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### EDITORIAL: TRACKING BIRDS FOR CONSERVATION

We hope that 2014 has been off to a good start! This issue brings a special focus on some of our power line-sensitive bird species, and in particular on vultures – now under increasing threat due to the decimating effects of the deliberate poisoning of carcasses in an effort to deter these vigilant observers from indicating where poaching activities have been taking place. Well done to all who are championing their cause, including NamPower's Aranos team; the Namibia Animal Rehabilitation Research and Education Centre (NARREC); the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife and Energy Programme (EWT-WEP) for the Eskom "Adopt a Vulture Project" in South Africa; and countless other unsung heroes/heroines. We bring further news on the flamingo tracking front, including collaboration with a similar initiative in Bolivia; the welcome involvement of Swakop Uranium in power line monitoring; and the power line surveys and incidents that have been reported over the past six months.



Many thanks to all for these ongoing and invaluable contributions!

An immature Cape Vulture that has been fitted with a GSM ("cellphone") tracker as part the exciting Eskom "Adopt a Vulture" project in SA (photo EWT-WEP)



NamPower's Aranos team with the young White-backed Vulture that they rescued in January 2014 (L to R): Simon Fukwa, AC van Zyl and Herman Kooper (photo Quinton).

### DIE AASVOËL: ARANOS / A VULTURE NAMED ARANOS

AC van Zyl en Aranos personeel

Email [AC.Van.Zyl@nampower.com.na](mailto:AC.Van.Zyl@nampower.com.na)

NamPower's Aranos team (AC van Zyl, Simon Fukwa and Herman Kooper) rescued an immature White-backed Vulture that seemed unable to fly well on 28 January 2014. Using the contact details on the back of the NARREC booklet, "Namibia Large Birds of Prey", AC was able to get in touch with raptor experts Peter Bridgeford, and then Liz Komen at NARREC (see article on p3 for advice. Under NamPower's able care the bird was soon drinking water, and eventually feeding. On 4 February the bird was taken to Liz at NARREC at Brakwater, Windhoek.

Op Dinsdag 28 Januarie 2014 het ek op die M42 pad na Aminuis noord van Aranos uitgery en in omgewing van plaase Weltevrede en Elbow het ek 'n aasvoël teen die pad gesien, maar ek het gedink dat dit aan 'n dooie karkas op die pad gevreet het. Op my terugrit het ek opgemerk dat die voël 'n lae vlug uitgevoer het.

Die volgende dag het ek dit met kollegas Simon Fukwa en Herman Kooper bespreek en hulle, wat vroeër die dag uit was, het my vermoede bevestig toe hulle vertel dat hulle die voël uit die pad gehelp het om te verhoed dat hy doodgery word.

Ek het besef dat die voël beseer of vergiftig moes wees. Op Donderdag het ek na Smuts Reticulation gery en steeds die voël in dieselfde area gesien. Ek het foto's geneem en die GPS ko-ördinate.



ons moet hom na Windhoek probeer stuur. Ons het op radio gevra vir 'n geleentheid maar geen gekry. Gedurende die naweek het hy die vleis gevreet en water geneem. Ons het toe hondepille met vleis saagsels gemeng en hy het ook daarvan gevreet.

Ek moes Dinsdag 4 Februarie 2014 na Windhoek ry om voorrade by die store af te haal. Maandag namiddag het ek en my kollegas die voël in 'n kartondoos geplaas. Dinsdag oggend het ek na Windhoek vertrek, waar ek Liz by Brakwater ontmoet het en die voël oorhandig het. Sy het my laat weet dat "Aranos" (die voël se naam) goed vorder en dat hulle hom later sou vrylaat.

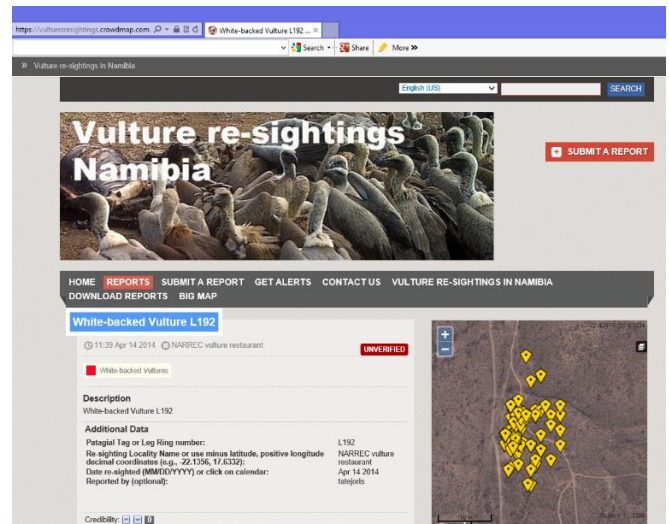
*Liz Komen picks up the story: the NamPower vulture, "Aranos", was released about 0.7 km from the NARREC feeding site on 7 April 2014. The good news is that this bird (now with a yellow wing-tag numbered L192) was seen at the feeding site with other birds on 14 April 2014 – this is the first step in success for a rehabilitated bird. Up to 25 April 2014 the bird had been seen there three more times - see the exciting new "CROWD-MAP" below, a website where vulture resightings can be entered online, and also looked up:*

