

Project Update: July 2016

On 5th July 2016, the Kruger-to-Canyons Hooded Vulture Project welcomed volunteer Fiona Fern from the UK, who will be assisting with fieldwork for 3 months. Fiona has an MSc in Zoo Conservation Biology, and has worked on conservation projects in South Africa, Ecuador and Sri Lanka. In July 2016, we installed a number of new camera traps (purchased with funding from the Rufford Foundation) at hooded vulture nests. Photos from these cameras have revealed various visitors to hooded vulture nests during the non-breeding season; these include the hooded vultures themselves, who seem to maintain a presence at their nests year-round, as well as Verreaux's eagle owls, Pel's fishing owls, black sparrowhawks, Egyptian geese, lesser galagos and Chacma baboons. During the breeding season, male and female hooded vultures share the duty of parental care. As we continue with data analysis we will discover more about their breeding behaviour and potential nest usurpers.

