INTEGRATED REPORT

2019/2020

ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST
Protecting forever, together.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

WE SUPPORT
The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a signatory of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)

FRONT COVER: *An immature Bateleur in the Kruger National Park, one of several bird species killed by poisoning in the park. Since January 2019, poachers have killed at least 450 vultures, from four highly threatened species in the park, using animal carcasses laced with poison. Other scavengers, mostly Tawny Eagles, Lions, Leopards and Spotted Hyaenas have died too. The EWT works closely with SANParks in the Kruger – and has now trained over 313 rangers – to reduce the impact of this insidious practice to both wildlife and the environment. Photograph by the EWT's Andre Botha.*

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2020 will go down in the annals of history as the year of the pandemic, as COVID-19 dominated the news agenda. One of the pandemic's consequences was to force humanity to pause, and in this pause, to reflect on our actions and their consequences.

It is well known that humankind does not tread lightly upon Planet Earth. However, the lockdowns and industry shutdowns gave our planet time to breathe, time to heal, and time to regenerate. An unintended consequence of these lockdowns was to witness the resilience of our planet and of nature. The reduction in pollution in its many forms – noise, air, traffic – led to various ecosystems getting the chance to revitalise, and for the planet to show off its remarkable ability to self-heal. Collectively, we marvelled at the way nature started to reclaim its territory, with the re-appearance of many species in areas where they had not been seen for years. And an amusing observation was that the lockdown saw people being caged and animals roaming free.

The lockdowns also created the space and time for substantial introspection. As the "new normal" began to evolve, people saw the potential for working remotely (Working from Home) and creating and reaping increased efficiencies, not only in their work but also in terms of commuting, travel, and their overall carbon footprint. The slowdown in the global economy also created time for people to re-evaluate their approach to work, to life, and to the way that they impact our planet.

On my personal meanderings, I saw a poster in an art shop that read, **"THERE IS NO PLANET B."** This simple epithet got me thinking about our EWT motto: ***"Protecting forever, together."*** I know that this is what we at the EWT strive for, but we need people to be constantly mindful of how they will achieve this. People need to take responsibility in every facet of their lives – personal and work. Organisations need to be increasingly conscious of their processes as ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) factors are becoming increasingly important, non-financial, reporting considerations in the analysis of corporation and corporate investment opportunities.

I am greatly encouraged by how corporations are increasingly placing importance on ESG factors with respect to investment opportunities. Hopefully, this is a sign of the emergence of a more conscious and caring capitalism. At the EWT, we have developed particular skills and competencies in assisting corporations in conducting ESG audits. We are also networked with certain funds that place a substantial emphasis on ESG in evaluating investments, and we are actively seeking to make corporations and citizens aware of the importance of this. I encourage corporations to work with us at the EWT in the assessment of their ESG activities and see our engagement here as a value-creator for both the EWT and corporations.

One thing that is certain is that humankind is presently on a path of self-destruction. We cannot continue to abuse and disrespect our natural resources in the way we have over the last century, particularly if we hope to leave a legacy for future generations. Our options are either to seek a Planet B or to be more considerate towards Planet Earth.

On a global scale, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook report has indicated some very positive assessments of the future for clean energy. The need to cut emissions has been nixed by naysayers looking at the cost factors of a transition away from carbon-based and fossil fuels. Recent developments in clean, and green, energy have started to change the approach to this as efficiencies are achieved and broader issues, such as the elimination of greenhouse gases and the reduction in global warming, are added to considerations. I believe that over the next decade we will see substantial development within the energy arena – developments that will impact positively upon the environment too.

We need to re-evaluate our actions in so many facets of our lives, particularly the impact our consumption patterns have on the environment. We need to look to production processes and re-evaluate aspects of energy consumption as well as employment. Keeping production local will assist us in reducing the arbitrage of our currency and make us more resilient to foreign influences.

And whilst we are about this, we can no longer afford to disregard the packaging of goods that we consume. We need to be conscious of the environmental impact of both the manufacture of the packaging and the consequences of its disposal. More manufacturers need to be considerate of the impact their packaging has on the environment. I applaud those companies who are striving to use packaging made from recycled material, and that can be safely and simply recycled, or destroyed, with minimum impact on our environment.

We also need to look at our food choices with a particular emphasis on its sources – both from an economic and environmental impact. The closer to home we source our foods, the less it impacts on the environment, whilst also providing an economic boost locally.

The economic slowdown due to the pandemic has adversely affected the funding of NGOs, and these organisations also need to look at more effective and efficient operations. There is room for consolidation of various administrative tasks within these NGOs to ensure they use funds more efficiently for achieving their core purpose.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hugely impacted the EWT, like all other organisations. Our staff's commitment to "Protecting forever, together," has been as strong as ever. I am immensely proud of the way that our people have not only risen to, but surmounted, the challenges posed by the lockdowns, as well as the sacrifices that they have made in this challenging time. I thank the EWT's trustees, management and staff for their unwavering commitment to conservation and the Trust.

I have always believed that human beings are intrinsically filled with hope. Whilst we face challenging times, as intelligent beings, we need to both live with hope and be realistic in that for which we hope. I remain hopeful that humankind will take a lesson from 2020 and be more gentle in the way we interface with the planet, with the resources within the planet, and ultimately with one another.

#cooltoconserve

Dirk Ackerman
Chair of the Board

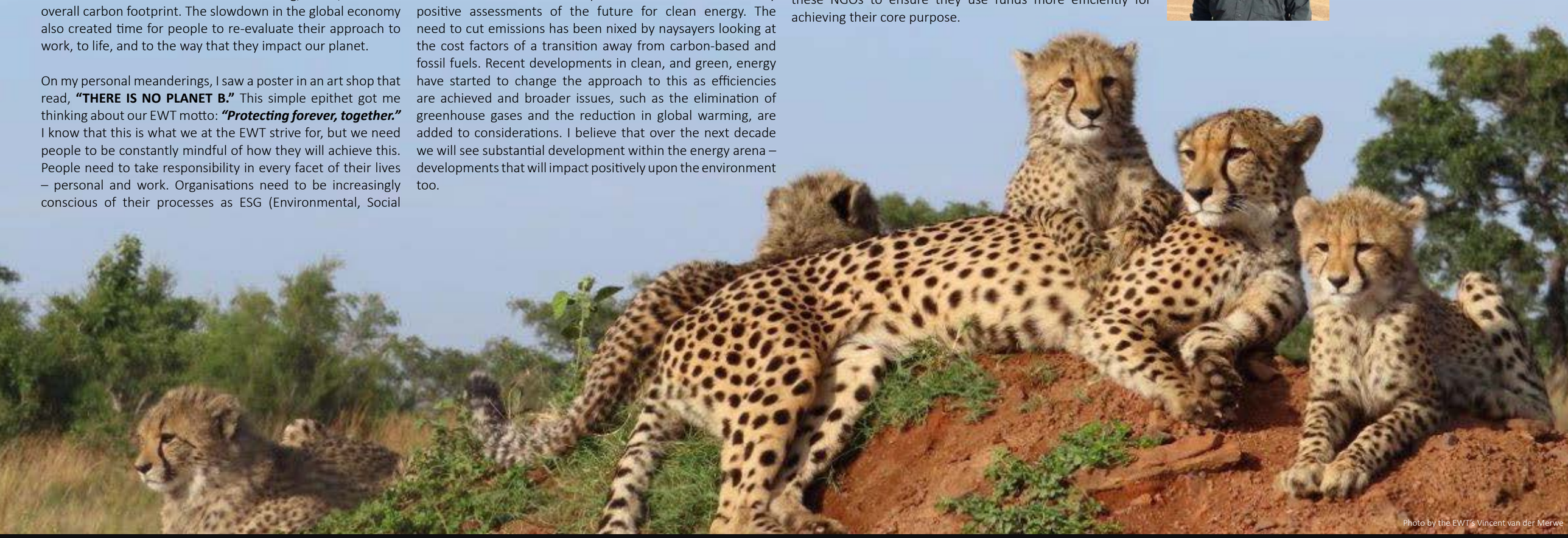


Photo by the EWT's Vincent van der Merwe

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

2019–2020: A YEAR OF REFLECTION AND INNOVATION

Resilience is at the heart of everything that the EWT strives to achieve. When it comes to saving a species, as much as we believe in the value of every individual, our ultimate aim is to ensure the survival of that species. And when we fight for the protection of one wetland, it is to ensure the resilience of an entire ecosystem, and the lifegiving services these critical systems provide that support so much life. The EWT focusses our resources on activities that support the ongoing resilience of species, habitats, and ecosystems to withstand the threats of an uncertain world where risk is prevalent, and change is guaranteed.

The past financial year ended in June 2020, as the world experienced a dramatic change that no-one predicted or could have planned for. COVID-19 needs no introduction, and neither does the havoc it brought to the world. What became instantly clear was the need for resilience among people and our economies, businesses, and certainly our NGOs, which were among the hardest hit when the world literally shut down and went home. As a recipient of discretionary income and donations, NGO income was instantly impacted. Given that most NGOs do not generate enough annual income to put aside sufficient reserves to cushion the shock, the impact was instant, dramatic and in many cases, final.

The EWT was in the final quarter of our financial year when South Africa joined the rest of the world in responding to COVID-19, and we were affected instantly as several planned events and fundraising activities were cancelled, while discretionary income from individuals and corporates dried up.

Our financial statements reflect the impact of a quarter of the year with almost no income. Despite this setback,I am pleased to say that this did not deter the EWT from our continued efforts to make the world a safer place for the wildlife, and the communities we have come to call our family. Working with some extraordinary partners and funders, our staff switched their focus to supporting those in need. We handed out more than 1,200 food parcels in the communities where the EWT's work has, for many years, been the only lifeline to a sustainable future. Working under the auspices of essential services permits, our staff remained a beacon of hope for many species and they relocated 28 Wild Dogs to a safer home; 18 Cheetah to more secure habitats; and responded to 73 power line incidents in national parks and farmlands around the country. We provided support to more than 313 park rangers on the management of poisoning incidents, and we continued to provide critical canine tracking and detection services to those on the forefront of preventing wildlife crime.

From a conservation impact perspective, the year ended almost seamlessly as our innovative and resilient staff found other ways of achieving their conservation goals. Work plans were revised and new means to achieving objectives were devised, sometimes with more significant impact. Our innovations applied to the people we work with too, as we connected rural communities to the internet, and upskilled people so that they could participate in online training and skills development *in lieu* of face-to-face workshops. This ramped up the development of sustainable livelihoods – which are decoupled from the mainstream economy – and will ensure more resilient communities in the long run. Our focus on improving human and ecosystem health, and the linkages between them, will benefit future generations for decades to come.

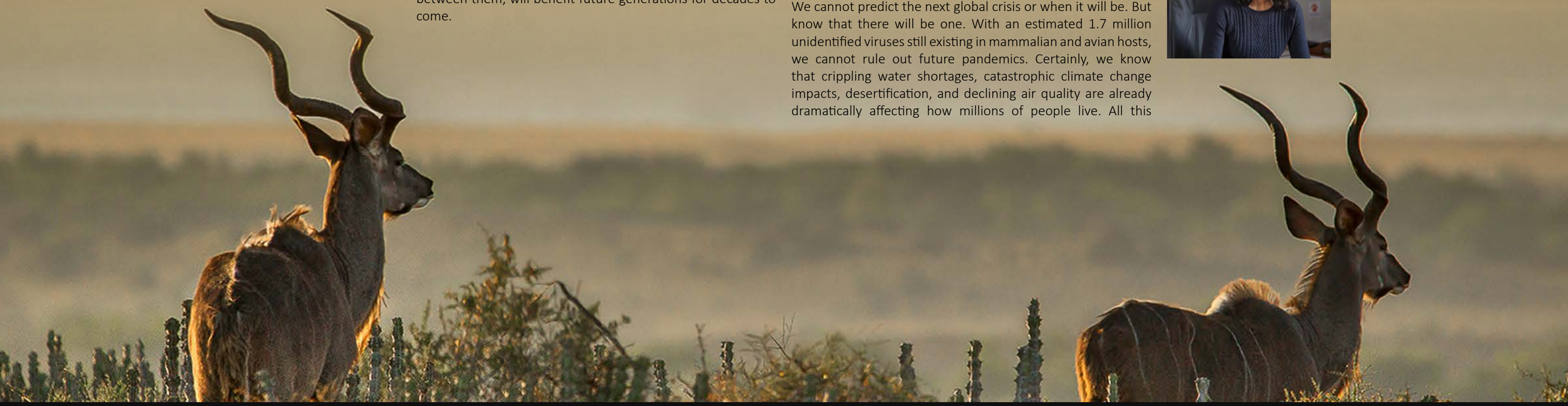
In the months preceding the pandemic, the EWT celebrated a momentous milestone in our history with our relocation to our Conservation Campus in Midrand. This move could not have been better timed, as the EWT was able to weather the lockdown by not incurring any substantial costs for unused office space. In addition, our detection dog programme relocated to the new campus. It operated safely from its new home through the lockdown – again, under essential services permits – by screening for wildlife contraband at key points of entry and exit, keeping dogs and handlers in training, and building on their skills base. With more than 60,000 square metres of wide-open space at our new campus, social distancing is not only easy but enjoyable, as staff prefer to sit or walk outside and enjoy the outdoors and the benefits this brings to both physical and mental health. Despite the knock to our income stream, the EWT's staff knuckled down and maximised the impact of their work and – I am proud to say – never faulted in providing critical conservation services to those that needed them the most.

We are grateful beyond measure for the long-term thinking and plans that were afoot for many years previously, that allowed the EWT to weather this storm. Certainly, COVID-19 has taught us that change can happen at any time, and can be unpredictable, and dramatic in its impact. We have used this time to reflect and adapt our approaches where necessary to absorb future shocks that may rock our world, and ensure greater resilience both internally, and with the vulnerable with whom we work. Going forward, we will implement models to test the circular economy approach to microenterprise development and the Green Economy. We are increasing access to the internet and computer literacy among our stakeholders, and we are supporting our partners by sharing resources, collaborating on projects, and strengthening each other's foundations to ensure long-term resilience.

We cannot predict the next global crisis or when it will be. But know that there will be one. With an estimated 1.7 million unidentified viruses still existing in mammalian and avian hosts, we cannot rule out future pandemics. Certainly, we know that crippling water shortages, catastrophic climate change impacts, desertification, and declining air quality are already dramatically affecting how millions of people live. All this means that the drive to conserve healthy planetary systems, biodiversity and natural resources, and the need to more positively and sustainably interact with our fellow inmates of Planet Earth has become lifesaving, not only for them, but human beings too.

The EWT is striving to protect forever, together, and with your continued support, we will. Thank you for standing by the EWT in a year that ended in a challenging space, but that was otherwise very productive. The pages of this report reveal the remarkable work our staff have done to successfully conserve some our most threatened species, ranging from carnivores and raptors to amphibians, cranes, reptiles, and many plants; and whole ecosystems covering drylands, grasslands, wetlands and mountains. The EWT's staff have, as always, achieved remarkable gains for conservation and have excelled beyond all expectations, using their resourcefulness, passion, and commitment when other resources ran dry. My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of the 105 staff members that made up the EWT family this year, and to the unwavering support and invaluable input of our 18 trustees who complete the picture. I am humbled by what you do, and the difference you all make. The EWT has continued, year on year, to grow in size and stature, expand our reach, achieve more positive gains for conservation, and benefit more people. Tomorrow may be uncertain, but how we will face it isn't.

Yolan Friedmann



WHO WE ARE

The EWT is among South Africa's largest, and most established, national conservation non-governmental organisations. Founded in 1973, we are a non-profit organisation, with an expanding footprint throughout southern and East Africa, focussing on the conservation of threatened species and ecosystems. We achieve this by implementing impact-driven research and conservation action programmes, implementing projects that address the threats facing species, and supporting sustainable natural resource management.

As a public benefit organisation, the EWT communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency, for the benefit of all. We have developed a unique operational structure to achieve our Mission and objectives – meeting our conservation goals through the work of specialist, thematic programmes, designed to maximise impact in the field and enhance the development of skills and capacity.

Our stakeholders include national and provincial government, other NGOs, landowners, local communities, farm workers, conservancies, academia and industry. The EWT also acts as a public watchdog, taking government and industry to task for decision-making that does not meet sustainability criteria.

Our Vision
A healthy planet and an equitable world that values and sustains the diversity of all life.

Our Mission
The Endangered Wildlife Trust is dedicated to conserving threatened species and ecosystems in southern and East Africa to the benefit of all people.

Our Core Values

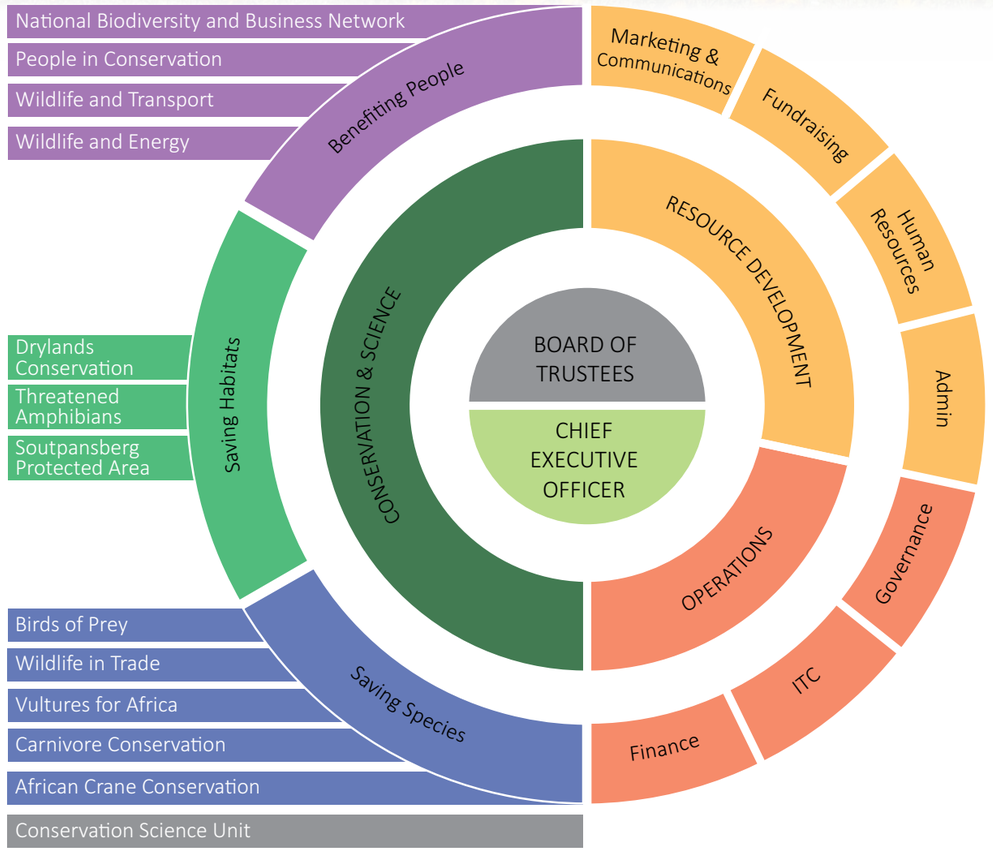
- We protect wildlife
- We are compassionate
- We lead by example
- We are ethical and accountable
- We believe in justice and equality
- We are tenacious
- We are proactive
- We develop conservationists
- We value nature as the foundation of human well-being
- We value partnerships

Photo by the EWT Wildlife and Energy Programme

HOW WE WORK

The EWT achieves its core Mission through its 13 conservation programmes and units, whose activities are supported by several core departments that provide critical governance, financial, resource mobilisation, and administrative services to ensure that the Trust operates effectively and efficiently.

PROGRAMMES:



OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form part of a global multi-stakeholder call-to-action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The EWT is proud to contribute towards six SDGs through various conservation actions, and measured against specific indicators, which are reported on in the following pages.

OUR IMPACTS THIS YEAR

The EWT achieves its Mission through the delivery of our three Strategic Imperatives: Saving Species, Saving Habitats, and Benefiting People. These broad pillars of conservation impact are supported through ten High-level Goals, which form the backbone of the current EWT Strategy (2017–2023).

During the 2019/20 reporting cycle, we undertook an intensive process of defining a set of robust, measurable, headline indicators for each of the EWT's goals. By ensuring that we can successfully monitor and report on the progress of these goals, we are able to demonstrate conservation impact and social benefit to our partners, stakeholders, funders, donors, and the general public. The following pages provide a high-level summary of the progress we have made in this reporting period.

On the ground, our work is achieved through the actions of 13 programmes and units, which contextualise the overarching strategy through high-level programme objectives. The table below illustrates the linkages between the work of each programme and the organisation's High-level Goals.

Saving Species
Take action to conserve threatened wildlife

Saving Habitats
Uphold ecosystem integrity and conserve threatened habitats

Benefiting People
Enable biodiversity-friendly businesses, enterprises and livelihoods

EWT STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

	Saving Species			Saving Habitats			Benefiting People			
GOALS*	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
African Crane Conservation Programme	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Birds of Prey Programme	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Carnivore Conservation Programme	●	●	●					●	●	
Conservation Science Unit	●						●	●	●	
Drylands Conservation Programme	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
National Biodiversity and Business Network								●		
People in Conservation Programme	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●
Soutpansberg Protected Area	●	●	●	●		●			●	
Threatened Amphibian Programme	●		●	●	●	●			●	●
Vultures for Africa	●	●								
Wildlife and Energy Programme	●	●			●		●	●		●
Wildlife in Trade Programme	●	●					●	●	●	
Wildlife and Transport Programme							●	●	●	●

*Details of each goal can be found on the following pages.

Goal 1: Improved understanding of population status and threats for species of concern

45 research outputs

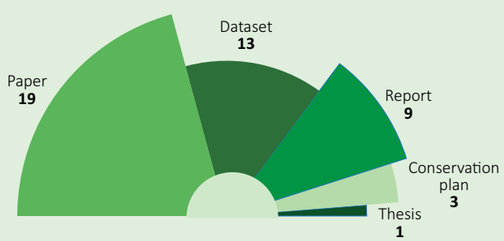
Highlights

3 datasets on threatened amphibians – the Pickersgill's Reed Frog, Kloof Frog, and Table Mountain Ghost Frog – expanded to incorporate more than 2,450 hours of acoustic data.

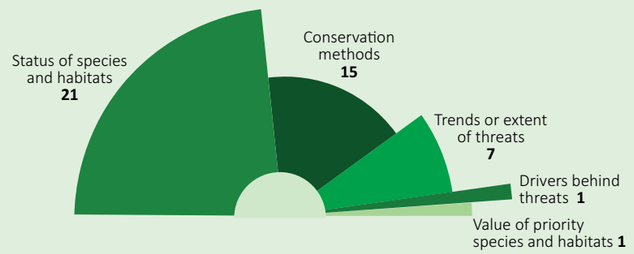
A brief review of the legal protection for vultures in South Africa shows that international and national legislation is generally non-specific in nature and fragmented, making its enforcement difficult.

The African Lion Database consists of 12,929 distribution records, 621 population records, and 200 mortality records, across 24 countries. This covers ~27% of known Lion range.

Type of research output



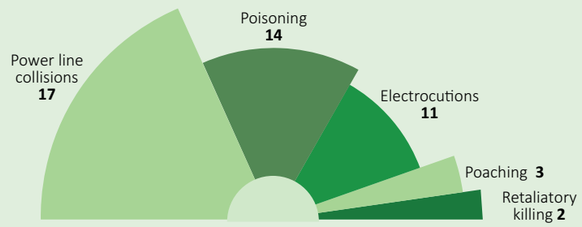
Focus of research output



Goal 2: Targeted interventions lead to measurable reduction of threats to species of concern

47 populations in which critical threats reduced

Number of populations with a reduction in each threat type



Highlights

Threats from collision with powerlines reduced in 17 populations of threatened bird species, including Wattled, Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes, through mitigation of 118 km of power lines.

Threats from poisoning reduced in 14 populations of vultures, by enhancing poison response capacity in 5 African countries (Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia)

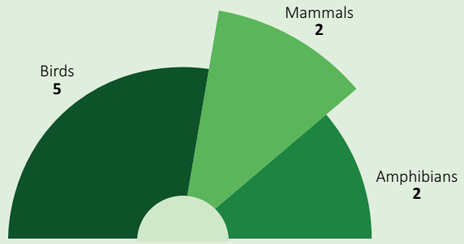
Threats from snaring reduced in one population of Wild Dogs, by rescuing 50% of snared dogs in the Greater Kruger National Park.

Goal 3: Stable or, wherever possible, improved population status for species of concern

Saving Species

9 populations with improved status

Taxonomic group



Highlights

All 3 crane species in the southern Drakensberg showed an improvement in conservation status, based on the KwaZulu-Natal Annual Aerial Survey.

Cheetahs in the Cheetah Range Expansion Project increased in number by more than 5% between July 2019 and June 2020, and safe space increased by 95,700 ha.

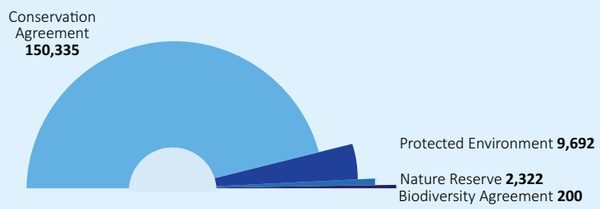
A captive-bred Pickersgill's Reed Frog population successfully reintroduced to a wetland in KwaZulu-Natal to establish a new population.

Goal 4: Formal protection of priority habitats and ecosystem functions

Saving Habitats

162,549 ha of priority habitat with improved protection

Protection type (ha)



Highlights

142,300 ha of wetland and catchment areas under Conservation Agreements with 7 community groups in Western Kenya.

10,634 ha of important biodiversity landscapes secured under Biodiversity Stewardship in Gauteng.

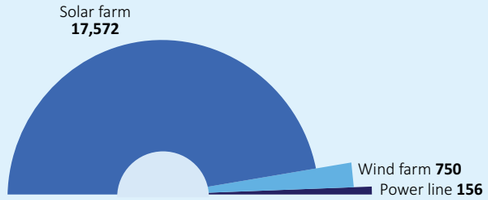
1,380 ha declared as a Nature Reserve in South Africa's Highveld Grasslands, as the Witkoppen Fish and Game Reserve.

Goal 5: Significant reduction in loss of priority habitats

Saving Habitats

18,478 ha of priority habitat where negative development impacts were reduced

Area of the development footprint (ha)



Highlight

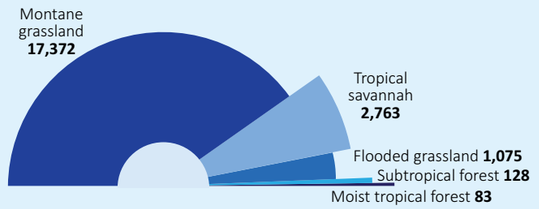
The siting of a wind energy facility in the Northern Cape was shifted entirely due to the confirmed presence of the Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit, thus protecting 750 ha of vital habitat.

Goal 6: Improved ecological integrity of priority habitats and ecosystem functions through rehabilitation, restoration, and sustainable management

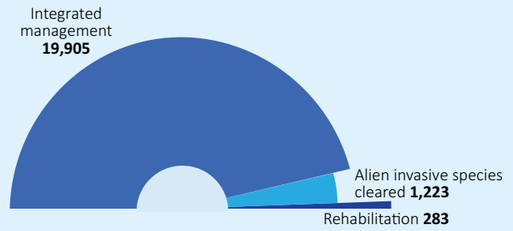
Saving Habitats

21,420 ha of land with improved ecological integrity

Biome (ha)



Management intervention (ha)



Highlights

1,075 ha of *Mimosa pigra* physically cleared in the Kafue Flats, Zambia. Our remote sensing and GIS analysis revealed that in total ~80% of the *Mimosa pigra* has been cleared in Lochinvar National Park since 2017.

An integrated management plan implemented on 2,733 ha of tropical savannah in the Soutpansberg to reduce threats to key plant and animal species, such as illegal harvesting, snaring, and the removal of alien invasive species.

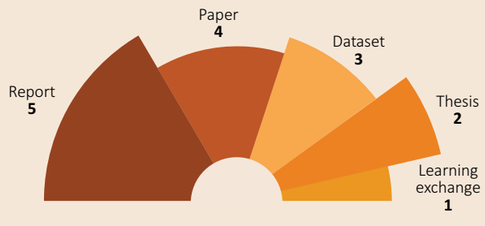
200 ha of *Imperata* grassland rehabilitated in the Highveld coal-belt of Mpumalanga and Gauteng to improve critical habitat for African Grass Owls.

Benefiting People

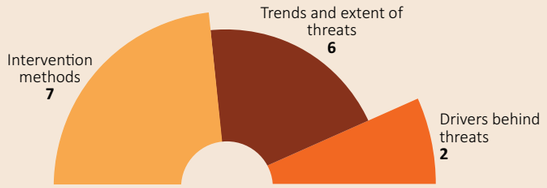
Goal 7: Improved understanding of existing and emerging threats to biodiversity in focus areas from industry

15 research outputs relating to industrial impacts

Type of research output



Focus of research output



Highlights

The EWT, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, hosted a Drone Users Workshop at Elsenburg, attended by almost 100 drone users in the agriculture and conservation sectors.

The EWT Wildlife Road Mortalities Database now holds 22,214 road collision records, spanning 13 countries across Africa.

A paper published in *Conservation Biology* investigating jobs, game meat, and profits from wildlife ranching in South Africa found that 46% of game farms undertook intensive breeding.

Benefiting People

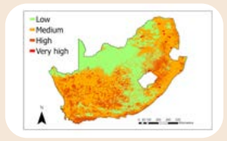
Goal 8: Uptake of innovative solutions for reducing industry-related environmental impacts

10 innovations to reduce industry-related environmental impacts

Highlights

BDP BIODIVERSITY DISCLOSURE PROJECT

Contributed spatial layers for 47 threatened species to the Environmental Screening Tool, a legislated online GIS support tool for better decision making in EIAs. Our layers included 16 amphibians, 42 birds, 130 butterflies, 40 mammals, and 19 reptiles.



Launched the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Toolkit, which integrates biodiversity into business strategies and activities. This includes 9 mainstreaming guidelines, 9 case studies and a self-assessment tool.

Developed a method for assessing changes in vegetation in dryland habitats using multispectral imagery and drones, for the benefit of monitoring agricultural impacts.

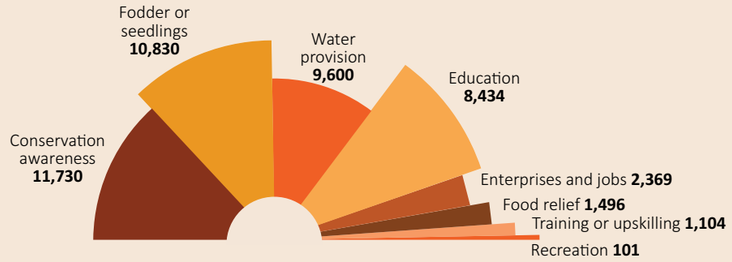
Benefiting People

Goal 9: Uptake of sustainable nature-based businesses, enterprises, and livelihoods in priority areas

721
people have adopted nature-based business solutions

44,493
people's wellbeing improved through their interactions with the EWT

Type of livelihood or wellbeing improvement



Highlights

300 children benefited from the Clever Rabbit Learning Support Project in the Karoo, including 83 children with disabilities.

In Rwanda, 626 people from 6 community groups signed Conservation Agreements with the EWT and local district authorities. All have been provided with training, equipment, and supplied seedlings for fodder. In return, the communities have committed to undertake actions to conserve and restore Rugezi Marsh.

12 more people employed and capacitated to conduct antipoaching initiatives in South Africa and Mozambique.

Benefiting People

Goal 10: Adoption of biodiversity-friendly lifestyles among target audiences

7 successful interventions to achieve behavioural change

Highlights

Community groups living along the Kiruruma River in south-western Uganda agreed to implement restoration activities following our campaign to provide environmental education and promote wetland conservation and restoration of buffer zones along local rivers and lakes. They invited the International Crane Foundation/Nature Uganda/ EWT project staff and district environment officers to guide them in measuring out the 30m-wide buffer zone before they began planting crops this season.

Frogs in the Classroom raised awareness and reduced the fear of frogs in children. This environmental education campaign is a hands-on learning experience which is now freely available online.

COVID-19:
THE EWT'S RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL CRISIS

At midnight, on 26 March 2020, South Africa went into lockdown to curb the rising spread of COVID-19. This measure was designed to reduce the rate at which the infection proliferated, and better prepare the country for its impact. The consequences of the extended lockdown were, however, profound. Here we explore some of the ways the EWT responded to the crisis, as well as catalysed some changes for the better.

REMOTE TRAINING

The EWT is involved in numerous conservation-training and skills development activities across southern and East Africa. Traditionally, these take the form of workshops. Throughout lockdown, face-to-face training was prohibited, and we sought innovative new ways to continue training. As an example, the lockdown dramatically reduced our ability to conduct training with route patrollers on national toll roads to collect data for the national wildlife roadkill hotspot database. Prevented from accompanying these patrollers in their duties to help collect roadkill data, we quickly adapted our project to setting weekly WhatsApp challenges. These helped improve the patrollers' animal identification skills and maintained uninterrupted communication channels. The lockdown also coincided with the launch of the EWT's progressive Karoo Forever UNDP/GEF Sustainable Land Management Project. We re-purposed the website to accommodate a series of online webinars, each consisting of five episodes aimed at upskilling local farmers in the methods of sustainable land management and low impact farming. In 2020, we launched and completed two of these series, delivering online content to farmers across the Karoo, and as far afield as the United States.

VIRTUAL EARNINGS

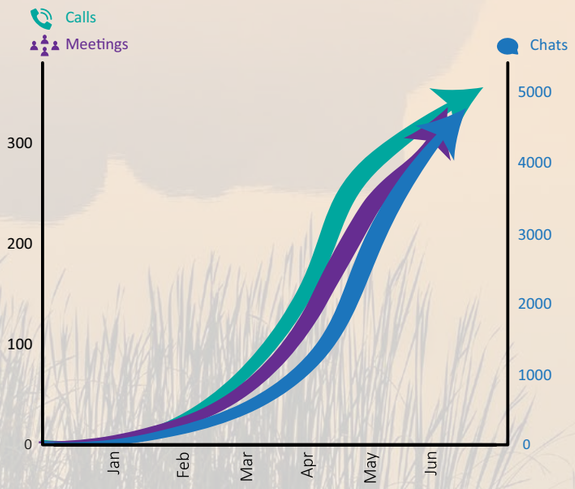
The national lockdown came at a bad time for EWT fundraising events, many of which had to be cancelled or postponed, including the EWT's annual Golf Day, our annual Cape Town dinner, and the More Community Trust Extra Mile Run. Where possible, the EWT held virtual events like the More Community Trust virtual run. The introduction of Wild Chats early in the lockdown, bringing conservation experts and their educational and informative stories into people's lounges via Zoom, was highly successful. With more than 2,600 people joining the 31 talks over the period, and amassing some 7,000 YouTube views, these webinars offered people an opportunity to stay connected with nature, while isolating indoors, and covered a wide variety of conservation topics. The talks will continue going forward but in a different time slot as people return to work and school.