<https://vulturesresightings.crowdmap.com/reports/view/337>



The young White-backed Vulture (Witruugaasvoël) rescued by NamPower's Aranós team and brought to NARREC; being fed by AC van Zyl (below). This vulture is a Red Data species (classified as *Near Threatened* in Namibia, and also *Globally Threatened*). Note the "points" on the tips of the streaky coloured feathers - an easy way to distinguish a bird still in its first year (*photos AC van Zyl [top] & Quinton*)

By aankoms by kantoor het ek op die boek "Namibia Large Birds of Prey" die telefoon nommers opgekyk en geskakel. Pete Bridgeford was die eerste wat ek kon kry en hy het my verder gehelp en na Liz Komen (by NARREC) verwys. Vrydag het Liz my gekontak en my inligting rondom moontlike optredes gegee, soos om water en vleis naby neer te sit en te kyk of die voël reageer. Ek het uitgery met water en vleis en toe die voël die water nader, het ek my oorpak se baadjie oor hom gegooi en hom gevang. Ons het hom toe na ons stoor-yard toe gebring en nadat hy rustig was het hy baie water gedrink. Hy het nog nie die vleis geëet nie. Ek het Liz laat weet en sy het voorgestel



White-backed Vulture (L192) photographed at the NARREC feeding site on 14 April 2014, seven days after release (*camera trap photo NARREC*)

## NARREC – A SPECIAL SUPPORT SERVICE



Liz Komen, the dedicated founder and director of NARREC  
(photo NARREC)

The Namibia Animal Rehabilitation Research and Education Centre (NARREC) is a non-profit organisation, run by Liz Komen. It was initially sponsored by the Rössing Foundation, Consolidated Diamond Mines (now Namdeb) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), who made it possible to erect the first aviaries.

NARREC is based at Brakwater, just north of Windhoek, and operates as a special support service to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and collaborates with the City of Windhoek, the SPCA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry on issues relating to human and animal interactions. However, without the financial and logistical assistance of numerous concerned members of the Namibian general public and organisations over the past almost two decades and the current assistance from Tauer and Corssen (Pty) Ltd, as well as the Meatco Okapuka feedlot, NARREC's mission to provide wildlife assistance and unique environmental education facilities would not be possible.

The primary focus of the centre is to provide professional care and rehabilitation facilities for injured, orphaned and misplaced wildlife in order to facilitate their release back into the wild. Addressing the misuse of poison is another key focus.

The rehabilitation facilities are enhanced by an awareness and education component that includes housing non-releasable animals in facilities of an internationally high standard in a holistic environment that operates in line with sustainable-use principles and technologies.



Some of the extensive aviaries at NARREC; the primary focus of the centre is to provide professional care and rehabilitation facilities for injured, orphaned and misplaced wildlife in order to facilitate their release back into the wild (photo NARREC)

The centre comprises a clinic and hospital room for the treatment of injured wildlife, a kitchen, a store and an education resources display room, as well as aviaries that are laid out over ten hectares of thornveld savannah. Visit the website below for more information, including on a wide range of educational resources.



### Contact details

Liz Komen

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Cell 081 129 0565

[www.narrec.net](http://www.narrec.net)



L to R: Lappet-faced Vulture, White-backed Vulture; and Southern White-faced Scops-Owl (photos NARREC)

## ESKOM'S "ADOPT A VULTURE PROJECT"

Eskom putting their weight behind vulture conservation in South Africa

Constant Hoogstad, email [constanth@ewt.org.za](mailto:constanth@ewt.org.za)



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife and Energy Programme (EWT-WEP), in partnership with Eskom Limpopo Operating Unit, the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme (EWT-BoPP) and the Vulture Conservation Programme (VulPro), has launched the Adopt a Vulture Project that forms part of the Greater Limpopo Vulture Project.

The main aim of the Limpopo Vulture Project is to use Global System for Mobile (GSM or "cellphone") tracking devices to obtain further information about the movement patterns of the different vulture species in Limpopo. These data will enable Eskom to make informed and vulture-friendly decisions when new power lines are planned and erected. The project will also look at the relationship between line faults on Eskom distribution lines and vulture movements, in an attempt to determine whether tracking data can be used to predict where line faults are likely to occur. This will enable Eskom to mitigate potential interactions pro-actively rather than reactively.

"It was during the initiation and implementation of the Vulture Project that the idea for the Adopt a Vulture initiative was born," commented Constant Hoogstad, Senior Field Officer of the EWT-WEP. "Eskom has allocated a vulture to each of their General Managers in all nine of South Africa's provinces and these managers have become responsible for monitoring the bird's movements and observing its behaviour. By allowing these managers to take some kind of custodianship over these birds we have made the project real and tangible to Eskom's managers."

