

June/July 2007

Vulture Conservation Programme

The Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve in Kromdraai near Mogale City recently hosted launch of the Vulture Conservation Programme. Vultures are currently facing threats such as poisoning, habitat destruction, drowning in farm reservoirs, electrocution on power lines and illegal capture for the making of traditional medicines. It is through research that these misunderstood birds can be helped. The programme aims to gather information on their flight patterns, breeding habits and foraging ranges with the help of hi-tech cell phone devices, which are attached to the birds. Vultures are often thought of as dirty, ragged scavengers, but are in fact amazingly beautiful, well-groomed creatures. They are an integral part of the eco-system, performing a vital function and assisting with prevention of the spread of disease. Guest speaker, Professor Gerry Swan, the Dean of faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria at Onderstepoort and Director of the Vulture Conservation Programme, gave an informative talk on the Asian vulture crisis, illustrating how scientists and conservationists from round the world working together and sharing information and research managed to resolve the crisis. The launch was celebrated with the release of the surviving six, rehabilitated African White-backed vultures, which had been poisoned in Delareyville in February of this year.



Concertation Between America
 (Small text describing a concertation event between America and another country, mentioning a meeting and discussions.)

Community Exchange System
 (Small text describing a community exchange system, mentioning a meeting and discussions.)

Africa Burns
 (Small text describing a fire in Africa, mentioning a fire and its impact.)