

# The Birds of Prey Working Group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust

## Background

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Birds of Prey Working Group (BoPWG) is one of the largest EWT Working Groups and focuses on the conservation of diurnal and nocturnal raptors, vultures, and their habitats. The Group has been actively involved in conservation under the Endangered Wildlife Trust for several years, albeit as two separate groups, namely the Raptor Conservation Group and the Vulture Study Group. In early-2005, a merge saw the groups being fully integrated under new management and strategic direction. A strong scientific component adds authority to the dedicated efforts of the large network of field coordinators. Methods are shared, ideas communicated and solutions reached through a collaborative effort that combines science with practical efficiency in order to not only identify problem areas in the conservation of raptors and vultures, but to also reach informed conclusions and act decisively in order to timeously address conservation threats.

## Our mission

To action, support and coordinate conservation projects for nocturnal and diurnal raptors and vultures in southern Africa and to achieve measurable results through considered and informed implementation strategies.

## Our objectives

- To combine the efforts of all individuals and organisations interested in or associated with raptor and vulture conservation in southern Africa in order to strengthen conservation efforts.
- To identify gaps in the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats, and to implement relevant projects in order to fill these gaps.
- To set achievable and measurable goals for each project undertaken, and to manage the achievement of these goals, keeping in mind the bigger conservation picture.

## Activities

Of the 84 species of vultures, diurnal raptors and owls occurring in southern Africa, 23 are currently listed in the South African Red Data Book as facing various degrees of threat of extinction and the BoPWG focuses its activities on these and other species. The BoPWG manages 23 projects across southern Africa that focus on our target species, their habitats and the people that share these habitats with them to ensure that they are effectively conserved. Most of the work done by the group is achieved through the dedicated work of a substantial corps of volunteers, part-time workers and small component of permanent staff.

## Financial support

None of the work that we do would be possible without the sustained, substantial and generous support of our sponsors.

**Sasol** has supported our monitoring and conservation work focused on vultures for almost two decades while **SA Eagle Insurance Company** has played a significant role in sponsoring a number of projects, most notably the SA Eagle Kalahari Raptor Project. **Nashua Central** and **Bakwena Platinum Concessionaire** sponsors our two main projects focused on owls. Other sponsors of a variety of projects include the **Mazda Wildlife Fund**, **Kumba Resources**, **Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust**, **Joan St. Ledger Charitable Trust**, **The Peregrine Fund** and **M-Print**.

## How can you become involved?

- Look out for and report potential threats and conflicts
- Look out for and report colour-marked raptors (especially vultures) seen in your area
- Assist with Monitoring birds of prey in your area
- Participate in research programmes
- Reporting unusual occurrences, behaviour, etc.
- Conveying the message of birds of prey conservation as widely as possible
- Participating in BoPWG activities

## Contact us

You are welcome to contact us for more details about the Working Group, its activities, role players and for more information about our birds of prey.



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