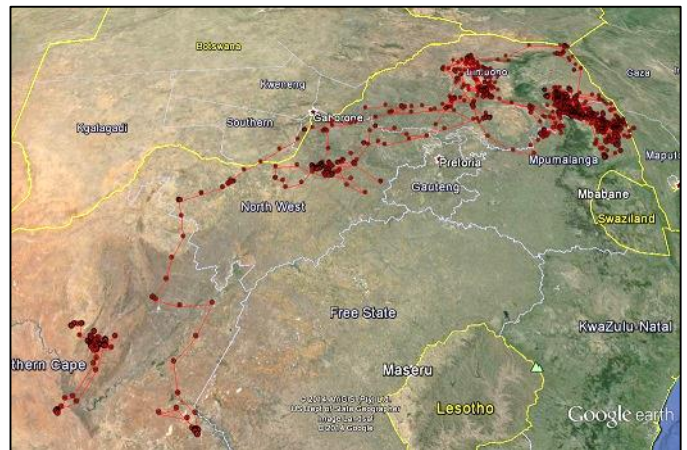
The foster parents to the birds received the opportunity to personally tag and release their vulture and this was an extraordinary experience for many as they had never had the

opportunity to engage so closely with these majestic birds. Furthermore, the managers are also responsible for educating their Operating Unit about the importance of conserving vultures and for ensuring that the adopted birds are used as mascots to promote the reporting of wildlife and energy infrastructure incidents.

"I am extremely delighted with the initiation of this project as the promotion of environmental awareness and protection is aligned to Eskom's key values of Zero Harm. Historically, the lack of knowledge and research has resulted in line designs that have inflicted damage to some of our precious vulture species. We have the opportunity to turn the tide, and are committed to bird-friendly designs and promoting research to gain more knowledge on saving the environment," said the General Manager of Eskom Distribution, Peter Sebola.

"Releasing the vulture was an exhilarating experience and will forever motivate me to promote bird-friendly structures where bird electrocutions or collision are possible. The Gauteng Operating Unit's vulture was a Cape Vulture that we have named GOU-SHA. This name symbolises the bird rising above adversity to play a critical role in the reproduction of this threatened species," concluded Sebola.

The Project is sponsored by Eskom Limpopo Operating Unit. For further information about the Limpopo Vulture Project contact Constant Hoogstad on [constanth@ewt.org.za](mailto:constanth@ewt.org.za).



Example of GSM tracking data obtained for Cape Vultures.



Left (L to R): The Lennon family, and EWT's André Botha and Constant Hoogstad. Centre & Right: Fitting GSM tracking devices to Cape Vultures with the support of foster parents/custodians, including Eskom's Gauteng Operating Unit (photos EWT-WEP)

## UPDATE ON FLAMINGO AND POWER LINES PROJECT

### Background

Previous newsletters report on the capture of two Greater Flamingos and one Lesser Flamingo that were successfully fitted with GPS satellite tracking devices (platform terminal transmitters or PTTs) at Mile 4 Saltworks, Swakopmund in January 2013, and the progress made with tracking local movements of these birds for around six months.

The tracking of flagship Red Data wetland bird species such as flamingos is a ground-breaking initiative of the "Flight paths for wetland flagships" project, funded by the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), the Nedbank Go Green Fund and the NamPower/NNF Strategic Partnership. It is hoped that the flight paths that emerge will indicate focal areas for addressing potential interactions between flamingos and overhead lines – one of the main concerns of the Partnership. It should be kept in mind, however, that at best, the data obtained will indicate a straight line between two reliable GPS coordinates, and that further investigations will be needed to plot actual flight paths between such points in more detail.

Large-scale movements eastwards and inland were anticipated only after good rains inland, and the project unfortunately hit a relatively dry period, with limited movement inland during the summer of 2012/2013. This trend has continued during the past summer (2013/2014), with the birds still not showing signs of migrating inland.

### One PTT re-fitted to a Greater Flamingo

The battery-powered PTT that was recovered when a Greater Flamingo died near Walvis Bay in August (see newsletter no. 12, p 3) has been refurbished, with funding provided by the Go Green Fund. This was fitted to another Greater Flamingo captured at Mile 4 Saltworks on 1 March 2014 (and ringed NJG). After a short time the bird moved down to Walvis Bay Saltworks, where it remains as of 29 April 2014. We would like to thank all our funders and our very efficient capture team, Mark Boorman, Timo Britze and Tony Tebitt; the Klein family for providing access to Mike 4 Saltworks; and Dr John Mendelsohn for managing the tracking data.

### Altitude data and flying times

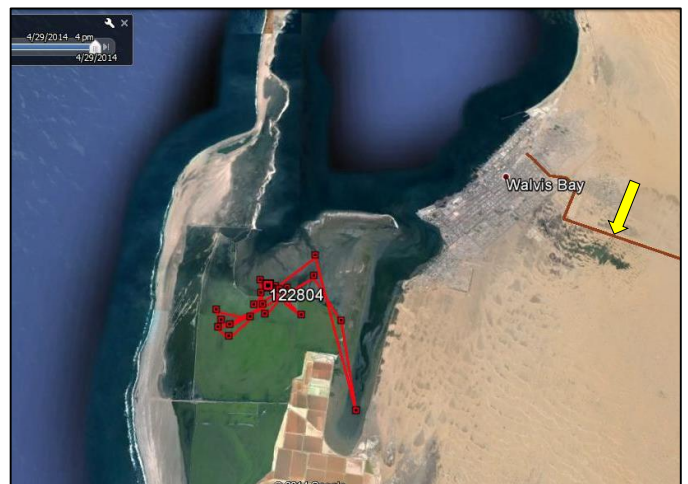
In the mean time we have been able to extract some of the more reliable altitude data for the Lesser Flamingo at Cape Cross, averaging 3.6 m for local movements at this site (May-June 2013). Much of this activity takes place under conditions of poor light (see figure alongside).

