture rescues, has all contributed to VulPro staff being bleary eyed and exhausted.

We have essentially doubled the kilometres we travel per month, and feel very secure in saying that everyone at VulPro is now more than qualified to become long-distance truck drivers

However, no matter how tired, we will never hesitate to save a vulture. We have travelled across the country to Bloemfontein, Lichtenburg, Polokwane, Welkom, and even Lesotho, to name but a few.



Rehabilitation Update

	<u>Rescued and brought in since June 2 - 1 Dec 2017</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Euthanized</u>	<u>Transferred donated</u>	<u>Number resident at VulPro 30/11/2017</u>
<u>Cape Vulture</u>	21	32	1	0	0	158
<u>African White-backed Vulture</u>	5	2	1	0	0	46
<u>Lappet-Faced Vulture</u>	1	1	0	0	0	7
<u>White-headed vulture</u>	0	0	0	0	0	2
<u>Palm-nut vulture</u>	0	0	0	0	0	3
<u>Andean Condor</u>	0	0	0	0	0	2
<u>Lanner falcon</u>	1	1	0	1	0	0
<u>Gabar</u>	1	0	0	0	1	0
<u>Marsh Owl</u>	2	0	0	2	0	0
<u>Black Sparrow Hawk</u>	1	0	0	0	1	0
<u>African Fish Eagle</u>	0	0	0	0	0	1
<u>Barn Owl</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Black Eagle</u>	0	0	0	1	0	1
<u>Bateleur Eagle</u>	0	0	0	1	0	0
<u>White-faced owl</u>	1	0	1	0	0	0
<u>Total</u>	33	36	3	5	2	220

Vulture Restaurant Report-

Boikarabelo Coal mine

by Louise Nicolaï

The Boikarabelo Coal Mine is located in the Waterberg Coal Field, approximately 54km north-west of Lephalale in the Limpopo Province. The location of the proposed mine is in close proximity to the Limpopo River. Large monkey thorns (*Vachellia galpinii*) grow along the banks of the Limpopo River, which provides African White-backed Vultures (*Gyps africanus*) (AWB) with suitable breeding sites. As AWB vultures are now classed as critically endangered, Boikarabelo decided to undertake a vulture monitoring programme together with VulPro. The identified breeding colony of AWB vultures along the section of the Limpopo River, adjacent to the proposed mining area has been monitored for the past four years. This provides baseline information on the colony, which will allow an evaluation of the impact of the mining activities when the mine goes into operation.

The greater area of Lephalale, Steenbokpan and Stockpoort is dominated by game farming. Game farming, together with hunting activities, results in a constant food supply for the vultures. The Boikarabelo Coal Mine

encompasses approximately 10 000 hectares of game farm, some of this area will be developed as part of mining operations.

It has been speculated that, as a result of this area being taken over for mining, there would be less food available for vultures as hunting activities in the mining areas will cease and will also result in less available game. A poisoned AWB Vulture was also found on the property, which sparked the need for a source of safe, toxin free food. This resulted in the start of the Birdie Café.

Various sites across the farm were initially used for a feeding area.



Vulture Restaurant Report- Boikarabelo Coal mine

by Louise Nicolaï

This allowed us to see which area attracted the highest vulture concentrations, whilst other areas had few to no vultures coming down to feed.

With this information together with taking into consideration the future development of the mine, the perfect spot for the restaurant was located.

The restaurant location has been a great success, with a feeding frenzy each time a carcass has been provided. At one such feeding, approximately 200 vultures came down. The restaurant attracts not only AWB vultures, but also Cape and Lappet-faced Vultures too.

With the use of trail cameras, we have been able to capture great images of the vultures, as well as other carnivores and scavengers that come and scrutinise the menu.

The establishment of this restaurant not only provides a constant food source for vultures; it serves another vitally important purpose. Together with the expert advice from VulPro, the construction of a capture enclosure has been initiated at the restaurant.

The aim is to hopefully capture, tag and place tracking devices on some of the

vultures. However, this has already proved challenging.... As the kettle of vultures high up in the sky looked down on the modifications at the restaurant, they decided to rather frequent another, more peaceful eatery. However, after a few attempts and moving the table setting around a bit, we are happy to now report the patrons have all returned and are getting accustomed to the modifications. We are now continuing with the construction of the capture enclosure, while the restaurant remains open for business.

As the vulture populations keep decreasing across the globe, we hope to contribute to the conservation efforts of the species. Thank you to VulPro for all their advice and assistance. Your passion is inspirational.



Birdie Café Lunch Hour



YUK! Waterbuck!
The birds can
have this!



Can we also
have some?

HAY! No
pushing in!

Is it ready?



MOOOVE...! I'M
coming in!



GET AWAY!
IT'S MINE!

Can someone put me
on top of that tree?!



Lunch rush hour!

I need a nap!

Where we going
for dinner?

I'm soo full!



THOSE VULTURES
LEFT ME NOTHING!!!

