

Project Update: June 2016

My 2-month stay at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, USA, allowed me to improve my GIS skills, which will be of great benefit for my future research. I returned to South Africa in late May 2016, and on 1st June, I presented an hour-long public talk at Simbithi Country Club, highlighting project progress so far. In early June 2016, road surveys began, and all known hooded vulture nests were checked for signs of activity. June is the peak egg-laying month for hooded vultures, and this year's nest searches have already revealed three new active hooded vulture nests, which will soon have brand new cameras installed at them. These cameras, designed for use at birds' nests, were purchased using funds from the Rufford Foundation. With these cameras, we will obtain data on hooded vulture breeding behaviour and nest success, and we also hope to capture pictures of potential nest predators and nest usurpers.



Pair of hooded vultures at nest.