SHARING MORE, CARING MORE

Increased isolation, managing work and parental responsibilities, and reduced physical activity were lockdown-related realities for our staff. To provide support through the more restrictive levels of lockdown, we increased staff communication via our staff WhatsApp group. We organised virtual lockdowners (sundowners) on a Friday afternoon, allowing colleagues to share their favourite tipple and stories online. We produced guidelines for managing and working with colleagues who are parents in order to sensitise non-parents to the challenges they faced, and we started a special support group for those enduring lockdown all alone. In addition, the EWT initiated a weekly Monday Health Corner – sharing experiences and mental and physical health tips to assist in coping during the pandemic, which was an encouragement to everyone.

MEETING IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

Pre-lockdown, virtual meetings were more often targeted to avoid long-distance travel and to increase communication between our regional offices, and remote field staff. As the pandemic struck, the EWT was already in the process of moving into a more virtual communications arena. Some staff were using Microsoft Teams – part of our Microsoft 365 package – and the national lockdown accelerated the rollout of Teams by our ICT department to all staff, as a means of centralising our communications into one, integrated, package. Coupled with SharePoint, the EWT is now fully functional using cloud and remote communications technologies. All our data is saved, or shared, via the cloud. During the lockdown, all meetings, including the monthly Conservation Forum – the EWT's general staff meeting, and meetings of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Management Team, the Audit and Finance Team, the Ethics Committee and others, continued seamlessly using Zoom or Teams platforms.



FOOD RELIEF

The EWT's third strategic imperative, Benefiting People, describes our work to improve the lives and wellbeing of thousands of people who are often the most vulnerable, but who also act as custodians of the ecosystems they live in and rely on. Many communities experience extreme hardships through lack of basic resources and services. The EWT partnered with the HCI Foundation/eMedia COVID-19 Food Relief Fund to assist in reducing hunger in these communities during the lockdown. We are proud to report that, overall, we distributed a total of 1,203 food parcels to those most desperately in need, including 150 parcels in Loxton (Northern Cape), 700 parcels in the Soutpansberg (Limpopo), 240 parcels in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, specifically Bulwer and KwaMkhize, 54 parcels in Mqatsheni (Southern Drakensberg, KwaZulu-Natal), and 59 parcels in the Normandien area (northern KwaZulu-Natal).


Photo by the EWT Drylands Conservation Programme


Photo by the EWT African Crane Conservation Programme

REACHING OUT

With generous support from the Lewis Foundation, we reached out to those in need through the lockdown, including several students working with the EWT, who became isolated in remote locations and were unable to carry on with their work. Our support took the form of providing students with access to data, and with new computers where possible, so that they could continue their studies. Emerging farmers in Loxton were also supported by registering with AgriSETA, for farm management training. We provided over 50 households in this area of the Karoo – which can be bitterly cold in winter – with energy-efficient heating solutions. Working with the EWT's Clever Rabbit Learning Support Project, we fed 150 school children from families in need every day. In KwaZulu-Natal, we assisted the Mqatsheni community by building structures to protect the natural springs. This work allowed community members to access clean water, which was not otherwise available at the time. In this area, we also identified the most vulnerable individuals in three communities and provided them with over 150 parcels.

GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE ONLINE

The Guardians of the Future is the EWT's in-house environmental education and awareness project. It aims to bring environmental-related lessons to life in the classroom through fun and dynamic activities that follow the philosophy of learning through doing, while adhering to the formal curriculum content and learning processes required. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we developed online educational resources, and an additional booster, for learners and educators alike. These new resources, covering subjects such as Nature and Science, Creative Creatures, Tails and Trails, and Wild About Numbers, will provide integrated learning across subjects, which will allow teachers to cover as much content as possible during the shortened school year.

IMPROVING RISK ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

Exposure of the EWT's staff to COVID-19 is a material risk. While the organisation adhered to the government's rigorous lockdown regulations and restrictions, we built on these as an organisation by introducing our own COVID-19 risk management strategies and policies. Given the geographic spread of the EWT, we developed an online platform to track the work, movements, and health of our staff. Doing so, and as a conservation organisation, we were able to conduct various activities under essential service permits – issued to field staff who could carry on with their vital work in respect of wildlife management, anti-poaching, animal care, and veterinary services. These permits covered a wide gamut of conservation-related activities, some of which we detail in the infographic below. Our response to such incidents provided a real measure of the truly essential day-to-day work of the EWT. Furthermore, the correct actioning of these risk-related activities has improved the assessment and management of programme-specific risks more broadly. We will now include human health impacts into our existing risk framework to develop a more robust and adaptive risk management strategy for the Trust.

LOCKDOWN IN NUMBERS

relocated **28** Wild Dogs to a safer homes

provided poison-related training to more than **313** park rangers

18 Cheetahs moved to more secure habitats

attended to **2** wildlife-poisoning incidents during lockdown

responded to **73** wildlife-related power line incidents

provided ongoing food and veterinary care to our **13** livestock guarding dogs in the field

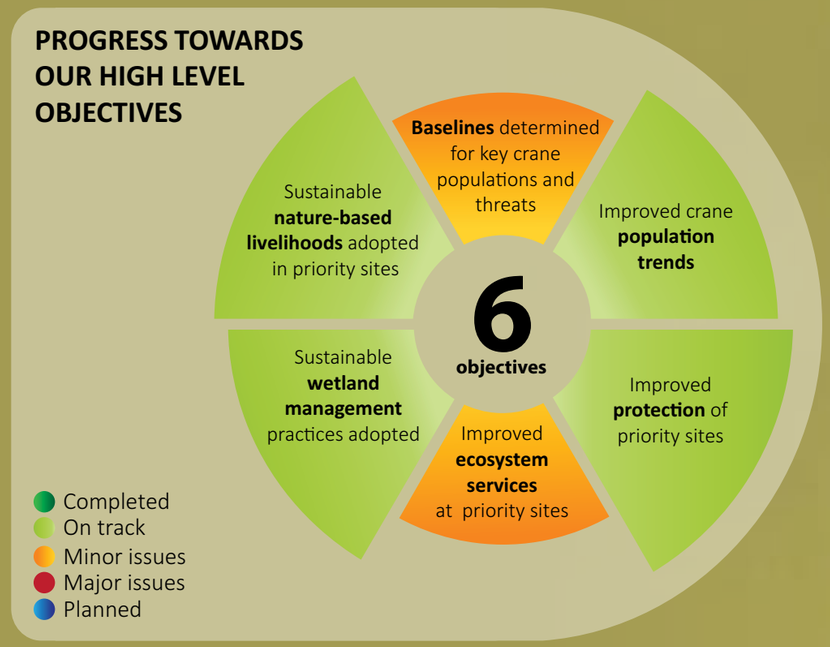
AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

In partnership with

Africa's four threatened crane species are our ambassadors for the conservation of catchments containing wetland and grassland ecosystems that provide us with essential goods and services. Their iconic and charismatic nature appeals to the public and creates a doorway for collaborative conservation.

Working in partnership with the International Crane Foundation (ICF), our joint programme goal is to secure and improve the conservation status of Africa's four resident crane species by reducing threats to the wetland and grassland habitats upon which they depend. We achieve this through conservation actions that effectively reduce threats to the species and their habitats, working closely with local communities and key national and global stakeholders. We empower individuals, community groups, and organisations to manage catchments for the benefit of both people and cranes, ensuring that we mainstream conservation into local decision-making and practices for sustainable species and habitat conservation impacts.

In South Africa, our programme works in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, and Mpumalanga. Across the rest of Africa, the programme oversees projects in Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda, and supports work in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, and Senegal.



A SIEGE OF CRANES

The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) held its first International Grey Crowned Crane Working Group meeting from 24–26 July 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. This meeting follows the adoption of the associated International Single Species Action Plan by AEWA, in 2015. The focus of the meeting was to operationalise the Action Plan by agreeing on implementation priorities for the Range States, both individually and collectively at a supranational level. At the meeting, we worked through the 74 results that were identified in the planning process, developing key actions and responsibilities for each. The workshop highlighted the commitment made by each country to halt and reverse the decline of the world's fastest declining crane species. Under the AEWA framework, we will support range states in the implementation of key conservation actions over the next five years. These include increasing research to understand better the biology of Grey Crowned Cranes across their range, and threats and their impacts on cranes, and identifying effective solutions to these threats.

This work is made possible by UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

CRANES IN AFRICA

The EWT and ICF have been strategic partners since 2005. We are happy to report that the ICF was officially registered as an international NGO in Zambia on 19 July 2019, and in Uganda on 23 January 2020. These registrations are a significant commitment by the ICF to African crane conservation, as these are its first and only official international offices. The offices will provide a solid base for our staff and the opportunity to scale up our projects and impact.

Our Zambian registration will pave the way for ramping up our joint crane conservation efforts in the country. Strengthening this relationship, the Africa team gathered for its first in-person team meeting in Zambia in October 2019. Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, the EWT's Head of Conservation, and Erica Cochrane (ICF) joined the 24 staff programme members for a week of team building, lesson sharing, training, strategic development, and a visit to our project site on the Kafue Flats.

In Uganda, we are working with the Ministry of Water and Environment to review the management plan developed in 2002, for Nyamuriro wetland. We are also working with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, as well as district local governments, to implement the National Single Species Action Plan for the Grey Crowned Crane.

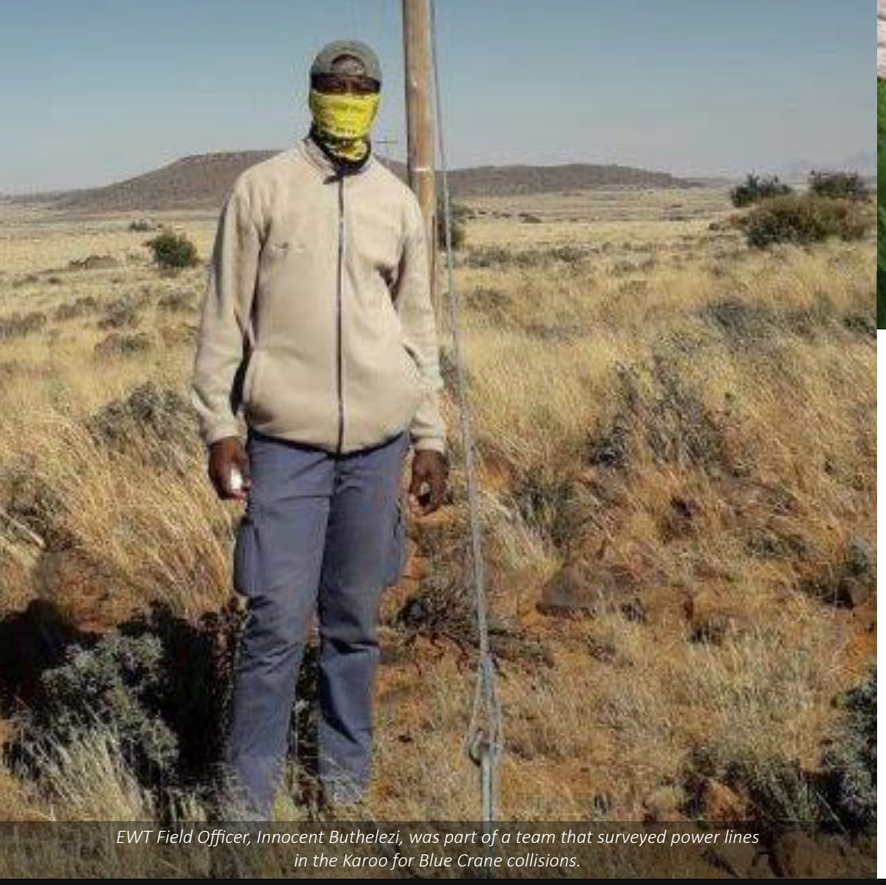
This work is made possible by the Aqualia International Foundation, BAND Foundation, and the Dohmen Family Fund.

DEATH BY COLLISION

Blue Cranes remain one of the species most prone to power line collisions in South Africa. It is therefore only fitting that our national power utility, Eskom, and the EWT – through the EWT/Eskom Strategic Partnership – join hands to reduce the impact of power lines on our National Bird. During the past year, we initiated a two-year study to determine collision rates and risk for Blue Cranes in the Western Cape and Karoo (in both the Northern and Eastern Cape). This information will inform a strategy to assess the impact and hotpots to mitigate troublesome power lines. In the Western Cape, this work was initiated with the first Swartland power line surveys in December 2019, covering 30 km of transmission and 120 km of distribution lines, and documenting incidences of bird collisions with overhead powerlines.

In addition, we walked two surveys in the Karoo, covering 160 km of distribution lines to record the incidence of bird collisions. We also set up scavenger rate trials in each survey area to determine collision rates more accurately, as jackals and other scavengers carry off carcasses, thus reducing the scale of our estimates. These experiments will enable us to determine the real number of birds that collide with lines but are removed by scavengers before the survey team can detect them. Our early results of these experiments in the Karoo suggest that scavenging rates on bird carcasses under powerlines are very high. This finding infers that the number of birds found during the surveys underrepresents the actual rate of collisions by large birds.

This work is made possible by Eskom HLD SOC Ltd. through the Eskom/EWT Strategic Partnership.



EWT Field Officer, Innocent Buthelezi, was part of a team that surveyed power lines in the Karoo for Blue Crane collisions.

Bee-keeping in Rwanda continues as a community livelihood intervention, yielding its first honey harvest.

AU REVOIR BUT NOT GOODBYE

The programme exited from our full-time project commitment in Rwanda at the end of 2019. To ease this transition, we developed a collaborative agreement with the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association to take over our education and monitoring work, and the vision we created to secure Rugezi Marsh as a National Park with associated tourism. Conscious of the impact this will have on our community projects, these livelihood interventions will continue under our watch until they are sustainable. These projects have been progressing well, and our first honey harvest at Rugezi Marsh yielded 80 kg across five cooperatives (six years into the project). More recently, the beekeepers were forced to abandon their hives during the COVID-19 lockdown with wax moths invading them, and many colonies deserting them as a result. We are now working with the beekeepers to clean their hives and set them up for re-colonisation.

This work is made possible by Dohmen Family Fund.

KENYAN GROWTH

Our Western Kenya Project has grown from three to five staff over the last year. Over this period, we initiated discussions with local community groups about the benefits they want in return for meaningful conservation action that will reduce threats to cranes and their wetlands. Seven community groups, a total of 200 people, have now signed our Conservation Agreements to protect three wetlands that are home to key Grey Crowned Crane breeding sites in western Kenya. In return for their commitment, our project will support them with poultry, beekeeping equipment, and tea seedlings. We will also provide them with the training necessary to implement these enterprises. Our Kenyan team also organises annual crane festivals. Last year, we held a glamorous festival in Kakamega, though unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic halted plans to hold a festival in 2020.

This work is made possible by the Leiden Conservation Foundation.

EWT Field Coordinator, Vivian Nekesa, talks with a community member in Kenya.

Photo credit: Ciming Mei

A BAROMETER FOR CONSERVATION

South Africa's National Bird, the Blue Crane, is an interesting species in the modern conservation landscape. Its numbers increased dramatically in the Western Cape's farmlands in the mid to late twentieth century, and we now estimate that over half of all Blue Cranes live in the Western Cape. This poses some interesting conservation challenges since these cranes live in an intensively farmed agricultural landscape, where they face threats such as power line collisions, fence entanglements, breeding disturbance, and occasionally conflict with farmers. Together with potential changes to the agricultural landscape – through climate or socio-economic change, the security of this newfound population is called into question.

The IUCN Red List is a tool used to categorise the risk of extinction in species. In the case of the Blue Crane, this increasing Western Cape population is countered by stable, or slowly declining populations in other areas, including the Karoo and grasslands. Given these trends, it was proposed that the Blue Crane conservation status be down-listed from Vulnerable to Near Threatened. As part of the review process, our team, together with the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology (University of Cape Town) and independent specialist, Sally Hofmeyr, undertook an analysis of long-term citizen science records to determine these population trends. What we found surprised us all.

In the last 10–14 years, the Western Cape population had stabilised and is now in fact declining. In the Overberg region of the Western Cape, where we find the highest density of Blue Cranes, the population has been declining on average by 4% per year since 2011. Given this concerning trend in the Western Cape, the EWT, International Crane Foundation, the IUCN Crane Specialist Group, CapeNature, and the FitzPatrick Institute motivated for the Blue Crane to remain listed as Vulnerable. BirdLife International has agreed to maintain their global status as Vulnerable and will conduct a full review of the species over the next year.

This work is made possible by Leiden Conservation Foundation and Eskom HLD SOC Ltd.

FLAT OUT IN ZAMBIA

The co-management agreement between ICF (on behalf of the ICF/EWT Partnership), the Zambian National Department of Parks and Wildlife, and WWF Zambia is currently being finalised to restore the Kafue Flats in Zambia. We have also submitted our ambitious 20-year Kafue Flats Restoration Programme draft agreement to the Zambian government for final review and approval. To support this growth and enhanced level of ambition, the ICF/EWT partnership has opened an office in Lusaka and recruited a finance and administrative officer, in addition to our full registration as a company limited by guarantee – the same status as a not for profit organisation – but with a more robust legal standing.

Our Zambian team has already cleared 72% of the alien invasive plant *Mimosa pigra* that seriously compromises the ecology of the Kafue Flats. Our method uses an integrated approach of biological, mechanical, and chemical control. We have also provided support to local community members through this work, with a team of up to 150 people actively clearing *Mimosa* when the Flats are accessible. In the flood season, this reduces to a skeleton workforce of 15 community members who carry out maintenance work and protect our facilities from theft and vandalism until the annual floods have once more subsided. A recent independent assessment has concluded that the removal of *Mimosa* has benefitted avifauna and increased the potential of tourism with recent sightings of rare birds, including new records for Zambia, and globally significant congregations. These include species such as the Eurasian Curlew, Little Tern, Cape Shoveler, Cape Teal, Slaty Egret, Pacific Golden Plover, Golden Plover, Caspian Tern, and of course, Wattled Cranes. The report has also recommended the continued control of *Mimosa* without which it recolonises vigorously.

This work is made possible by BirdWatch Zambia, the Dohmen Family Fund, Fondation Segré, Jeanne Eloranta, Elephant Charge, Nimmick Forbesway Foundation, WWF Zambia, and the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

FLYING FOR CRANES

We completed the 27th consecutive annual KwaZulu-Natal Crane aerial survey in July and August 2019, which was combined with our ground-based monitoring of the breeding status of Wattled Cranes. Through the census we recorded five new Wattled Crane breeding sites – a regionally Critically Endangered crane species, with several nests logged at lower altitudes than previously recorded, suggesting an altitudinal and range expansion for the species. The final counts for all three crane species were as follows: 1,428 Blue Cranes; 3,859 Grey Crowned Cranes; and 249 Wattled Cranes. All three crane species in the province are demonstrating positive trends, with counts over the last ten years showing stable or increasing populations. Our counts of Wattled Crane breeding sites were the highest ever, with 81 nest sites either active or with birds present, indicating the long-term impact of our work over the last 27 years.

This work is made possible by Eskom HLD SOC Ltd, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and the N3 Toll Concession.

BRAINIACS

Our programme staff took the opportunity to develop their skills during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, including online courses on wildlife and poisoning response, project management, Microsoft Excel, disaster risk reduction, climate change and health, the environment and humanitarian action, statistical and computational tools for reproducible data science, data analysis using R software, environmental justice, remote sensing, developing biodiversity indicators, social innovation in rural areas, and monitoring and evaluation. The crainiacs plan to emerge from their various countries' national coronavirus lockdowns as brainiacs!

In south-western Uganda, local women have benefited from ICF/EWT Conservation Agreements.

AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME **TEAM**

Photo credit: Jacquie Van Der Westhuizen

In addition to the donors mentioned in the pervious pages, the programme also recieves support from the Ford Wildlife Foundation, HCI Foundation, Millstream, Rand Merchant Bank, Stiftung Feuchgebiete (German Foundation for Wetlands), Whitley Fund for Nature, and the WWF Nedbank Green Trust.

Kerryn Morrison
ICF/EWT Senior Manager: Africa

Dr Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi
East Africa Regional Manager

Mwape Sichilongo
Southern Africa Floodplains Regional Manager

Tanya Smith
South Africa Regional Manager

Matthew Becker
Africa Programme Officer

Eva Cherotich
Field Assistant: Kingwal Wetland, Kenya

Cynthia Chigangaidze
Senior Administrator

Christie Craig
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Project Assistant, Akanyaru, Rwanda

Kelvin Floyd
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Bradley Gibbons
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Thabo Madlala
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Jimmy Muheebwa
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Claire Relton
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Janine Rennie
Southern Drakensberg Field Officer

Steven Segang
Highveld Community Projects Officer (until August 2019)

Griffin Shanungu
Zambia Country Coordinator

Maurice Wanjala
Kipsaina Crane and Wetlands Conservation Group, Kenya

BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME

The purpose of the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme is to ensure that birds of prey continue to soar in African skies and across its landscapes. Through our applied research and conservation, we preserve the irreplaceable ecosystem services that birds of prey provide. We also safeguard their habitats, which support other threatened wildlife and people too.

Throughout southern Africa, birds of prey are experiencing ongoing population declines, with many species – vultures in particular – moving rapidly towards extinction. It is our responsibility to ensure that wild populations remain viable and healthy. We action strategic research and field-based conservation projects for a wide range of threatened birds of prey throughout southern Africa. We aim to reduce the impact of human-related threats, maintain and recover populations, and secure/create important raptor safe spaces to improve their overall conservation status. Our programme uses a combination of on-the-ground actions, partnerships, education and awareness, legislative support, and robust science to strengthen the regional birds of prey conservation network. We currently operate in important raptor spaces across eight of South Africa's provinces, as well as in Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Botswana.

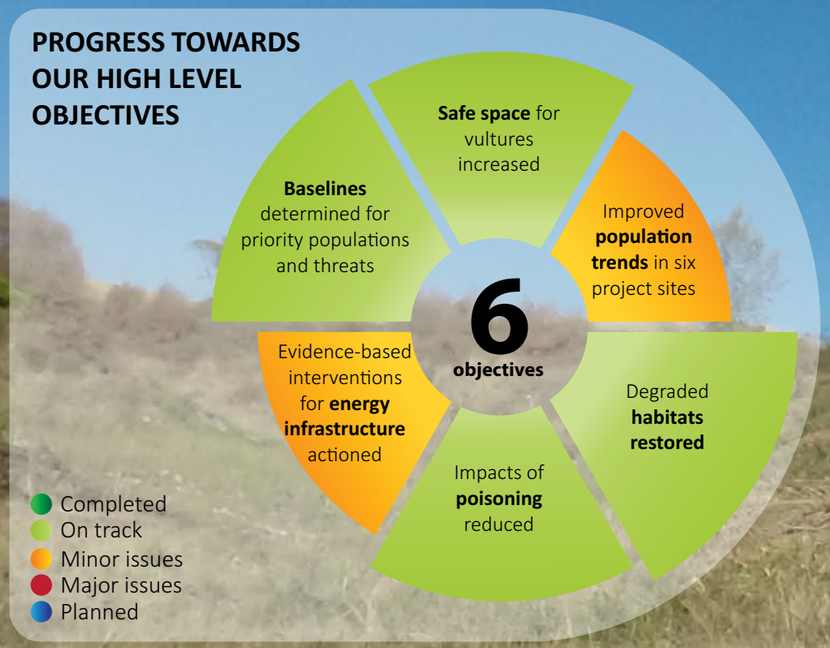


Photo credit: EWT Birds of Prey Programme

LAUNCHING VULTURE SAFE ZONES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

2019 –2020 heralded the launch of the Birds of Prey Programme's Vulture Safe Zone projects across strategic sites in South Africa. A vulture safe zone is an area in which targeted conservation measures address the critical local threats to vultures across South Africa and beyond. We improve these safe zones, where we work directly with landowners and communities, for vulture conservation.

The EWT's VSZ work would not be possible without our partners including the Associated Private Nature Reserves, BirdLife South Africa, BirdLife Zimbabwe, BlyOlifants and Wild Rivers private nature reserves, Cleveland Zoo, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Raptors Botswana, SANParks, and Wildlife ACT, as well as all the stakeholders, communities and landowners currently engaged in these projects. The work is made possible by Amakhala Emoyeni, the Bateleurs, Cennergi, the Charl van der Merwe Trust, the Disney Conservation Fund, Puy du Fou, Rand Merchant Bank, the Rupert Nature Foundation, the SANParks Honorary Rangers, and WindLab.

THE LOWVELD VULTURE SAFE ZONE

Working in collaboration with the US-based Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, our Lowveld VSZ centres around the highly-threatened riparian habitat along the Blyde River, in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve. This area spills into the vulture-rich landscape along the Olifants River and the Associated Private Nature Reserves, ultimately connecting into the Greater Kruger National Park. Our work to date focusses on the protection of a significant breeding population of Critically Endangered Hooded Vultures, some 30 breeding pairs. Here, we are working with farmers, hunters, landowners, and reserve managers to phase out pervasive threats, such as the use of poisons and lead (from ammunition) from their properties, and identifying unsafe agricultural and energy infrastructure which we aim to make safe in the coming year. We also contributed to the EWT's wildlife poisoning response training, in partnership with the EWT's Vultures for Africa and Carnivore Conservation programmes. Programme staff helped to trained over 313 field rangers, as well as most of the section and regional rangers in the Kruger, to improve their capacity to respond to wildlife poisoning here. In addition, we established an important relationship with the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, which has played a pivotal role in the rehabilitation and release of vultures that have survived poisoning events. Helping every individual bird counts, and over the last 12 months alone, we have saved over 70 vultures and released them back into the wild.

CONSERVATION COOPERATION IN THE KAROO

The Karoo VSZ initiative represents one of the largest farmer-driven conservation initiatives in partnership with conservation organisations. Here farmers and other landowners partnered with the EWT, the Rupert Nature Foundation, SANParks, the Mountain Zebra Camdeboo Protected Environment (MZCPE), and the SANParks Honorary Rangers, to establish a VSZ in the Great Karoo. The Karoo VSZ spans approximately 23,000 km^2 and includes three major protected areas – the Karoo, Camdeboo, and Mountain Zebra national parks – as well as the MZCPE, over 90% of which is owned privately. Our long-term goal is to encourage Cape Vultures back to their historical ranges throughout the Great Karoo and to ultimately recover this population through the establishment of a VSZ that links key protected areas. During this initial phase, the project team will assess current threats in cooperation with over 400 farmers, game breeders, and private reserves in the area. The project has already gained a significant amount of momentum and buy-in from over 100 farmers and landowners. Importantly, this approach encourages positive action for wildlife, focusing less on prohibition and negative messaging, and more on sound environmental practices that could provide landowners with both reputational and economic benefits.

VULTURE SAFE ZONES ON THE HORIZON

We have flagged the Winterberg and Transkei regions of the Eastern Cape as crucial sites for the establishment of an Eastern Cape VSZ. This area is home to a significant population of Endangered Cape Vultures. The VSZ here will primarily address the cumulative impacts of new wind farms on local vulture populations, and the EWT is dedicated to ensuring that vultures are safe from turbine collisions at these facilities. Although our VSZ here is in the early planning stages, our work in this area has already catalysed an important collaboration with large wind energy developers. These developers include five within the renewable energy development zone (REDZ) in the Bedford, Cookhouse, and Golden Valley region, who have committed to working alongside us. In partnership with the University of Cape Town, we are putting together a much-needed vulture collision sensitivity map, using GPS-tracked Cape Vultures. Using this tracking data, we will be able to model their fine-scale spatial use, allowing us to identify areas of high turbine collision risk, thereby preventing the construction of turbines within these sensitive flight zones.

The Karoo Vulture Safe Zone spans approximately 23,000 km2 and includes three major protected areas – the Karoo, Camdeboo, and Mountain Zebra national parks.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL: VULTURE SAFE ZONES WITHOUT BORDERS

In partnership with the EWT's Vultures for Africa Programme, we are excited to have initiated the very first transboundary VSZ. The Greater Mapungubwe VSZ area extends from the Soutpansberg Mountains in northern Limpopo, to include significant vulture breeding habitat along the Limpopo River, linking vulture-rich sites in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. This landscape is currently at the epicentre of the African vulture crisis, with population declines of up to 80% recorded here over just the last decade. While vultures face a plethora of threats in the area, poisoning is the main driver behind these rapid declines. We have catalysed and coordinated the formation of a broad network of landowners and stakeholders to commit to managing their properties in a vulture safe manner – and ultimately to establish this first transboundary VSZ.

RAMPING UP SUPPORT FOR VULTURES IN THE KALAHARI

The EWT has a history of raptor conservation across the Kalahari that stretches back 25 years. We are planning the establishment of a Kalahari VSZ that protects important breeding and foraging habitat for vultures across this arid stronghold. So far, we have shown landowners how to safe-proof farm reservoirs, as vultures are prone to drowning in these structures. We have already safe-proofed over 15 reservoirs in the area to prevent vultures drowning needlessly. We retrofit these reservoirs with ramps that allow trapped vultures – and other wildlife – a chance to escape, as drownings represent a serious threat to many birds. We have now engaged with over 45 farmers on large tracts of land to support our raptor conservation work throughout the Kalahari region.

CONSERVING AFRICA'S LARGEST EAGLE: ELECTRIC EAGLES

Since its inception in October 2018, we have made great strides with our Karoo Martial Eagle Project, in partnership with Eskom Research, Testing, and Development. This work has helped us to develop an intimate understanding of an extraordinary population of Martial Eagles that breeds and lives on electrical pylons across the arid Karoo and southern Kalahari landscapes. We have continued to monitor the breeding performance and diet of 149 pairs of Martial Eagles here, and have successfully trapped and GPS-tagged 14 individuals. This work will provide a better understanding of the species' movement ecology and threats across the Karoo. Interestingly, the Martial Eagle's ability to successfully build nests and breed on power lines appears to have facilitated the species' range expansion into an area where they were previously unable to breed due to the largely treeless landscape, as Martial Eagles traditionally require large trees in which to build their nests. This finding, which is at odds with the generally held belief that the Martial Eagle is confined increasingly to large, protected areas, has significant implications for our thinking around the conservation management of this globally threatened species. Willing landowner numbers grow by the day, with 75 farmers now directly engaged in Martial Eagle monitoring and support in the Karoo over the last year. This support is probably one of the most important conservation outputs of this exciting project, as conservation begins with improving attitudes towards these threatened eagles and creating a synergy between the landowners and the species.

This work is made possible by the Bateleurs, the Charl van der Merwe Trust, Eskom Research, Testing and Development, and Rand Merchant Bank.

MARTIALS IN THEIR STRONGHOLDS

Our work on Martial Eagles in the Kruger National Park, in partnership with the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology (University of Cape Town) and HawkWatch International, continues to grow to new heights. This year, with help from the Bateleurs, who generously support the EWT with their aerial services, we conducted an aerial survey to investigate areas where Martial Eagles had lost active nests. In some cases, the trees had fallen where they built nests, and in others, the nests collapsed, or the eagles simply stopped visiting some nests. These latter nests raised important conservation questions: have the eagles built another nest in their territory, or have the eagles disappeared too? The only way to answer these questions was to conduct an aerial survey of the territory around each nest. To this end, we conducted 2,700 km of flying transects and recorded a reassuring 70 nest locations, suggesting that the resident eagles may simply be nesting elsewhere, although this needs further investigation.

This work is made possible by the Bateleurs, the Charl van der Merwe Trust, HawkWatch International, and Rand Merchant Bank.

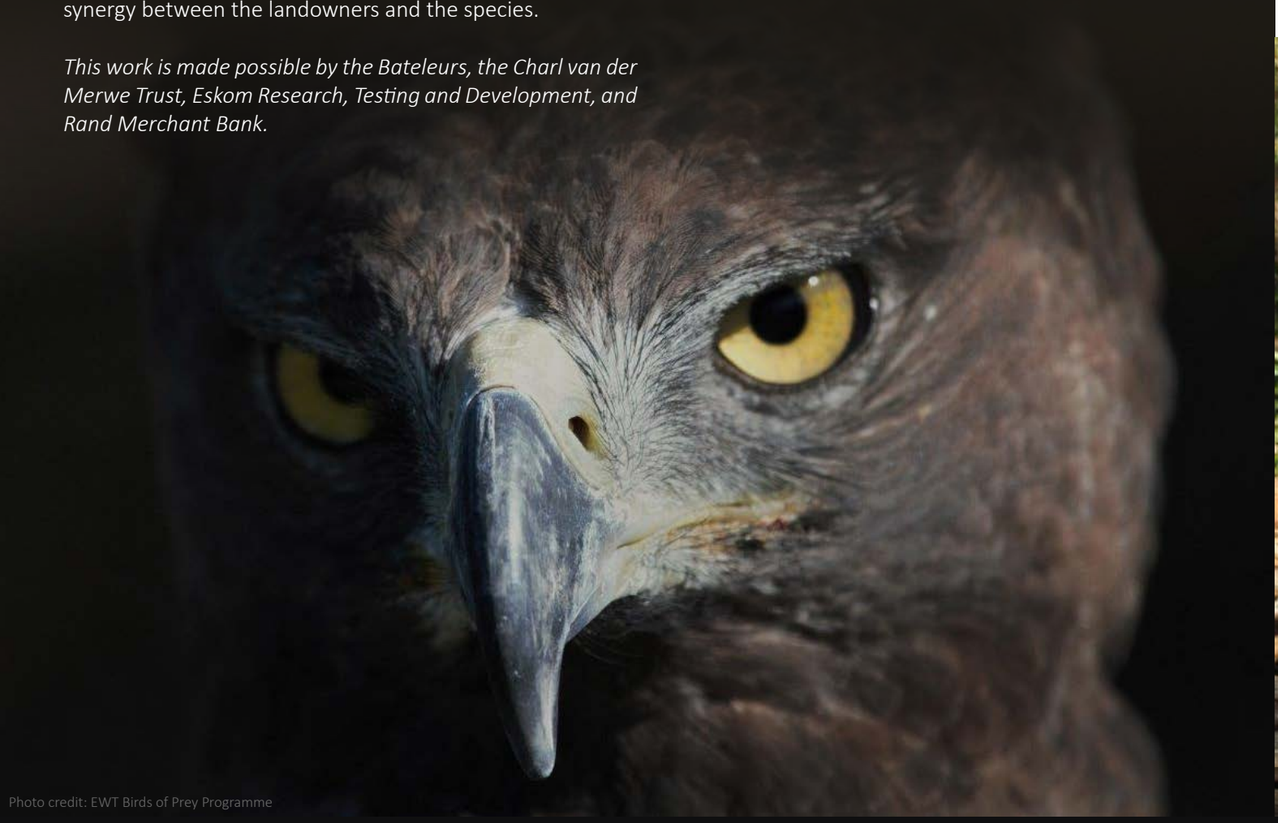


Photo credit: EWT Birds of Prey Programme

NATIONAL VULTURE TASK FORCE

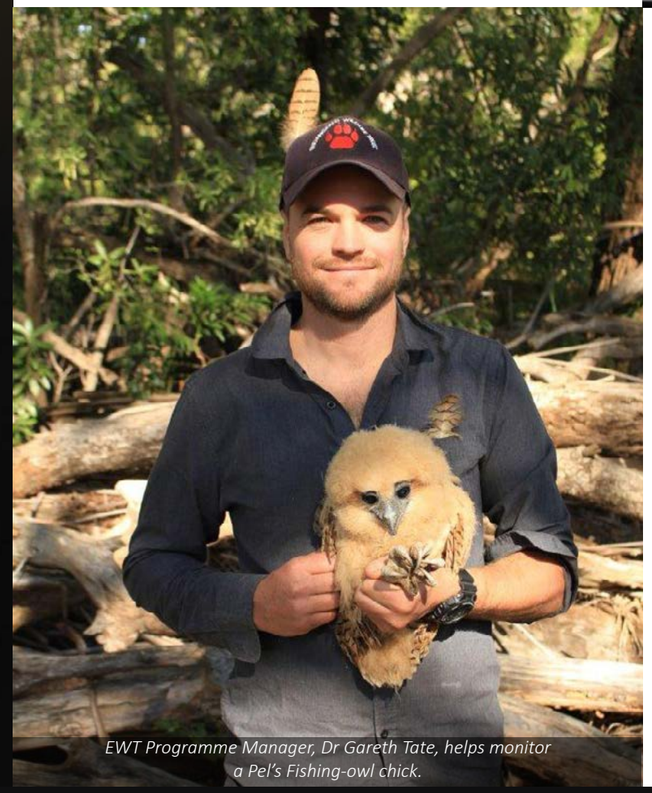
Staff from the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme were appointed to serve on the National Vulture Task Force for the next five years. This appointment is an important opportunity for the EWT, linking much of our vulture conservation action to the national strategy and leveraging support from the government to adopt, implement, and enforce our priority vulture conservation activities. We are also excited that the VSZ initiative is being incorporated into the new National Vulture Multi-species Action Plan, a significant milestone that has been spearheaded by the EWT in South Africa.