Thanks to all our patrons:

Three different venues of vultures

A couple of crows

Some long legged, sad looking stalks

Some playful badgers

Some laughing, smelly hyenas

A nosey civet or two

A feisty jackal

Not forgetting that fussy spotted cat

And the long legged camel horse that licks everything

VulPro Fundraising Extravaganza - Another Great Success

– Charné Wilhelmi



On the 1 September, VulPro hosted our “Extravaganza” themed fund-raising gala at the beautiful Leopard Lodge.

First-off, I take my hat off to any individual who does event-planning for a career. Planning, arranging, and executing an event, is not for the faint hearted. This being said, after many months of planning, meetings, and of course, a whole lot of stress... Walking into the venue on that evening was breath-taking..

Witnessing first hand how all the months of strategising finally came together, with stunning decor, soft music in the background, and a fantastic crowd of supporters, all there for the same cause; It was truly overwhelming.

The evening was a giant success, and enjoyed by all who attended! We would like to thank all those who made this event possible; Leopard Lodge, donors of auction items, decor and lighting teams, and of course, all the spectacular guests who joined us for this memorable evening!

We would also like to give a special thanks to a gentleman by the name of “Lucas van der Merwe”, who greatly contributed to the success of the evening, and to whom we are eternally grateful.



Meet One of Our Amazing Supporters- Lucas van der Merwe



Bravo Lucas van der Merwe – a generous philanthropist with a big heart and even deeper pockets!

Friday the 1st of September 2017 certainly proved to be a wonderful and unforgettable Spring Day for all and sundry at VulPro. That day they hosted their annual fundraising event at Leopard Lodge and someone who is “new to the valley” and now

settled in Pecanwood, Lucas van der Merwe, Founder and CEO of the Ziphi Nkomo 1 Group of Companies, embraced the fresh, new energy of Spring, and sprung in to action, generously giving the huge sum of R198,000 on the night!

Some folks looked on aghast as he outbid everyone on literally everything, but with a big smile on his face and a whisky in hand, he just kept on reminding those around him that *“This is for the vultures and how blessed am I to be able to help them like this!”*

Born in Sasolburg, raised in Rustenburg, Lucas matriculated in 1992 and completed his degree in Human Resources and Labour Law by 1995. Upon graduation, Lucas had managed to pay for his entire degree by being employed as a cleaner in a local hospital.

While working for a company practicing Labour Law, Lucas met a man in the gym one day who gave him the idea that would forever change his business ideals. And so Ziphi Nkomo [*“Where Are The Cows?”*] was born.

Beginning with just six employees at a retail client, Lucas would arrive in Thembisa at 04h00 each morning to recruit under flashlight another suitable employee.

Meet One of Our Amazing Supporters- Lucas van der Merwe

By night, Lucas would wade through admin, invoicing and management of the sites on his own, only to again return to Thembisa at 4am the very next day. By 2005, Ziphi had over 400 employees in 4 sites and by 2010, over 2500 employees in 8 sites. Today, 2017, Lucas has carefully handpicked and crafted a team that has enabled Ziphi Nkomo to grow to an astonishing 7500 employees in over 35 sites, spanning 4 provinces.

Over the years, Ziphi has branched into a Group of Companies held by a holding company and is one of the few TES Suppliers in South Africa to provide services to the "Big 5" Retailers and various other clients solely by the founding majority shareholder.

Lucas lives according to **"THE POWER OF NOW"** and has over the many years systematically infiltrated this ethos into the ethical conduct of his various businesses, thereby ensuring that Ziphi Nkomo 1 Group of Companies maintains exceptional standards of service excellence and productivity.

When interviewed recently, this is what Lucas van der Merwe has to say about his Ziphi Nkomo 1 Group of Companies, the business entities whose fabulous

2017 successes, made it possible for him to give so generously to VulPro at their annual fundraiser:

"Ziphi Nkomo 1 Group of Companies is a Midrand based Private Employment Agency with offices/branches in the Western Cape, Mpumalanga and Durban. As a Private Employment Agency, we supply and manage contract staff and permanent employees for clients within their specific industries. **Ziphi Nkomo 1 Private Employment Agency** allows our clients to match their staff needs to their business demands with our full-time employees.



Meet One of Our Amazing Supporters- Lucas van der Merwe

We take full responsibility for their screening, selection and placement of the correct staff as per client needs thereby allowing our clients to manage and maintain their core business.

Ziphi Nkomo 1 Group of Companies also currently provides an efficient, well organized and **proven payroll service (VIP)** to more than 40 clients which includes approximately 7500 staff members.

We ensure that government taxes are paid timeously, and that staff receive their monies with accompanied payslips on agreed intervals.

Ziphi Nkomo Training Services Pty (LTD) was established to provide a one-stop human resources service to small, medium and corporate clients. The main focus areas include human resources practices and training and development. At Ziphi Nkomo Training Services Pty (LTD) we pride ourselves in extra ordinary quality and service delivery. We are small enough to be flexible, yet big enough through our associations and previous experiences to see to all your human resources requirements. Our highly skilled facilitators and trainers all meet the level

of expertise requirements through SAQA, which assures our clients that our training and development interventions will add value to their workforce and therefor their company.

