

### Project Update: March 2015

The collection of blood samples is going well! Since October 2014 we have managed to collect 95 samples from white-backed vultures. These samples represent blood lead levels outside of Botswana hunting season but both in and out of hunting areas. We re-captured two birds which had blood samples taken in 2013; their current levels were both higher than the previous readings. In addition to this, these capture sites have produced the highest mean blood lead levels yet. Following on from 270+ samples taken from white-backed vultures in Botswana prior to the beginning of this project; this is a significant finding. The testing of water samples and collection of blood samples from livestock in differing geographical areas of Botswana is an exciting beginning to identifying alternative sources of lead in the environment which vultures are exposed to.



Left: Analysing blood samples for lead levels Middle: Making the most of having volunteers around! From the Modisa Wildlife Project Right: Collecting samples from a capture site in the Ghanzi district of Botswana.