KALAHARI AND PLATBERG KAROO RAPTOR PROJECTS SOAR

The flagship work conducted under our Kalahari and Platberg Karoo Raptor projects is still soaring. Across this vast landscape, covering over 21-million hectares of South Africa, we help to resolve conflict issues involving raptors and farmers, respond to and rescue injured raptors (over 40 vultures this year), and reduce power line fatalities and incidents. We also monitor, colour tag, and protect over 600 pairs of White-backed Vultures, and 40 pairs of Lappet-faced Vultures, across the Karoo and Kalahari.

This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust and Rand Merchant Bank.

EWT Project Coordinator, Ronelle Visagie, takes an injured vulture for treatment at the wildlife vet.



EWT Programme Manager, Dr Gareth Tate, helps monitor a Pel's Fishing-owl chick.

OLIFANTS RIVER RAPTORS

We have been encouraged by a good Pel's Fishing-owl breeding season so far in 2020. Two of our pairs have successfully fledged chicks for the first time since 2015, whilst we witnessed successful breeding in consecutive years in two other territories, all alluding to optimal conditions for breeding. Although we are often dismayed at the loss of habitat, and in particular the Lowveld riverine forest which these amazing fishing-owls call their home, this past season provided a refreshing snapshot of the resilience of nature. We plan to install a live feed camera system at one of the nests in the next breeding season and to expand our work to include other unmonitored river systems. This work will create a more detailed picture of the status of this species within the country. Although 2020 has been a frustrating year for us all, we were fortunate to witness a slight up-turn in the fate of this species.

This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust, Ford Wildlife Foundation, and Rand Merchant Bank.

GUARDIANS OF THE GRASSLANDS

With over 12 years of research and conservation work on the African Grass-owl, we are excited to be leading an initiative aimed at the restoration of Grass-owl habitat on the Highveld coal-belt. Throughout this area, Grass-owl habitat has largely been lost to mining and farming activities. We are working with mines here to restore their land to support more of this threatened grassland specialist. The mines we work with include the Mafube Colliery near Witbank, Mpumalanga, where we recently signed a three-year agreement with the colliery, and several neighbouring landowners, to establish a 340 ha Grass-owl refugia and restore large tracts of habitat consumed by open cast coal mining. We have begun growth trials using *Imperata* grass, a wetland vegetation type preferred by the nesting owls and their favoured prey, the Vlei Rat.

We have initiated the establishment of the first Grass-owl safe spaces on the Mpumalanga Highveld. We are currently working on six significant grassland patches to protect breeding and foraging habitat and ensure that active nesting pairs are safeguarded from fire, livestock trampling, and disturbance. At each site, we are currently cordoning off active sites with owl-safe fencing and creating exclosures to keep livestock from trampling these sensitive areas. We have constructed firebreaks which, since the beginning of 2020, has resulted in the first fire-free season on our focal sites, where breeding patches have not burnt due to uncontrolled fires.

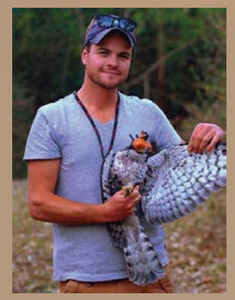
This work is made possible by Anglo American, Mafube Coal, the National Geographic Society, and Rand Merchant Bank.

EWT Field Officer, Tselane Rebothile Rachuene, ringing an African Grass-owl.

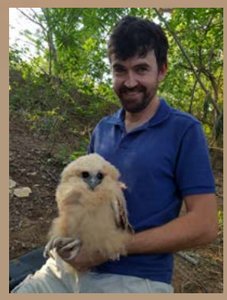
The EWT is helping rehabilitate African Grass-owl habitat to improve their nesting success and the survival of chicks like these.

Photo credit: Tyrone Mckendry

BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME **TEAM**



Dr Gareth Tate
Programme Manager



John Davies
Project Coordinator: Raptor Conservation and Research

Rebecca Mabuza
Administrator

Tselane Rebothile Rachuene
Field Officer: African Grass-owl Project

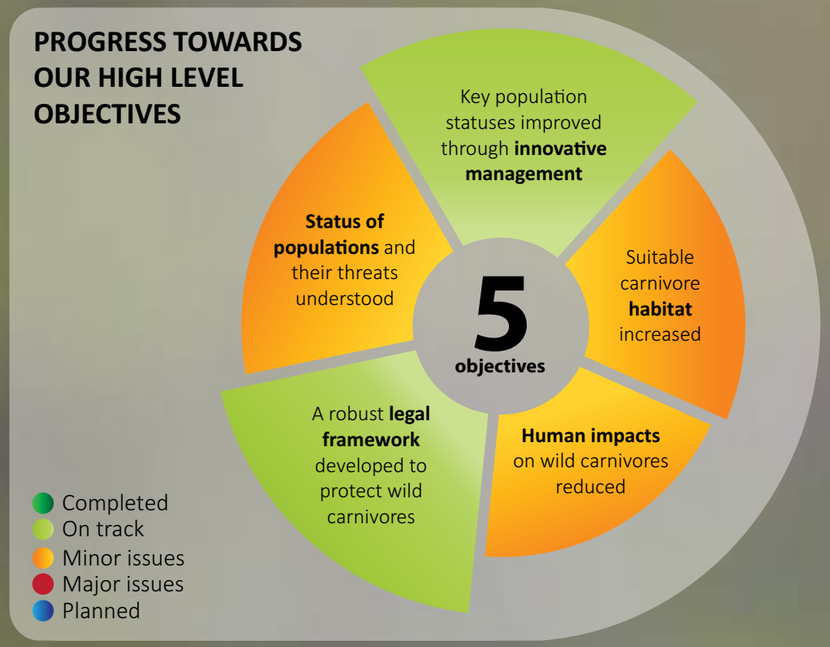
Dr Lindy Thompson
Project Coordinator: Vulture Conservation and Research

Ronelle Visagie
Project Coordinator: Platberg Karoo Raptor Project

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Carnivores are one of the most charismatic, yet threatened orders of mammals, and require innovative strategies to ensure their survival. The EWT's Carnivore Conservation Programme boldly implements large-scale, collaborative, field-based projects to increase the range, numbers, and status of Africa's threatened carnivores including African Wild Dogs, Cheetahs, Lions, and Leopards. We achieve this by re-establishing, maintaining, and expanding safe space for carnivores; actively reducing threats to carnivore survival and persistence; ensuring positive changes in human-based values related to carnivores; and supporting legislation to protect carnivores. Our goal is to reverse the global trend of carnivore species declines by increasing carnivore populations in southern Africa. To do so, we need to understand the status of, and threats to, key populations of threatened carnivores in South Africa, and implement innovative management strategies to improve the status of these key populations. We also aim to increase suitable habitat for threatened carnivores by 10% by 2023, ensure effective management at current threatened carnivore sites, and increase connectivity between sites. We help to reduce human-induced impacts on wild populations of carnivores in South Africa and support the implementation of a robust legal framework to provide for the protection of free and wild-living carnivores. We work in every province of South Africa and have recently expanded our work into Mozambique and Malawi.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES

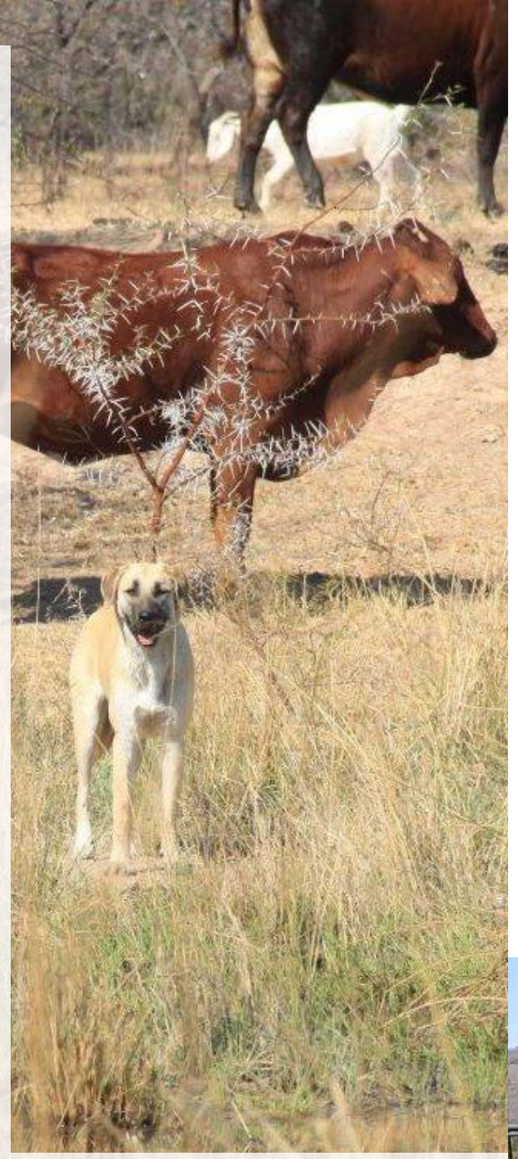


DOGS PROTECTING CATS

Since the start of our Livestock Guardian Dog Project, we have placed 223 support dogs with farmers in the Waterberg, Magaliesberg, and Ingula (within the Drakensberg). Conflict between farmers, Leopards, and other large carnivores is rife in these areas. This year, our programme received a Global Environment Fund (GEF) Small Grant to support big cat conservation in the Waterberg. Under this grant, we placed 11 more livestock guarding dogs and held a community workshop in the Masebe area with 45 livestock farmers. Here, we shared information on human-carnivore conflict mitigation, livestock disease treatment and prevention, and livestock husbandry. We will soon be constructing a breeding facility, which will serve the dual purpose of providing a source of livestock guarding dogs for our project and providing an income to people in the community.

We also addressed the threat of disease among domestic dogs in the Masebe area by coordinating a veterinary campaign in which 22 dogs were sterilised and 45 vaccinated. This campaign will help reduce the transmission of diseases from domestic dogs to large carnivores. Given that in different scenarios, alternative livestock guarding animals may work better, we are exploring the possibility of using other animals, like donkeys and alpacas, which we plan to test in the coming year.

This work was made possible by Bakwena N1N4 Toll Concessionaire, the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, Eskom HLD SOC Ltd, Eukanuba, Gaie Ferguson, Princess Charlene of Monaco, and the Relate Trust.



The EWT's Livestock Guarding Dog Project is now placing dogs with community farmers in the Waterberg.

WILD DOG RANGE EXPANSION

This year, we proudly continued the 22-year legacy of securing hard-earned conservation victories for Wild Dogs. With the addition of Karongwe Game Reserve (Limpopo) in early 2020, the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project now includes 250 Wild Dogs in 38 packs and covers 1.2 million hectares across southern Africa. In addition to facilitating human-mediated dispersals of sub-adults and new pack formations, we coordinated five operations to save Wild Dogs that had left protected areas and were in imminent threat of being killed in farmland. With only 500 Wild Dogs remaining in South Africa, every individual counts.

We co-authored a peer-reviewed publication on artificial pack formation that explores the effectiveness of rubbing individuals together to strengthen bonds. Having laid the groundwork in South Africa, we are preparing to extend the Range Expansion Project across Africa, in partnership with African Parks and other partners.

This work was made possible by the Bateleurs, the Ford Wildlife Foundation, Painted Wolf Wines, David Pocock, Richard Bosman, Tania Ihlenfeldt and Rob Hibbert, Tata Consultancy, and Wildlife ACT.

FLIGHT OF THE DOGS – PART 2

In 2018, we worked with partners in Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park to reintroduce a pack of 14 Wild Dogs to a landscape from which they had been absent for decades. We expected them to explore the park as they looked for a place to settle. However, the pack quickly established their territory near their reintroduction site. We suspect they did not feel the need to explore due to the high density of prey. The pack denned in 2019, increasing the population to 28 and confirming the reintroduction was successful.

In 2019, Gorongosa was ready for a second pack. In October, with air support from the Bateleurs, we reintroduced a second pack of 15 Wild Dogs from Khamab Kalahari Game Reserve into the park. This important supplementation introduced more diverse genetics and ensured a more sustainable population. After the birth of several litters of pups in both packs during the 2020 denning season, the population has risen to 94 Wild Dogs. This is a significant conservation win for the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project.

This work was made possible by the Bateleurs, the Carr Foundation, Painted Wolf Wines, and Richard Bosman.

EWT Regional Coordinator, Cole du Plessis, flies 15 Wild Dogs for reintroduction into Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique.

Reintroducing Wild Dogs, that had roamed freely through unsafe areas of Zululand, into the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park.

RETURNING CHEETAHS TO MALAWI

In September 2019, we facilitated the reintroduction of two female and three male Cheetahs into the 75,000 ha Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi, as part of our strategy to re-establish a viable Cheetah population in the country. Doing so, we are expanding safe Cheetah range to an area that has not seen these big cats in over 90 years. The logistics were daunting, and we drove one female 1,278 km from Samara Private Game Reserve, in South Africa's Karoo, to Majete, a trip that took 55 hours. This trip is the longest reintroduction we have made by road. We undertook the reintroduction, through our partnership with African Parks, which is mandated by the Malawian authorities to manage the reserve. The reintroduced Cheetahs are expected to do well in Majete, and we have put measures in place to ensure their ongoing conservation and protection.

This work was made possible by African Parks, the Ford Wildlife Foundation, Gaie Ferguson, National Geographic, PWC, and Seremed.

In 2019, the EWT facilitated the reintroduction of Cheetahs into Malawi (Photo credit: Jo Taylor).

POISON CHALICE

Since February 2020, the UK International Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund has supported the Lion Project in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. This is a cooperative project involving the EWT's Wildlife in Trade and Vultures for Africa Programmes as well as our partners, the Peace Parks Foundation and Freeland.

An increase in the illegal demand for Lion parts in both Africa and Asia, coupled with conflict between livestock farmers and Lions, has fuelled increased poaching and persecution – often by poisoning – of Lions across their range. These poisonings have devastating impacts on ecosystems, typically killing hundreds of terrestrial and avian scavengers in a single incident. Our programme's role in this project is to understand Lion movements in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area and to use this information to improve the capacity of anti-poaching teams to protect priority Lion sites effectively. To this end, Marnus Roodbol joined the team as Lion Conservation Field Officer in February 2020.

This year, we have been working with our partners in Mozambique's Limpopo National Park, and in the northern Kruger National Park, to better understand the complexities of cross-border Lion conservation. We have also assisted the EWT's Vultures for Africa Programme in providing Poison Intervention Training for 313 SANParks rangers in the Kruger National Park. This training will ensure that all rangers within Kruger can respond safely to the growing poisoning threat.

This work was made possible by the UK Government through the International Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and with operational support from the Peace Parks Foundation, Herding4Health, SANParks, Freeland, Mozambique's Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação, and the EWT's Wildlife in Trade and Vultures for Africa Programmes.

EWT Cheetah Range Expansion Project Coordinator, Vincent van der Merwe, tracking reintroduced Cheetahs in Malawi.

CHEETAH RANGE EXPANSION PROJECT GROWS

As of June 2020, the Cheetah Range Expansion Project includes 406 Cheetahs, on 60 reserves, covering over 1.4 million hectares. Thirty Cheetahs were moved between reserves over the reporting period, including 18 during the COVID-19 lockdown, to ensure population genetic diversity, and to assist dispersing individuals. Over the past decade, the Cheetah Range Expansion Project has increased at an average rate of 21 individuals, and two reserves, per annum. This increase has resulted in South Africa now holding the only growing wild Cheetah population worldwide. We have now identified a further eight potential Cheetah reintroduction sites across Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Rwanda. Over the next several years, South African Cheetah Range Expansion Project reserves will provide dispersing individuals to support rewilding efforts across the continent.

As we return Cheetahs to places where they have not been seen in decades, we also have the privilege of making observations that have never been recorded. In Rogge Cloof Nature Reserve, Northern Cape, Cheetah cubs were observed in the snow for the first time, though thankfully the cold weather did not appear to impact their wellbeing.

This work was made possible by the Ford Wildlife Foundation, Gaie Ferguson, National Geographic, Paul King PWC, Seremed, and the Tandy Grant Foundation.

EWT Field Officer, Marnus Roodbol, presenting poison response training to wildlife rangers in the Kruger National Park.

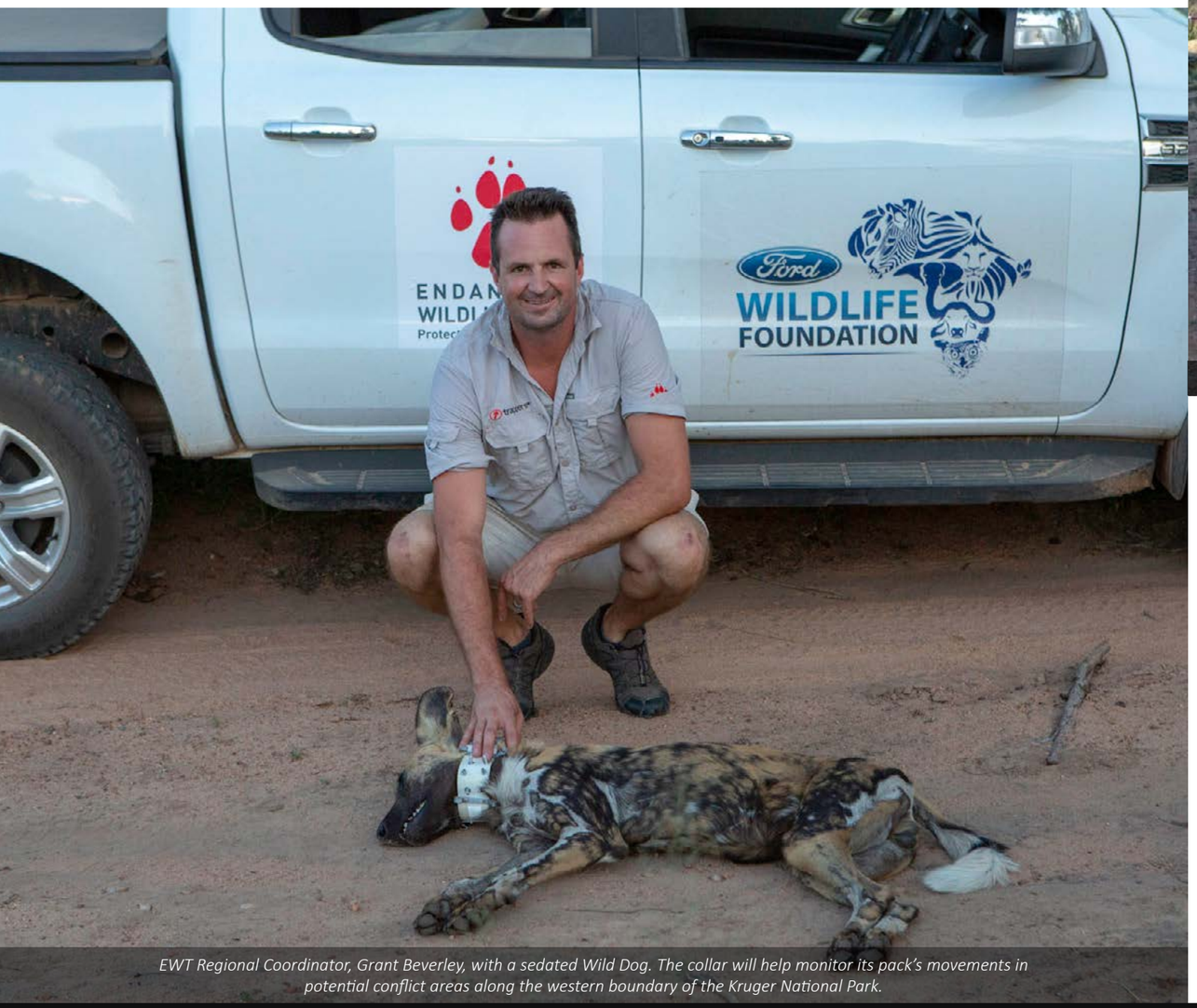
CONSERVATION OF WILD DOGS IN THE GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

As Wild Dogs disperse out of the Kruger National Park, they often encounter intolerant wildlife ranchers, diseases carried by domestic dogs, and landscapes scattered with snares. To better monitor Wild Dogs living in these high-risk areas, we have collared five packs in the Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR), on the western boundary of the Kruger. This has significantly improved our ability to monitor these packs and respond when farmers threaten to shoot them, or when we receive reports of snared individuals, as some parts of the APNR also experience heavy wire snaring by local hunters. In the past year, with the help of our veterinarian partners, we successfully removed snares from four Wild Dogs.

Ensuring the survival of Wild Dogs is an exercise in continuous diplomatic negotiations with wildlife ranchers. However, when packs den in hostile territory, we are occasionally left with no option but to relocate them to a safer area. This year was no exception, and we were forced to relocate two packs to prevent ranchers from killing them.

To further streamline our Wild Dog conservation efforts, we have been working with State Veterinarian, Dr Louis van Schalkwyk, to develop a near real-time monitoring platform. This platform will allow us to proactively check packs for snared individuals when they have passed through areas with high snare densities, and administer vaccinations to the Wild Dogs most at risk of contracting Canine Distemper or Rabies Viruses.

This work was made possible by the Boucher Legacy, the Ford Wildlife Foundation, Investec, the Oak Foundation, Riaan Nysschens (Wild Dogz Burger Bar) and Wildlifevets.com.



EWT Regional Coordinator, Grant Beverley, with a sedated Wild Dog. The collar will help monitor its pack's movements in potential conflict areas along the western boundary of the Kruger National Park.

EWT Regional Coordinator, Derek van der Merwe, and team, rescue a pack of Wild Dogs from irate farmers in the Waterberg.

PAINTED DOGS ON TV

In April 2020, we responded to a call to rescue a pack of Wild Dogs from irate farmers in the Waterberg. The farmers were upset because this pack had killed 35 of their livestock since November 2019. We first tried all available routes to reduce conflict without moving the dogs, including placing Livestock Guardian Dogs to protect the livestock. However, the Wild Dogs remained at risk as some farmers had still threatened to kill them, even though this is illegal. With no other options, we finally moved the pack into a boma on Lapalala Wilderness. After six months we will release these dogs onto the 48,000 ha reserve where they will be safe and continue to contribute to Wild Dog range expansion.

This collaboration led to the establishment of a partnership with Lapalala Wilderness, Tintswalo Lapalala, and Painteddog.tv to create a media and fundraising campaign using live cameras at their den. We are now raising funds for a GPS collar and several VHF collars for the dogs, so we can monitor them closely when we release them in late 2020. We hope the interest will boost Waterberg tourism and will eventually allow these Wild Dogs to pay for their own protection.

This work was made possible by the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, Gaie Ferguson, Lapalala Wilderness, Painteddog.tv, Princess Charlene of Monaco, and Tinswalo Lapalala.

Wild Dog puppies at the den in Lapalala

CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE

Community engagement is critical to effective and sustainable conservation. We provide educational experiences for learners living along the western boundary of Kruger National park and inspire them to care for their unique natural heritage actively. Despite the COVID-19 lockdown, in the past year we were able to give carnivore conservation talks to over 500 learners in local schools, and take 70 learners on trips to the Environmental Education Centre in the Kruger National Park.

We also support the K2C BR NPC in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere landscape by providing training modules on carnivore ecology and human-wildlife conflict mitigation to their environmental monitors. This training ensures that we have a network of people capable of reducing carnivore conflict across the region. This year we trained 60 environmental monitors. Even during the lockdown, we continued to engage remotely with community leaders, school principals, environmental monitors, and NGO partners to ensure we are ready to relaunch our community projects at full speed when the lockdown is lifted.

This work was made possible by Hoedspruit Spar and Investec.

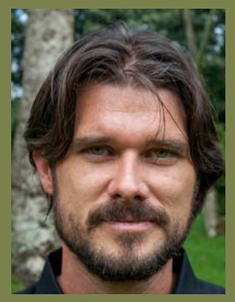
COVID RELIEF

It is important to show communities we work that we genuinely care about their wellbeing and needs, far beyond reducing conflict with carnivores. Over lockdown, our Lowveld Carnivore Conservation Community Field Officer, Kulani Nyakane, assisted the Hoedspruit Spar – a regular programme supporter – in distributing 37 food parcels to communities around Acornhoek. This work has allowed Kulani to contribute directly to the communities in which he works, and to demonstrate that we are genuinely there to help. This help is a small but important step toward nurturing trust and increasing acceptance for community conservation as we navigate this difficult period.

This work was made possible by Hoedspruit Spar and Investec.

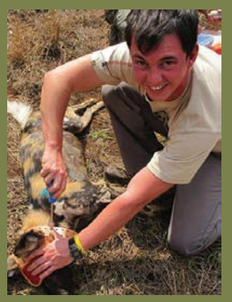
EWT Conservation Community Field Officer, Kulani Nyakane, with a group on school children during an educational excursion into the Kruger National Park.

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME **TEAM**



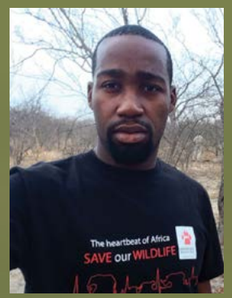
Dr David Mills
Programme Manager

Grant Beverley
Lowveld Regional Coordinator



Cole du Plessis
KZN Regional Coordinator

Joseph Hlako
Waterberg Community Conflict Mitigation Field Officer



Kulani Nyakane
Lowveld Carnivore Conservation Community Field Officer

Marnus Roodbol
Lion Conservation Field Officer

Derek van der Merwe
Limpopo Regional Coordinator

Vincent van der Merwe
Eastern Cape Regional Coordinator

DRYLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Photo credit: EWT Drylands Conservation Programme

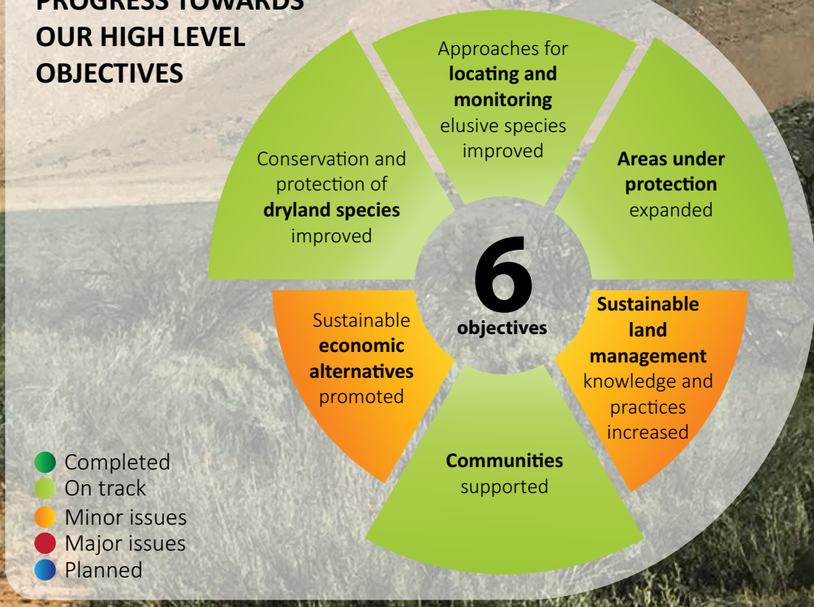
The Drylands Conservation Programme is the only conservation initiative dedicated to working exclusively towards the conservation of the unique and outstanding habitat and species in the Karoo. This arid landscape, incorporating the Nama and Succulent Karoo, is the largest ecosystem in South Africa, covering an area of approximately 400,000 km2, an expanse slightly more extensive than Germany.

The Karoo is a landscape in motion. Anticipated climate change impacts and shifting usage patterns mean that the conservation economy will shortly become a significant contributor to livelihoods. Rapid population growth and habitat transformation to the east of the country, and along our coastlines, will redefine the Karoo as a conservation frontier, creating new opportunities for species and habitat conservation.

Our programme is fortunate to work in this inspiring landscape, where the opportunities for the conservation of species and habitats are as wide as the horizon. We work in the vast open spaces in the Western and Northern Cape, and our team is strategically positioned in this landscape to bring our conservation vision to life.

Our broader work in this landscape is funded by the Global Environment Facility Sustainable Land Management (GEF5 SLM) Project managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) and the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). Projects are also supported by Global Wildlife Conservation, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Rand Merchant Bank, and the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP).

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES



CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Camera traps are an important tool for researching elusive dryland species. As part of our ongoing relationship with the UK-based Liverpool John Moores University, we have started to develop computer machine learning capabilities to sort data collected by these cameras rapidly. This approach is nearing completion and will be ready for implementation in 2021.

In August 2019, we conducted a camera trap survey in an area adjacent to the Anysberg Nature Reserve, to better understand the presence of Riverine Rabbits on farms bordering the reserve. As a result of an interaction with one landowner, who had previously identified Riverine Rabbits on his property, we were able to confirm the species' presence on three more farms. This crucial information about where these highly threatened rabbits occur in the landscape will help inform protected area expansion priorities around Anysberg. We are currently pursuing stewardship negotiations with three landowners in this area to increase the land under protection by 11,500 ha.

As part of our ongoing efforts to secure habit at to ensure the survival of Riverine Rabbits, we have begun to set camera traps in three of the five high priority areas we identified in the Northern Cape during 2018. During one of these surveys, we captured the first-ever photo of an adult Riverine Rabbit with two kits. Very little is known about the breeding biology of Riverine Rabbits. In addition, we captured the image in an area for which there is very little data, where these rabbits have not even been recorded before. Information like this will help us to fill in the gaps between known populations and provide for a more integrated conservation approach.

This work is made possible by the Liverpool John Moores University, Rand Merchant Bank (RMB), and the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP).

EWT staff members explore Anysberg Nature Reserve, that adjoins three farms where we recently confirmed the presence of the Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit.

A Riverine Rabbit caught on a camera trap. The EWT is exploring innovative technologies to help locate them.

ONE, TWO, THREE: LEARNING TO COUNT POPULATIONS THE RIVERINE RABBIT WAY

First discovered in 1901, for over a century conservationists thought that Riverine Rabbits only occurred in the Nama Karoo. However, a second population was discovered less than two decades ago in the Succulent Karoo region, representing a southern population. Demonstrating the incredible ability of this species to remain undetected, a third population was discovered in December 2018, some 200 km east of the known southern population distribution. The discovery of this third population came out of the blue, as even complex predictive modelling did not highlight this site. Both these southern populations appear to have different ecological requirements when compared to the original northern population in the Nama Karoo.

Funding from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and ZGAP catalysed investigations to understand the distribution and habitat requirements of the newly discovered population of rabbits west of the Baviaanskloof. The first evidence that Riverine Rabbits occurred in this region was from a report of a roadkill specimen in December 2018. Using a camera trap survey, the EWT subsequently confirmed the presence of a viable population of rabbits in this region.

To develop a better understanding of its habitat requirements, we conducted vegetation assessments in the known and new southern populations of Riverine Rabbits, near Touwsriver and Uniondale (west of Baviaanskloof). These assessments described and compared in detail, the plant communities and habitats where Riverine Rabbits occur. We are using this information to interrogate fine-scale vegetation maps to predict where else rabbits may occur across this extensive landscape. This work will guide us in placing camera trap arrays to detect rabbit presence, with a view to mapping both the distribution of the new population and also to identifying possible migration corridors between the known populations. Ultimately, we aim to identify priority areas in which to focus our conservation efforts, including formal protection initiatives to secure the conservation of this new regional population. We have already identified priority areas in the northern and initial southern population, and work is well underway to formally expand existing protected areas for the species in these two regions.

While our work in the Baviaanskloof, using camera traps, demonstrates the method's success, we are continually looking for quicker, more cost-effective methods of detecting Riverine Rabbits. To this end, in July 2019 we were able to identify rabbits using a detection dog when Jessie, the team's Border Collie, was captured on film locating a Riverine Rabbit in the field. This was a significant milestone for our programme's Specialist Conservation Officer, Esther Matthew. She has worked tirelessly with Jessie and a team of volunteers conducting field trials to test the feasibility of scent detection dogs to find Riverine Rabbits. If we can demonstrate that scent detection dogs can provide a way to detect Riverine Rabbits rapidly, this will significantly speed up our survey work. We are now using Jessie's skills to supplement other detection approaches in our work.

This work is made possible by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and ZGAP.

TAKING THE DISTANCE OUT OF LEARNING

The Northern Cape is a landscape of vast distances, where working with people presents a real challenge. By migrating many of our training activities online, we have managed to bring our stakeholders closer to one another, enabling us to spread our conservation message more easily across the Karoo.

The programme's Karoo Forever UNDP/GEF Sustainable Land Management Project website went live in December 2019. This website contains our Sustainable Land Management resources and online course content. In 2020, we launched and completed two online webinar series, each consisting of five episodes, as part of our GEF 5 SLM Project. The webinar topics – presented to farmers from across the Northern Cape, Western Cape and from as far afield as Florida, USA – dealt with aspects of sheep production and drought adaptation techniques. Fortunately, as this online training already formed part of our project strategy, its rollout allowed us to partially circumvent the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown. Our webinar series recordings are also available from the Karoo Forever website for those who missed the live sessions. We developed and presented these webinars in collaboration with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

During the reporting period, we continued to support remote learning with local students. Our team developed a Google Earth Pro training course that we conducted in Loxton on 28 August 2019. We directed this training at our Agricultural Sector Education Training Authority (AgriSETA) learners, and two agricultural advisors from the DALRRD who work in our area. Five of our AgriSETA learners came from farming families in Loxton, while three were based in Nieuwoudtville. As such, this training provided a critical entry point for access to technological literacy for their families. Our E-learning Centre, also situated in Loxton, continues to play a valuable role in supporting farmers, community members, and the AgriSETA students.