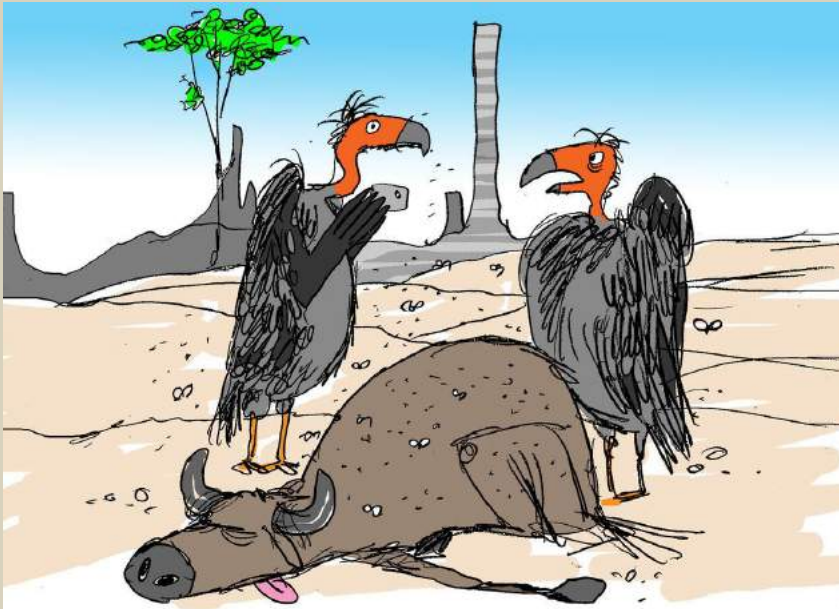
Other core services also offered within the Ziphi Nkomo 1 Group of Companies includes Plumbing, Protective Clothing, Pure-Flo Window Washing and Labour Relations.”

From everyone at VulPro, thank you so much Lucas – you are a great inspiration to all of us. Long may your wonderful philanthropic endeavors continue!

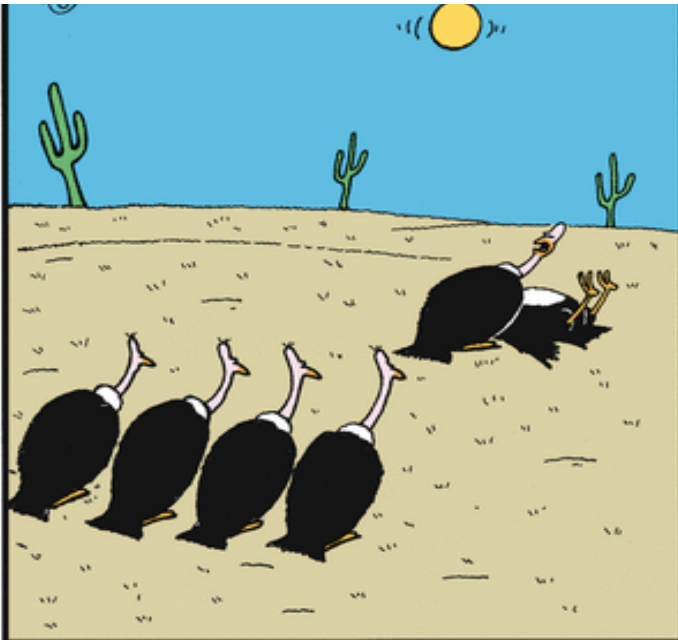


One of the beautiful art pieces Lucas purchased in support of Vulture Conservation

Comic Relief



"Charlie, not every meal is an Instagram opportunity."



"Buzz off, fellas. Carl specifically requested a small, private ceremony."



"...DUNNO WHAT HAPPENED...ON THE WAY UP HERE, I SMACKED INTO THIS TURKEY VULTURE AND..."

VulPro Conservation Breeding 2017



VulPro continues with the implementation of our ex-situ conservation breeding programme for the purpose of supplementing wild populations.

We are humbled by our continued advancements in this sector, and watching this facet of our conservation activities grow. The table below summarises this seasons output:

Breeding	Total Eggs	Fert	Infer	Died	Lost inside the enclosure	Chicks Died	Artif Incu.	Nat Incu.	Double Clutch	Double Clutch success	Egg Boun d	Successful Chicks
Cape Vulture	24	17	4	5	3	1	16	5	5	3	0	8
African White-backed vulture	6	4	1	1	1	0	4	0	2	1	1	2

In summary, our ex-situ conservation breeding programme produced a total of 30 eggs. Due to reasons beyond our control, some of these never made it to incubation, some died, whilst some were infertile. We successfully produced 8 Cape Vulture chicks, and 2 African White-backed chicks. Sadly, our Lappet-faced vultures have not yet bred, but we have high hopes for 2018.



Making History - VulPro releases 35 Vultures Back into the Wild



On 8 November 2017, VulPro together with the National Zoological Gardens

released a total of 35 vultures at the Nooitgedacht Cape Vulture breeding colony in the Magaliesberg. 20 of these were captive-bred Cape Vultures and the rest were rehabilitated vultures of 3 different species

Each vulture was fitted with patagial (wing) tags as well as a tracking device for monitoring purposes. All vultures, with the exception of the Lappet-faced vulture, were acclimatized for 6 months in a purpose-built release enclosure on the cliff edge, on top of the mountain .