### Flamingo numbers on the coast

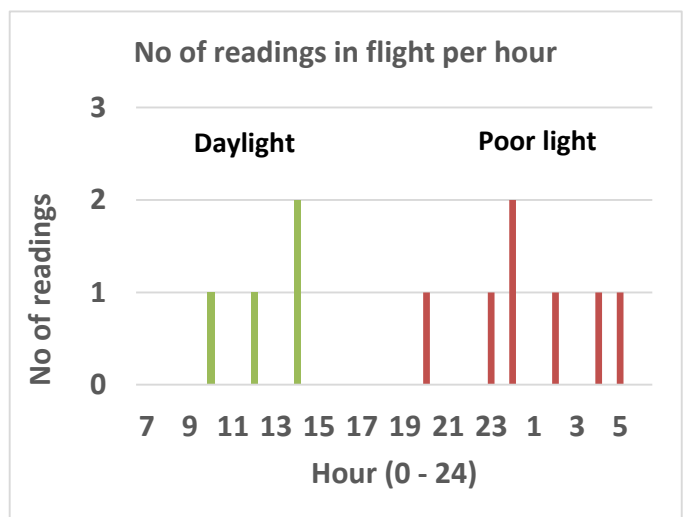
Large numbers of flamingos (141,000) were counted on the coast in July 2013 during the national MET winter wetland bird census. This regular census is coordinated by Peter Bridgeford of the Coastal Environment Trust of Namibia (CETN), with the assistance of many volunteer birders from all over the country.



Greater Flamingo captured at Mile 4 Saltworks on 1/3/14 and fitted with a battery-powered PTT and green ring (NJG); part of capture team (L to R) Tony Tebitt, Mark Boorman, Timo Britze and Mike Scott (photo Ann Scott)



Satellite tracking data at Walvis Bay Lagoon for a Greater Flamingo fitted with a battery-powered PTT on 1/3/14; there is great interest in whether the bird will move towards the power line on the right (arrow), just north of the Walvis Bay Sewage Ponds (Google map generated by Ann Scott)



Selection of more reliable altitude data at Cape Cross (May-June 2014) for a Lesser Flamingo fitted with a GPS PTT and showing number of readings taken per hour when the speed data indicated that the bird was in flight (figure Ann Scott)

On 15-16 February 2014 (summer) this total rose to 156,870, with the following breakdown:

- Greater Flamingos in Walvis Bay area: 22,200; Sandwich Harbour 70,000; and Cape Cross only 420; a total of 92,620.
- Lesser Flamingos in Walvis: 23,800 (including 5,129 at the Walvis Bay Sewage Ponds); Sandwich Harbour 40,000; and Cape Cross with 450; a total of 64 250.

The overall number of birds is down in comparison to other summer counts, however; in fact, it is the second lowest in the past ten years. This may be because, with the rains inland, some of these birds have gone to breed on the dams, pans and vleis.

According to MET ornithologist Holger Kolberg, the high numbers of flamingos during July 2013 are considered to be normal; however, with the unusually high rainfall inland over the past few years, many of the flamingos stayed inland and bred successfully there, rather than return to the coast in winter, and as a result numbers have been lower during this time. These birds have now returned to the coast, and the good breeding is evidenced by the many young birds being seen here now.

#### **Factual feedback on causes of flamingo mortality**

Large numbers of dead flamingos were also observed on the coast in September-October 2013, when the first three satellite tracked birds died/disappeared. This may be a natural phenomenon, given the large numbers present and the resultant increase in competition for food and space. There has been much speculation on the possible causes of flamingo mortalities, however, and we are pleased to report on some factual data in this respect.

The report of a veterinary investigation requested by MET DRM, commissioned by NACOMA and executed by Dr Diethardt Rodenwoldt was released on 24 February 2014. From the detailed analysis of 12 flamingo carcasses, mainly from the Walvis Bay Lagoon in October 2013 (apart from one at the Swakop River Mouth, September 2013), the main cause of mortality was concluded to be starvation, in five cases coupled with organophosphate traces.

Rod Braby, the NACOMA Project Coordinator comments: "I believe we need to take these findings very seriously. I am pleased to note that UNAM are going to continue the research on this issue and will shortly be obtaining a permit from MET".



*Rod Braby is thanked for commissioning the report through NACOMA, and Dr Rodenwoldt for his dedication and interest in following up on the numerous carcasses brought in to his private vet practice.*

## **TALL STORIES**

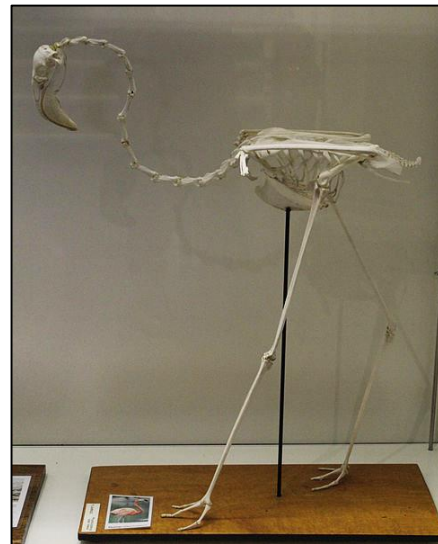
### **How many vertebrae does a flamingo have in its long neck?**

Birds have more cervical (neck) vertebrae than many other animals; most have a highly flexible neck consisting of 14 vertebrae (ducks) to 25 vertebrae (swans). The neck of the flamingo is long and sinuous. This bird has the longest neck of all birds in relation to its body, with 19 elongated cervical (neck) vertebrae that allow for maximum movement and twisting.

