

## Project Update: August 2012

### Success at last!

A ten-day field trip to catch globally threatened Lappet-faced Vultures resulted in only one being caught, using the cannon net described previously. This was quite discouraging, especially since it actually amounted to over 50 person-days. However, in retrospect, the time was not wasted, since we learned a lot!

Consequently, on a recent follow-up vulture-catching outing, the remaining target birds were caught in four days, and all were fitted with satellite tracking devices!

The key to success was to thoroughly conceal the cannon net and the blind from which it was remotely activated. As expected, a great deal of patience and perseverance were also important ingredients.

The Lappet-faced Vulture is an awesome bird, and to have one in the hand was a thrilling experience. I would like to thank all my colleagues, and Rufford Small Grants, for their unstinting support for the capture operation.

It is with keen anticipation that we wait for information on the movements of the vultures.



Left: Test firing the cannon net. Right: BirdLife member, Cinistar Tjitemisa about to release a vulture