This is the first release of its kind on the African continent, allowing us to assess the release success of captive-bred versus rehabilitated vultures under identical conditions.

This will inform future conservation efforts to supplement dwindling wild vulture populations.

We hope it may also help to plan future reintroduction programmes in countries where the species is becoming, or already has become extinct.

Vultures are declining rapidly across the globe and this programme is an opportunity to put back what is lost, making use of non-releasable vultures for breeding purposes, ensuring that every single captive vulture contributes to the survival of wild vulture populations.

Thus far, many of the released birds are remaining at the release site at Nooitgedacht where they feed and roost at the vulture restaurant and on the enclosure respectively. This has been our great hope, that these birds remain at the Nooitgedacht Cape Vulture breeding colony, to supplement that population and hopefully prove our captive-bred and rehabilitated vultures can contribute to bolstering wild vulture populations.”

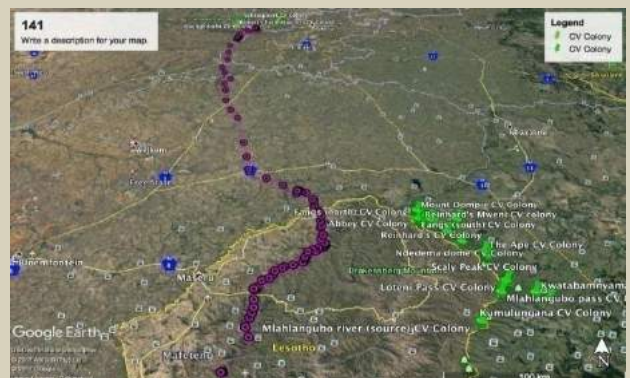
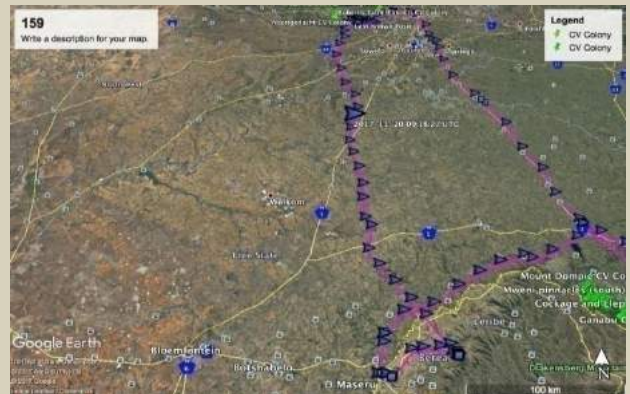


Never a Dull Day: The Largest single release of tagged vultures in South Africa results in near-death Muthi adventures in Lesotho.



VulPro staff took on an epic adventure, all because of a captive bred Cape Vulture (Tag 159), now aptly named Malehlohonolo which means “The Luckiest one”. After spending one week at the release site, she decided to make her way 350km south, to Lesotho. Her first major flight which was an epic for a captive-bred bird. The flight itself was hugely successful and she managed to cross South Africa and enter Lesotho in one day. However, she landed in a regular grazing spot for sheep protected by herdsman who captured her on 20 November 2017. She was chained and was headed for the muti market when the herdsman contacted VulPro, we believe in the hope of a bribe. To cut a long story short, Terror Makhubu came to her rescue

and saved her from her untimely death; taking her to the boarder in Maseru for us to collect her. Thanks to the help of KZN Ezemvelo Wildlife, permits were sorted out and Malehlohonolo returned to VulPro on 23 November, a little shell shocked but otherwise strong and happy to be back home. What is interesting to note here is that another rehab released Cape Vulture has done exactly the same route which Malehlohonolo started and is now further into Lesotho. (See attached maps for both birds)



Power line Survey Updates

- Anzelle van Wyk



VulPro has undertaken power-line surveys since 2014, with focal areas being in the North West, Limpopo, Free State, Eastern Cape and Gauteng Provinces. These areas have been found to be “hot-spot” areas resulting in many vulture fatalities.

In summary, 95.37 kilometers of power-lines have been surveyed, including 1027 power line structures with a total of 56 fatalities.



Since June – November 2017, another 19 vulture fatalities were recorded. This

indicates that we are losing on average 3 vultures a month due to power-line related incidents and that is just what we are aware of.

The following table shows the power-line statistics summary which indicates the year, date, area covered, kilometers surveyed, amount of structures surveyed and the amount of vulture fatalities recorded per survey.