<http://www.netplaces.com/birds/evolution-anatomy-and-flight/anatomy.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird\\_anatomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_anatomy)

<http://www.stinapa.org/nee/flamingo.html>



Skeleton of a Greater Flamingo at the Royal Veterinary College Anatomy Museum

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater\\_Flamingo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Flamingo)

In case you were wondering about giraffe: apart from a few rare exceptions, mammals have only seven cervical (neck) vertebrae. Despite their long necks, giraffe have the same number of vertebrae as almost all other mammals, including humans; however, in giraffe these vertebrae are greatly elongated – 25-28 cm (10-11 inches).



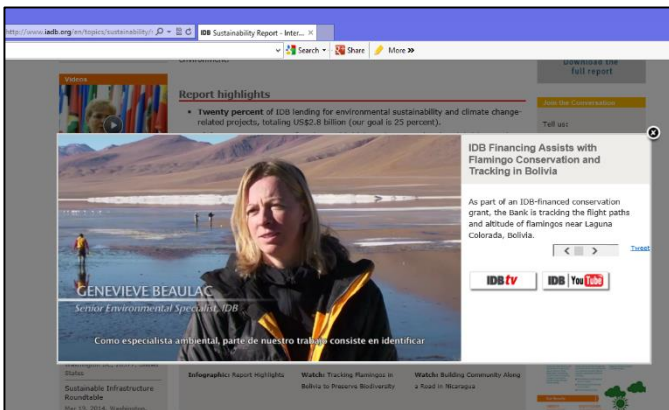
Giraffe skeleton, showing the seven elongated vertebrae  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Giraffe\\_skeleton.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Giraffe_skeleton.jpg)

## FLAMINGO TRACKING IN BOLIVIA: CONSERVING REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY

Genevieve Beaulac, email: [genevieveb@iadb.org](mailto:genevieveb@iadb.org)

*Ed: For some time we have been liaising with a "sister project" on flamingo tracking almost half-way across the globe, in Bolivia. It gives up great pleasure to bring you this report by Genevieve Beaulac, pictured below in a video at*

<http://www.iadb.org/en/topics/sustainability/sustainability-report,1510.html> (scroll down and click: Tracking flamingos).



The colourful Andean Flamingo is considered "*Vulnerable*" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (*photo supplied by Genevieve Beaulac*)



Bolivian flamingo expert Omar Rocha releases an Andean Flamingo that has been fitted with a GPS PTT in order to promote better understanding of the interactions between flamingos and transmission lines in Bolivia (*photo supplied by Omar Rocha*)

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are home to some of the world's richest biological diversity. The region is also experiencing rapid population growth and transformation, leading to an increased demand for power generation. The construction and operation of power line infrastructure to meet projected demands have potential impacts on biodiversity, such as bird collisions, habitat loss or habitat fragmentation.

As part of an IDB-financed grant, the Bank is tracking the flight paths and altitude of flamingos near Laguna Colorada, Bolivia, which is one of their key feeding and reproduction sites. The area has been declared a protected site nationally (*Reserva Eduardo Avaroa*) as well as internationally by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar). The reserve receives about 85,500 visitors a year, and observing flamingos in their natural habitat constitutes a key attraction. Approximately 25 percent of the revenue from visitor entry fees is earmarked for the nearby communities of Quetena Chico and Quetena Grande.

During November and December of 2013, ornithologists and field biologists equipped five Andean flamingos with ultra-light GPS devices transmitting via Argos, a provider of worldwide environmental tracking and monitoring by satellite. In just the first four days of wearing the GPS devices, two of the flamingos had already travelled extensively. Waira, named in honour of the Aymara god of the wind, had travelled 180 km. Ekeko, named in honour of the god of abundance, travelled even further - about 350 km.

The purpose of the project is to promote better understanding of the interactions between flamingos and transmission lines. The study is tracking the birds' daily local flights between the various high-altitude wetlands (lagoons) in the vicinity of Laguna Colorada during the breeding season (summer months). It is also known that during the winter months, the flamingos leave the lagoons and migrate to lower-altitude wetlands in Chile, Argentina and Peru. The results of this study will contribute to the conservation of this and other flamingo species by displaying more-precise flight patterns, such as routes and altitudes. Public authorities and private sector developers can refer to the information to help develop sound local and regional approaches when planning the installation of power lines. The Andean Flamingo is considered "*Vulnerable*" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The initiative is led by Dr Genevieve Beaulac (Senior Environmental Specialist of the Environmental Safeguards Unit, Office of the Vice President for Sectors and Knowledge) in collaboration with colleague Ernani Pilla and their local Bolivian flamingo expert, Omar O. Rocha (Executive Director BIOTA). All research is financed by the Inter-American Development Bank ([www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org)).

The video (see link, above left) shows how beautiful the landscape is in Laguna Colorada at 4,500m above sea level, how magnificent the flamingos are, and the fitting process with the GPS PTTs.

