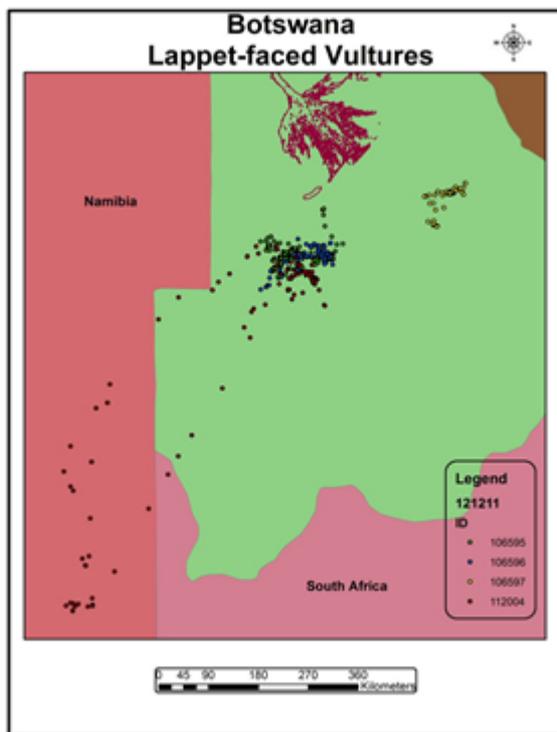


Project Update: January 2013

Satellite tracking project well underway

The recent capture of the fifth lappet-faced vulture, this one in the vast Makgadikgadi Pans system, means that all satellite transmitters are now deployed on our target species, and providing vital information on their movements.



Vulture movement map.

Already, exciting, unexpected results are coming in. A glance at the map shows that one of our birds made a brief foray into neighbouring Namibia (shown in maroon on the map), a round trip of about 1,300 km! The location visited is well-known by Namibian colleagues to be a favoured feeding area for their Cape vultures – is it possible that vultures from all over southern Africa know about it too? The short duration of the visit, and the very direct return trip (the lower series of points, which form a dead straight line) seems to indicate that our bird just went to have a quick look to see what the situation was! These birds are incredible travellers and highly intelligent – the more we find out about them, the more awesome they become.



#5 about to be released.

I would like to personally thank Rufford Small Grants for making this preliminary phase of the project - the capture of the vultures and the deployment of the satellite transmitters – possible. Now we can sit back and monitor the movements of the birds wherever they are in the sub-region!