This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank and the UNDP GEF5 SLM Project.

CONSERVATION WINS THROUGH IMPROVED VELD MANAGEMENT AND DIVERSIFIED INCOME STREAMS

The EWT works with emerging farmers on the Loxton commonage. Camera traps we set here in March captured several photos of Riverine Rabbits, confirming the importance of our work for both farmers and towards the conservation of this highly threatened species. This work was bolstered by a GEF 5 Small Grant that the UNDP approved in May 2020, which aims to improve veld management on the Loxton commonage. The EWT is now working with three emerging farmers towards enhancing the management of approximately 2,500 ha of this commonage.

We are using a second UNDP GEF 5 Small Grant to demonstrate that the introduction of diversified income streams can help promote sustainable land management near Nieuwoudtville, on the Bokkeveld Plateau in the Northern Cape. We are supporting the development of adventure tourism on a commercial sheep and rooibos tea farm by establishing over 100 km of mountain bike trails on the Papkuilsfontein property. In exchange, the 7,000 ha property is in the process of being formally declared a Protected Environment under the provincial Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.

This initiative supports the integration of agriculture, tourism and conservation priorities in this working commercial farming landscape, and demonstrates that conservation and agriculture are not mutually exclusive. We are implementing this project in collaboration with the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform's Stewardship Unit.

This work is made possible by the GEF Small Grants Project within the GEF 5 Sustainable Land Management Project.

Commercial sheep farming is widespread through the Karoo. The EWT works with landowners here to demonstrate how the introduction of diversified income streams can help promote sustainable land management.

Google Earth training at the Loxton E-Learning Centre.

LEARNING FOR CHANGE

We conducted our second Integrated Farm Planning and Management training course in Prieska, in September 2019, in collaboration with the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. Altogether 17 people attended, including four agricultural advisors and emerging farmers. This training course is integral to our GEF Sustainable Land Management project in the Karoo. In testimony to our train-the-trainer approach, an extension officer for the Department of Agriculture in the Prieska region led the course, using the skills he developed while attending our first course earlier in 2019. This development is a tribute to our vision of empowering practitioners within the drylands to work independently of the EWT in the future.

Programme Manager, Cobus Theron, and Bonnie Schumann, our Nama Karoo Coordinator, participated in a cross-sectoral transformative extension services workshop in Cape Town. Together they hosted a session focused on integrating conservation and agriculture through Sustainable Land Management. This approach is yielding positive results in the Northern Cape, and we are looking to extend its reach to other provinces.

This work is made possible by the UNDP GEF5 SLM Project.

EWT Sustainable Land Management Field Officer, Jean Pierre le Roux, with landowner.

PROTECTING PRIVATE LAND

This year we negotiated for an additional 18,500 ha of privately owned land to be included under the Biodiversity Stewardship Programmes in both the Western and Northern Cape provinces. Our Western Cape sites will all contribute to the conservation of Riverine Rabbits. In contrast, our Northern Cape site will catalyse further expansion, and preserve the unique floral attributes of the Bokkeveld escarpment landscape. Our focus is now on the development, implementation, and tracking of management plans with these landowners and providing meaningful extension support.

We are conducting these projects in collaboration with the provincial conservation authorities, CapeNature (Western Cape) and the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (Northern Cape). This work is made possible by the GEF Small Grants Project within the GEF 5 Sustainable Land Management Project and private funders.

DRONE LEADERS

Together with the EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme, the UNDP, and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, we hosted a Drone Users Conference in Stellenbosch. The event was very successful, attracting more than 200 participants. Prof Serge Wich from Liverpool John Moores University, with which our programme works closely, provided the keynote address on the latest advances of drones in conservation. The EWT is a leader in the application of this technology within the conservation sector. We are also the only such organisation in South Africa to boast South African Civil Aviation Authority licensed drone pilots, including the Dryland Conservation Programme's Cobus Theron. The conference focussed on the technical aspects of drone usage and data collection in the conservation and agricultural sectors. This technology is becoming entrenched within conservation and environmental planning, and the conference resulted in widespread interest and media coverage. There will be a follow-up conference in 2021.

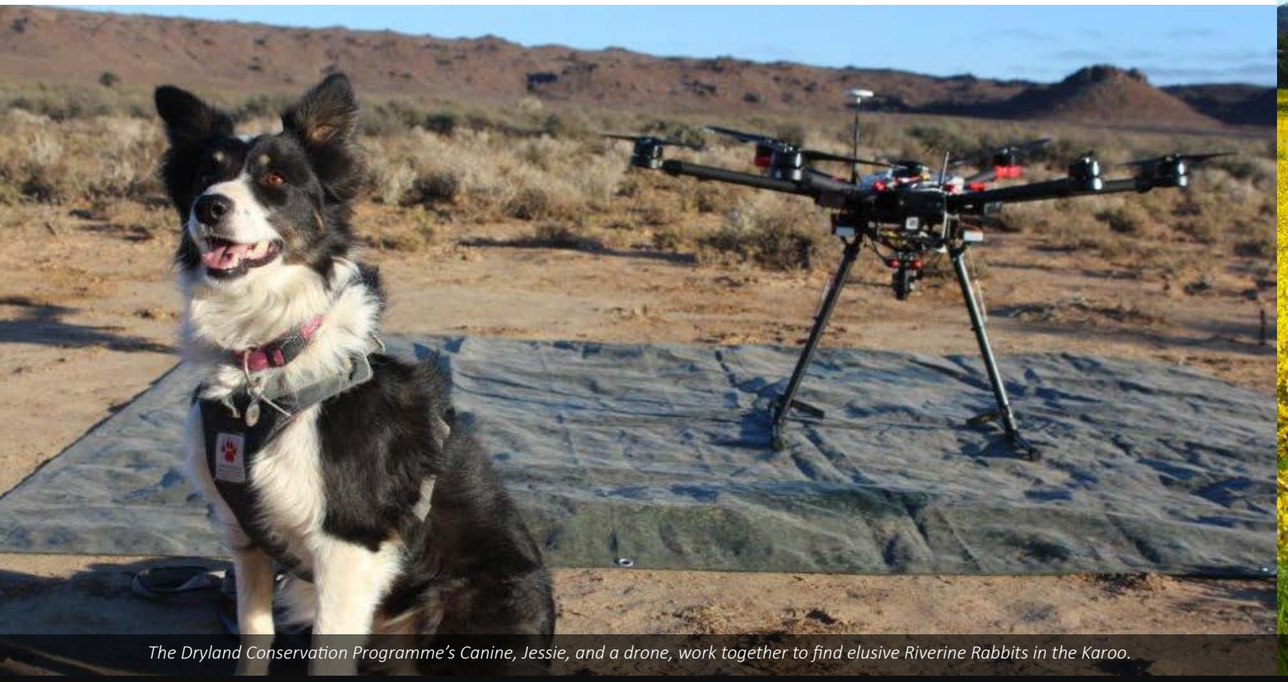
HANDOVER OF NURSERY

Due to a change in the implementation of our Sustainable Land Management Project, we handed the nursery over to the local Loxton Garden Cooperative, consisting of 11 community members, in August. In 2018 we had already trained these members in permaculture. We also handed over nursery tools and assisted with having the lease renewed in their name. The nursery will move forward with support from the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform to produce food and seedlings.

This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Through the reporting period, we have significantly increased our activities with the southern and eastern populations (Baviaanskloof) of Riverine Rabbits, and have received funding to work on golden mole species along the West Coast. This expansion is in line with our 2023 strategy to both increase our geographic footprint and our species portfolio.



The Dryland Conservation Programme's Canine, Jessie, and a drone, work together to find elusive Riverine Rabbits in the Karoo.

DRYLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME **TEAM**

Cobus Theron
Programme Manager

Johnny Arends
Nursery Worker
(left July 2019)

Insauf de Vries
Administration and Field Support Officer

Hester de Wee
Nursery Worker
(left July 2019)

Esther Matthew
Specialist Conservation Officer and Conservation Canine Jessie

Jean Pierre le Roux
Sustainable Land Management Field Officer

Bonnie Schumann
Nama Karoo Coordinator

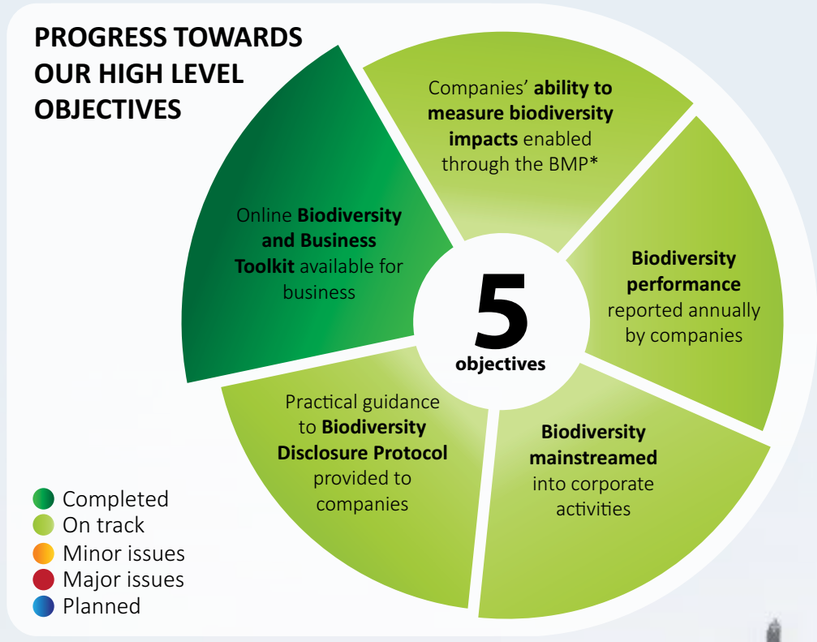
Flowers at the Papkuilsfontein guest farm Guest Farm that is in the process of being formally declared a Protected Environment.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS NETWORK

With a significant stake in the sustainability of biodiversity, business has the power and responsibility to act as a powerful lever for change. Recognising the importance of biodiversity to business, the EWT established the National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) in 2013, to build the capacity of business to act as a positive force for the conservation of biodiversity in South Africa. The natural environment plays an essential role in the value chain of any business. The NBBN works with innovative business leaders to identify and manage the business risks and opportunities that result from their interactions with the natural world. We also provide a platform for businesses to proactively engage with each other and discover solutions that lead to sustainable business growth and develop exciting business opportunities, such as new sources of revenue and opportunities to reduce production costs. The NBBN works with businesses across all nine of South Africa's provinces. The NBBN launched a new website in February 2020, with a focus on the Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP) and its various components. Notably, the website includes biodiversity mainstreaming in business guidelines, case studies, and all our reports – which incorporate the 2018 and 2019 biodiversity performance ratings of JSE-listed companies.

The NBBN's founding partners include Anglo American, the De Beers Group, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Eskom HLD SOC Ltd, Hatch, Nedbank, Pam Golding Properties, Pick n Pay, SANBI, and Woolworths.

Hatch
Nedbank
Woolworths.
the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
SANBI
Pam Golding Properties
Anglo American
Eskom SOC Ltd
the De Beers Group
Pick n Pay



* BMP = Biodiversity Management Protocol

THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROTOCOL GOES GLOBAL

We developed the Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol) to improve decision making by providing companies with an accounting and reporting framework which helps consolidate their biodiversity impact data across value chains and jurisdictions. With the help of the BD Protocol, companies can now develop their biodiversity impact inventory and the associated Statements of Biodiversity Position and Performance for various applications, from site or project management to disclosure. In addition, adhering to the accounting and reporting principles of the BD Protocol helps ensure that companies present their biodiversity impact data in a standardised, comparable, credible and unbiased manner.

In collaboration with Dr Joël Houdet from the University of Pretoria and the Biodiversity Footprint Company, the EWT concluded the global online consultation on the BD Protocol on 15 August 2019. Here we partnered with the Natural Capital Coalition in London, United Kingdom, to access an online consultation platform COLLABORASE. Further consultations through workshops and one-to-one engagements took place until late October 2019. The BD Protocol project team collected and analysed all comments, questions and contributions made through the various consultation processes, including direct engagements with businesses, academia, and NGOs. We summarised the key points in a stakeholder feedback report, which we published in December 2019. The report included global businesses in this process to demonstrate how different sectors can use the protocol and how it may be used as a global standard. The interest in the BD Protocol garnered from this consultative process has seen the NBBN invited to various business and biodiversity workshops across Europe and the Americas. Dr Joël Houdet and the team were invited to attend the following platforms and events to promote the BD Protocol:

Local platforms:

- The Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's Smart Mining, Smart Environment and Smart Society Conference, Centurion.
- The National Natural Capital Accounting Forum, Pretoria.
- The University of the Witwatersrand's Centre for Critical Accounting and Auditing Research Conference, "Towards emancipatory accounting logic?", Johannesburg.
- IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Conservation Forum, Johannesburg.
- The National Business Initiative, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Two WWF Business Network Events, in Durban and Cape Town, South Africa.

International platforms:

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre's (WCMC) workshop on aligning biodiversity measurement approaches, Brussels.
- The Natural Capital Coalition's operations group webinar.
- The Scoping Workshop on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and Business Accounting, United Nations, New York, United States of America.
- The final Aligning Biodiversity Measurement for Business workshop, led by UNEP WCMC, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The Capitals Collaboration Day and the Global Business and Biodiversity Partnership annual event, Madrid, Spain.

We completed the final version of the BD Protocol in April 2020, and we expect to release the BD Protocol in late 2020.

This work was made possible by Eskom HLD SOC Ltd and the WWF Nedbank Green Trust.

BIODIVERSITY PERFORMANCE RATING OF LISTED COMPANIES: ENGAGING WITH AFRICA'S FINANCIAL POWERHOUSE AND BEYOND

A highlight was the finalisation of the 2019 biodiversity performance rating of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange's (JSE) listed companies. We scored over 340 companies according to the biodiversity scorecard the NBBN developed in 2018. Encouragingly, we noted a significant improvement in the level of engagement from companies. Whereas fewer than ten companies responded to our 2018 survey, 37 companies responded to our latest survey. These companies either asked us for initial meetings to present data that would influence their scores, or to learn about biodiversity mainstreaming in business in order to improve their biodiversity disclosures in the future. Our revised approach this past year saw us contacting companies through their Company Secretaries, and this appears to have increased engagement. To date, the NBBN has met with more than 15 companies who have shown interest in becoming involved in the BDP.

Following from this success, on 9 June 2020, *Ecoacsa Reserva de Biodiversidad* and the EWT announced a Collaborative Project Agreement to assess the biodiversity performance of companies listed on the IBEX 35 (Spain's principal stock exchange index). This collaboration will further increase our international exposure to a global platform for corporate biodiversity disclosure.

This work was made possible by Eskom HLD SOC Ltd and the WWF Nedbank Green Trust.

TESTING GROUNDS

The National Biodiversity and Business Network is assisting one of our partners, Sibanye Stillwater Mines, with an alien invasive plant management project. Our assistance entails developing a new alien plant strategy, revising existing alien plant management plans, and designing new plans from scratch. This project provides us with an excellent opportunity to pilot some elements of the BDP, such as the scoring methods used across different business types and testing how these would feature in real-time business decisions.

Furthermore, to support companies in their biodiversity mainstreaming journey, we have finalised MOUs with Sasol and Emira Property Fund, and are progressing well in negotiations with several other companies. This output is a great achievement by EWT Trustee, Angela Cherrington. Moving forwards, we will be working with these companies to improve their biodiversity policies, strategies, impact measurement, and action plans. Doing so, our interventions will help to improve their scores as part of the annual rating of the biodiversity performance of listed companies. The NBBN has also assisted Pick n Pay with an update of its high-level biodiversity performance assessment in 2020, which aims to improve the management of its biodiversity risks and impacts.

To guide companies toward integrating biodiversity into their business strategies and activities, the NBBN developed a series of mainstreaming guidelines, as open resources, outlining the nine key steps of the mainstreaming journey.

This work was made possible by the WWF Nedbank Green Trust.

PILOTING THE BD PROTOCOL

Before rolling out the BD Protocol more widely, we need to test its usability at a limited scale. Consequently, pilot case studies using the BD Protocol are ongoing with several companies in the forestry, mining, and energy sectors, in South Africa, Europe, and Australia. Notably, Eskom is applying the BD Protocol to two sites, the Sere Wind Farm and the Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme. Eskom's involvement allows us to trial and test the Protocol on two different energy-producing sites. The EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme Manager, Lourens Leeuwner, and Dr Ian Little, EWT Senior Manager Habitats, are facilitating this work.

This work was made possible by Eskom HLD SOC Ltd.

SIXTH ANNUAL BUSINESS INDABA

On 18 February 2020, the NBBN hosted its sixth annual indaba at Gallagher Estate, Midrand, entrenching itself further into the business network. We held this indaba under the theme "Risk, reputation and reporting: does business have a biodiversity blind spot?" Our theme aimed to provide a knowledge-sharing platform to explore biodiversity in relation to risk management and oversight, reputation management, increasing stakeholder activism, and sustainable financing disclosure and reporting. Keynote speaker, Wadzi Mandivenyi (Chief Directorate: Biodiversity Specialist Monitoring and Services, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries¬), noted the extreme need for business to become aware of the risks, as well as the benefits, of biodiversity to their activities. Highlights included opening remarks by the EWT's CEO, Yolan Friedmann, and presentations from the JSE Limited's Shameela Soobramoney, Reputation Matter's, Regine le Roux, and Tracey Davies of Just Share. Over 70 participants attended the indaba from a wide variety of business sectors.

This work was made possible by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, and Digby Wells.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS NETWORK **TEAM**

Constant Hoogstad
Senior Manager: Industry Partnerships

Angela Cherrington
Consultant

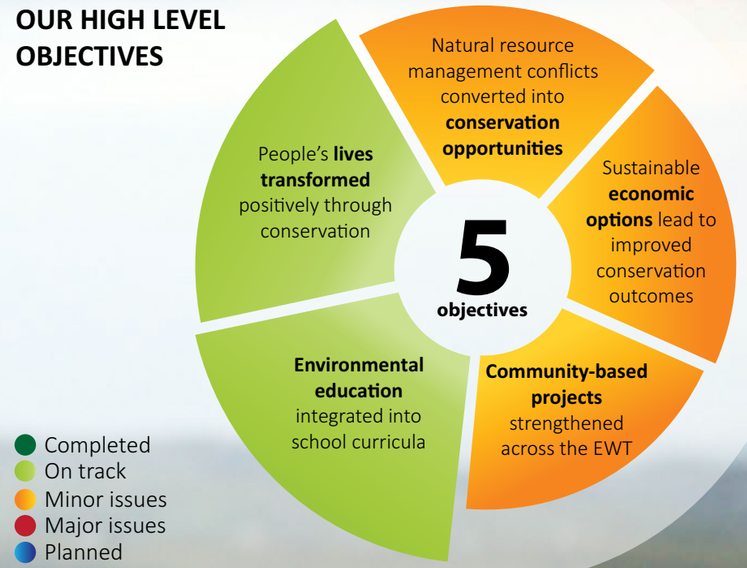
Dr Joël Houdet
Consultant

Megan Murison
Programme Officer

PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The EWT established its People in Conservation Programme in March 2019 through an amalgamation of several existing projects that were all independently working with communities and their role in conservation. Despite mounting pressures on the environment and our natural resources, we believe that people can coexist – and even thrive – alongside nature, through the implementation of innovative strategies that incorporate the needs of both people and the environment. In collaboration with local stakeholders and our many partners, we co-design solutions that contribute to the improved management of species and habitats and enhance human wellbeing. Our projects include the facilitation of biodiversity stewardship agreements between private and communal landowners and conservation agencies, the implementation of climate-resilient agriculture with smallholder farmers, and the development of improved livelihoods and micro-enterprises in the green economy. We also develop eco-clubs, adventure activities, and education initiatives to ensure that future generations are well-positioned to continue these conservation efforts. Our programme currently focuses on projects in Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, and the Eastern Cape provinces, but also provides support to EWT programmes countrywide.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES



- Completed
- On track
- Minor issues
- Major issues
- Planned

LAND: A LEGACY OF LIFE

Through the development of strong partnerships between the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), the EWT, and landowners, the Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Programme more than doubled its 5,000 ha project target. Signed declaration notices for two biodiversity stewardship sites in Gauteng were published in the Government Gazette on 2 October 2019, formally declaring the establishment of the Klipkraal Protected Area and the Devon Protected Environment. Together, these sites account for 10,634 ha of South Africa's Critically Endangered grasslands. Conservation of these grasslands is crucial to secure their high biodiversity value, as well as the benefits they provide to wildlife and people through both ecosystem and climate change mitigation services.

The landowners of the Klipkraal Protected Area, and the Devon Protected Environment, have proved to be true ambassadors for conservation. Trust, collaboration, and consistency are fundamental to the success of biodiversity stewardship, and the achievements of this programme were primarily a result of the strong partnership between stakeholders. Emily Taylor (EWT) and Christina Seegers (GDARD) wrote a comprehensive legacy document to contribute to the field, ending the project on a high note.

The Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Programme was a partnership between the EWT and the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), with funding from the WWF Nedbank Green Trust.

The EWT's Gauteng Project Coordinator, Emily Taylor, consults with landowners at a Gauteng Biodiversity Stewarship site.

BEEKEEPERS BATTLE WITH DRYING CONDITIONS

To supplement incomes and create opportunities for local entrepreneurs to participate in the green economy, the EWT developed beekeeping projects in the Amathole, Marico (North West Province) and two KwaZulu-Natal Midlands sites. Recent severe droughts limited honey production, but the beekeepers have maintained their hives, as well as developing growing reputations for bee removals. Hives have been closely monitored, and relocated where necessary, to improve access to fodder and water.

In the Amathole, five private landowners from the nearby town of Hogsback have allowed the Tyume Valley Honey Association to place hives on their land as bees thrive in this area, attracted by prolific fruit tree blossoms and flowering ornamentals. In March 2020, these beekeepers harvested and sold 120 bottles of honey. In Marico, several private landowners also granted permission for hives belonging to the African Pride Nature Conservation Association to be placed on their land. This type of support is critically important to both the development of these micro-enterprises and the environment.

The work in the Amathole was made possible by Rand Merchant Bank. The Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation supported the work in the Marico Catchment Conservation Project.

Amathole Climate Smart Agriculture Training, October 2019.

GETTING CLIMATE-SMART IN THE AMATHOLE

In the Amathole Freshwater Project (Eastern Cape), 30 people took part in a training workshop during October 2019 to learn about climate-smart agricultural techniques. Half the attendees were previously engaged by the EWT as short-term contractors to clear Black Wattle, a persistent invasive plant species that chokes river catchments.

We have conducted ongoing biomonitoring at this project site to monitor water quality and flow rates in the Tyume River. This monitoring also allowed us to determine the population status of the invasive Rainbow Trout and two Endangered freshwater fish species, the Border Barb and the Eastern Cape Rocky, as well as the Critically Endangered Amathole Toad. These three indigenous species only occur in this region. The population sizes of the two indigenous fish species increased over the last year, though the size of the Rainbow Trout population still exceeds those of the indigenous species.

We have now trained local community members to conduct biomonitoring, equipping them to become citizen scientists, thereby enabling long-term monitoring of these Endangered species.

This work was made possible by Rand Merchant Bank.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTPANSBERG

The programme continues its commitment to developing connections with community leaders in the Soutpansberg. During the reporting period, programme manager Jenny Botha and Cath Vise, Water Conservation Project Coordinator from the Soutpansberg Protected Area, met with Chief Katama and other local leaders. We introduced them to the EWT's People in Conservation Programme and the Coca-Cola Foundation's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) WASH initiative (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). Nathi Nama and Cath Vise presented interactive lessons on germ transmission, hand washing, and water conservation to over 700 primary school learners in Kutama during January 2020. Jenny Botha is now conducting a situational analysis to gain an improved understanding of the local social, cultural, economic and environmental context in which we will be collaborating with local partners.

The situational analysis and community engagement were made possible by the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation. The Coca-Cola Foundation's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) made the schools' WASH initiative possible.

EWT Staff members Nathi Nama and Cath Vise presented interactive lessons on germ transmission, hand washing, and water conservation to over 700 learners.

GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE

The Guardians of the Future is the EWT's in-house environmental education and awareness project. It aims to bring environmental-related lessons to life in the classroom through fun and dynamic activities that follow the philosophy of learning through doing while adhering to the formal curriculum content and learning processes required. In August 2019, the EWT piloted a curriculum booster, entitled "The Importance of Wetlands" to Grade 6 classes in six schools in Hammanskraal. The learners responded enthusiastically to the booster with positive reviews and a discernible improvement in their environmental knowledge following the assessments. In an evaluation form, one teacher observed, "The lesson plan was well structured, and even the learners were actively involved". Understandably, in 2020, it was not possible to visit schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To compensate, we developed online educational resources and an additional booster for use as both a visual arts and/or a science lesson. By covering content from multiple subjects, we hope to encourage integrated learning, potentially assisting teachers and parents in fulfilling the current need to cover as much content as possible during the shortened school year.

This work was made possible by Bakwena N1N4 Toll Concessionaire.

CATCHMENT CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING IN MARICO

Over the past seven years, the EWT has been engaged in a successful conservation project in the Marico Catchment, a flagship river in the North West, of national importance for its good condition, high biodiversity, and cultural value. The catchment is vulnerable to a multitude of threats including mining, sewage, uncontrolled water extraction, and alien plant invasions, amongst others. Over the past year, we developed a water conservation management plan in collaboration with our partners, continued training in biomonitoring, and contributed to various working groups. Despite the severe drought, during which the Marico Bosveld dam fell to unprecedented low levels, young people from the African Pride Nature Conservation Association produced some crops to support their families. Their success showed that the climate-smart agriculture training they received from the EWT is paying off. We are continuing work to secure long-term support for these farmers.

This work was made possible by the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation.

TOGETHER WE CAN: CYCLING FOR CONSERVATION AND OTHER INITIATIVES IN KWAZULU-NATAL

In KwaZulu-Natal, we continue to engage with communities on a range of critical conservation issues, including the provision of training on legislation relating to illegal hunting with dogs. Our Cycling for Conservation initiative continues to flourish in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, with the Midlands Cycling Club regularly training and participating in road races before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, 43 club members have taken part in conservation awareness workshops. The club is now encouraging other young people in their communities to start cycling and other activities that enable them to enjoy nature.

In the Drakensberg, Senior Field Officer, Samson Phakathi, contributed to a situational analysis in two crucial villages for the EWT's work, which provided critical data on local environmental conditions and socio-economic, cultural, political, and other factors influencing the management of natural resources. Samson is also engaging with communities in Newcastle and Normandien, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Free State, on land stewardship to improve the grazing and fire management of grasslands. With the user-friendly educational materials we developed, the Lusitania community set up a grazing management plan for their area. We also worked with seven local schools, where we conducted sessions on environmental education, focusing on local issues such as land, water, and air pollution.

The work in the Eastern Highlands was made possible by the Whitley Fund for Nature.

CLOTHES TO GOOD

A new project we are developing, in collaboration with Clothes to Good, will shortly roll out in the North West (Marico), Northern Cape, Limpopo (Soutpansberg), and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. People's livelihoods, and human development, are essential to our strategy to ensure people derive benefits through conservation. This exciting initiative creates income-generating opportunities for women who have children with disabilities, through the sale of quality used clothes that might otherwise have been destined for landfills. Environmental benefits include reduced waste volumes and saving on the environmental costs associated with manufacturing new clothing. Clothes that these women cannot sell are made into recycled toys to support early childhood development in economically deprived areas.

Midlands Cycling Club, Howick 2019.


School children learning about sustainable vegetable gardening in the Karoo.

PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME **TEAM**

Dr Jenny Botha
Programme Manager


Nkosinathi Nama
Amathole Project Coordinator


Samson Phakathi
KwaZulu-Natal Project Coordinator


Emily Taylor
Project Coordinator

SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA

South Africa's Soutpansberg Mountains are noted for their high levels of species endemism and unique ecosystems. They form part of the core areas and buffer zones of the UNESCO Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, which also includes the northern Kruger National Park and the Mapungubwe National Park and Cultural Landscape. All vegetation types that occur in our project area are endemic to Limpopo Province or the Soutpansberg Mountains, apart from the Northern Mistbelt Forests, which also have a limited range into the Mpumalanga escarpment. Despite the high diversity of wildlife and habitats present, less than two percent of the Soutpansberg Mountains are formally conserved, and it is critical that we provide this unique landscape with better protection.

In 2015, on behalf of the Roberts family in Australia, the EWT purchased the 1,398 ha Medike Mountain Reserve. We almost doubled the size of the reserve during this reporting period with the purchase of the neighbouring property. Simultaneously, we developed the concept of an expansive Soutpansberg Protected Area, for which the EWT secured further funding through the Rainforest Trust and Phumelela Gaming. This ambitious project will see the establishment of a 33,515 ha continuous landscape between two existing nature reserves. This protected area will safeguard many threatened and locally endemic species of animals and plants, as well as culturally significant sites. Our activities will not only combat the illegal wildlife and medicinal plant trades, but also improve the mountains' resilience against climate change by protecting its Sand River sand aquifer against illegal sand mining and the unlawful clearing of indigenous forests.

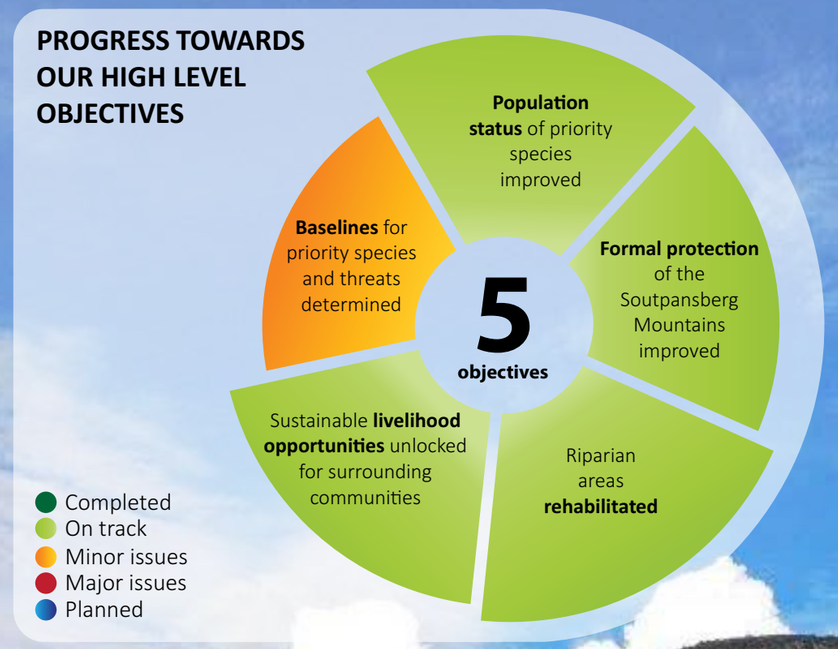


Photo credit: EWT Soutpansberg Protected Area

BIG LAND DREAMS

A project team, headed by the EWT, has been working with conservation-minded landowners on the mountain to conserve their properties formally. In partnership with Conservation Outcomes and ZZ2, we have guided interested landowners through the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism's Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. During this process, we assessed properties to determine their conservation value. Formal assessments showed that all the properties involved qualify as Nature Reserves under national regulations; the highest level of protection they can be afforded. In October 2019, the EWT and Conservation Outcomes convened a workshop at which these landowners agreed their properties should constitute one large Nature Reserve, subsequently forming a new association for the reserve. Since then, the EWT has drafted a management plan the proposed reserve, as well as a draft constitution for a new association.

This work is made possible by the Coca-Cola Foundation's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN), Douglas Wilson, Fondation Franklinia, Rainforest Trust, Roberts Family Trust, the Weeden Foundation's Quick Response Biodiversity Fund, the WILD Foundation, and ZZ2.

RANGER PATROLS

With the establishment of the Soutpansberg Protected Area, the EWT has created 18 new jobs, and the employment of rangers from local communities is one of the most meaningful and sustainable ways we can invest in the livelihoods of these communities. The relationship is symbiotic, with the rangers building reputable careers, enabling them to support their families and put their children through school. In return, the rangers help the EWT achieve its conservation goals of saving species, saving habitats, and benefiting people. The EWT is committed to developing field staff as they are the face of conservation in their communities. Our rangers received training in health and safety, first aid, chainsaw operations, tree-felling, alien plant identification and field guiding.

Since the EWT deployed its field rangers within its Medike Reserve in the western Soutpansberg, they have conducted 500 patrols, covering over 4,600 km. In total, the rangers removed 445 snares, including from communal land neighbouring the reserve. Unfortunately, these snares trap species, including apex predators such as Brown Hyaenas and Leopards, as well as their prey base, which compounds their impact on these threatened carnivores. Our ongoing counter-poaching efforts will ensure that the mountains' rich biodiversity is well protected.

This work is made possible by the Rainforest Trust, Fondation Franklinia, Douglas Wilson, the WILD Foundation, Nissan South Africa, and the Lewis Foundation.

CLEANING UP THE BERG

Alien invasive plants, mainly very dense Black Wattle and *Eucalyptus* stands, clog the high-altitude catchments of the mountains. To date, we have cleared over 27 ha of the 32 ha targeted for removal of these invasive alien plants. In early August 2019, we were happy to welcome representatives from project sponsors Coca-Cola South Africa to our clearing sites and impressed them with the impact of our clearing and progress we are making towards our targets.

In April 2020, we initiated the Medike Reserve's bush encroachment control work, focusing on impenetrable thickets of Sickle Bush. This invasive species threatens biodiversity, hydrology, and grazing potential. Following its removal, brush is stacked on barren ground to speed up rehabilitation, while we recover the wood to use or sell as firewood. In just under two months, the team removed and processed 15,183 Sickle Bushes. In addition, in four months, the EWT rangers removed 128,139 individual invasive alien plants from Medike Reserve's Sand River. This is critical work to clean up the river catchment, a National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area classified river.

This work is made possible by Coca-Cola RAIN and Rainforest Trust.

DOUBLING UP ON REAL ESTATE

On 27 September 2019, the new Medike East land parcel was registered in the EWT's name through the Limpopo Deeds Registry, and the EWT took ownership of this 1,335 ha property. The new property lies adjacent to the EWT's existing property – the 1,398 ha Medike West – incorporating it into our Medike Reserve, which has effectively doubled in area to 2,733 ha.

This work is made possible by Douglas Wilson, Rainforest Trust, and the Roberts' Family Trust.

RAG-AND-BONE RECYCLING

During EWT's Development Week, the project team once again collected educational toys, baby clothes, kitchenware, carpets, and clothes from EWT staff, which were all donated to the caregivers and teachers at Tswelopele Crèche and Pre-Primary School near the Medike Reserve. We plan to make this an annual event following our Development Week. Through these donations, the EWT helps to address the crèche's immediate basic needs, while at the same time investing in the future of these children by enriching their learning experience. Positive engagement with these surrounding communities also fosters excellent support for our conservation programmes in the region.