## SWAKOP URANIUM COMES ON BOARD WITH POWER LINE MONITORING

A basic training session on power line monitoring was provided for the environmental staff of the Husab Project Team, Swakop Uranium, based at Husab Mine near Arandis, on 29 November 2013.

With many new power lines being constructed on the coast (including the refurbishment of some older power lines) in proportion to the growing mining and other industries, this new partnership and the commitment of Swakop Uranium to practical environmental conservation is particularly welcome and encouraging.

The theoretical session covered the following points:

- The NamPower/Namibia Nature Foundation Strategic Partnership
- Common types of wildlife and power line interactions in Namibia
- Power line monitoring methods
- Identification of birds (live and dead) most commonly involved in power line interactions

This was followed by a field visit to both new and older power lines in the vicinity of the Husab Mine, for:

- Practical completion of monitoring forms
- Practical bird identification

The group was able to apply its newly acquired skills just west of the new Lithops Substation, where the signs of the collision of at least three Ludwig's Bustards were identified (see power line incidents below, p 11).

We would like to thank Swakop Uranium, and in particular Michele Kilbourn Louw (Manager: Environmental) and Angie Kanadjembo (Site Environmental Manager) and her team at the Husab Project for their positive support.

This lively and committed group is well set to carry on with the important next steps, namely to draw up and implement a power line monitoring programme.



A beautiful Martial Eagle that is usually spotted along the C28 road; on 6 March 2014 two of them were seen on the same cable line (photo Angie Kanadjembo)



Practical fieldwork with Swakop Uranium environmental staff



The new Lithops-Husab power line uses a steel-type monopole about 25 m high; the (horizontal) insulators are 1.5 m long



The new Lithops-Husab power line runs through some extremely rugged terrain (photos Ann Scott)

## MARABOU STORK MORTALITIES ON POWER LINES IN UGANDA

Derek Pomeroy & Micheal Kibuule

Email [derek@imul.com](mailto:derek@imul.com) & [mkibuule@gmail.com](mailto:mkibuule@gmail.com)

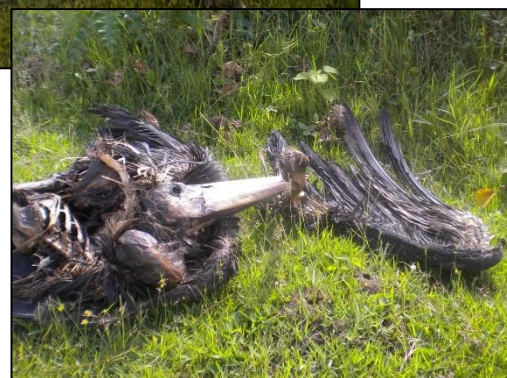
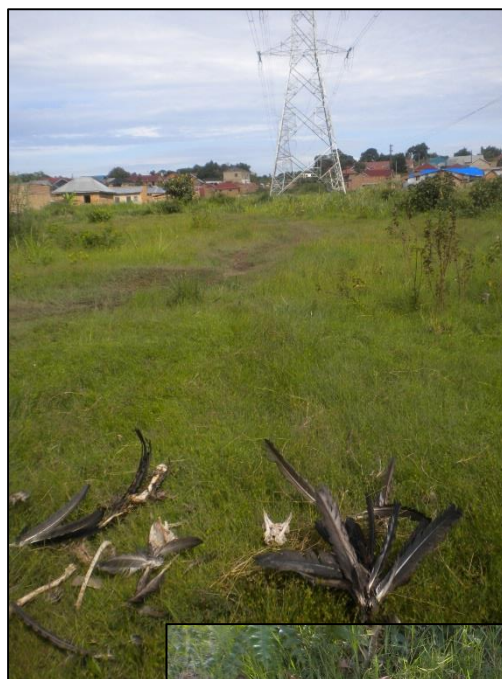
Derek Pomeroy (6 Nov 2013): I am writing a short note on bird strikes on high voltage lines in Uganda (so far, 17 marabous, no vultures) and wonder how I can get the wing span of a Hooded Vulture? (c 270 cm in Marabou).

The dead birds are indeed near to a landfill site, with up to a thousand Marabous, sometimes a few more even. We suspect, but have yet to establish, that the dead birds are immature, which roost on the pylons, although collisions are more likely to be with the mid-voltage lines running parallel to the high voltage, since locals report occasional outages.

Micheal Kibuule: I have attached three pictures of dead Marabous and their bodies were found below the electric lines. These incidents took place near Kampala city - Uganda. From our surveys, we have observed several dead Marabous due to electrocution/collision, but among the collected information from residents, other birds like the cranes and Vultures also get electrocuted. According to what we see, there is no initiative to eliminate bird collisions in our country.

*Ed: Although the Marabou Stork has been flagged as being sensitive to collisions on power lines, so far we have no records of such incidents in Namibia. The report above shows that such incidents can indeed take place.*

*We also have large numbers of these storks around some landfills in Namibia, and potential collisions with nearby power lines are an ongoing concern, given that the Marabou Stork is classed as Near Threatened in Namibia.*



Marabou Stork mortalities on high voltage lines near Kampala city in Uganda (photos Micheal Kibuule)

### Why is the Marabou Stork (Maraboe) on the Red List for Namibia?

This stork is classified as a species of conservation concern because of its low numbers in Namibia, its possible decline in future and the rarity of breeding colonies in the subcontinent.