Power line Survey Updates-

Anzelle van Wyk

Power line Statistics Summary					
Year	Date	Area	Kilometers Surveyed (KM)	Structures	Fatalities
2014	03-Oct	Kransberg CV Colony , Thabazimbi	2,4	22	10
2014	13-Oct	Lichtenbur, Biesiesfontein	1,5	20	0
2014	18-Oct	Rietfontein,NW, S of R514	2,4	26	0
2016	08-Jan	Skeerpoort, NW, 6 km from colony	1,25	15	2
2016	30-Mar	Lichtenburg Game Breeding Centre	7,4	30	0
2016	23-Apr	N of PTA Road to S of R514	1,92	3	1
2016	20-Jul	Outside Derby	26,5	140	7
2016	02-Nov	De Rust D22, S of Skeerpoort CV colony	0,7	12	1 (2015)
2017	02 - 14 Mar	Mokopane, Off R101	15	109	3
	26-Apr	Upper Cathcart EC	2,28	12	10
	7-8 June	Roodekuil Bela Bela	18.5	113	3
	12-Jun	Nylsvlei Limpopo	6.8	132	3
	20-Jun	Thomas River EC	1,02	17	3
	08-Aug	Thomas River EC	1	8	6
	26-Sep	Mockford Farms, Limpopo	1	13	0
	02-03 Oct	Lichtenburg Game Breeding Centre	15,9	172	1
	06-Oct	Curly Wee, NW	9,1	125	1
	16-Oct	Ibis Piggery, Limpopo	5	10	2
	06-Nov	Zastron -Free State	1	8	3
	16-Nov	Molemane Eye - North West	2.2	40	0
TOTAL			95.37	1027	56

Eskom and VulPro Working Together

Kishaylin Chetty



Over the last few years, Eskom has seen an increase in the number of power line avifaunal mortalities and avifaunal injuries being reported across the country. Of all the red data mortalities and injuries recorded over this period, just over 50% are strictly vulture related. Vultures, through their large wingspans, gregarious nature and heavy bodies are more vulnerable to electrical infrastructure like power lines, and are severely impacted upon through electrocution or collision. Whilst the numbers of mortalities of vultures have been on the increase, so has the number of injured vultures.

VulPro is one of the leading conservation programmes for advancing knowledge, awareness and innovation of African vultures.

VulPro has the largest vulture rehabilitation centre in Africa. At present,

157 injured Cape Vultures and 45 injured White-Backed Vultures are housed at the VulPro rehabilitation facility – most of which are a result of an interaction with an Eskom power line. Vultures in general are highly threatened and every vulture injured by an Eskom power line is a vulture removed from the very small breeding population. The centre's aim is to release all flightable, fit and healthy birds back into the wild as soon as possible and to provide a safe haven for those unable to be successfully released. These birds are then tracked and provide valuable information for scientific purposes. The vultures housed on a permanent basis at VulPro fall into educational, breeding or research



Eskom and VulPro Working Together

Kishaylin Chetty

programmes to further contribute to the conservation of vultures. Eskom takes the mortality or injury of vultures on power lines extremely seriously and have been working more closely with a number of stakeholders, like VulPro, to further advance knowledge of the impacts that power lines have on Vultures. This enables Eskom to further enhance mitigation efforts to ensure that the number of vulture mortalities and injuries are decreased across the country.

The relationship between VulPro and Eskom is significant for vulture conservation and will continue to grow, as both organisations recognise the importance of working together in the long term to achieve a mutual goal.

To find out more information about the incredible work that VulPro, please contact kerri.wolter@gmail.com.



Meet our Volunteer - John Turner



I have had a love for Vultures since I had the privilege of spending time observing them at Colchester Zoo. I spoke to some of the Zookeepers there, and VulPro was mentioned. From that day on I was hooked. I booked a flight immediately, and on the 4th of September 2017, I was on my way to Africa.

I had typical first day jitters when I arrived at VulPro. I didn't think I would fit in, being I'm a 56 year old man

and I was worried I wouldn't be able to do all the work. Oh well... I got stuck in right away, and on my very 1st day I got to handle the vultures! The very birds I had admired from afar. "WOW" is all I can say as words wouldn't explain how that felt. When I got into bed that night, I was overwhelmed with the feeling that I was finally somewhere I belonged.

Everyday was different! There was so much to do! Cleaning out enclosures, feeding the vultures, changing their waters and of course, hand-on vulture work.



Meet our Volunteer - John Turner

A task that really stood out was when we had to move some vultures from one enclosure to another, to allow for some repairs and maintenance.

This was an amazing chance to make a direct impact on the welfare of the birds. I also helped build an extension to an enclosure. This was my first time meeting PJ, what a diamond of a bird. I never knew I would fall in love with a vulture, I sure did, he is a real character!!!

Taking food in to the restaurant then standing back and just watching the wild vultures coming in to land and eat was breath-taking to say the least.

Going up to the pre-release enclosure and seeing the birds that were going to be released; witnessing the work that went into constructing this enclosure, and just witnessing the beauty of the area! I cannot put it into words! Seeing wild vultures circling above and landing on the mesh above was fantastic.

Seeing PJ and all the other birds every morning was fun, and as my time went on they got more and more inquisitive. If

I went in with a broom, bucket, or the wheelbarrow, PJ would be there first, being nosey and seeing if there was anything I had for him to eat. There were a couple of us that played football with PJ and his mates. What an enjoyable moment in my life. I used to sit down and PJ would sit with me and just chill.

I can't thank Kerri, her team, and the other volunteers enough, they helped me settle in and feel part of the family from day 1. I arrived feeling anxious...I left feeling that I had left all my family behind.

