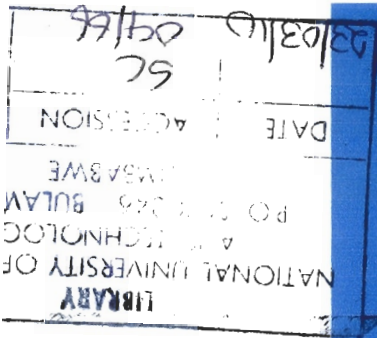




**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE**

**FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES**



**KEITOMETSI N ABU-BASUTU N005 854X**

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**Supervisor: Professor P. Mundy**

**Department: Forest Resources and Wildlife Management**

**Population estimates, trends and foraging behaviour of the African White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* in the Waterberg Conservancy, Namibia.**

## ABSTRACT

Purpose of study is tracking?

The annual population estimates and foraging behaviour of *Gyps africanus* were determined for the period 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007; using a Capture Mark Recapture method. A total of 30 observations were made from September to December 2007 at REST's vulture 'restaurant'. The initial sample of 530 *G. africanus* randomly captured and ringed at REST in 2004 was investigated in the study. Resighting data collected in 2004, 2005, 2006 and part of 2007 were used in this study, courtesy of REST. There were differences (ANOVA;  $df=3$ ;  $F=7.871$ ;  $P=0.0001$ ) in the annual population estimates for the 4 year period. The highest population was estimated in 2006 (4700 individuals) and lowest in 2007 (2820 individuals). In 2005 and 2006, there were variations ( $P = 0.047$  and  $P = 0.013$  respectively) in the number of *G. africanus* resighted at REST's vulture 'restaurant' during the incubation, nestling and fledgling periods. The highest number was resighted during the nestling periods and the lowest during the fledgling periods. In 2007, there were no variations ( $P = 0.059$ ) in the numbers of *G. africanus* resighted during the 3 periods in the breeding season. Resighting of individual *G. africanus* was found to be dependent ( $\chi^2$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $F=63.39$ ;  $P<0.001$  and  $\chi^2$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $F=9.2$ ;  $P=0.01$  respectively) on the periods of the breeding season in 2005 and 2006. However, in 2007, resighting was independent ( $\chi^2$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $F=2.285$ ;  $0.25<P<0.5$ ) of the periods in the breeding season.