This work is made possible by donations from EWT staff.

Clearing alien trees in the Soutpansberg is a slow and laborious process that will benefit the upper water catchment.

WILSON'S PASS AND STEYNBERG'S TRAIL

In June 2020, the EWT received a generous donation from Douglas Wilson towards our conservation efforts in the western Soutpansberg. We are using a portion of these funds to establish a scenic four-kilometre pass linking the Medike West Sand River Gorge with the high-altitude plateau of Medike East. The road will make this part of the Soutpansberg Protected Area accessible for nature-based activities, resulting in more significant income generation. The road will also save on travel time and costs in managing this part of the reserve. The spectacular vistas and lookout points of the pass add value as a tourist attraction. Ease of access will also facilitate our crucial work safeguarding these impressive mountains' threatened and endemic species.
We are also pleased to confirm that we have secured funding to build a multi-day hiking trail, with thanks to Laetitia Steynberg for her generous and ongoing support of our efforts in the Soutpansberg. We aim to certify these trails by the internationally recognised Green Flag Trails, an organisation that works towards sustainable trail development, where the accredited routes meet strict criteria. This initiative will facilitate further economic opportunities and contribute towards the sustainability of the Soutpansberg Protected Area.

This work is made possible by Douglas Wilson and Laetitia Steynberg.

Fieldwork includes road maintenance at the EWT's Medike Reserve.

BUDDING MAMMOLOGISTS

We started a new long-term mammal project in 2020, the Soutpansberg Protected Area Mammal Research Project (SPA-MRP). Prof Russell Hill from Durham University's Primate and Predator Project has made funds available to support a local research intern assisting on the SPA-MRP. This project aims to document all large mammal species present on our reserve (e.g. Sharpe's Grysbok, Greater Kudu), as well as monitoring population trends of certain key species such as Leopards and Brown Hyaenas, which we use as indicator species for the health of the ecosystem. We also welcomed our first two paying volunteers to Medike Reserve on 14 January 2020, who helped set up our camera trap grid of 26 cameras sponsored by Douglas Wilson.

This work is made possible by Douglas Wilson and Durham University.

Aardvark caught on a camera trap at Medike Reserve.

EWT staff members with water tanks, sanitation products and masks for schools in the area.

ENTERPRISE AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTPANSBERG

The project received a generous grant from the FE van Pletzen/L Steynberg Trust towards the new Soutpansberg Protected Area Enterprise and Skills Development Project. This project is an essential first step to identify scarce skills in the region and to equip local entrepreneurs to acquire relevant skillsets to enter and grow our region's ecotourism sector. We have used these funds over six months to determine skills needs and opportunities in the local tourism industry, identify entrepreneurial opportunities for the community, and train four of the project's rangers as Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) Apprentice Field Guides.

This work is made possible by the FE van Pletzen /L Steynberg Trusts.

WASH YOUR HANDS!

The Soutpansberg Protected Area Water Conservation Project joined forces with the EWT's People in Conservation Programme to conduct school workshops on basic hygiene, thereby reducing the risk of the spread of infectious diseases, and sessions on conserving water, a scarce resource in the area. The workshops took place in January 2020, across three schools in the Kutama Tribal Area, with over 700 learners taking part. Our EWT facilitator, Nathi Nama, taught the learners how easily we can spread germs, and why it is so important to wash our hands. We then taught children the correct hand washing procedure to prevent the spread of germs and how to save precious water by turning off the tap while washing hands. It was extremely fortunate that the workshops took place before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing an excellent opportunity for the community's children to understand the importance of correct and thorough hand washing in a fun and memorable way.

This work is made possible by Coca-Cola RAIN.

A FIRST FOR TREES

Over the past year, our field rangers discovered several populations of Endangered Pepper Bark Tree (*Warburgia salutaris*) on Medike Reserve, which they now monitor for illegal harvesting, as the species is in high demand for its demonstrated medicinal properties. We are therefore pleased to report that a grant from Fondation Franklinia has catalysed the EWT's first project dedicated to protecting a tree, the Pepper Bark Tree, and to our ongoing protected area expansion in the western Soutpansberg. To-date the rangers have recorded a total of 198 Pepper Bark trees on the EWT's Soutpansberg properties.

This work is made possible by Fondation Franklinia, Rainforest Trust, Douglas Wilson, WILD Foundation, and Lewis Foundation.

FOOD RELIEF

In collaboration with the Ha-Kutama Traditional Authority, our EWT team provided 700 vulnerable families from nine villages with food parcels donated by the HCI Foundation. These will go some way to help relieve food shortages through the pandemic-related lockdown in South Africa. We also provided the members of the tribal authority with personal protective equipment to ensure they could safely hand out the food parcels to community members. The EWT is committed to supporting the communities in the Soutpansberg Protected Area as much as it can.

This work is made possible by HCI Foundation in partnership with the eMedia Food Relief COVID-19 Response Initiative and the Lunchbox Fund.

SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA TEAM

Oldrich van Schalkwyk
Programme Manager

Climate Vhutari Hlungwani
Senior Water Ranger

Vumbhoni Clyde Kubayi
Junior Water Ranger Intern

Shumani Makwarela
Senior Field Ranger and Water Ranger Team Leader

Lufuno Willington Mavhandu
Junior Water Ranger Intern

Michael Modimana
Field Ranger

Tharollo Mthisi
Field Ranger

Khathutshelo Mukhumeni
Senior Field Ranger

Samual Mukhumeni
Field Ranger

Tsumbedzo Munyai
Junior Water Ranger Intern (until Jan 2020)

Pfuluwani Oscar Musevhula
Field Ranger

Shumani Edward Mutenda
Senior Water Ranger

Richard Ndou
Senior Water Ranger

Sengani Ramalamula
Junior Water Ranger Intern

Judy van Schalkwyk
Enterprise and Skills Development Officer

Rotondwa Sithagu
Research Assistant and Field Ranger

Elias Elvis Sithole
Water Ranger Team Leader

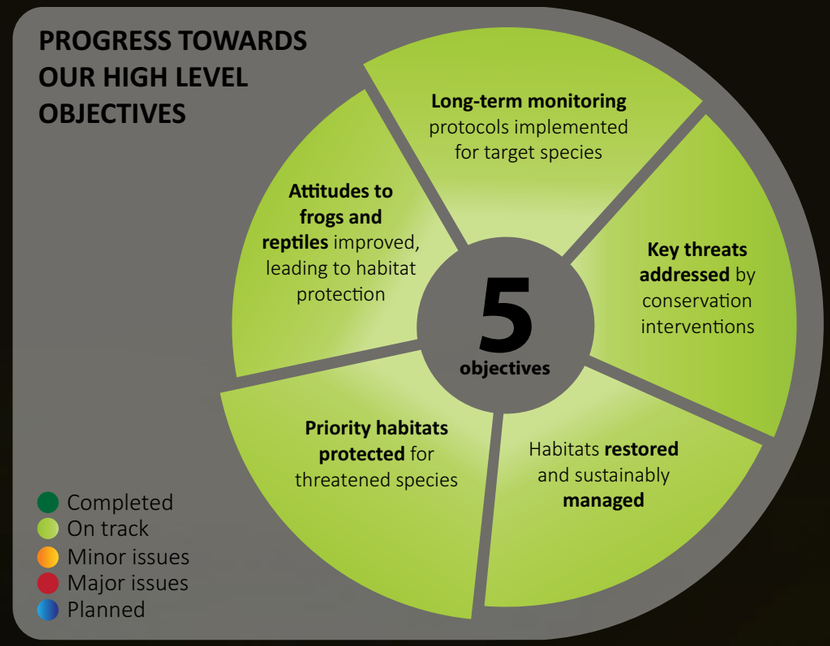
Catherine Vise
Water Conservation Project Coordinator

THREATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME

The EWT, through its Threatened Amphibian Programme, is the only NGO operating in South Africa to include frogs as a conservation focus. As a group, amphibians are the most threatened vertebrates on Earth, with the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List currently indicating 41% of species as threatened and experiencing serious population declines on every continent on which they are found. The scope and severity of these declines make amphibian conservation, including in South Africa, an issue of high priority. Here, almost 30% of our approximately 135 frog species are considered threatened.

Using threatened frog species as flagships for the conservation of important freshwater and terrestrial habitats, we currently implement projects in KwaZulu- Natal, the Western Cape, and Eastern Cape. This work includes species and habitat monitoring, initiating habitat protection strategies at important amphibian sites, improving management of important amphibian habitats, using research to support conservation action, and promoting social change to galvanise behavioural change towards frogs and recognition of the importance of their habitats, in South Africa and beyond.

At a global scale, our work contributes directly to putting into action the objectives outlined in the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP, 2007), which is a high-level, cross-disciplinary strategy developed through the IUCN to address amphibian conservation needs. The ACAP is the most ambitious programme ever developed to combat the extinction of species and offers practical, large-scale, creative, innovative, and realistic actions required to halt the present tide of extinctions of amphibian species globally.



Our Community Cinema Partnership helped expose people around the Isipingo and Adams Mission frog conservation sites to environmental issues.

The EWT's Frogs in the Classroom module leads a group of school learners on a field trip.

KWAZULU-NATAL FROG ROUTE

As part of our programme's bigger objective of identifying nature-based tourism opportunities linked to frog conservation, we are working to develop the *KZN Frog Route*. To this end, we have identified several potential sites, based on known localities of the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog, a flagship species on which we have focussed much of our work since 2012, on the KwaZulu-Natal coast. We have now met with eThekwini Municipality's Tourism Department, as well as Durban Green Corridor, to begin establishing the route and develop marketing materials. This includes mapping a 15 km hike through Adams Mission, as part of this initiative.

This work is made possible by Disney Conservation Fund, Rainforest Trust, and Rand Merchant Bank.

FROGS IN THE CLASSROOM

We have finalised our amphibian learning modules, aligning them with the Department of Education General Education and Training (GET) standards, and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), respectively. These twin modules are called, *Frogs in the Classroom*, targeted at junior school level, and the *Amphibian Learning Programme*, aimed at school leaver level. So far, we have engaged with over 800 Grade 4–7 learners in the Durban South area through *Frogs in the Classroom* and used the *Amphibian Learning Programme* for field guide training linked to the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa. The global COVID pandemic has not stopped us from carrying on with our educational work, as the *Frogs in the Classroom* lessons are now available online, and we hosted three webinars during lockdown reaching out to a total of well over one thousand participants.

This work is made possible by Disney Conservation Fund, Rainforest Trust, and Rand Merchant Bank.

COMMUNITY CINEMA

The Nature Environment Wildlife Filmmakers (NEWF) awarded our programme with a Community Cinema partnership. This has provided us with an excellent avenue to screen environmental documentaries at our Isipingo and Adams Mission conservation sites in eThekwini – both home to the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog. Through this partnership, we hosted our first Community Cinema Screening on 8 November 2019 in Zamani, Isipingo. We aim to air short environmental-themed documentaries to improve understanding and appreciation of environmental issues and their real-life links to communities. Over 400 community members, quite literally of all ages (1–72), have attended ten screenings during the year. Following each screening, we had active discussions with the audience, both to gauge interest in amphibians and to provide some extra learning.

This work is made possible by National Geographic and Nature Environment Wildlife Filmmakers.

SPAWNING FROG PEOPLE

Our team now comprises seven full-time employees, including three Biodiversity Protection Officers, and we subcontract other experts as needed. We are hugely encouraged by the growth of the programme, which has advanced a long way from the one-woman programme only five years ago, a tribute to the vision of Programme Manager, Dr Jeanne Tarrant. In fact, given the programme's current impetus, we now boast by far the highest number of people employed by a single organisation, whose work links directly to amphibian conservation, in South Africa. Working together, we are fulfilling national priorities of building capacity in the amphibian conservation field. We also work closely with several universities through student projects on frog research projects closely related to our activities.

This work is made possible by all our donors, namely the Amphibian Survival Alliance, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Disney Conservation Fund, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Rainforest Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, Table Mountain Fund, Tiger Brands, and Whitley Fund for Nature.

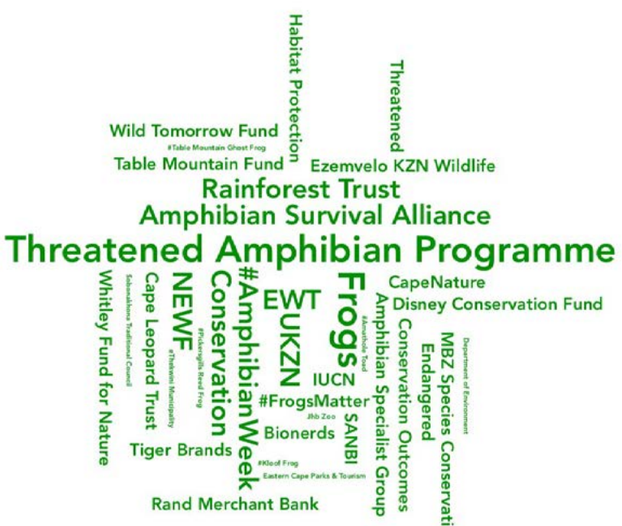
EWT staff Dr Ian Little, Nonkululeko Nzama, Dr Jeanne Tarrant, Njabulo Gcabashe, Cherise Acker, and Richard Berridge out frogging.

AMPHIBIAN NETWORKS

This year, the programme attended three symposia (the 14th Herpetological Association of Africa Conference in September 2019 in Cape St. Francis; the African Amphibian Working Group Meeting in October 2019 in George; and the Conservation Symposium in November 2019 in Howick) where we held various workshops and gave a total of five presentations to disseminate our work. A major outcome of this networking is that we will coordinate the development of the next ten-year strategy for amphibian conservation and research in South Africa, in collaboration with other amphibian experts across the country.

In addition, Dr Jeanne Tarrant recently accepted the position of Regional Chair for the IUCN Species Survival Commission Amphibian Specialist Group. She is also lead author of the habitat protection and management chapter for the next edition of the global Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP), in her position as Habitat Protection Working Group Co-chair. The EWT has also been selected as regional representative for the Global Council for the Amphibian Survival Alliance.

This work is made possible by Amphibian Survival Alliance, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Disney Conservation Fund, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Rainforest Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, Table Mountain Fund, Tiger Brands, and Whitley Fund for Nature.



GHOST IN THE MACHINE

Our programme made considerable progress in strengthening partnerships towards our objective of improving freshwater management on Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain. To this end, SANParks granted us a permit for research on the Critically Endangered Table Mountain Ghost Frog, which includes environmental DNA sampling, tadpole monitoring, invertebrate sampling for water health assessments, and genetics analyses of the ghost frog. Our project has had an immediate impact for the conservation of this enigmatic species. We have documented a 20% increased of its known range following our discovery of two populations in streams previously unknown to host the species, alien clearing has been redirected to improve the health of riparian areas of significance to the species, and water abstraction for downstream use has been reduced.

This work is made possible by Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and Table Mountain Fund.

COMMUNITY WETLAND PROTECTION

The Inganyama Trust Board, essentially the landowner of all communal land in KwaZulu-Natal, invited us to present on our proposed Protected Environment expansion across their lands. Through South Africa's Biodiversity Stewardship Programme, we are advocating for the protection of extensive coastal wetland and swamp forest systems – themselves Critically Endangered habitats – comprising approximately 500 ha of land to the south of Durban. Approval of this process by the Inganyama Trust Board is an essential step towards this declaration and much hinges on the Board's support. We are optimistic that their speedy invitation to present directly to the Board itself is a positive indication.

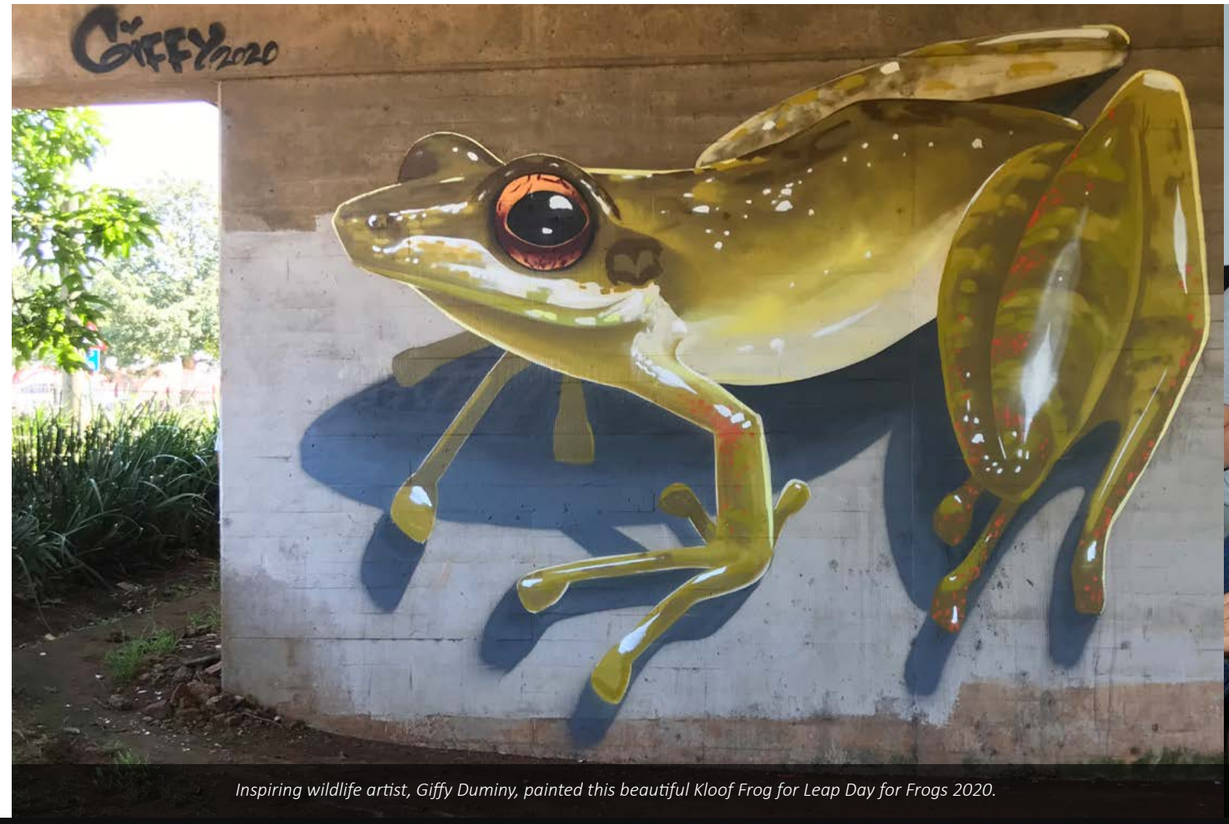
This work is made possible by Disney Conservation Fund and Rainforest Trust.

LEAPING FOR FROGS

At the end of February 2020, we coordinated our sixth national awareness day for frogs – Leap Day for Frogs – with events taking place across South Africa and including the participation of over 2,275 people. This is the second Leap Day we have been able to celebrate on the proper occasion of 29 February, which occurs once every four years only. Activities ranged from highland dancers doing a fling for frogs, frog tattoos, and school groups learning about frogs and wetlands, to park runners dressing up as frogs. We partnered for the sixth consecutive year with Kloof Conservancy to run a fun day of activities and a night frog walk at Iphithi Nature Reserve in Gillitts, KwaZulu-Natal. A great turnout of 120 people attended, despite the cold and wet weather. In Cape Town, our project team led an interesting walk through the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, finding several frog species, including tadpoles of the Critically Endangered Table Mountain Ghost Frog – our flagship species for the conservation research project we are coordinating on the mountain.

It is wonderful to see this event growing in reach year after year and genuine interest from young and old folk alike, in celebration of what really are some of the most fascinating creatures we are lucky enough to share the planet with.

This work is made possible by Disney Conservation Fund, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Rainforest Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, and Table Mountain Fund.



Inspiring wildlife artist, Giffy Duminy, painted this beautiful Kloof Frog for Leap Day for Frogs 2020.

EWT Programme Manager, Dr Jeanne Tarrant, and some children enjoying Leap Day for Frogs 2020.

SUNGAZERS

The Sungazer is a lizard confined to small portions of the Free State and Mpumalanga provinces and threatened largely by habitat loss and illegal trade. The EWT considers the Sungazer as both a flagship and umbrella species for the conservation of priority remaining intact grasslands within the highland grasslands where they occur. This year we continued to coordinate and chair the national Sungazer Working Group. We met twice through the year, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to share their progress and learnings about the Sungazer. The EWT team continues to work towards providing habitat protection for Sungazers – through the Versamelberge Protected Environment – that will cover approximately 29,700 ha in the Volksrust District of Mpumalanga, and consists of 58 farm portions. Similarly, working with BirdLife South Africa, two areas in the Harrismith District will also be safeguarded for the species, and the protection of these lands is in the final stages of the declaration process. This area will include the Upper Wilge Protected Environment, comprising 53 farm portions, and nearly 28,000 ha in size. The second area in this district will be known as the Eeram Protected Environment, covering approximately 6,400 ha, and comprising 10 farm portions. The conservation of these areas will also benefit other species too, such as the Endangered Botha's Lark, and the Blue, Wattled and Grey Crowned cranes.

This work is made possible by the WWF Nedbank Green Trust and Rand Merchant Bank.

CREATING SAFE SPACE FOR SUNGAZERS

Versamelberge Protected Environment

29,700 ha — **58 farm portions**

Wilge Protected Environment

28,000 ha — **53 farm portions**

Eeram Protected Environment

6,400 ha — **10 farm portions**

FINDING THE ELUSIVE ADDER

The Albany Adder is, arguably, Africa's most threatened snake species. This Endangered, extremely range-limited viper is endemic to the Eastern Cape Province, in a small area close to Addo Elephant National Park. Working with Bionerds, we have been conducting surveys over the past year, that have added a total of nine new sightings, including in previously unknown locations, bringing the total number of sightings of this species to 26. These surveys will allow us to better model the species' habitat distribution, and ultimately to provide better protected area expansion. To this end, we also engaged local landowners to assess the feasibility of protecting the species' core habitat going forward.

This work is made possible by the People's Trust for Endangered Species.

Photo credit: EWT Threatedned Amphibian Programme

THE FROG LADY

On 29 April 2020, Threatened Amphibian Manager, Dr Jeanne Tarrant, was applauded as one of six winners of the prestigious UK-based Whitley Awards. The awards ¬– dubbed the Green Oscars – are given to outstanding conservationists from the global south (Africa, Asia and South America). She battled selection against 112 applicants to make the final cut. The awards brought a lot of publicity to Dr Tarrant, fittingly labelled "South Africa's Frog Lady" by national and international media, as well as the programme's work, putting amphibians into the conservation spotlight. The £40,000 award will be used towards continuing existing work, as well as providing an exciting opportunity to expand the programme's reach. The award will catalyse improved conservation for three threatened frog species in the Western Cape, initiating the formal protection of 20,000 ha of important amphibian habitat across three provinces, developing two conservation action plans, and leading the next ten-year strategy for amphibian conservation and research in southern Africa.

This work is made possible by the Whitley Fund for Nature.

3 threatened frog species

20,000 ha of formal protection

2 conservation action plans

10 year strategy for amphibian conservation

THREATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME **TEAM**

Dr Jeanne Tarrant
Programme Manager

Cherise Acker
Senior Field Officer

Njabulo Gcabashe
Biodiversity Protection Officer (left December 2019)

Jiba Magwaza
Junior Field Officer

Arlene Mkhize
Biodiversity Protection Officer, Adams Mission

Nomonde Ngidi
Biodiversity Protection Officer, Isipingo

Nonkululeko Nzama
Biodiversity Protection Officer

Joshua Weeber
Table Mountain Field Officer

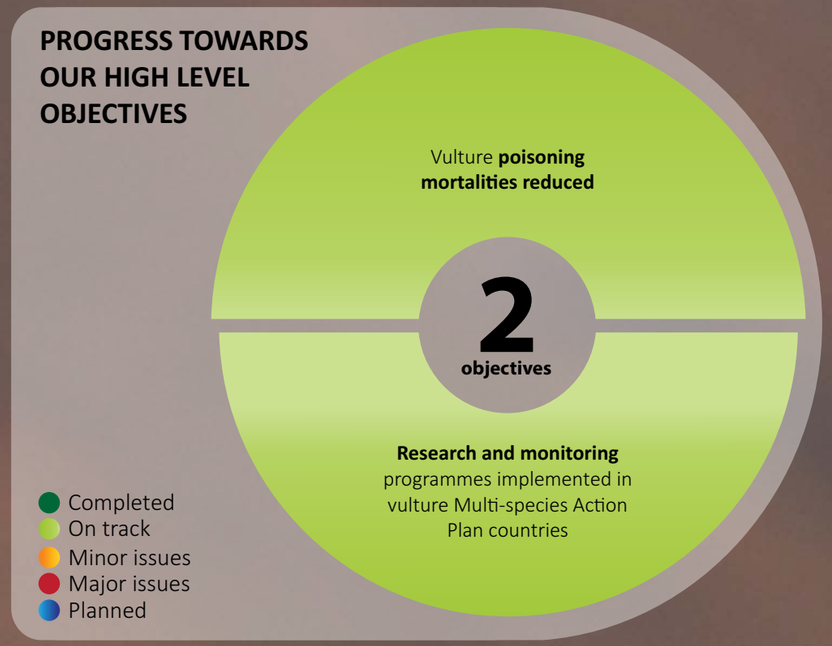
VULTURES FOR AFRICA PROGRAMME

The Vultures for Africa Programme works to reduce the imminent and real risk of extinction of African vultures through effective interventions – focussing on the most significant current threat these birds face, namely wildlife poisoning in its various forms.

African vultures have declined drastically over the last 30 years, and five species are now Critically Endangered. This decline catalysed the drafting of an international Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) which aims to stop this trend through a range of actions. Vultures for Africa implements specific actions to reduce the impact of wildlife poisoning and to work with our partners to facilitate the collection of quantitative data on vulture populations in identified gap areas within the MsAP range.

We achieve a critical component of our work through our partnership with the Hawk Conservancy Trust and the University of Reading. These partners provide substantial funding towards poisoning response training and issuing equipment to trainees for effective deployment in the field during incidents.

Vultures for Africa operates in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and all Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, except for the Democratic Republic of Congo. While the primary focus is outside South Africa, the programme also works in all nine provinces domestically.



SICKENING DEATHS

Several large-scale wildlife poisoning incidents that took place through southern Africa characterise this year. The largest occurred in north-eastern Botswana in June during which 537 vultures, of five species, were killed in poisoned elephant carcasses laced by poachers. We have also obtained information about at least six incidents in Botswana, between March and August 2019, in which poisons killed more than 200 vultures and a range of other animals, including African Lions. This indiscriminate killing of Africa's vultures and other wildlife underlies the continued importance of this programme's poison intervention and training work, to curb this onslaught. In response, André Botha facilitated a stakeholder meeting at Kasane, Botswana, at the end of July 2019 to produce a draft strategy and protocols to respond to future wildlife poisoning incidents in the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) region.

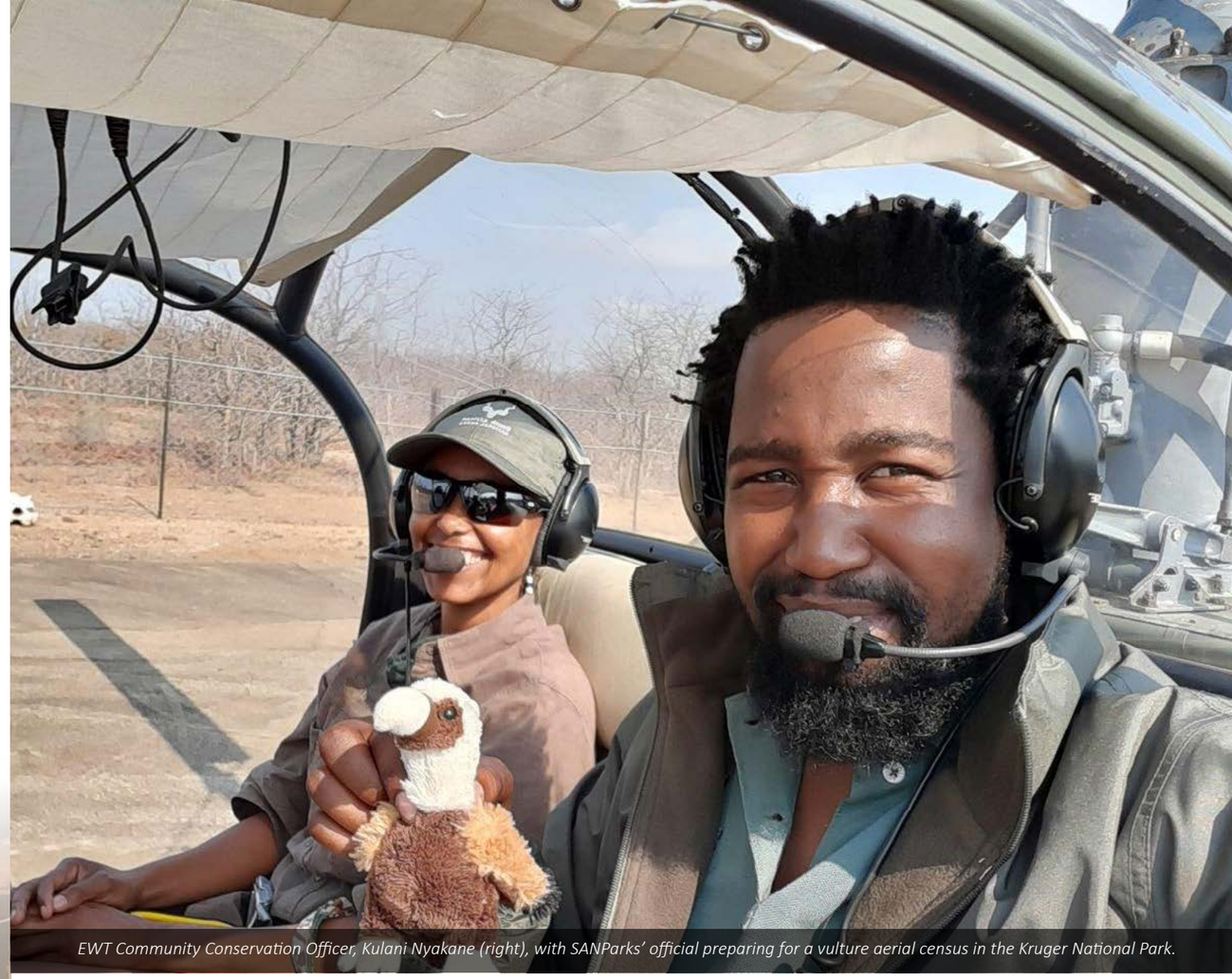
Vultures for Africa, working with partners including the Vulture Conservation Foundation, the BirdLife Africa Partnership, and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). We also support interventions in West Africa following the largest known mass-killing of Hooded Vultures in which more than 2,000 birds died for belief-use purposes, in Guinea-Bissau, during February/March 2020.

This work is made possible by the Convention on Migratory Species, the Hawk Conservancy Trust, and the University of Reading.

PUTTING VULTURES ON THE CITES AGENDA

Vultures are finally on the CITES agenda! Our proposal to better assess the extent of trade in vultures was adopted by the CITES plenary on 20 August 2019, at the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), which took place in Geneva, Switzerland. This adoption followed a side-event hosted by the EWT, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife International, the IUCN Species Survival Commission Vulture Specialist Group and, the Raptors MoU of the CMS. This work promotes the implementation of the CMS Vulture MsAP that André Botha coordinated. CITES adoption of this measure is a significant step for vulture conservation given that trade, particularly in their body parts for belief-based use, is a critical threat across parts of their African range.

This work is made possible by the Hawk Conservancy Trust and the University of Reading.



EWT Community Conservation Officer, Kulani Nyakane (right), with SANParks' official preparing for a vulture aerial census in the Kruger National Park.

EWT Programme Manager, André Botha, presenting poison response training to wildlife rangers in the Kruger National Park.

POISON PROTOCOLS FOR THE KRUGER

SANParks invited the EWT to draft a strategy and protocols to address poisoning in Kruger National Park. This work includes drafting a Wildlife Poisoning Standard Operational Procedure for SANParks' consideration, adjustment, and implementation before the end of 2020. This programme, supported by other EWT staff, has started conducting Wildlife Poisoning Response Training to all relevant SANParks staff over three months, due to a ground-swell demand from their staff at the coal-face. Our training focusses on wildlife poisoning response and prevention. Despite the COVID-19 travel restrictions, and working under essential permits, we initiated training in the Marula North region of the Kruger in May 2020 and then moved to the Nxanatseni North-region in early June. By the end of the financial year, a total of 180 SANParks staff had taken part in the 16 training workshops. These workshops were adjusted to meet the operational needs of SANParks. We will complete training in the remaining two regions of the Kruger in the next financial year.

In addition, SANParks requested the EWT to conduct a site visit to the far northern Kruger National Park to assess the situation concerning the current onslaught of deliberate wildlife poisoning. The area has suffered a high number of incidents. These included a poisoning incident the EWT coordinated the response to in January 2020. Here we helped in the rescue, treatment, and release of 23 surviving vultures and one Tawny Eagle from the site. Sadly, 26 vultures, one lion and one leopard were killed during the incident. The Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre treated poisoned vultures until their release. Following our subsequent site visit, we submitted a detailed report which detailed our recommendations on preventative and responsive measures that SANParks can implement to address the poisoning scourge. We also issued a total of 23 Wildlife Poisoning Response Kits to SANParks staff for use in the management and investigation of poisoning incidents in the northern sections of the park.

This work is made possible through our partnership with SANParks, and funding from the Hawk Conservancy Trust, the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, University of Reading, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

CREATING AWARENESS

International Vulture Awareness Day, an event initiated by the EWT and partners in 2009, was celebrated in at least 36 countries and by more than 100 organisations worldwide on 7 September 2019. The event continues to grow in stature and magnitude every year. The event helps to raise awareness about vultures, celebrating these ecologically vital birds and drawing attention to the fact that they are now the most threatened group of birds in the world, with populations of many African species under severe pressure, mostly from poisoning.

This work is supported by the Hawk Conservancy Trust and the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group.

RICH REWARDS

André Botha was honoured to receive the Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership at the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi, in October 2019. The reward is a high-profile tribute, within conservation circles, to André's commitment towards and impact on vulture conservation globally. The Raptor Research Foundation also elected André to the position of Director – Southern Hemisphere on their Board during September 2019, and he attended his first board meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado, in November 2019.

Travel costs associated with this work were covered by the Chester County Community Foundation, the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and the Raptors Research Foundation.

POISONING RESPONSE WORKSHOPS

Vultures for Africa conducted wildlife poisoning response training with 253 law enforcement staff and rangers during eight workshops in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, and Cambodia during the review period. The training in Cambodia was our first of this nature outside of Africa. These workshops correctly trained attendees in the way to approach a poison incident scene from a forensic perspective, to manage poisoned wildlife able so they can undergo treatment and rehabilitation, and decontaminate the scene to minimise further environmental impact. These interventions go a long way to minimising potential vulture deaths and those of other potential victims.