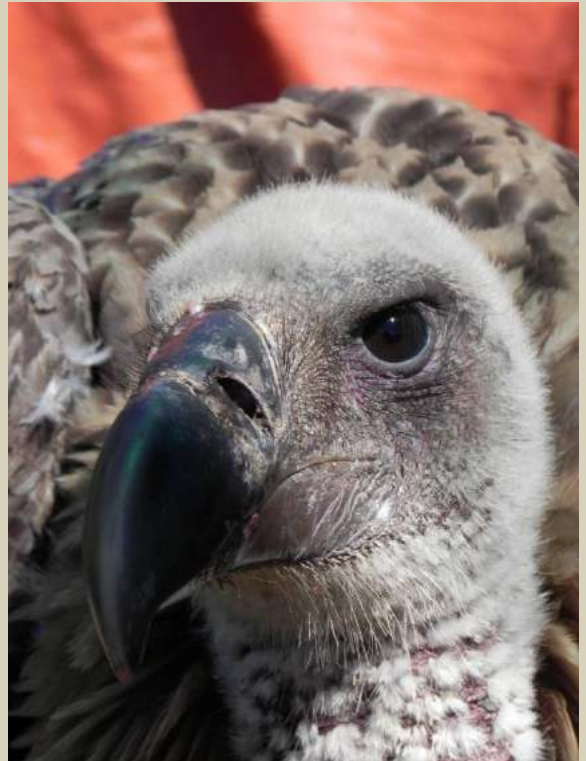
VulPro has changed me and my life for the better, I've always wanted to work with birds of prey. Kerri and her team are beyond passionate it is a true calling for them. I came away with lots of that passion and will be back and it will be for longer.....



Eastern Cape Report - Kate Webster

Rehabilitation:

I presently have three Cape vultures in my holding enclosures. All three of these birds are under breeding age and unable to be re released due to permanent damage to their wings. Presently these birds have remained at Rookwood and we are in the process of constructing a larger enclosure to accommodate them. Once they reach breeding age they will be transferred to VulPro for the breeding programme.



Eskom reporting;

I continue to get calls of birds that are being affected by the negative impact with the Eskom grid network.



Eastern Cape Report - Kate Webster

Date		Infrastructure type	Comments
19.06.017		Distribution line	2 Cape vultures electrocuted (Dodrecht)
20.06.017		Distribution line	3 Cape vultures electrocuted (Thomas River)
08.08.017		Distribution line	4 CV electrocuted – 4 under one structure and 1 tagged bird (older) at another structure 1 possible collision bird found at the site as well (Thomas River) Tagged bird X058 was a youngster tagged by Morgan Pheifer at Collywobbles
10.08.017		Distribution line	1 CV electrocuted on unprotected jumper cables (Rouxville)
20.08.017		Distribution line	CV found a distance from line however burn marks on the wing indicate electrocution (Thomas River)
21.09.017		Distribution line	2 electrocuted CVs reported by landowner to Stutterheim FPA (Quanti) Pieter Russouw FPA manager requesting urgent mitigation to prevent run away veldt fires as had occurred due to two separate vulture electrocutions in the E Cape the previous year which had resulted in extensive burns. One transferred to VulPro for wing amputation The second bird has permanent damaged wing ligament 4 other birds dead from electrocution
06.11.017		Transmission line/transformer	3 CVs electrocuted at transformer over the last year (Zastron)

Eastern Cape Report - Kate Webster



General:

In July I did a power point presentation on VulPro's work in the E Cape to the Border Bird Club which was well represented by members. It is always a

pleasure to be able to share one's passion with persons who hopefully will be able to spread the value of vultures in our province. I continue submit public participation comments with regards to IAP's on many of the proposed wind farm developments in the E Cape which hopefully will have an effect on sustainable development. Sadly we are slowly being fed the devastating effects of the already operating wind farms (mainly via Birdlife SA) which have already recorded Cape vulture fatalities. However

I continue to be vigilant in this regard as I do fear the EAPs are not always up to standard.

I worked together with Greer Hawley on the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan which is presently being updated. I also attended the stakeholder meeting held in East London in November.

I represented VulPro at the E Cape predator management forum meeting held in October in Queenstown. This forum meets twice a year with the next meeting scheduled for May next year.

Eastern Cape Report - Kate Webster



Other activities;

The vulture restaurant at Rookwood is still in operation with food supplied from the local abattoir, Peace Abattoir. This supply of food is still assisting in feeding the vultures that I have had in for rehabilitation as well my now permanent residents although with the extreme dry conditions the lamb and goat kid crop offered a good amount of food for my resident guys too!

Thomas vulture (released in January 2016) continues to stay on the wing in the E Cape and despite his tracking device being somewhat faulty, he continues to log in (irregularly) we are picking up valuable information on the movements of Cape vultures in particular in this province. He has also been of great assistance with regards to potential wind development areas as well as the utilization of power line structures. Recently he literally flew within less than

a kilometre from where my son farms but we are yet to see him ourselves. He must be reaching maturity now and hopefully next year will be able to breed somewhere in the E Cape.