The Marabou Stork is widespread throughout sub-Saharan Africa, frequenting wetlands such as inland dams and pans, rivers and in modern times, congerating around garbage dumps where it feeds on offal and other human waste. It feeds both by scavenging, and by preying on fish, nestling queleas and flamingos.

A maximum of 900 Marabou Stork probably occur in Namibia, constituting 1.5% of an estimated global population of 100,000 – 300,000 individuals.

The indirect impacts of poison are a threat to all scavenging species. There are few direct threats but as a scavenger the Marabou Stork relies to some extent on large predators that are decreasing in all but Namibia's national parks and certain conservancies. Garbage dumps that attract large numbers are also likely to become more sanitary in future years.



Above: The Marabou Stork (photo Chris van Rooyen)  
Below: Large numbers of Marabou Stork attracted to a domestic refuse disposal site near Windhoek (photo Ann Scott)

## POWER LINE SURVEYS

Power line survey: Lithops – Walmund 220 kV

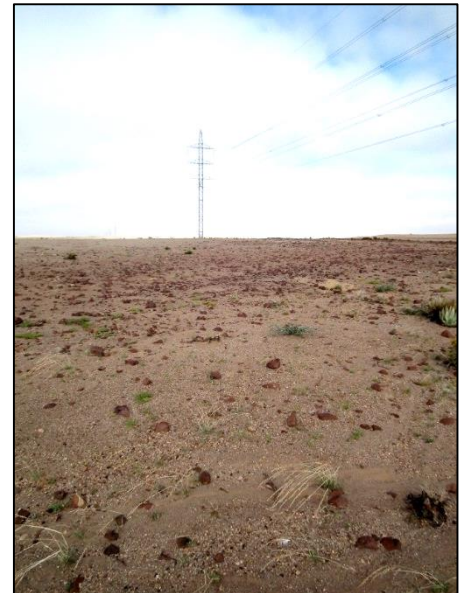
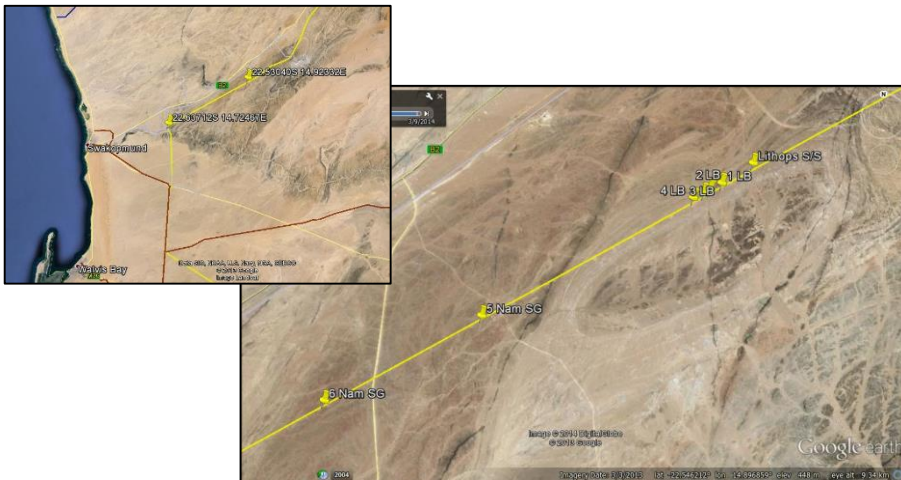
6 March 2014 (27 km)

Participants: Mike & Ann Scott (NP/NNF Strategic Partnership)

Survey supported by Bernhardt Doeseb (NamPower)

Power line recently refurbished; recent rain

Total incidents: 4 Ludwig's Bustard; 2 Namaqua Sandgrouse



Typical habitat: incident no. 1

Ludwig's Bustard  
22.53319S 14.91856E

Collision with power line where it intersects with water course  
Same area as incident on 29 Nov 2013 (see below); but fresh feathers

▼ GLOBALLY THREATENED



Ludwig's Bustard  
22.53410S 14.91677E

Collision with power line where it intersects with water course

GLOBALLY THREATENED



Ludwig's Bustard  
22.53456S 14.91583E

Collision with power line where it intersects with water course

GLOBALLY THREATENED



Ludwig's Bustard  
22.53538S 14.91418E

Collision with power line where it intersects with water course

▼ GLOBALLY THREATENED



Namaqua Sandgrouse  
22.55148S 14.88259E

Collision with power line in water course area; fresh



Namaqua Sandgrouse  
22.56318S 14.85925E

Collision with power line on ridge; fresh



## POWER LINE INCIDENTS

Ludwig's Bustard (at least three)  
 Lithops – Walmund 220 kV line; east of Lithops Substation, Arandis  
 22.532972S 14.918350E  
 Collision with power line where it intersects with water course  
**GLOBALLY THREATENED**  
 Reported by Ann & Mike Scott; Angie Kanandjembo & Swakop Uranium staff  
 29 November 2013




Cape Cormorant  
 Namdeb MA1 mining area (G123)  
 Collision with power line; fresh  
**NEAR THREATENED** species in  
 Namibia and also **GLOBALLY  
 THREATENED**  
 Reported by Jefta Ampueja  
 29 November 2013

Pied Crow  
 Namdeb  
 Electrocutation? on power line; dry  
 Reported by Jefta Ampueja  
 11 December 2013

White-backed Vulture  
 25 km east of Windhoek  
 Collision with power line; fractured  
 left wing (treated at NARREC)  
**NEAR THREATENED** species in  
 Namibia and also **GLOBALLY  
 THREATENED**  
 Reported by Liz Komen  
 19 April 2014  
 (Also two flamingo mortalities on  
 same line a year ago)



PTO for EIS newsletter 

Note this update: there are now  
 more than 8,700 records on the EIS!