This work is made possible by the Hawk Conservancy Trust, University of Reading, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

TRACKING DOWN VULTURE NESTS IN ASIA

The programme assisted with the establishment of the first sample of satellite-tracked vultures in south-east Asia. Here we trapped two Critically Endangered White-rumped Vulturesnear Siem Pang, in north-eastern Cambodia,in and 7 March 2020, and fitted them with tracking units. Within a few weeks, the movements of the tagged adult indicated a possible breeding site across the border in nearby Laos. A ground survey undertaken by a team from Rising Phoenix and BirdLife Cambodia confirmed at least three active nests at this location, the first breeding record for this species in this part of south-east Asia.

This work was made possible by BirdLife Cambodia, Rising Phoenix, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Poison response training at the Botswana Wildlife Training Institute, Maun, Botswana.

EWT Programme Manager, André Botha, fitting a tracking unit to a White-rumped Vulture in Cambodia.

VULTURES FOR AFRICA **TEAM**

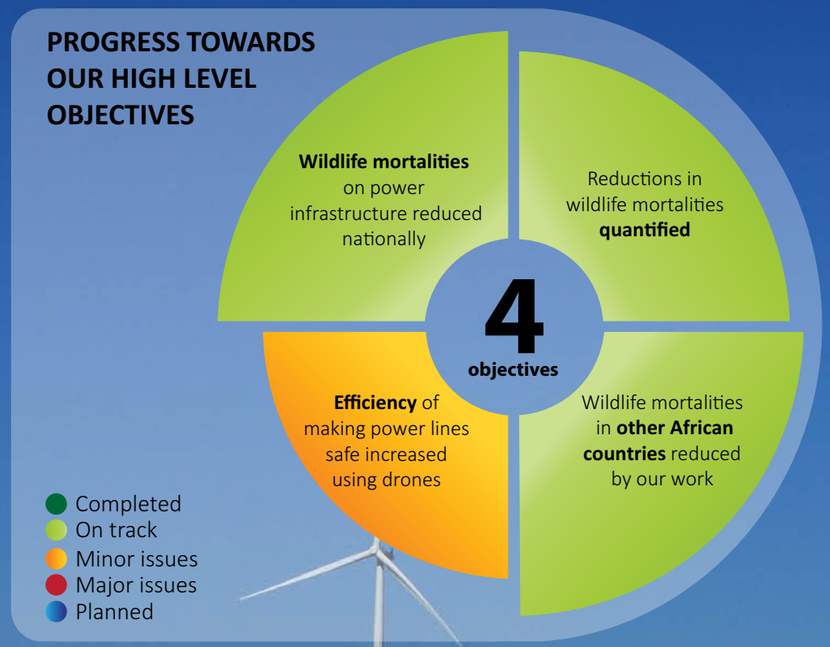
André Botha
Programme Manager

WILDLIFE AND ENERGY PROGRAMME

Eskom | ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Photo credit: EWT Wildlife and Energy Programme

The goal of the Wildlife and Energy Programme is to reduce the impacts of energy infrastructure on wildlife significantly. While energy infrastructure can have devastating effects on wildlife – particularly through collisions with power lines and electrocution – the EWT continues to have a positive influence on the wildlife management policies of energy utilities. We help to reduce impacts on wildlife, improve quality of supply to customers, and ultimately to phase out problematic processes and hardware to minimise wildlife interactions with electricity infrastructure in Africa substantially. The programme's objectives include building a database to quantify the risk of wildlife mortalities related to the energy sector in South Africa; improving the efficiency of power line marking by securing a working relationship with Eskom Aviation, using drones to install bird flappers; implementing interventions – ideally through strategic partnerships – with at least three other African countries, and; reducing wildlife mortalities on power lines and improving the livelihoods of rural community members by successfully implementing at least one 'Off the Grid' project. Our programme operates across all provinces in South Africa, and has engaged with and advised utilities in Uganda, Kenya, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and Australia.

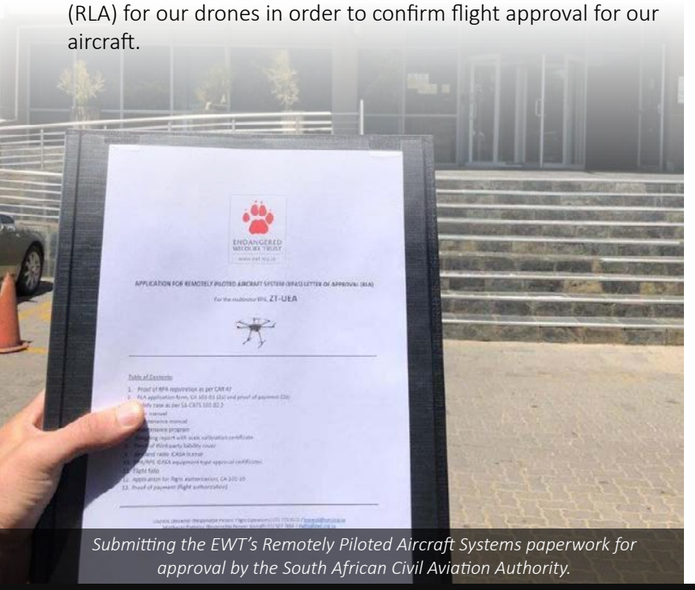


LIGHTS ON FOR ESKOM

One of the EWT's longest-standing collaborations is our strategic partnership with Eskom, South Africa's state power utility. Spanning 23 years, our strategic partnership between Eskom and the Wildlife and Energy Programme continues to investigate and reduce the number of wildlife incidents on their infrastructure. During the financial year, we recorded a total of 249 incidents on our central incident register, an increase on the previous 189 incidents in a year, which we attribute to increased awareness about reporting. In parallel, Eskom has also progressed with its proactive actions to prevent wildlife mortalities on the network. During this financial year, Eskom Transmission proactively marked 127 spans with bird flight diverters, while Eskom Distribution marked 255 spans to make them more visible for birds. The power utility also insulated or replaced 2,375 structures considered to be unsafe to wildlife, some 17% more than last year.

SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST CONSERVATION NON-PROFIT TO EARN ITS WINGS

The EWT constantly embraces innovative technologies to tackle conservation challenges. The mainstreaming of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS – more colloquially known as drones) into the workplace has presented us with a new conservation tool. We will be able to use this technology for a variety of applications, such as fitting bird flappers onto power lines or monitoring raptor nests. However, using RPAS in our day-to-day operations requires full compliance with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) standards. This compliance involves a rigorous licensing process, like that required by airlines and private pilots. To meet these requirements, we had to complete and sign the EWT's RPAS Operations Manual (ROM) and submit this to the SACAA for review. Once the SACAA has reviewed the ROM, it will set dates for a practical demonstration. In the meantime, we have submitted our application of the RPAS Letters of Approval (RLA) for our drones in order to confirm flight approval for our aircraft.



Submitting the EWT's Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems paperwork for approval by the South African Civil Aviation Authority.

The EWT is constantly looking to improve on bird flight diverter technologies for power lines to cut down on deadly collisions.

POWERING UP IN EAST AFRICA

Based on the success of the EWT's partnership with Eskom, we are expanding our reach across the continent. Our vision is to establish similar partnerships between environmental non-profits and power utilities more widely, to the benefit of both conservation and the power suppliers. This will prove advantageous as we can apply many years of lessons learned from our partnership with Eskom more widely. To this end, we are building our relationship with the USAID and Power Africa, to whom we have proposed a plan of work through East Africa. The scope includes a range of services to power utilities in the region; from readiness assessments to training. The proposal is split into four phases, covering a three-year period for each country.

We kicked off this expansion with a trip to Kenya in February where we engaged with four local power utilities, namely Kenya Electricity Generating Company (Kengen), Kenya Transmission Company (KETRACO), Kenya Power and Lighting Corporation (KPLC), and Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC). Our discussions centred around improving quality of supply through the implementation of wildlife-friendly energy infrastructure. Following several field visits to some critical development sites around Nairobi, we presented the concept of the Eskom/EWT strategic partnership at a workshop involving various development partners, utilities, and funders. We then moved on to Ethiopia and completed Phase 1 of the project with Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) and Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU). These were the first of many engagements planned for East Africa, as the EWT aims to share lessons learnt through the long-standing partnership with Eskom.

REDUCING POWER LINE IMPACTS

The programme continues to assist Eskom as a strategic partner with a range of fascinating and often bizarre incidents. For instance, in October 2019, a large number of animals (two Warthogs, two Bushpigs, a Mountain Reedbuck, a Spotted Hyaena, and seven White-backed Vultures) were electrocuted in Manyoni Game Reserve (KwaZulu-Natal). The incident occurred when an electricity pole, damaged by termites, fell to the ground following strong winds. Eskom promptly replaced the pole and inspected the rest of the line for damage.

In October 2020 , we investigated a collision incident on a transmission line near Cape Town, where multiple bird collisions were recorded, including 30 Great White Pelicans. Subsequently, we have proposed an intervention with Eskom Research, Testing and Development, which has agreed to trial a new bird flight diverter design to prevent further mortalities at the site.

YOUR FLIGHT HAS BEEN DIVERTED

Bird flight diverters are a functional tool that provides flying birds with an early warning, so they avoid flying into power lines. After close to 12 months of negotiations, Eskom Transmission approved the testing of four new bird flight diverters in 2020. We will fit the devices to an experimental section of high-collision impact line in the Karoo, near De Aar. This experiment will build on nine years of ongoing research into the efficiency and durability of bird flight diverters. Unfortunately, the work has been delayed by several months due to the recall of bird flight diverters from Balmoral Engineering in Australia, and by COVID-19. These devices will be replaced with design improvements and should ship by mid-August. We will also be assessing the effectiveness of these specific devices in reducing Great White Pelican collisions with power lines in the Western Cape.

WITH COVID HERE TO STAY, THE SCIENTISTS WILL PLAY

Inevitably, the COVID-19 pandemic has created some challenges and delays in the implementation of some or our field-based activities. However, this has provided us with an opportunity to boost our productivity with regard to scientific output. During the South African lockdown period, we improved our research output significantly, completing four manuscripts for peer-reviewed papers. Two of the manuscripts are outputs from our Lesser Flamingo tracking project, and one on the nest-site selection of African Grass Owls. The fourth manuscript details decades' worth of aerial crane surveys, and the conservation impact of this significant monitoring on cranes in KwaZulu-Natal. One of the papers has already been accepted for publication!

MILESTONES REACHED AT SERE WIND FARM

The EWT and Eskom Strategic Partnership are currently in the fifth year of post-construction biodiversity impact monitoring at Eskom's first operational wind farm, situated along the west coast of South Africa. Sere Wind Farm became operational in March 2015 and monitoring commenced in May 2015, with four local EWT staff members based permanently on-site to conduct ongoing surveys. The main objective of the EWT's Sere team is to document turbine-related bird and bat fatalities.

The Sere team works under strenuous conditions given the challenging environment along the west coast. Their jobs include repeated transects through dense, spiny vegetation on soft dune sand. The team often encounters snakes too, the wind can howl, and temperatures fluctuate widely from 0–43˚C. Their tasks include monthly power line surveys to determine the impact of new power lines connecting the wind farm to the electricity grid, daily roadkill surveys, vegetation monitoring, and various seasonal surveys to determine patterns in wildlife interaction with turbines.

Ju-Ann Josephs has worked on the project since its inception five years ago. Over that time on the Sere Wind Farm project, she has amassed some impressive personal statistics, including:

- **22,460 km** walked under turbines during searches
- Completed **60** power line surveys (totalling 2,640 km on a sand track)
- **1,196 days worked**
- Travelled **107,640 km** between Sere and her home
- Completed **five** training courses facilitated by EWT
- Qualified and licensed to drive small trucks

A MENAGERIE OF NEW PROJECTS

Eskom Research approved the initiation of six new research projects, for which we secured funding through our national contract and partnership with Eskom. These include projects seeking sustainable management solutions for Red-billed Buffalo Weaver nests on Eskom towers; testing nest excluders for Pied Crows on distribution poles; and investigating bird-related faults on Eskom Transmission lines. We will complete the latter project in stages over a few years. This year we will focus on validating the protocol Eskom uses to attribute power line faults to birds. We have also started a new project seeking to add to existing knowledge about the breeding biology and movement ecology of Ludwig's Bustards. We are especially interested in determining how these data may apply to power line mitigation for this globally Endangered bird in the Nama Karoo.

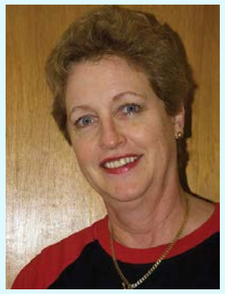
EWT staff member Ju-Anne Josephs

WILDLIFE AND ENERGY **TEAM**

Lourens Leeuwner
Programme Manager

Ndzalama Chauke
Junior Field Officer

Tamsyn Galloway
Conservation Science Officer



Marianne Golding
Administrator

Ju-Ann Josephs
Renewable Energy Field Officer Intern

Amos Letsoalo
Senior Field Officer

Oscar Mohale
Senior Field Officer

Matt Pretorius
Senior Field Officer

Lizel Tolken
Renewable Energy Field Officer

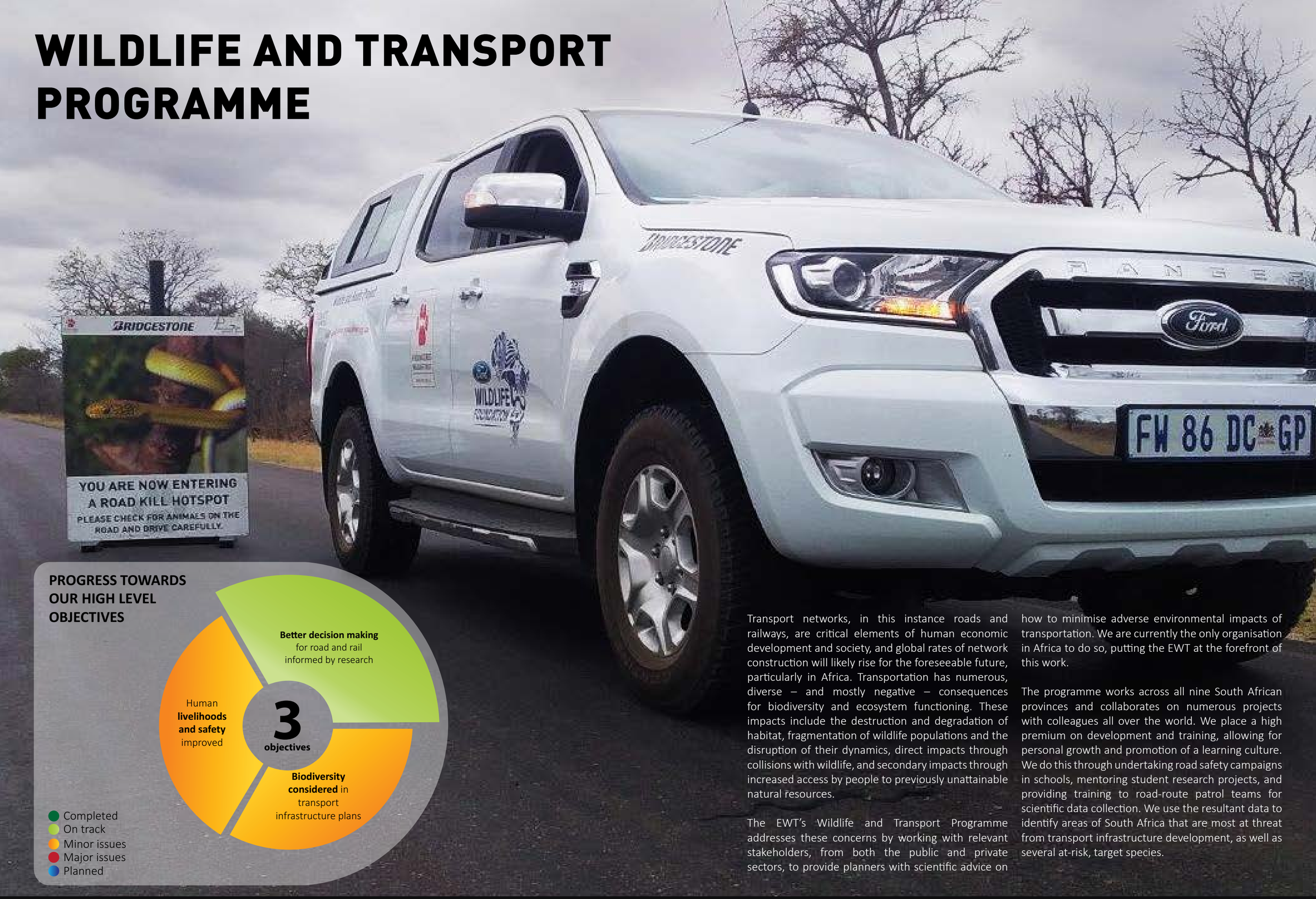
Ronelle Visagie
Field Officer

Dalena de Wee
Renewable Energy Field Officer Intern

Mietjie van Wyk
Renewable Energy Field Officer Intern

EWT staff members, Mietjie van Wyk and Dalena de Wee, carry out survey work at Sere Wind Farm.

WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME



PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES

- Completed
- On track
- Minor issues
- Major issues
- Planned

Transport networks, in this instance roads and railways, are critical elements of human economic development and society, and global rates of network construction will likely rise for the foreseeable future, particularly in Africa. Transportation has numerous, diverse – and mostly negative – consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. These impacts include the destruction and degradation of habitat, fragmentation of wildlife populations and the disruption of their dynamics, direct impacts through collisions with wildlife, and secondary impacts through increased access by people to previously unattainable natural resources.

The EWT's Wildlife and Transport Programme addresses these concerns by working with relevant stakeholders, from both the public and private sectors, to provide planners with scientific advice on how to minimise adverse environmental impacts of transportation. We are currently the only organisation in Africa to do so, putting the EWT at the forefront of this work.

The programme works across all nine South African provinces and collaborates on numerous projects with colleagues all over the world. We place a high premium on development and training, allowing for personal growth and promotion of a learning culture. We do this through undertaking road safety campaigns in schools, mentoring student research projects, and providing training to road-route patrol teams for scientific data collection. We use the resultant data to identify areas of South Africa that are most at threat from transport infrastructure development, as well as several at-risk, target species.

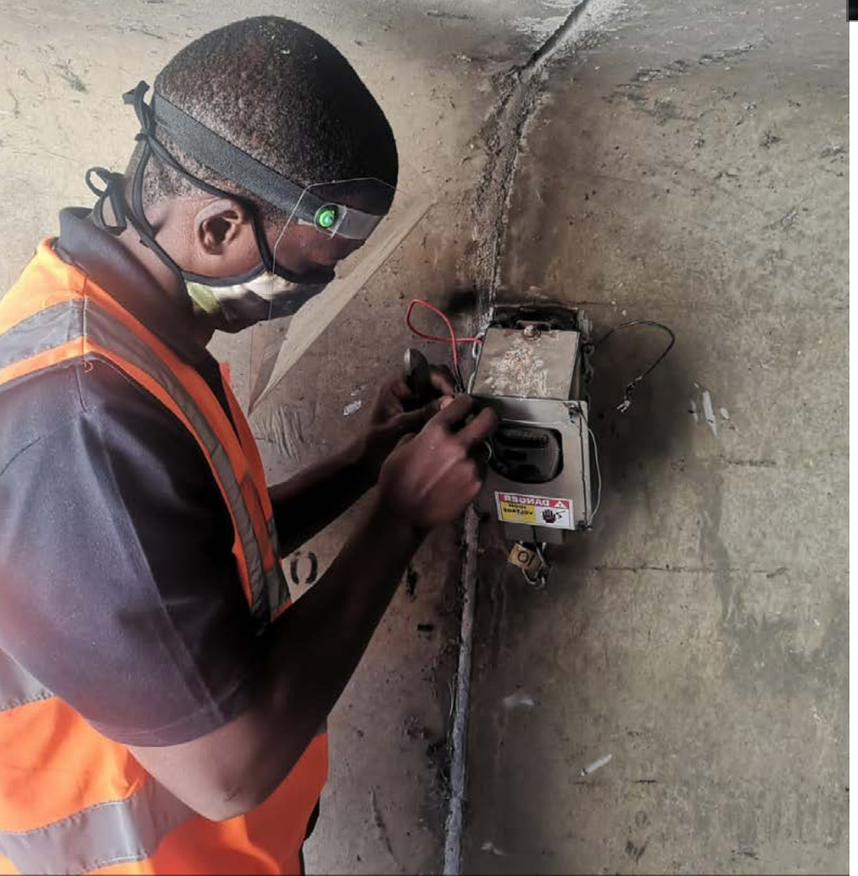
AWARD WINNERS

In September 2019, the EWT won the International Stewardship Award from the International Conference of Ecology and Transportation (ICOET), hosted by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. ICOET presents this award to organisations that embrace ecological stewardship in the delivery of transportation at a national or international scale. Jointly, the EWT's Wildlife and Energy, and Wildlife and Transport programmes won the award, for the work they conduct on linear infrastructure.

During the conference, we presented a one-day workshop to over 100 delegates about developing infrastructure partnerships – in our case with South Africa's toll route companies and energy parastatal, Eskom – and the platforms and methods we use to gather data (e.g. training company staff and citizen scientists). These partnerships have been very successful for us as an organisation, and we were invited to discuss our methods so that other stakeholders can replicate our model more widely.

In addition to ICOET, the Infrastructure Ecology Network Europe Conference (IENE: Portugal 2020) accepted three workshops and two oral presentations from our programme. We have also confirmed that the next African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE) will be in Kenya in 2021.

This work is made possible Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concessionaire (Pty) Ltd (Bakwena), De Beers Group, Eskom HLD SOC Ltd, N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited (N3TC), and Trans African Concessions (TRAC) N4.



EWT staff Innocent Buthelezi installing camera traps.

EWT staff members won the International Stewardship Award from the International Conference of Ecology and Transportation (ICOET).

ALTERNATIVE PASSAGE

Our Programme partners with three major toll route agencies, including the N3 Toll Concession (N3TC), whose route patrollers have been gathering wildlife-road mortality data since 2014. As a result, we have identified species most at threat from roads, as well as earmarking individual sections of the highway where mortality is highest. Emanating from this work, we have started an exciting project to survey existing road structures to determine how they can benefit wildlife. To do this, we installed six camera traps inside drainage culverts along the N3. These cameras have helped us to determine which species occur in the vicinity, and which species use the under-road crossing structures to move from one side of the road to the other. The work came at a cost, as two of our cameras were stolen despite some innovative anti-theft solutions, and preventing further thefts is an ongoing challenge.

Nevertheless, over two months, we captured 225 observations on the camera traps. These included mostly Cape Porcupines and several mongoose species, but also rodents, guinea fowls, and even a Serval. These findings are very encouraging, as they mean that animals do use these structures, and consequently, the passages can be retrofitted to be even more accommodating to animals. Ultimately, this will help prevent wildlife from accessing the roadway itself, by encouraging them to cross much more safely beneath its surface. Building on our work, the N3TC is keen to trial some mitigation options including owl perches and temporary fencing to guide animals towards underpasses. In addition, we are planning to place more camera traps in underpasses at known roadkill hotspots of our other toll route partners. This shift from data collection to conservation action is extremely rewarding, though the national COVID-19 lockdown has thwarted progress.

This work is made possible by the Ford Wildlife Foundation, and the N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited (N3TC).

ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

Three EWT-affiliated students completed their degrees this year working on EWT road ecology projects. Programme staffer Innocent Buthelezi was awarded his BTech through the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) for his research as a part of the Roads in Parks Project in Kruger National Park. Siboniso Thela also completed a BTech degree at TUT, assessing driver attitudes to wildlife. Siboniso used a rubber snake placed on the road verge to see whether drivers deliberately swerved towards the replica snake intending to kill it. Sadly, in almost 30% of all cases, he found this to be true, highlighting the need for drivers to be better educated about snakes, which are often feared or disliked. Finally, Bibi Linden was awarded her doctoral degree by the University of Venda for work at Lajuma Research Centre. Her research evaluated various designs of monkey bridges in the Soutpansberg, to determine the structure most preferred by Samango Monkeys for crossing roads.

A further two students, Brilliant Mashao and Thabo Hlatshwayo, are both completing their MSc degrees through the University of Venda. Brilliant is finalising a roadkill risk map that will guide cost-effective ways of determining where roadkill hotspots are most likely to occur in protected areas, using the Kruger National Park as a model. Thabo has focused on gathering road mortality data for amphibians in the Soutpansberg. He has identified roadkill hotspot areas where roadkill intervention measures could be applied. Thabo hopes to continue this research as part of his PhD.

The programme also had three scientific manuscripts accepted for publication. One tackled vessel collisions with marine animals, another examined the design of canopy bridges for Samango Monkeys to alleviate roadkill best, and the third undertook a systematic review of road ecology studies in Africa. The latter identified almost 250 scientific African road ecology publications since 1990, conflicting with previous research that suggests there is little road ecology data available in Africa.

Wendy Collinson attended the Designing Linear Infrastructure for Sustainable Outcomes conference in February 2020, hosted by the African Wildlife Foundation, in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference outcomes are likely to lead to productive research and partnership collaborations between the EWT and various stakeholders in Kenya. These will bring collaborative training opportunities, and a chance to combine expertise and resources to study and understand wildlife incidents, on and adjacent to roads and railways.

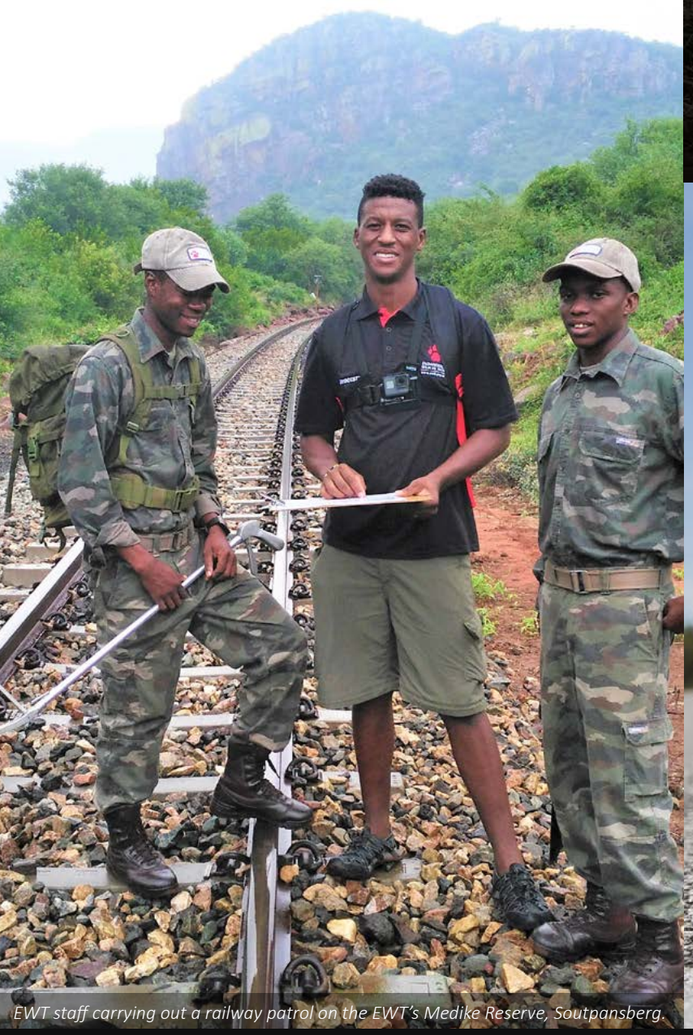
This work is made possible by the De Beers Group, Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust, the Ford Wildlife Foundation, GreenMatter, Lajuma Research Centre, SANParks, Trans African Concessions (TRAC) N4, Tshwane University of Technology, and the University of Venda.

The University of Venda's Brilliant Mashao presenting his MSc project that examined roadkill hotspots in the Kruger National Park.

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Our Rail Ecology Project ¬– a first for the continent – has commenced on the Balule Nature Reserve, where there have been a string of wildlife fatalities due to collisions with trains, most notably impalas and zebras, although elephant and Lion fatalities have also been observed. Two MSc students are now working on the project: Siboniso Thela (University of Venda) is gathering rail mortality data, and Nthabiseng Mampa (University of the Witwatersrand) is examining animal avoidance/behaviour adjacent to the railway. GreenMatter, an organisation that drives transformation in graduate-level skills for biodiversity, is funding programme manager, Wendy Collinson, to supervise their work.

This work is made possible Balule Nature Reserve, GreenMatter, the Ford Wildlife Foundation, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Transfrontier Africa, University of Venda, University of the Witwatersrand, and Wildlife and Ecological Investments.



EWT staff carrying out a railway patrol on the EWT's Medike Reserve, Soutpansberg.

LIVES ARE ON THE LINE – SLOW DOWN

Eye-catching new billboards designed by our advertising partner, Artifact, were erected on the N1 highway in six key locations in Gauteng, receiving a great response as indicated by the social media feedback. The campaign showed a painted white outline of animals on the road, to draw drivers' attention to the millions of animals that are killed on our roads every year .

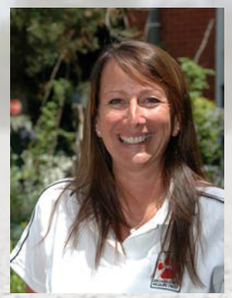
This work is made possible by Artifact and Jurgens Bekker Attorneys.

ALL QUIET ON OUR ROADS

The national COVID-19 lockdown, with its restrictions on long-distance travel and the enforced night-time curfew, has dramatically reduced vehicle use on our roads. In place of accompanying and training toll company route patrollers in roadkill data collection, we have resorted to setting weekly challenges via WhatsApp to improve their animal identification skills. Patrol staff continue to submit data, which indicates a reduction in wildlife dying on the roads through these times. However, the patrollers are also reporting a change in the species composition, suggesting that animals that previously avoided roads are adapting their behaviour and becoming more relaxed around roads. Unfortunately, this could make them more vulnerable when traffic volumes return to normal. Sadly, Servals were one of the species most commonly killed on the N3 highway. These figures escalated during the lockdown and suggested that this typically shy, solitary cat has become more confident around roads, to its demise. On a more positive note, we have also seen Servals using road underpasses on our camera traps.

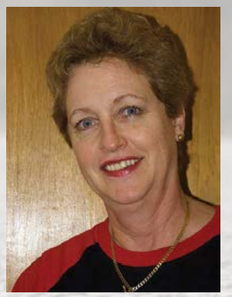
This work is made possible Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concessionaire (Pty) Ltd (Bakwena), the Ford Wildlife Foundation, N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited (N3TC), and Trans African Concessions (TRAC) N4.

WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORT **TEAM**



Wendy Collinson-Jonker
Programme Manager

Innocent Buthelezi
Field Officer

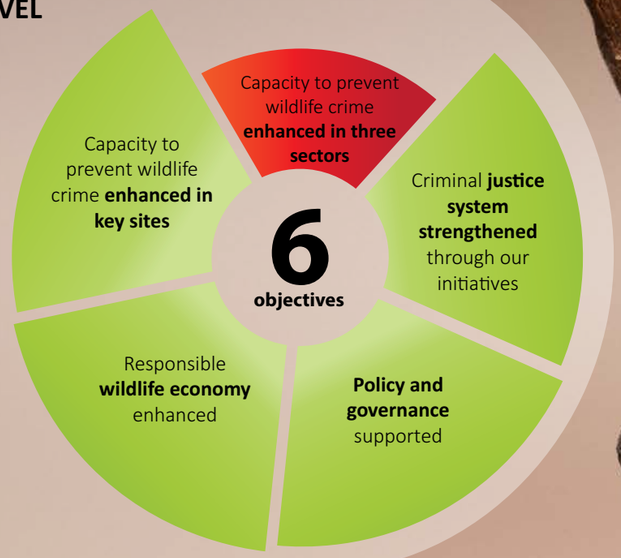


Marianne Golding
Administrator

WILDLIFE IN TRADE PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Wildlife in Trade Programme is to reduce trade-related threats that impact on the survival of wild animals and plants. We develop and apply innovative approaches to achieve our purpose and focus on five thematic areas as they relate to trade-related threats: prevention, detection, justice, governance, and use. We continually improve our knowledge about trends in the trade of species; identify emerging threats; identify opportunities to improve compliance; implement projects that strengthen both the proactive and reactive capabilities of the criminal justice system; and strive to be a thought leader within the wildlife trade sector. The Wildlife in Trade Programme currently works throughout South Africa and into Mozambique.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES



KEEPING THE WILD IN WILDLIFE

We launched an application in the North Gauteng High Court, challenging and seeking to review the decision of the (then) Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to declare 33 species of wild animals as “Landrace breeds (indigenous and locally developed)” and/or “locally adapted and regularly introduced breeds (other declared breeds)”, for purposes of the Animal Improvement Act (AIA) 62 of 1998. These species included Lions, rhinos, zebras, and Cheetahs. In brief, the new regulations treat wild animals as domestic stock. The AIA, among other things, allows for intensive and selective breeding and facilitates the creation of breed societies. These actions are wholly inappropriate for wild animals. Our grounds for review include legitimate concerns about the conservation value of breeding wild animals that are claimed to be “genetically superior”, as well as significant procedural flaws in the process. Our papers were served in January 2020, and we anticipate the High Court will hear this case later in the year.

This work is made possible by Christo Reeders Attorneys and the Lewis Foundation.

WILDLIFE AND THE LAW

In December 2019, we initiated the Wildlife and Law Project to meaningfully contribute to legal and governance frameworks that enable responsible and ethical decision-making about South Africa’s wildlife. This project plays an active role in addressing many of the challenges relating to wildlife and the law. These include challenging amendments to the Animal Improvement Act 62 of 1998, which will allow for intensive and selective breeding of wildlife and the registration of breed societies under the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform. We actively engage in public participation processes for amendments to any laws that may harm the conservation of South Africa’s free ranging wildlife populations and ecosystems. We provide law and policy support to the Wild Dog Advisory Group, Cape Parrot Action Plan, and Sungazer Working Group. In addition, the project promotes wildlife welfare and calls for the cancellation of permits for activities where wildlife welfare is compromised. The project is exploring opportunities to strengthen the legal framework through policy development, lobbying for legislative amendments, and supporting education and awareness with respect to South Africa’s wildlife-related laws. The project will pursue opportunities for strategic legal action, setting legal precedents for critical wildlife-related matters. Going forward, this will have a positive impact on regulation development, more robust and effective use of the law, and a broader compliance environment, to the benefit of wildlife in South Africa.

This work is made possible by the Lewis Foundation.

Training a ‘HERORat’ to detect pangolin scales and hardwoods in APOPO’s Tanzania laboratory.

RATTING ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

We run our Detection Rat Project in partnership with APOPO, an organisation whose scent detection animal species, the African Giant Pouched Rat, has already helped to remove landmines and identify tuberculosis worldwide. Based out of APOPO’s laboratory in Tanzania, we are developing innovative techniques using these rats, nicknamed ‘HeroRATs’, to detect pangolin scales and hardwoods smuggled in shipping containers. In 2019, we demonstrated that the rats could both identify the unique scents of both pangolin scales and hardwoods, and detect microparticles of both products when they represent just 5% of the total scent. This high level of sensitivity is important as it suggests that the rats will be able to detect pangolin scales and hardwoods when smugglers try to mask their scent to avoid detection.