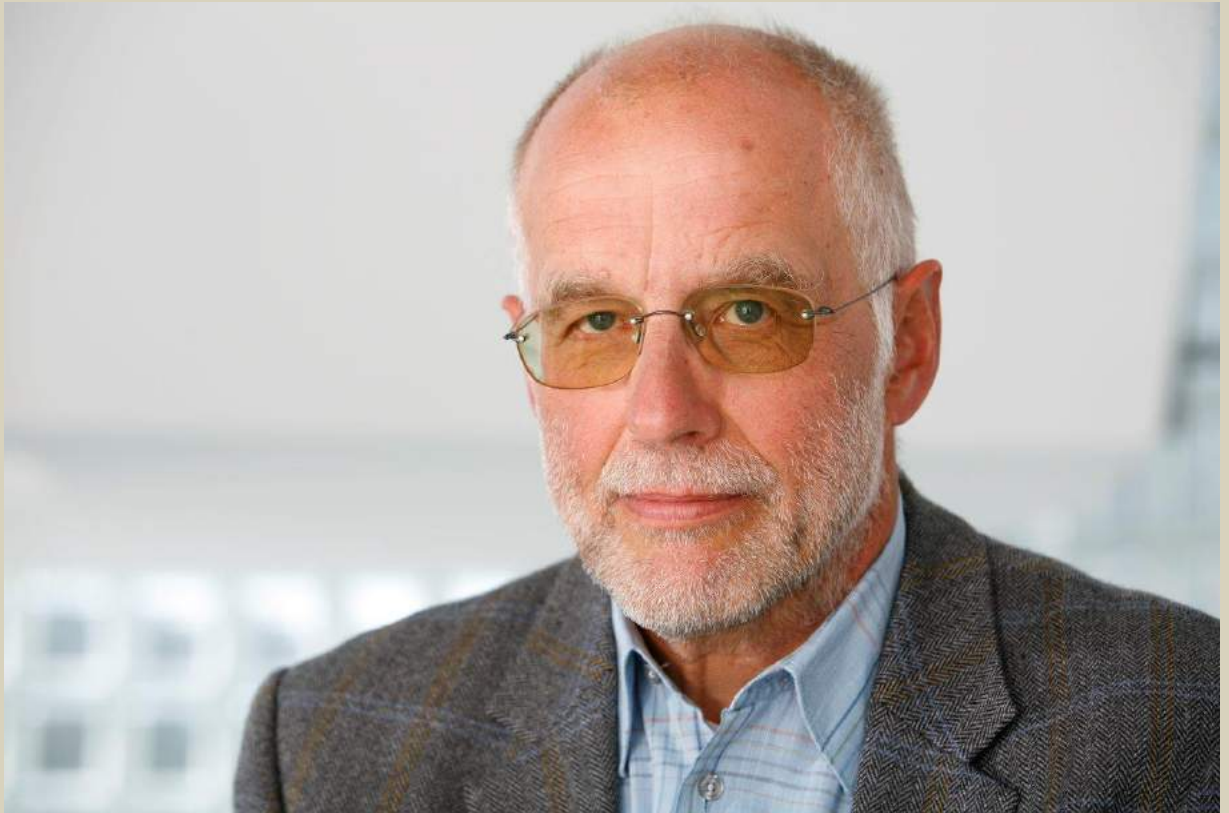
Elliot, my baby from earlier this year, is apparently behaving himself now on the Magaliesberg and I am happy to know that he finally has learnt to be a proper vulture.

Lastly without the tremendous support from VulPro staff, in particular Kerri Wolter and my sponsors namely **Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust** and **DHL Supply Chain** I would not be able to do the work I am doing. My family and staff of Rookwood are always there for the 'extra' hands (or feet) and company (on the road at times) and for this I am extremely grateful.



Meet our Conservation Partner

- Juergen Daemmgen



I was born in Solingen, Federal Republic of Germany in 1949. Since I was a little boy of 4 years or so, I have been fascinated by animals, catching frogs, salamanders and everything I could find and trying to bring them home. My poor mum had to find them when they had escaped from their enclosures, always trying to keep calm, even when a snake was lying in front of her bed and she stepped on it, when she got up in the morning(which was a real challenge for her!).

When I grew older, I got more and more

interested in birds. However, trying to get hold of them was a frustration: No matter, how much I tried, those beasts always escaped. That situation changed, when I got a new, young biology teacher at the age of 11. He was an ornithologist and bird bander. Of course, I joined him as quickly as I could and helped mist-netting and banding songbirds. This often kept me from doing my homework, so my dad would have to intervene. Since those days I have been an 'ornithomaniac', with no indication of losing that passion up to now, 57 years later.

Meet our Conservation Partner

- Juergen Daemmgen



I also had the dream to become a professional ornithologist, but my teacher dissuaded me. Just like today, there were only a few attractive positions able to feed yourself and a family. Thus, I decided to study veterinary medicine and went to the University of Giessen in 1967. During my studies I found out that I liked biochemistry, physiology etc. more than clinical stuff and when I graduated in 1972, I had the chance to take up a PhD project in biochemical virology. (Today this would be named molecular biology, but that term was not very well established in veterinary science in those days.)