<b>Search</b>	The EIS ?	Upload ↑	Keywords 📄	Sponsors ★	Forum 👤	Atlas 🌐	Contact us ✉	What's new? !
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## What's new?

The EIS is constantly being updated, with new records being added on an ongoing basis. While many of these are new or recent articles and links we are also in the process of scanning and uploading a lot of older reports and important documents which are hard to get hold of, such as Namibia's Green Plan.

Many people have provided hard copies or digital files of documents which are not on the EIS. These are very welcome as they add significantly to Namibia's information resource. Please use the [Upload](#) button to submit files or [Contact us](#) if you have hard copies which need to be scanned.

Where possible we upload a pdf file which can be downloaded. If this is not possible due to copyright issues, we post a link to the original publisher or source so you can download the file from there.

## Is the EIS useful?

In the last 6 months the EIS has been visited over 3,500 times by over 2,100 people. 43% of visitors had visited the EIS before. Most visitors are in Namibia (39%), followed by Germany (15%), South Africa (10%), USA (8%), UK and Botswana. So, yes, the EIS is being used and we hope you are finding it useful. We are always open to suggestions so feel free to use the [Contact us](#) form if you have suggestions or feedback.

There are now over 130 registered users - welcome. Registered users can contribute to the atlassing component and also receive the EIS newsletter.

## Citizen science projects

### Mammal and carnivore atlas

The atlassing component is up and running and now has over 3,000 records including the old carnivore atlas records. The objective is to collect data which will contribute to our knowledge of species' distributions in Namibia. To contribute your sightings, you need to [register as an EIS user](#). Records can be observations of live or dead animals, spoor, photographs, camera trap records etc. The minimum information required is your name, species (or you can select 'unknown' and submit a photograph if you are not sure), date and some locational data such as QDS or GPS coordinates. If available, additional information can also be entered on age, sex, group size and other parameters.

During the course of the year, the atlassing interface will be upgraded to add a lot more functionality.



*A recent pangolin sighting*

### Bird atlas

The Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 is currently underway - full details can be found at <http://sabap2.adu.org.za>.

## Breeding bird information

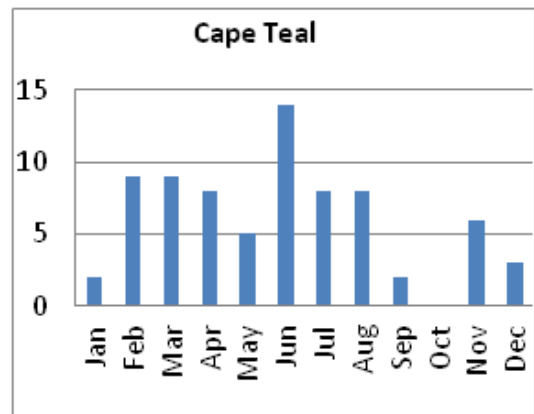
A new initiative to compile updated information on Namibia's breeding birds is underway and EIS users are requested to contribute. Full details can be downloaded from [www.the-eis.com/breeding-birds.php](http://www.the-eis.com/breeding-birds.php)

In short, the project aims to compile all records of breeding in Namibia, from nest record cards, published and unpublished records. Many people have records which have not been submitted as nest records, or published, and we would like to be able to include this valuable information. Information compiled so far includes tables on:

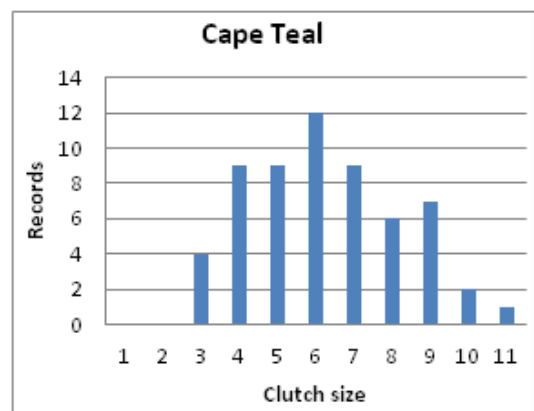
- 1) information on the months in which eggs are laid per species (more than 13,000 breeding records representing almost 3.28 million clutches) and on the sizes of colonies for colonial nesting species;
- 2) records on clutch sizes per species (some 97,380 records);
- 3) measurements of about 1,118 eggs.

The tables and the explanatory background information can be accessed from [www.the-eis.com/breeding-birds.php](http://www.the-eis.com/breeding-birds.php). The following graphs give an idea of some of the information contained in the tables:

Laying dates:



Clutch sizes:



Please send your information to [chrisbrown.namibia@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbrown.namibia@gmail.com) by the end of January 2014.

Thank you for your assistance.

**Number of records in the EIS: 8,400**