Finally, we have developed indication systems for the rats to operate in the field, primarily national points of entry and exit. These systems fall into two broad categories: 1) rat wearable technologies which will allow the rats to indicate the presence of illegal pangolin and hardwood products in shipping containers; and 2) transport systems, to get the rats into the containers. In August 2019, the team presented details of our project at a side event to the CITES convention in Geneva, Switzerland: Harnessing tools and technologies for wildlife law enforcement. This event provided a valuable opportunity to garner support for the use of rats as an effective illegal trade detection species. Our rat training continues, introducing an even greater variety of samples to them each day, including the addition of new wildlife targets. We will now habituate the rats to the port environment, as the project shifts from its lab work to its in situ working location.

This work is made possible by GIZ, the Pangolin Crisis Fund, UK Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

During 2020, the EWT signed an agreement with WWF South Africa for the Restorative Justice Pilot Project, and illegal wildlife trade analysis work, both of which form part of the more extensive United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Khetha Programme.

Restorative justice, as confirmed by the United Nations, is a flexible, participatory, and problem-solving response to criminal behaviour that can improve access to justice, particularly for victims of crime and vulnerable and marginalised populations. Essentially, through facilitated engagement and restorative justice programmes, we aim to enhance the justice system, making it more responsive (particularly for victims of crime and vulnerable and marginalised populations), while also addressing harms and preventing reoffence. Restorative justice requires that an offender acknowledges his or her wrongdoing, and the resultant harm, and requires the offender to take steps to remediate that harm. Under this project, we are exploring the application of restorative justice approaches to wildlife crimes. During the reporting period, we set up a steering committee to guide the implementation of restorative justice to wildlife crimes in South Africa. Members of the committee were drawn from the University of Cape Town, the Restorative Justice Centre, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, USAID, WWF South Africa, and the EWT. This steering committee has been instrumental, amongst other things, in informing our conceptual framing for the project.

The project also developed a protocol to ensure we achieve good stakeholder consultation and participation in project activities, despite the challenges of COVID-19. In fact, the pandemic forced us to redesign our approach to public consultation completely. This revised approach will allow us to engage effectively with stakeholders, despite continuing travel restrictions, as we design and draw up the project's technical guidelines. The EWT's Ashleigh Dore also joined an international network of some 60 researchers and practitioners to explore the possibility of applying restorative justice in the context of environmental crime.

This work is made possible by the WWF South Africa Khetha Programme, supported by the USAID.

CRIME STATISTICS

The EWT's work under the Khetha Programme includes undertaking an analysis of the illegal wildlife trade dynamics around the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA). Whilst in its early stages, this analysis will generate the foundational information needed to help identify the most common methods and routes of trafficking, particularly as it relates to elephant ivory and rhino horn. To do this, we are using various techniques – including stakeholder interviews, court monitoring, observations in traditional medicine markets, and investigations into social media platforms – to obtain data.

This work is made possible by the WWF South Africa Khetha Programme, supported by the USAID.

CONSERVATION CANINES

Our programme runs the most established conservation canine wildlife detection unit in South Africa, with seven dogs deployed in rhino reserves in the Lowveld and Eastern Cape, and another seven dogs based in Gauteng. For the field-based dogs, the EWT assists state and private reserves by providing certified wildlife detection dogs, while the reserves provide the handlers. These dogs are deployed daily at gates and other strategic sites in the field and depending on the dog's training, are used for searching vehicles, patrolling, and tracking poachers. Dogs working at reserve gates typically search about 25 cars a day, depending on traffic flow. In addition to the permanent field-based dogs, one of our handlers spent two months travelling around these reserves providing extra dog support at eight different reserve gates in the past year. During the reporting period, our dog searched 650 vehicles and detected 16 firearms (all of which were declared). Additionally, local wildlife law enforcement occasionally tested our team by concealing wildlife products in vehicles without informing the handler – our dogs passed all these tests successfully.

Our Gauteng-based canine team includes a combination of certified detection dogs, dogs in training, and retired dogs. The dogs now all live in our specially constructed kennels at the EWT's conservation campus. The primary role of the certified dogs is to screen cargo at OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA), where they are worked on an almost daily basis. Given the need to prevent wildlife contraband from leaving the country, the EWT entered into an agreement with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries to provide wildlife detection canine support to Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs). We supply specialised, certified canine and handler teams to screen cargo leaving ORTIA, which streamlines the work of the EMIs and reduces their need to call in other enforcement agencies. The number of consignments searched daily depends on the volume of cargo and its destination. On an average day, the dogs will search 30 packages destined for countries known as hubs for illegal wildlife trade. Our canines are also able to help EMIs at other locations, and we are looking to expand the project beyond ORTIA.

This work is made possible by Boehringer Ingelheim, Greef Properties, MyPlanet Rhino Fund, Platinum Life, Relate Trust, Rogz, Royal Canin, Tomlin family, Tourvest, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

EWT Conservation Canine Handler, Shayen Seebran, training Fury the scent detection dog, to work at OR Tambo International Airport.

ROARING AHEAD

We have recently developed three projects to address the increasing threats Lions face in South Africa and Mozambique. In the first, we aim to address trade-related threats throughout the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area, where lions are increasingly killed by targeted poisoning and snaring for body parts. To prevent this, we are partnering with the EWT's Carnivore Conservation Programme and two external partners, Freeland, and Peace Parks Foundation. Our programme contributions will include: 1) to build the capacity of customs officials to detect illegal wildlife trade by training them to identify threatened flagship species; and 2) to help optimise patrol deployment in reserves by training ranger teams to collect and analyse poaching-related data.

Our second project aims to build capacity in the regulatory sectors of government through the development of a training course for permitting officials. The primary goal of this training is to enhance responsible decision making concerning South Africa's wildlife. Additionally, we will provide training to customs officials to build capacity across South Africa ports of entry and exit to combat wildlife smuggling. Finally, we will imprint our conservation canines on Lion bones, and deploy them to screen at critical ports of entry and exit to prevent the smuggling of these bones out of South Africa.

The third project is a research study of the captive Lion industry in South Africa. Here our main objective is to acquire a detailed understanding of the business models and supply chains that underpin this controversial sector. We intend using the knowledge we obtain to develop potential solutions to the challenges of the industry, improve management of captive lions, and guide government policy to bring about meaningful change.

This work is made possible by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.

BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY

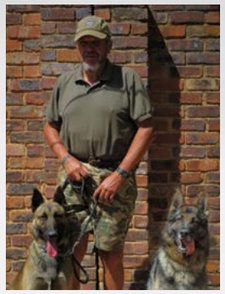
South Africa's biodiversity economy strategy aims to grow economic activities that depend on the ecologically sustainable use of biodiversity. This strategy falls under the umbrella of legal wildlife trade. We have played a research role here by assessing the economic, social, and conservation impacts of wildlife ranching, a key sector within the biodiversity economy. If conducted responsibly, wildlife ranching can incentivise landowners to set aside space for biodiversity conservation. We therefore investigated the financial viability of the sector and its contributions towards job creation and meat production. Our findings, published in Biological Conservation, showed that nearly half of wildlife ranches combine wildlife with livestock; that most conduct multiple wildlife-based land uses; and that 80% practice some form of consumptive use. While profits were highly variable, overall, wildlife ranches provided higher revenues and supported more jobs per hectare, than livestock farms. Although average meat production is lower on wildlife ranches than on livestock farms, the top producers harvest game meat at a level comparable with some extensive livestock farms. We have also assessed some of the contributions of wildlife ranching towards biodiversity conservation, and preliminary findings suggest that the South African wildlife ranching model could work in other African countries seeking alternative land use opportunities.

This work is made possible by the Development Bank of South Africa.

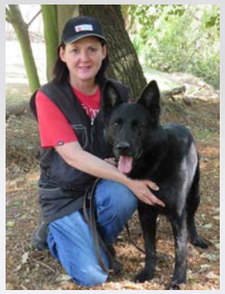
WILDLIFE IN TRADE **TEAM**

Ashleigh Dore
Programme Manager (to Dec 2019 and then Wildlife and Law Project Manager)

Annie Dupre-Reynolds
Programme Manager (Dec 2019–May 2020)

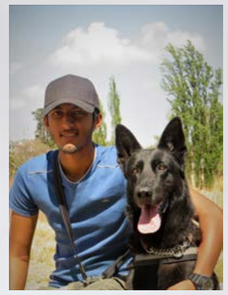


Matthys 'Gys' Geyser
Senior Conservation Canine Handler (until May 2020)



Shadi Henrico
Conservation Canine Project Coordinator

Ndifelani Mulaudzi
Trade Officer



Shayen Seebran
Conservation Canine Handler

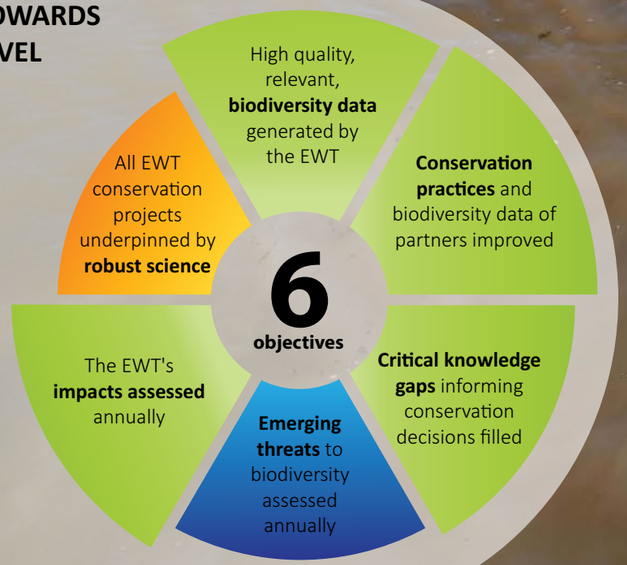
Dr Andrew Taylor
Senior Trade Officer

CONSERVATION SCIENCE UNIT

The Conservation Science Unit is the EWT's scientific hub. We provide scientific support across the organisation's programmes and projects, to ensure that our collective work is scientifically sound and evidence-based. We manage the organisation's central biodiversity database and build capacity among staff, and among our partners, to analyse, interpret, and publish the results of our conservation research, making it accessible and meaningful to diverse audiences. We also run special projects, such as the African Lion Database and the Trailblazer Species Distribution Modelling Project, which do not fall within the scope of other programmes.

As a support service function of the EWT, the CSU's work is made possible by our framework donors, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust (which is managed by Nedbank Private Wealth), Barloworld, Rand Merchant Bank, Deloitte, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, and Artifact Advertising.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES



MONITORING OUR CONSERVATION IMPACT

The EWT uses the internationally recognised Conservation Standards to plan, implement, and monitor our conservation initiatives. Feedback from the platform allows us to adapt projects accordingly to ensure we meet our conservation objectives. In 2019, the Conservation Science Unit audited all the EWT's programmes using a Conservation Audit Tool to assess how well each programme implements the Conservation Standards' adaptive management process. Based on the audit results, we identified those EWT programmes that required help and put in place measures to address these gaps.

The Conservation Science Unit also developed a monitoring and reporting framework for the EWT's ten High-level Goals (pages 4–6), to demonstrate measurable conservation impact and social benefits to our partners, stakeholders, funders, donors, and the general public. This process identified High-level Indicators for each goal. A user-friendly document now describes the process for each programme to understand and demonstrate its contribution to the EWT's overall impact.

In February 2020, the EWT hosted South Africa's first (Africa's fourth) Conservation Coach Training. These training courses provide guidance and practice on leading programme teams through the Conservation Standards. Participants from the EWT, International Crane Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, Peace Parks Foundation, CapeNature, Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB), Conservation South Africa, and Panthera attended the week-long course, and are now all members of the global Conservation Coaches Network.

SHARING DATA MANAGEMENT SKILLS ACROSS THE REGION

Through the Foundational Biodiversity Information Programme (FBIP), the Conservation Science Unit conducted a three-day training workshop on biodiversity data management and analysis, in October 2019, at the University of the Western Cape. This course targeted postgraduate students from historically disadvantaged universities, and 22 students took part from across the country.

We also completed our Global Biodiversity Information Facility-funded (GBIF) biodiversity data management training project in late 2019. This project provided biodiversity data management training to university students and staff in southern Africa, who do not typically share their valuable biodiversity data beyond their own projects because they lack the skills to do so. We concluded our final training course at the Malawi University of Science and Technology in June 2019. As part of the African Biodiversity Challenge, we then adapted these training materials for a workshop held in Windhoek, Namibia in September, attended by 25 people from various government institutions and NGOs. This challenge focuses on data mobilisation efforts by linking datasets to nationally important information products and end-users. Doing so ensures that mobilisation efforts are relevant for research, policy, and decision-making. To complete the final activities required by the GBIF project, we installed Moodle, an e-learning platform, on the EWT's server, and adapted and uploaded the biodiversity data management course and a webinar about data sharing. The e-learning site will be useful for future EWT projects involving training, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it will allow easy access to remote learning. The first participants in this online course were over 50 students from South Africa, Malawi, Rwanda, and Ghana.

This work is made possible by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility CESP Fund and the Department of Science and Technology FBIP Small Grants.

THE NGO REVIEW

The EWT developed the NGO Review[1] to collate information about the collective conservation impacts of biodiversity conservation NGOs in South Africa, completing the review in December 2019. These NGOs help the government meet its international conservation targets in several ways, including conserving habitats and species, providing environmental education and skills development, acting as watchdogs for society in terms of environmentally damaging practices, supporting the development and enforcement of effective policy and regulations, enhancing research, and encouraging responsible consumption and business practice. The review identified an impressive list of accomplishments achieved in the NGO sector, and emphasised the roles of organisations, including the EWT, in the persistence of many species and habitats, and the life-giving services that they provide. The review also highlighted the NGO sector's contribution to job creation and its ability to attract the financial resources needed to address South Africa's conservation needs. Our findings provide compelling evidence for the considerable value NGOs offer to our donors and supporters, as well as to the government and people of South Africa.

This work is made possible by the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, which is managed by Nedbank Private Wealth.

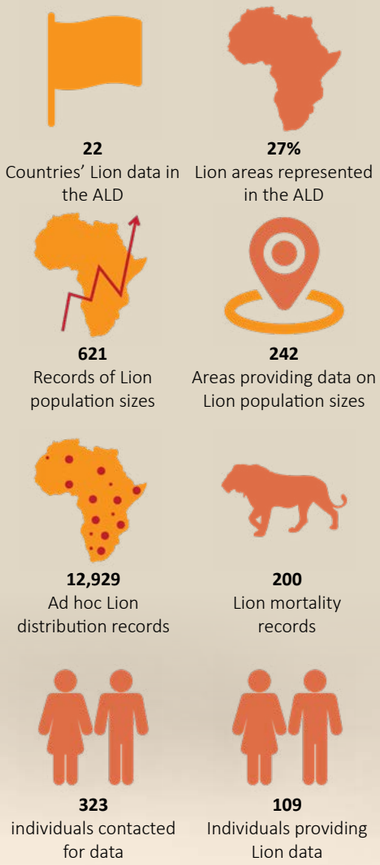
[1]Taylor, W.A., Davies-Mostert, H.T., Friedmann, Y. and Patterson-Abrolat, C. 2019. *How NGOs count in conservation: A review of the role of NGOs in biodiversity conservation in South Africa.* The Endangered Wildlife Trust, Johannesburg, South Africa.

AFRICAN LION DATABASE

The African Lion Database (ALD) is a platform that consolidates population, distribution, and human-related mortality data from across the range of the African Lion. The purpose of the project is to collect and collate all data on the African Lion, to improve our understanding of the status and trends of this iconic species in Africa, and to guide conservation action and funding effectively.

In September 2019, ALD Coordinator Samantha Nicholson visited Oxford University to meet with key Lion researchers from the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit. She also worked closely with the IUCN-affiliated African Lion Working Group (ALWG) to host a session on the ALD and Lion populations at the ALWG meeting at Laikipia, Kenya, in November 2019. Samantha also presented on the ALD at the Kenya Wildlife Service's Annual Carnivore Workshop in Nairobi. The Kenya Wildlife Service has subsequently expressed interest in contributing to the ALD. Samantha also attended the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS COP), in Gandhinagar, India, in February 2020. Here she participated in a side-event, jointly organised by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group and IUCN Save Our Species, focused on the concepts and tools for the implementation of the joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative.

This work is made possible by the Lion Recovery Fund, National Geographic Society, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



WHERE THREATENED SPECIES OCCUR

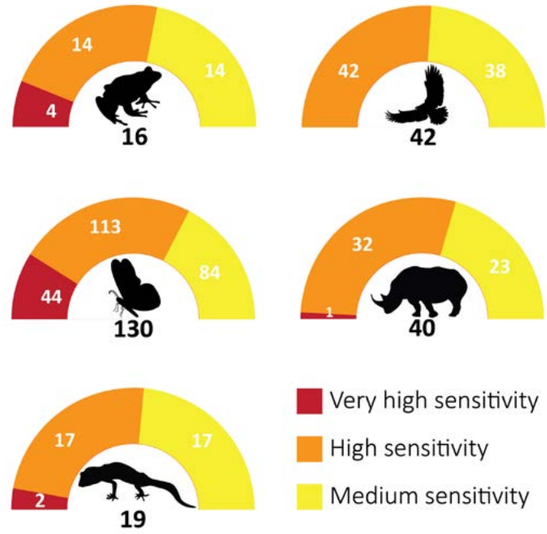
Ecological niche models are an essential conservation tool that the EWT uses in a variety of our projects. They serve several functions, most notably to predict where we can expect to find particular species based on habitat suitability. These models also provide information on the predicted effects of climate change on species' distributions, informing both present and future conservation planning. Similarly, they can identify areas that have not previously been surveyed but show high suitability for a species to occur. The EWT uses this form of modelling to, for example, track down new Riverine Rabbit populations and locate several elusive Western Cape frog species.

We have also conducted several field surveys during this past year with the aim of ground-truthing our models, and to fill data gaps for some of the more elusive threatened species. In December 2019, our team headed into the Tankwa Karoo to search for the Critically Endangered Clanwilliam Sandfish, and we have planned several new field trips to track down rare reptile and small mammal species in the Western Cape and Limpopo.

Another important use of ecological niche models is to inform environmental impact assessments (EIAs), a process used to evaluate the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development. The EWT completed its first versions of niche models that specifically addressed the whereabouts of terrestrial animals in South Africa, for the use in EIAs. In early December we submitted these models to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), for incorporation in their national Environmental Screening Tool. This online GIS tool generates a screening report that must accompany all applications for environmental authorisation. Following the initial submission of these models, we have worked alongside taxon experts to refine them and improve the spatial distribution outputs, so that the screening tool provides the best possible models to guide sustainable development. We are now preparing a major update, for submission in August 2020.

We continue to refine our models using newly developed environmental predictors and the latest modelling techniques. In addition, we are sourcing more data from museums and virtual museums to ensure there is enough for all species to meet the minimum requirements for generating robust models. In July 2019, the EWT's Ecological Modelling Specialist, Dominic Henry, attended the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This congress was an excellent opportunity to present the project to a broader global audience and to interact with some of the world's leading researchers.

This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank.



Ecological niche models showing how many species from each taxa and sensitivity level are included in the screening tool.

The EWT has documented a 20% increase in the known range of the Table Endangered Table Mountain Ghost Frog. We store this information on the EWT's Biodiversity Data Bank.

LOCKDOWN BOFFINS

While the COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa certainly compromised the EWT's ability to conduct fieldwork, it has also provided an excellent opportunity for programme staff to dedicate extra time to the publication of their conservation work as scientific papers. In 2019, the EWT published 24 peer-reviewed scientific publications, the most over the past 10 years, and we are happy to report that we almost equalled that, with the publication of 23 papers this year. This output underlies the EWT's growing commitment to evidence-based conservation. We also developed guidelines to improve how we communicate our scientific work so that, in future, we convey all the right information to all the right people in all the right ways.

CONVERTING DATA INTO KNOWLEDGE

Developing and implementing proper protocols that ensure the consistent collection and storage of data, as well as cleaning and compiling datasets from different records – including historical data – falls under the unit's mandate. To this end, we have compiled and cleaned the 40-year crane aerial survey dataset for KwaZulu-Natal and, through a data-sharing agreement with KZN Ezemvelo Wildlife, we ran analyses of crane population trends. The resulting publication will represent an important milestone for the EWT, representing the results of the largest, long-term dataset we have published. We also compiled data on the EWT's conservation actions, such as power line mitigation, declaration of protected areas, and improved land management practices, which have contributed to crane population trends, that showed a significant increase in the KwaZulu-Natal populations.

We updated the African Wildlife Poisoning Database, used to gather and collate data on historical and current incidents of wildlife poisoning, and have uploaded this data into an online geodatabase, with the help of Esri South Africa. Users can now add directly to the database from a user-friendly app, to which we made several refinements, including translating it into French and Portuguese . We will launch the app and web map publicly in the coming months. The African Wildlife Poisoning Database is used to assess the scope and impact of poisoning to vultures and other scavenging birds, and wildlife on the African continent, to improve our conservation responses.

This work is made possible by Eskom HLD SOC Ltd and Esri South Africa.

African Wildlife Poisoning Database questionaire in Portuguese.

AUTOMATING DATA UPLOADS AND ONLINE DATABASES

The EWT's Biodiversity Data Bank has improved in leaps and bounds this year. This data bank is a repository of data from several sources including the bulk of our GPS tracking data, the Mammal Red List database, the poisoning database (as a back-up for the online database described above) and the Ecological Goods and Services database. As data for several of these databases are collected by the EWT's staff using mobile apps, we have written several programmes to batch upload data from the apps directly. We have also linked the database to GIS software for easier mapping and editing. Our next step will be to deploy this database onto a cloud server, so that the data can be accessed and used by multiple users – our next big project for 2020.

This work is made possible through ongoing mentoring and technical support from the International Crane Foundation.

SHARING OUR DATA AND KNOWLEDGE

This year we received 43 external requests for data and shared 28 datasets externally. Datasets were used most frequently for research projects (15 times) and for EIA or pre-screening reports (nine times). We also shared datasets through GBIF, and currently have three datasets that are freely available for downloading, on African Cranes and Cheetahs (two datasets). Collectively, these datasets have now been cited 22 times in academic research and conservation planning, and have been downloaded nearly 10,000 times.

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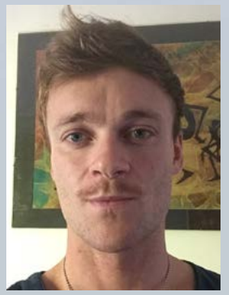
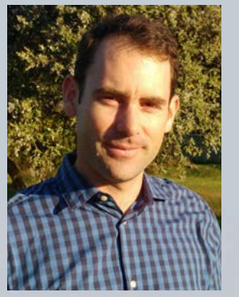
CONSERVATION SCIENCE UNIT **TEAM**

Dr Lizanne Roxburgh
Senior Scientist

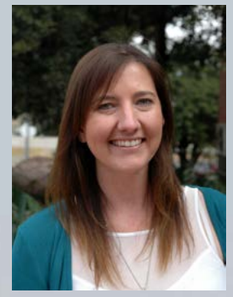


Dr Oliver Cowan
Conservation Science Officer

Tamsyn Galloway
Conservation Intern



Dr Dominic Henry
Ecological Modelling Specialist



Samantha Nicholson
African Lion Database Coordinator

Claire Relton
Conservation Science Officer

THE VOICE OF THE EWT

Photo by the EWT Carnivore Conservation Programme

The EWT's Communications and Marketing Department forms the connection between the work of the EWT and the world outside. We are the custodian of the brand and we work closely with all EWT staff to create a unified voice for the organisation. This translates into increased brand awareness, and enhanced reputation, through the delivery of engaging, authentic content. Internally, we are the go-to department, creating a cohesive culture of storytelling and increasing support for programmes through improved communication.

As a support service function in the EWT, the Communications and Marketing Department's work is made possible by our framework donors, Artifact Advertising, Barloworld, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Deloitte, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust (which is managed by Nedbank Private Wealth), and Rand Merchant Bank.

COMMUNICATING DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting nationwide lockdown, highlighted the importance of communications, both internally and externally. Adjusting to the the unique situation we found ourselves in required an agile and versatile approach. Face-to-face events were no longer possible, and many of our supporters were spending more time than usual online each day, and were often looking for good news to motivate them during difficult times.

One week after lockdown started, we launched our Wild Chat webinar series. These webinars, hosted on Zoom, offered people from all over the world an opportunity to stay connected with nature, while staying safe indoors. During April and May, we offered three free webinars a week, reducing this to two a week in June, as national lockdown restrictions eased. The webinars covered a wide variety of conservation topics, all presented by EWT experts, and proved extremely popular, with many of the same people signing up to watch every episode. Our webinars also received media coverage on TV, radio, and online publications. We made recordings of the webinars available on our YouTube channel, ensuring that even those who were working, or home schooling at the time, would still be able to watch. These Wild Chats have continued into the new financial year.

Over this difficult period, we prioritised sharing good news stories, and increased the frequency of our social media posts. We also ran campaigns showcasing what staff were getting up to while in lockdown, and created a video to raise awareness of the value of Africa's natural resources to both human health and our economic recovery, and the important role the EWT has to play in protecting them. The team launched an educational portal on our website, where parents and learners can access educational material for free, and developed a number of messages in a variety of South African languages, sharing information about the pandemic, as well as the link between the virus and wild animals.

EWT educational portal

Internally, we increased communication with staff via our WhatsApp group, and set up an additional WhatsApp group to provide support to those who found themselves in lockdown on their own. We also introduced a weekly mailer to all staff, which covered mental health tips and other practical advice to cope with working from home, dealing with home schooling, and other topical issues.

COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

In the build up to World Lion Day, which is celebrated annually on 10 August, we hosted a media trip to Pilanesberg National Park on 31 July. Six members of the media, representing The Saturday Star, SA Country Life, People, Sawubona, Essays of Africa, and Hot 919 FM, joined us to learn more about the conservation status of lions and the work being done by the EWT. Sam Page-Nicholson gave a presentation on the subject and introduced the media to the African Lion Database project. We also reinforced our Wild 'n Free messaging, and the journalists took the Wild 'n Free pledge.

> The Wild 'n Free pledge urges people to commit to joining the fight against keeping carnivores in captivity for petting, walking-with, photo-tourism, captive hunting, and the trade in their body parts by not supporting facilities that offer these interactions with animals, and to encourage your friends and family to do the same.

The media trip was made possible by aha Hotels and Lodges, who hosted us at Ivory Tree Lodge, where their team also took the pledge.

The EWT assisted with Disney's campaign to screen the 2019 *The Lion King* film to over 10,000 learners from underserved areas, developing EWT content for the activity booklet that was given to all the learners who attended, and providing short presentations on lion conservation at each of the screenings, which took place every Saturday and Sunday in August.

We developed a new TV ad, thanks to the creative genius of our advertising agency, Artifact. This aired on M-Net-owned channels and National Geographic during November, as well as on Mango airline flights from December till January. We also launched a new billboard campaign focused on the work of our Wildlife and Transport Programme, to create awareness about wildlife killed unnecessarily on our roads ahead of the December holidays, when many South Africans are typically travelling by road. These billboards were placed in six key locations around Gauteng, where they remained in rotation for at least six months. Ad Outpost generously donated the billboard space, and Jurgens Bekker attorneys paid for their printing.

Other communications campaigns focusing on special environmental days, such as International Vulture Awareness Day, Leap Day for Frogs, and World Environment Day, among others, were conducted as usual.

SHARING OUR WORK

In August 2019, we consolidated our electronic newsletter and our printed magazine into one digital publication, *Conservation Matters.* This was done in the interests of sustainability and in line with global trends towards digital media consumption. This publication is now distributed monthly to our subscribers, as well as being shared on our various social media platforms.

Wildlife and Roads billboard

13% 4% 120% 187% 82%

Social media growth in the last financial year

The EWT in the media
The EWT enjoyed extensive media coverage during the reporting period, including features and mentions in print, online and broadcast media.

Most frequent repeat publishers:
Good Things Guy, Bedfordview & Edenvale News, *Netwerk24*, *IOL*, *Joburg East Express* and *Getaway Magazine*.

Mentioned in over
900
articles (online)

Potential reach of all articles:
2.5billion

>R23.5 million
Estimated Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) of coverage for July 2019–June 2020

Breakdown of EWT mentions in different media
82%
14%
4%
(print media tracking was discontinued in February 2020)

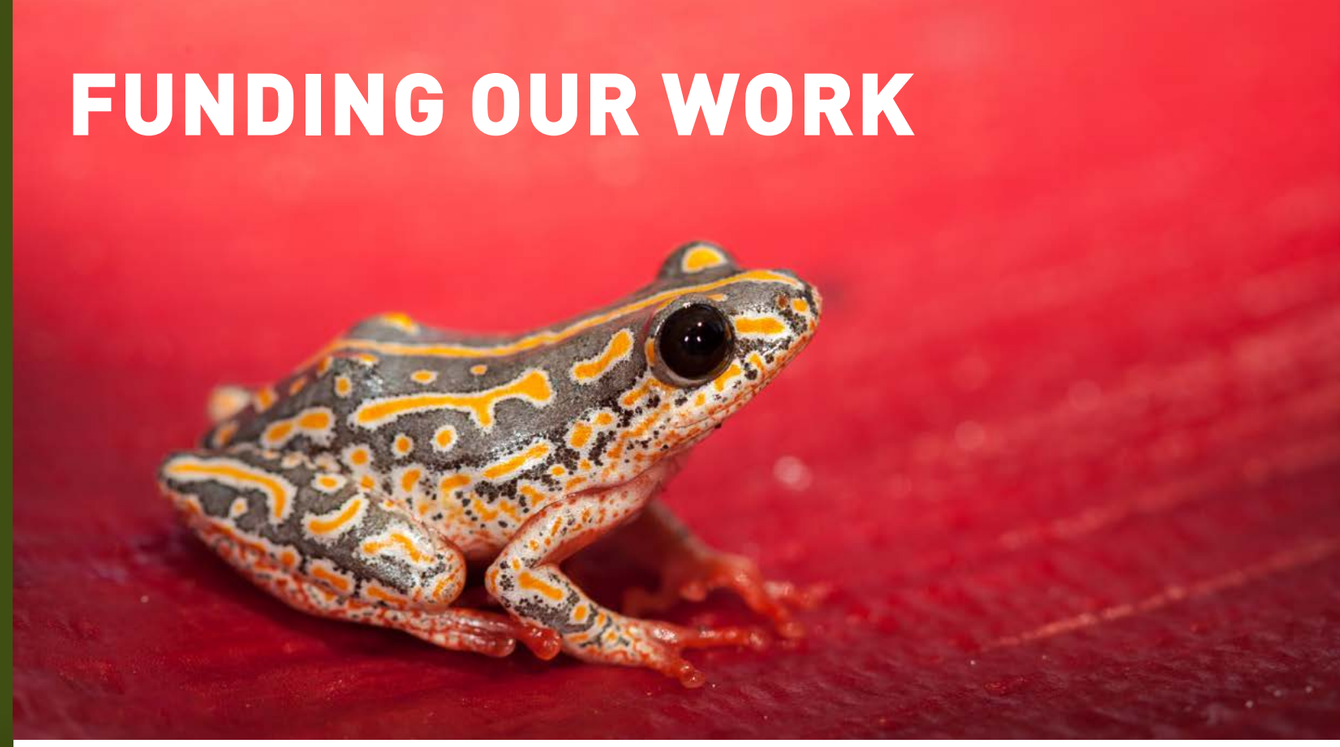
Countries where coverage was received:

72%	10%	9%	2%	2%	1%	4%
						Other

COMMUNICATIONS **TEAM**

Belinda Glenn
Manager

Khanya Peacock
Designer



FUNDING OUR WORK

STEERING INTO UNCHARTED WATERS

Our funding philosophy remains one of collaboration and transparency, seeking to build mutually beneficial relationships with our donors. This philosophy, and the relationships we have built in the past, proved invaluable to us over the last four months of this reporting cycle, as we navigated the uncharted waters experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown.

Most of our income channels were negatively affected by the COVID-19 lockdown, with special events and corporate income declining most sharply. That said, the first eight months of this financial year were fortunately positive for the EWT's Business Development team, with results pointing to us achieving a healthy increase in income year-on-year, for both our programme and operational costs.

Although these were challenging times, we could not be more grateful for the support, generosity, and understanding shown by our many donors and supporters, during the pandemic. The level of empathy demonstrated towards our challenges, and the willingness to assist at so many different levels, despite their own challenges, was simply astounding. We are forever grateful to them all, for showing us just how much they value the work we do. After negotiating these troubled times, we do not doubt that we can, together with our supporters and donors, rise to any challenge that may face us in the future, as we navigate the economic challenges of South Africa's lockdown and a new economic dawn.

INCREASING STREAMS

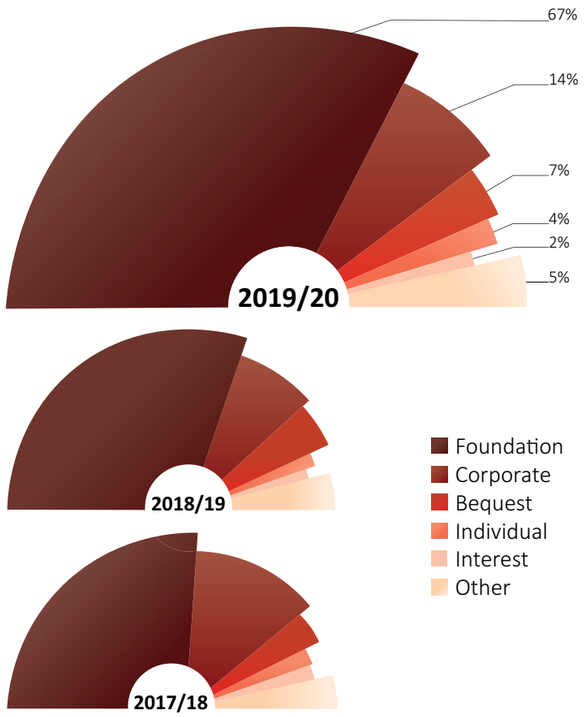
The EWT's income continues to increase year-on-year, and by over 10% in 2020. This represents the highest annual income in the history of the EWT, which was largely due to income received specifically for the purchase of EWT land holdings, which bolstered our balance sheet. Our biggest single donor was the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, who donated a considerable sum to secure the future of the EWT by supporting the purchase of the EWT's Conservation Campus, as well as funding the Trust more generally. The Conservation Campus also received a generous bequest from the Nicholson Estate, as well as funding from Rand Merchant Bank.

Following a similar trend to last year, foundational income (trusts, foundations, and bilaterals) for specific conservation projects, increased by 11% this past year. The US Fish and Wildlife Service was our biggest single project funder, contributing towards the EWT's Wildlife in Trade and Vultures for Africa Programmes. Foundational income continues to represent the EWT's most important income stream, contributing 67% of our 2020 revenue; the second year in a row it has exceeded 60% of annual income. Despite the effects of the pandemic in the last few months of this reporting period, corporate income remained steady year-on-year, down % from 2019, and accounted for 14% of our total income. At 4%, the contribution of individual donations remained similar to amounts received since 2016. These contributions remain important to the EWT, as they are mostly unrestricted, and fund costs often not secured by project-specific donors. As noted, events income declined by a notable 45% from 2019, due in part to the cancellation of several important events such as our golf day, art auctions, trail runs and gala dinners.