I received my PhD in 1975 and after looking for job, I was offered the position of a postdoc in pharmacology (i.e. a mixture of physiology and biochemistry) in a pharmaceutical company. I stayed in that company until I

retired in 2010, having had several different positions, including that of a global head of R&D in the animal health branch. In parallel, I was teaching pharmacology in the Veterinary University of Vienna.

During all those years I remained a keen birder, never traveling without my binoculars, wherever my business took me.

When I retired, I was asked by members of the RSPB to advise in pharmacological matters, i.e. the Indian vulture catastrophe, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and meloxicam, so far the only such compound not killing Gyps-vultures.

Working with vulture people I got more and more involved and fell in love with those beautiful and fascinating creatures.



Meet our Conservation Partner

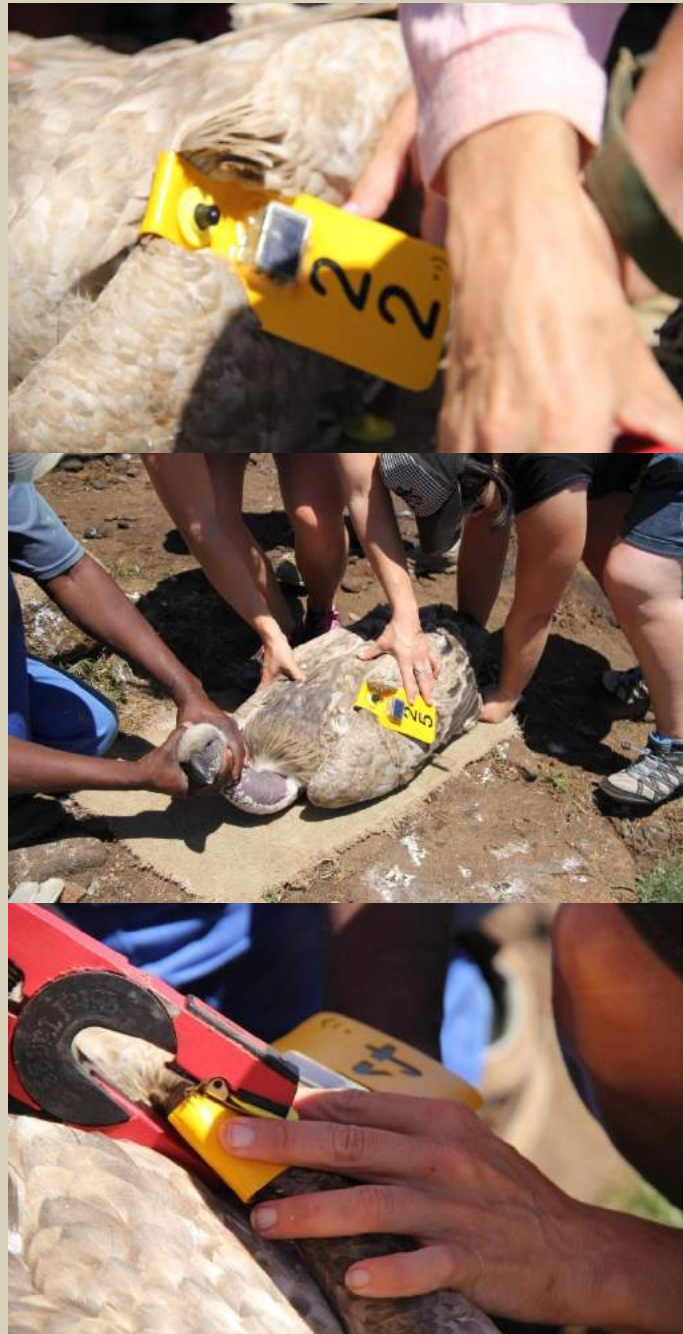
- Juergen Daemmgen

In addition, I became interested in studying avian behavior and movements with GPS/GSM telemetry. By chance I got in touch with a gifted electronic engineer and passionate birder for the University of Constance, as well as the Max-Planck-Institute for Ornithology in Radolfzell, Germany., Georg Heine. Georg was developing a small size, cost effective device for GPS/GSM telemetry in birds.

Talking to him and communicating with Kerri Wolter from VulPro, the idea of instrumenting VulPro's vultures and studying their movements, was born.

After testing some technical features in 2016, the first 10 devices were brought to VulPro and mounted to the wing tags of vultures in early 2017. Then in autumn of 2017 another 20 devices were brought in. They have been attached to the wing tags of a group of Cape Vultures which were released on Magaliesberg mountains, on the 8th of November 2017.

I do hope that those birds can contribute to the survival of this majestic species!



Special Mention

VulPro would like to give special thanks to the collaboration of AfriVet, MLP Media, and Dabchick Wildlife Reserve, for the design and production of our new educational vulture brochures.

These beautifully designed booklets have been produced in both English and Afrikaans, and will help pave the way to enhancing peoples knowledge and understanding of this amazing species.



With thanks to our Sponsors