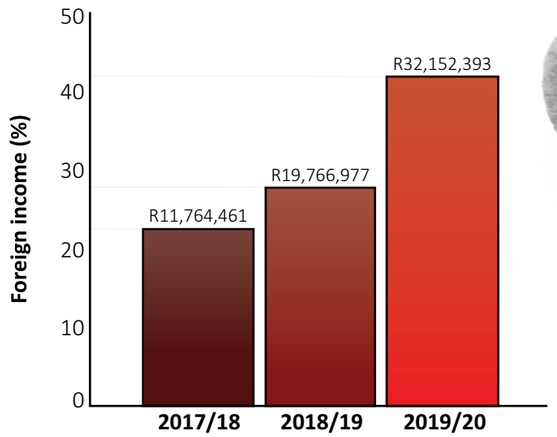
The national lockdown which disrupted the last four months of the EWT's financial year resulted in an estimated loss of around R2 million in expected income, and an operating deficit of R664,238. Within the context of the catastrophic global and national economic fallout, this is not material to the EWT's ongoing sustainability. Even so, continual realignment of the EWT's business focus, and investment into new avenues of income, were reflected in the success of our income generation for this past year. We are aware too that the coming financial year will be challenging as the impact of COVID-19 hits home. Already, several donors are not in a position to issue any funding calls relevant to the EWT, while a number of our previous funders have had to delay their appeals, that would typically fall over the reporting period. We anticipate this may have knock-on effects for next year's income streams. These challenges signal the need to expand our existing income streams and innovate around what we offer donors and funders in return.

FOREIGN VERSUS LOCAL INCOME

Foreign income increased considerably year-on-year, rising by 63% this year. Where previously a single, headline donor had influenced these sums considerably, a wider range of donors contributed to our foreign income this reporting period. These included the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the International Crane Foundation (through our Strategic Partnership), the UK-based Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge, and the Rainforest Trust, who all contributed in excess of R2-million each to specific projects. These foreign income gains were offset partly by a 13% decrease in income from within South Africa in 2020. We welcome the inclusion of more foreign donors, as we become more established internationally as a trusted conservation partner in Africa, and for the continuity this provides to our funding and our work.



The percentage of income generated from different sources reflects a proportional increase in foundation income progressively over the years.



The percentage of foreign income we received, increased in 2019/20, as did the total amount of foreign income the EWT received in 2019/20, as various foreign donors combined to contribute substantially to our income stream.

FUNDRAISING **TEAM**

Alison Janicke
Head of Resource Development

Tammy Baker
Business Development Officer

Frank Jackson
Business Development Officer

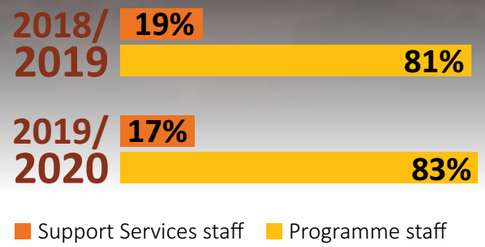
Dr Tim Jackson
Senior Technical Writer

Rebecca Mabuza
Administrator

Claire Patterson-Abrolat
Senior Technical Writer

OUR PASSIONATE PEOPLE

The Human Resources Department works to support the EWT's Mission and Vision by fostering a healthy, progressive, equitable work environment that will attract and retain excellent employees and enable them to develop to their full potential.



WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

The EWT's multicultural and multigenerational team of talented individuals continues to be our most valuable resource. Our commitment to include diversity, and to recruit quality people, while developing their potential through our focus on maintaining a learning culture, enhances their careers and underlines our competitive edge.

	Average age	Male	Female	Of colour	White	Annual staff turnover	Staff turnover as a % of all staff
2018	38.1	47%	52%	47%	53%	7	7.2%
2019	37.2	49%	51%	48%	52%	6	5.9%
2020	38.0	50%	50%	46%	54%	12	11.3%

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

The EWT is committed to implementing our employment equity plan. We aim to eliminate barriers that have a negative impact on attracting, developing and retaining a diversity of employees, with a focus on those from designated groups. The table below compares our progress towards achieving our targeted demographic breakdown, against our actual demographic figures as of 30 June 2020. The female African and Coloured targets were not met during this period, and will take priority within the next reporting cycle.

	Male				Female				Total	
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Male	Female
Target figures as per EE Plan	21%	1%	1%	20%	16%	6%	1%	33%	43%	57%
Actual figures as of 30 June 2020	28%	0%	1%	22%	12%	4%	1%	32%	50%	50%

Target achieved · Above target, no concerns · Above target · Below target

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

We commissioned a comprehensive employee engagement survey through a private consultancy in 2019 to maintain an open line of communication with our staff and provide an effective way for staff to provide honest feedback to management on all aspects of their work lives. As employee satisfaction is key to the growth of the EWT, it is important we carry out these surveys regularly. The results of this survey saw us increasing the frequency of our communications with staff and bolstering our internal communications strategy with additional communications platforms and tools. These included adding our WhatsApp staff group, an internal electronic newsletter, various Microsoft Teams based groups, and several other opportunities to allow for interaction with the executive management team. Based on the success of this initiative, we will endeavour to repeat surveys of this nature every two years.

Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment and Socio-Economic Development Certificate

The EWT continued to hold a Level 4 Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Generic Certificate rating, and a 93% rating for our Socio-Economic Development (SED) Certificate, which we have now received for eight consecutive years. This certificate allows the EWT's supporters to recognise 93% of the value of their sponsorship in calculating their scorecards.

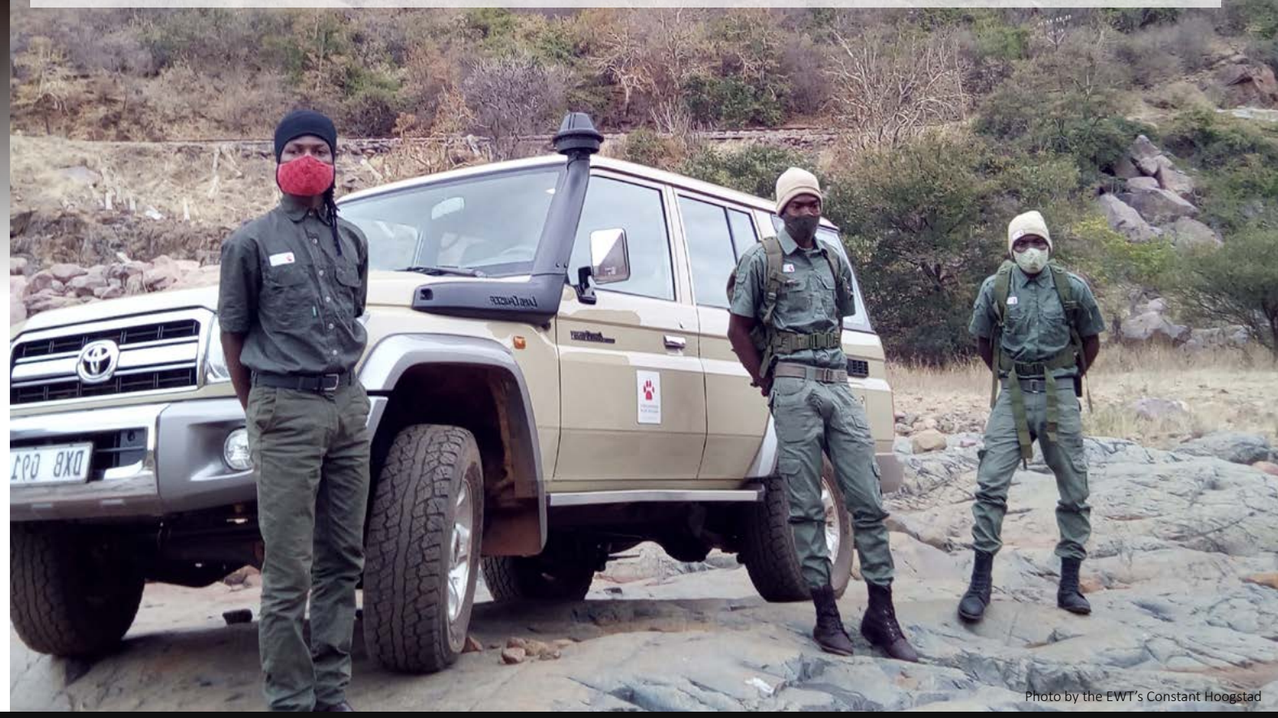


Photo by the EWT's Constant Hoogstad

TALENT MANAGEMENT

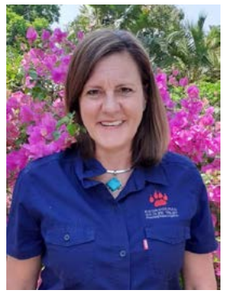
With a continually evolving and growing organisation such as the EWT, we place high priority on development and training, both for our team and for others studying within the natural sciences ambit. The areas of development include nurturing junior employees and providing them with career guidance and mentorship opportunities, as well as developing staff across the organisation with the skills to excel and act as real blue-sky thinkers and achievers within their fields of expertise. At the EWT, this line of thinking does not begin and end with official training and development courses. Instead, it underlies the ethos of the organisation, and we encourage staff to apply out of the box thinking at every opportunity.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we could not hold our annual Development Week training and development programme at the end of May. However, in lieu of the loss of that training opportunity, most of our team took advantage of the additional time lockdown gifted them to participate in a variety of online training courses to assist in building capacity in their areas of expertise. For instance, several staff members undertook training courses at this time through the University of Cape Town, including in corporate risk, digital media, and professional communication and office management. The online training courses people attended were as diverse as our staff, and included tracking dog assessments and dog handling, Portuguese and French languages, environmental peacebuilding, healing collective trauma, 4x4 vehicle maintenance, identifying dangerous goods, and first aid training. The EWT is proud to have been part of these short journeys which brought about staff improvements in their roles and responsibilities and impacting positively on our bigger picture.

Internships are another area in which the EWT places a high priority. Of the 18 interns hosted through this reporting period, the EWT has absorbed six into permanent positions within the organisation, one has departed the internship programme to continue their studies, while the 11 remaining having several more months of internship still to complete. Through a grant from the FE van Pletzen/L Steynberg Trust we provided vocational training to four of the EWT's rangers in the Soutpansberg Protected Area as Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) Apprentice Field Guides.

The EWT also collaborates with a number of students working in the conservation sector. This year, staff supervised ten students working towards their BTech Nature Conservation, Honours, Masters, and Doctoral degrees. These students were enrolled at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Cape Town, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Pretoria, University of Venda, and University of the Witwatersrand. Impressively, managers of both the Threatened Amphibian Programme, and Wildlife and Transport Programme, supervised four students working on their respective projects. The EWT continues to promote academic development and excellence amongst its people too, with 14 staff studying towards university degrees. This year we congratulate both Ashleigh Dore, who was awarded her Masters of Laws (LLM - Environmental Law) from the University of Cape Town, and Innocent Buthelezi who gained his BTech through the Tshwane University of Technology. Rigorous science continues to underlie the EWT's work.

HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM



Alison Jänicke
Head of Resource Development

Emma Chisare
Human Resources Assistant

Lawrence Khumalo
Groundsman

Thembi Mlimi
Housekeeper

Dorah Mncube
Housekeeper

Rudolph Ndwalane
Groundsman

Sizakele Ntsele
Office Administrator and Catering

EWT staff members at Conservation Week in November 2019

ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The EWT is a Trust governed in accordance with the Trust Property Control Act No. 57 of 1988, under Master of the High Court, reference number IT 6247. The Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014, as registered with the Master of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, is the founding document of the EWT and lays out the roles and responsibilities of Trustees, the Board and the committees of the Board. EWT Trustees are not remunerated for their services and serve the EWT in a voluntary capacity. The EWT Management thanks the Trustees for giving of their time freely and for their contribution to the governance and strategic direction of the Trust.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting

The EWT AGM took place on 28 November 2019 and was held, for the first time, at the EWT Conservation Campus in Midrand. Dirk Ackerman's and Paul Smith's terms of office, as Chair and Treasurer respectively, continue until the AGM of 2020. Mr Antony Wannell continues as Vice Chair. The AGM voted to ratify the Annual Financial Statements as audited by Deloitte. The Trustees voted to retain Deloitte as the auditors of the Trust.

Board and Committees

As per the Trust Deed of Trust, the Board administers the affairs of the Trust, performing oversight of the management function of Executive Management staff members. The Board consists of seventeen Trustees, with the CEO as an ex officio member. Dr Anusha Lucen resigned as a Trustee of the EWT effective 26 January 2020. The Board met four times during the course of the financial year and undertook activities in accordance with its Charter and to fulfil its Work Plan, which is developed and adopted annually on a calendar-year basis. In line with the principles of excellent corporate governance, the Board evaluates its own performance in relation to its Work Plan at the end of every year. The Board in turn appoints Committees of the Board to assist the Board in the administration of the affairs of the Trust.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the associated National State of Disaster and lockdown, necessitated the formation of a small sub-committee of the Board, to guide Executive Management in formulating the Trust's response to the pandemic itself and adapting the EWT's work activities to the restrictions imposed.

Board meeting attendance during the period 2019 – 2020.

Board	09 Oct 19	28 Nov 19	24 Mar 20	25 Jun 20
Dirk Ackerman – Chair	●	●	●	●
Antony Wannell – Vice Chair	●	●	●	●
Paul Smith – Treasurer	○	●	●	●
Prof Barry Ackers	●	●	○	○
Angela Cherrington	●	●	●	●
Anthony Diepenbroek	●	●	●	○
Mike Esterhuysen	●	●	●	●
Joanna Goeller	●	●	●	●
Sharmila Govind	○	○	○	○
Karin Ireton	○	●	●	●
Dr Anusha Lucen (resigned 26 Jan 2020)	○	○		
AK Mohamed	○	○	○	○
Crispian Olver	●	●	●	○
Dr Veniela Pillay	●	●	●	●
Lesego Rammusi	●	○	○	●
Christo Reeders	●	●	●	●
Muhammad Seeedat	○	●	●	●
Kiyasha Thambi	●	●	●	●
Yolan Friedmann – CEO – ex officio	●	●	●	●
In attendance – Mandy Poole – COO	●	●	●	●

Audit and Finance Committee

The Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) is an official committee of the Board established under Clause 23.1 of the Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014. It is chaired by Paul Smith in his capacity as Treasurer. It too adopts an annual Work Plan for the calendar year, and self-evaluates at the close of the year. The AFC met four times during the financial year to fulfil its financial oversight responsibilities to the Board and the Trust, in particular the approval of the annual budget for the financial year and continual monitoring of performance against this budget.

The AFC, the Board of Trustees and the EWT Management, are grateful for the support of Deloitte in the carrying out of the organisation's annual financial audit.

Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee

The Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee (SERC) met three times during the course of the financial year as noted below. The SERC also works to an annual Work Plan.

Audit and Finance Committee meeting attendance during the period 2019 – 2020.

Audit and Finance Committee	10 Sep 19	22 Nov 19	19 Mar 20	23 Jun 20
Paul Smith – Treasurer and Chair – ex officio	●	●	●	●
Prof Barry Ackers	●	●	●	●
A K Mohamed	○	○	○	●
Neil Morris	●	○	●	●
Lesego Rammusi	○	●	○	○
Muhammad Seedat	●	●	●	●
Antony Wannell	○	○	●	●
In attendance: Ms Yolan Friedmann – CEO	●	●	●	●
In attendance: Ms Mandy Poole – COO	●	●	●	●

Social Ethics and Remuneration Committee meeting attendance during the period 2019 – 2020.

Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee	23 Oct 19	19 Mar 20	18 Jun 20
Dr Ven Pillay – Chair	●	●	●
Karin Ireton – Vice Chair	○	●	●
Mike Esterhuysen	●	●	●
Sharmila Govind	○	○	●
Paul Smith	●	●	●
In attendance: ERX HR advisor representative	●	●	●
In attendance: Yolan Friedmann – CEO	○	●	●
In attendance: Mandy Poole – COO	●		
In attendance: Alison Jänicke – Head of Resource Development	●	●	●

INTERNAL STRUCTURES

Executive Management Team: The EWT Executive Management Team consisted of Yolan Friedmann, (CEO and Chairperson), Mandy Poole (Chief Operations Officer), Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert (Head of Conservation), Alison Jänicke (Head of Resource Development), Kerryn Morrison (Senior Programme Manager: Africa), Constant Hoogstad (Senior Programme Manager: Industry Partnerships) and Dr Ian Little (Senior Programme Manager: Habitats). The team generally meets on a weekly basis, subject to schedules and holidays. During the financial year the Executive Management Team met more than 25 times. Agenda items focussed on strategic matters, and issues such as governance and compliance; financial performance; resource development (human and financial); physical infrastructure (properties and equipment); operations and IT; communications and branding; partnerships; and new ventures. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Management Team led in the management of the Trust's response to COVID and the national lockdown, and its activities in times of severe restrictions in the country.

Conservation Management Team: The EWT Conservation Management Team (CMT) met ten times during the financial year. Support Services and Programme Managers attend these meetings, where the focus is on conservation, research, ethics, strategic and programmatic issues. Matters discussed included programme and project management, conservation strategy, ethics, data sharing, science and research, partnerships, new projects and regional field offices. Financial wellbeing and sustainability are also discussed from a programme/project perspective. Where field-based managers are unable to attend the CMT, the EWT uses internet-based video meeting platforms to provide staff with the ability to participate remotely in these crucial meetings by audio and/or video conferencing.

Conservation Forum: The EWT Conservation Forum (CF) met ten times in the financial year. These meetings are for all staff. Remote-based staff are encouraged to attend physically when possible or to connect using internet-based video meeting platforms. The CF provides a forum for information-sharing between field and head office-based staff, and seeks to promote a greater understanding of other's portfolios of work. Guest speakers often attend the CF to raise awareness of issues outside of the EWT's fields of expertise. Meetings are podcast for staff to listen to if they are unable to attend CF.

POLICIES

The EWT regularly reviews its internal policies and procedures, to ensure that the Trust is compliant with, and progressive in its application of, all external and statutory requirements.

During the year the EWT finalised a substantive review of all the Trust's policies and procedures with the assistance of an external human resources consultant, ERX. Once the review was complete, the EWT Human Resources Department led in the complete and comprehensive updating of the EWT Policies and Procedures Handbook.

In the financial period under review, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr has provided invaluable assistance, in particular on property-related matters.

GOVERNANCE
TEAM

Mandy Poole
Chief Operations Officer

Lauren Bailey
Senior Accountant

Yves Manana
Information Technology Manager

Florence Nkholise
Head of Finance

Ayanda Sibiya
Senior Accountant

Private Bag X6
Gallo Manor 2052
South Africa

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Registered Auditors
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Waterfall City
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the summary statement of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and summary notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of The Endangered Wildlife Trust for the year ended 30 June 2020. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 26 October 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the financial statements. However, the summary financial statements are misstated to the equivalent extent as the audited financial statements of The Endangered Wildlife Trust for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the requirements as set out in note 1 to the financial statements. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 26 October 2020.

In common with similar organisations, it is not feasible for the Endangered Wildlife Trust to institute accounting controls over cash collections from subscriptions, donations and fundraising activities prior to the initial entry of such collections in the accounting records. Accordingly, it was impractical for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

Trustees' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with basis of accounting described in note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Fundraising Act, for determining that the basis of preparation is acceptable in the circumstances and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the summary financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Deloitte & Touche

Deloitte & Touche
Registered Auditor
Per: F Coovadia
Partner
26 October 2020

Photo by the EWT, Soutpansberg Protected Area

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2020

	30 Jun '20 R	30 Jun '19 R
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Land holdings and Buildings	24 065 627	16 600 000
Property and equipment	2 804 871	1 890 477
Total non-current assets	26 870 498	18 490 477
Current assets		
Accounts receivable	1 166 339	3 100 370
E-shop stock in hand	264 181	204 165
Deposit with conveyancing attorneys	-	8 050 000
Cash and cash equivalents	38 021 543	21 493 679
Total current assets	39 452 063	32 848 214
TOTAL ASSETS	66 322 561	51 338 691
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Trust funds		
Accumulated funds	8 807 776	9 472 014
Non-distributable reserves	26 057 219	17 934 280
Total Trust funds	34 864 995	27 406 294
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	1 447 281	1 967 399
Funds held on behalf of other organisations	3 240 074	4 598 656
Deferred revenue	25 990 376	16 828 159
Leave Provision	779 835	538 183
Total current liabilities	31 457 566	23 932 397
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	66 322 561	51 338 691

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 30 June 2020

	30 Jun '20 R	30 Jun '19 R
Revenue	68 695 081	65 984 010
Expenses	(69 359 319)	(65 944 515)
Total Comprehensive Operational (Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(664 238)	39 495
After charging:		
Depreciation		
Owned and leased assets - charged to income	173 268	115 827
- charged to non-distributable reserves	805 153	1 013 912
	978 421	1 129 739
and after crediting:		
Interest received – bank deposits	1 544 384	1 673 432
Accumulated funds at beginning of period	9 472 014	9 432 519
Accumulated funds at end of period	8 807 776	9 472 014

Photo by the EWT Drylands Conservation Programme

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis. The following are the principal accounting policies used by the Trust and are consistent with those of the previous periods.

1.1 Revenue

Gross revenue excludes value-added tax and represents bequests, grant, institutional and bilateral income, individual and corporate donations, interest on cash balances and other voluntary contributions. Project income is recognised as project expenses are incurred. All other income and expenses are recognised on receipt and disbursement.

1.2 Deferred revenue

Revenue received for specific projects is matched against project expenditure when incurred. Unspent Programme Revenue is treated as Deferred Revenue. Deferred revenue relating to completed projects is re-allocated to other projects. Deficits are recouped from other donors or projects.

1.3 Land Holdings

The Trust raises funds from donors specifically for the purchase of land holdings, to further conservation and biodiversity protection. Land holdings are included at cost and are not depreciated.

1.4 Vehicles and equipment

Vehicles and equipment are included at cost. Cost includes all costs directly attributable to bringing the assets to working condition for their intended use.

Depreciation is calculated by a charge to income computed on a straight-line basis so as to write off the cost or amount of the valuation of the assets over their expected useful lives.

The depreciation rates applicable to each category of fixed assets are as follows:

Leasehold improvements	10% straight-line
Vehicles and equipment	20% straight-line

Donated artwork is not depreciated.

Assets purchased for projects are charged against revenue upon acquisition. The related depreciation of these assets is written down against Non-Distributable Reserves.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an item of property and equipment is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is included in income or deficit for the period.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are measured at fair value and comprise cash on hand, deposits held on call with banks and investments in money market instruments.

1.6 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Trust has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Trust will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the statement of financial position date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding

the obligation.

Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows.

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, the receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

1.7 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the Trust's statement of financial position when the Trust has become a party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets

The Trust's financial assets are bank balances and cash and accounts receivable.

The accounting policy for bank balances and cash is dealt with under cash and cash equivalents set out in note 1.5.

Accounts receivable are stated at amortised cost.

Financial liabilities

The Trust's principal financial liabilities consist of accounts payable.

Accounts payable are stated at amortised cost.

1.8 Trust funds

The Trust raises funds for future projects which are designated as Special Funds in the Statement of Financial Position. Due to the fact that the future use of these funds is unspecified, Management assesses and releases funds back to the Statement of Comprehensive Income as and when approved by a resolution of the Board. The Trust does not currently hold any Special Funds.

1.9 E-Shop Products

E-Shop products bought are treated as a prepayment and only recognised as an expense when items are sold.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Our staff are regularly recognised, both internationally and nationally, for their outstanding contributions towards conservation. These awards provide well-deserved acumen for our team and are an important indicator of our conservation credentials. The EWT is very proud of the following staff who have recently been recognised for their conservation excellence:

Whitley Award for Nature: Dr Jeanne Tarrant – affectionately known by everyone as 'the frog lady', was recognised through a so-called 'Green Oscar' for her outstanding contribution towards frog conservation in South Africa. Edward Whitley, Founder of the Whitley Fund for Nature, said: "Jeanne is an inspiring leader who tirelessly advocates for amphibians – an often-overlooked group. We hope that this Whitley Award will bring about real change for amphibians and their habitat through science, policy, and community education."

IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership Award: André Botha received this prestigious international award in recognition of his outstanding contribution as Overarching Coordinator of the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures, and as co-chair of the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group.

International Conference on Ecology and Transportation – International Stewardship Award: Two EWT programmes, the Wildlife and Energy and Wildlife and Transport programmes, were recognised for their innovative and holistic approach to tackling the impacts of linear infrastructure, such as roads and power lines, on wildlife in Africa.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Honorary Officers Corps – Certificate of Recognition: Samson Phakathi received recognition for four years' of support, including through anti-poaching, community workshops, local rural security and traditional authorities to various staff from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife within the Lion River Group, both in the district and more widely across the province.

INTERNAL AWARDS

The EWT acknowledges outstanding achievements by its staff through monthly and annual awards. The top achievers for this year include:

- **CEO Award:** Constant Hoogstad – Senior Manager: Industry Partnerships.
- **Programme of the Year Award:** Soutpansberg Protected Area.
- **Programme Manager of the Year Award:** Lourens Leeuwner – Wildlife and Energy Programme.
- **Conservation Achiever of the Year Award:** Amos Letsoalo – Wildlife and Energy Programme.
- **Conservation Supporter of the Year Award:** Claire Relton – African Crane Conservation Programme, Cynthia Chigangaidze – African Crane Conservation Programme, Thembisile Mlimi – Support Services.
- **Honey Badger (fiercest field officer) Award:** Oscar Mohale – Wildlife and Energy Programme.
- **Maluti Award (managing conflict situations):** Ashleigh Dore – Wildlife in Trade Programme.
- **Pawprint Brand Ambassador Award:** Cole du Plessis and his trusty dog Lihle – Carnivore Conservation Programme.
- **Media Award:** Drylands Conservation Programme.
- **Newcomer of the Year Award:** Khanya Peacock – Designer, Catherine Vise – Soutpansberg Protected Area.
- **Long Service Award – 10 years:** Grant Beverley – Carnivore Conservation Programme, Emma Chisare – Human Resources Assistant.
- **Long Service Award – 20 years:** Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert – Head of Conservation.

EWT staff collecting the ICO award.

WHO WE WORK WITH

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The EWT achieves its significant conservation impacts by collaborating with a host of organisations, including government agencies and parastatals, communities, other NGOs, companies, academic institutions and private individuals. While our current partnerships are too numerous to mention individually, we would like to draw attention to the following overarching strategic alliances and partnerships that were in force over the past year:

- African Parks
- aha Hotels and Lodges
- Alliance for Zero Extinction (International)
- APOPO (Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling) (Belgium/Tanzania)
- BirdLife South Africa
- Cape Leopard Trust
- CapeNature
- Community Action for Nature Conservation (Kenya)
- Conservation International Foundation South Africa
- Conservation South Africa
- Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
- Eskom Holdings HLD SOC Ltd
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- Fauna and Flora International
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (International)
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Hawk Conservancy Trust (UK)
- International Crane Foundation (USA)
- Kitabi College for Conservation and Environmental Management (Rwanda)
- National Department of Parks and Wildlife (Zambia)
- National Zoological Gardens of South Africa
- Nature Uganda
- Pathfinder International
- Peace Parks Foundation
- The Peregrine Fund (UK)
- Population Sustainability Network (UK)
- Rainforest Trust (USA)
- Saving the Survivors
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African National Parks
- The Wild Foundation (US)
- United Nations Development Programme
- Wilderness Foundation
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
- WWF South Africa

In addition, through our action on the ground across most of the country, we work closely with all relevant national and provincial conservation departments and agencies.

Our efforts to ensure that our work is based on sound scientific methods, and contributes to knowledge in the conservation sector, mean that we have forged strong relationships with a diversity of academic institutions, including:

- Alterra Wageningen University (Netherlands)
- Boise State University (USA)
- Liverpool John Moores University (UK)
- Mekelle Biodiversity Centre (Ethiopia)
- North-West University
- Reading University (UK)
- Rhodes University
- Tshwane University of Technology
- University of Cape Town
- University of the Free State
- University of Johannesburg
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- University of Kent (UK)
- University of Limpopo
- University of Mpumalanga
- University of Pretoria
- University of Utah (USA)
- University of Venda
- University of the Witwatersrand

The EWT and the IUCN – the International Union for Conservation of Nature

The EWT is a long-standing member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation comprising approximately 1,400 government and NGO members. During the year under review, the EWT's Head of Conservation, Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, continued in her role as Chair of the IUCN South Africa National Committee, served as Chair of the Regional Committee for the East and Southern African Region, and represented the region on the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development.

In addition, our expert staff play key roles among several of the IUCN's Commissions. Dr Ian Little is the Regional Chair for East and Southern Africa for the Commission on Ecosystem Management, and also represents the EWT on the Temperate Grasslands Specialist Group, and the Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship Group, of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). Wendy Collinson is an active member of several specialist groups of the WCPA related to connectivity and road ecology.

We are particularly active in the IUCN Species Survival Commission, with staff currently contributing to the following specialist groups and bodies under this commission:

- Afrotheria Specialist Group (Dr Andrew Taylor, Chair).
- Amphibian Specialist Group (Dr Jeanne Tarrant, Co-Chair Habitat Protection Working Group; Regional Chair, Afrotropical Realm).
- Canid Specialist Group, and its subsidiary, the Wild Dog Advisory Group (Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert).
- Cat Specialist Group, and its subsidiary, the African Lion Working Group (André Botha; Yolan Friedmann, Samantha Nicholson).
- Conservation Planning Specialist Group (André Botha; Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, Kerryn Morrison).
- Crane Specialist Group (Kerryn Morrison, Chair).
- Hornbill Specialist Group (André Botha, Dr Gareth Tate).
- National Red List Alliance (Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, Coordinating Body).
- Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group (André Botha).
- Vulture Specialist Group (André Botha, co-Chair).
- Lagomorph Specialist Group (Cobus Theron).

Other participation

- Dr Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi: Regional Coordinator, East Africa African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Grey Crowned Crane International Working Group.
- André Botha: vice-Chair of the Technical Advisory Group of the Convention on Migratory Species' (CMS) Raptors MoU; CMS Working Group on the Prevention of Wildlife Poisoning (and served on its Lead Task Force); Working Group for the Prevention of Wildlife Poisoning in southern Africa; Director, Board of the Raptors Research Foundation.
- Wendy Collinson: Scientific Expert Committee and Steering Committee member of Infrastructure Eco Network Europe; International Association for Impact Assessment; Research Committee, South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL); Steering Committee and Programme Committee, International Conference for Ecology and Transportation; Ecology and Transportation Committee, Transportation Research Board.
- Ashleigh Dore: National Cycad Task Team; Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) Advisory Committee on matters related to the management, breeding, hunting and handling of elephant, Lion, Leopard and rhinoceros.
- Yolan Friedmann: Board Member, Tourism Conservation Fund; Environmental Subcommittee and Just Transition Working Group, Business Unity South Africa (BUSA); Advisory Board, Global Change Institute (University of the Witwatersrand); Advisory Board, Ford Wildlife Foundation.
- Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert: Africa and Madagascar Steering Committee Representative, Alliance for Zero Extinction.
- Dr Ian Little: Key Biodiversity Areas Committee, South Africa; National Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group, South Africa.
- Kerryn Morrison: Coordinator, AEWA Grey Crowned Crane International Working Group.
- Samantha Nicholson: National Action Lion Task Team (NALTT); South African Lion Management Forum.
- Dr Lizanne Roxburgh: Technical Committee, AEWA; Associate Editor *Ostrich*: Journal of African Ornithology.
- Tanya Smith: Regional Coordinator, AEWA Grey Crowned Crane International Working Group.
- Dr Jeanne Tarrant: Chair, Sungazer Working Group (South Africa); Committee Member, Herpetological Association of Africa; Steering Committee for The Conservation Symposium, South Africa; Associate Editor for the *African Journal of Herpetology* and African Journal of *Wildlife Research*.
- Dr Gareth Tate: Bearded Vulture Task Force.

Photo by the EWT African Crane Conservation Programme

THE EWT'S VIPs

THE EWT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dirk Ackerman (Chairman) 1999*| Antony Wannell (Vice-Chairman) 2005| Paul Smith (Treasurer) 2011| Dr Barry Ackers 2017| Angela Ruth Cherrington 2015| Anthony Diepenbroek 2015| Mike Esterhuysen 2001| Joanna Goeller 2006| Sharmila Govind 2017| Karin Ireton 2004| Dr Anusha Lucen 2015 – Jan 2020| Abdul Kader Mohamed 2015| Dr Crispian Garth Olver 2014| Dr Veniela Pillay 2017| Charlotte Lesego Rammusi 2017| Christo Reeders 2014| Muhammad Osiman Seedat 2015| Kiyasha Thambi 2015| Yolan Friedmann (ex-officio member) 2005

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Paul Smith (Treasurer: ex- officio member) 2011| Dr Barry Ackers 2010| Abdul Kader Mohamed 2016| Neil Morris 2014| Charlotte Lesego Rammusi 2017| Muhammad Seedat 2016| Antony Wannell 2008

SOCIAL, ETHICS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Mike Esterhuysen (Chair) 2010| Sharmila Govind 2016| Karin Ireton 2010| Dr Veniela Pillay 2017| Paul Smith 2012

LIFE HONORARY MEMBERS

Clive Walker 1986| Angus Morrison 1993| Derek Ritchie 1993| Kenneth Whyte 1993| Dave Donald 2012| David Mitchell 2013| Dr John Ledger 2013| Michael Barnett 2013

* Year in which appointed by the EWT

Members of the Board of Trustees at the 2019 end of year AGM.

WHERE WE WORK

CONTACT US

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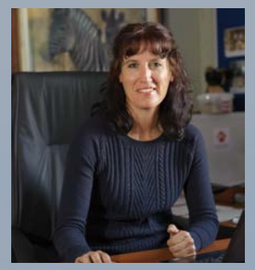
Johannesburg, South Africa

The EWT is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation, registration number 015-502 NPO and PBO registration number 930 001 777. The EWT is 501 (c)(3) compliant, US IRS Reg. EMP98-0586801.

The EWT is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



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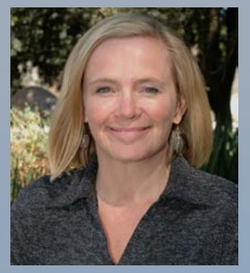

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SENIOR MANAGEMENT

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Dr Ian Little
Senior Manager: Habitats
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Kerryn Morrison
ICF/EWT Senior Manager: Africa
kerrynm@ewt.org.za

Despite the COVID-19 travel restrictions, and working under essential permits, the EWT continued with some of its most pressing conservation work. In this instance, we relocated five sub-adult Cheetahs from Samara Private Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape to four Zululand reserves. This picture was taken at Mkuze Falls Game Lodge just before offloading two male Cheetahs. The round trip covered almost 3,000 km and would not have been possible without ongoing support from the Ford Wildlife Foundation. Photograph by the EWT's Vincent van der Merwe