

# Integrated Report 2019



ENDANGERED  
WILDLIFE TRUST

Protecting forever, together.

**FRONT COVER:** Our front cover photo shows a magical vista, looking south over the EWT's Soutpansberg Protected Area, as the western Soutpansberg majestically rises more than 800 m above the fertile plains at its highest peaks. Note the purple *Khadia borealis* succulent, dotted over the sandstone ridge in the foreground. This plant is endemic to the Soutpansberg, and one of the 2,443 plant taxa found on this biodiversity-rich mountain.



WE SUPPORT

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



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

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We live in an age where the pace of communication exceeds anything ever known. This has led to an increased, and constantly increasing, global consciousness of the need to preserve our beautiful planet.

Information about human impact on the planet is more readily accessible than ever, and is capturing the imagination of younger generations who are questioning their future on this planet – whilst knowing that there is no viable alternative. The rallying call for planetary preservation is being amplified by this younger generation's tech-savvy networks, but there is an important aspect that needs to be taken into account. We need to acknowledge the scientific facts of our impact on the planet, and then we need to understand this impact and make rapid changes, before it's too late.

The ultimate driver of our planetary, and ultimately self, destruction is the mode of our economy. We need to take a careful audit of our value bases, particularly in where we see, and derive, value. The constant quest for bigger, better, more has to be tempered with how much abuse our beloved Mother Earth can withstand – and I'm personally worried that we are getting very close to the point of no return.

In a recent interview with BBC Newsnight, Sir David Attenborough stated: "Slowing population growth is key to saving the planet. In the long run, population growth has to come to an end. There are some reasons for thinking that will happen almost inevitably."

It's this last sentence that should have you really worried. People are living longer, and positive population growth

means that our planet has to support and give sustenance to an ever-increasing number of human beings. This means that something has to give, and in many ways the real impact is on our wildlife as their habitat is constantly eroded.

If we're to survive and thrive on this planet, we need to look at better ways of using our resources and make the changes now that will have the most rapid effect. Our planet was gifted with the autonomous ability to heal itself – when not interfered with by mankind. Amongst the biggest threats that we pose to the planet is our modes of production; our use (and abuse) of energy and resources; and the way in which we interact commercially.

I think that we need to learn from history. To me the key to economic preservation lies in a form of ecological reformation in which we re-look at every interaction we have, and figure ways of how to improve processes and how to reduce our impact on Earth.

Our consumption of energy is one of the key areas we need to review, and we need to look at far better ways to produce the energy that we use. The way our energy consumption poisons our environment is simply unsustainable and has a huge impact over an ever-increasing footprint. This in turn challenges our already stressed environment. Global warming is being seen in the impact on certain key species, like bees, and it is imperative that we take notice of the signs and start making changes rapidly.

People are becoming conscientised to the harmful effects of plastics and it is thanks to some huge corporate initiatives



that the tide on plastic waste is starting to turn. Awareness of the harmful impact of plastics is increasing and consumers are starting to pay credence to the warnings and to make more informed choices. I am hopeful that over time we will see a substantial reduction in the use of plastics, particularly those of a single-use nature, and that we will start to see a reduction of plastic waste in our water resources.

With the volatility of the global economy and the environment under increasing pressure, the relevance of the EWT and similar organisations has never been greater. We know that financial resources are finite, and with economies under increasing pressure, we're grateful to our donors and sponsors for their commitment to our efforts to preserve the planet. With your continued backing we will strive to make tomorrow not only possible, but better than today.

I'm pleased to report that we are making good progress with our Conservation Campus. Our vision, once executed upon in full, will not only provide a permanent home base for the EWT and one which it will own, but this strategic step will afford us the opportunity of creating a significant conservation hub which will have the capacity and capabilities to further cement active working partnerships with fellow conservation organisations .

This report highlights our strategic imperatives to which we remain committed. I am humbled by the commitment and dedication that I see from the staff and the Board of Trustees of the EWT. They embody and create the spirit of the EWT, and it is my fervent hope that their tireless efforts will be appreciated by many future generations.

My heartfelt thanks to our trustees management and staff, who's tireless efforts and dedication continue to lift the organisation to an ever greater relevance in the conservation arena.

It is indeed a great privilege to be part of such a remarkable organisation.

#cooltoconserve

**Dirk Ackerman**

**Chairman of the Board**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

## 2018–2019: THE YEAR OF THE HOME

House hunting can be tricky. It can be both exciting and stressful at the same time, by trying to fill a long list of seemingly impossible requirements with a limited budget, and a finite range of options in the market.

For nearly a decade, the EWT has been dreaming, planning and deliberating around our “forever home.” A permanent base from which we would thrive and develop. A location from which we can never be removed and a place that wouldn’t just house our staff, but would nurture young minds, stimulate creative thinking, catalyse great achievements, welcome friends and colleagues, embrace new partnerships, and provide a refuge for creatures great and small.

Soon, we realised that we were not looking for a home, but creating a VISION. As with most of that which the EWT does, it is a big, audacious, bold, and fiery vision, and one that holds much more than just the promise of housing our staff. The 2018/19 year was the year that this vision came to life!

The EWT’s Conservation Campus in Midrand had been in the planning stages for some time, and in 2018/19 the foundations were laid for the realisation of this vision, a dream that we began to touch and feel. Our seemingly impossible list of criteria for our forever home was met, and more, with the acquisition of a magnificent 15 acre park with a protected wetland system running through it, right in the middle of Gauteng’s development zone. With easy access to public transport, major highways, and both Pretoria and Johannesburg CBDs, our Conservation Campus provides an opportunity to connect with our stakeholders and partners with ease, in a park-like setting, whilst reducing our carbon footprint as well as that of our staff and visitors.

The EWT’s new Conservation Campus will conserve much more than just our future: it is home to a variety of urban-dwelling wildlife both big and small. From chameleons and Giant Bullfrogs, to Sparrow Hawks, Black Shouldered Kites, Spotted Eagle Owls and genets, our new home provides safe haven from increasing pressures. The EWT’s vision encompasses restoring the wetland and indigenous fauna unique to the property and, in time, offering the residents of South Africa’s largest city, the chance to experience and interact with the conservation work of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, first-hand and in their back yard.

The EWT was founded on, and built by, the passion and energy of people, and it is people that will continue our legacy. The new campus will therefore be investing in growing people through our Biodiversity Economy Hub to support the dreams of environmental entrepreneurs as they build a better, more sustainable future for our country. We will nurture, grow and develop the innovative spirit of a new generation of conservationists who will continue to drive conservation impact, EWT-style. We will embrace new partners, and offer our resources to those that share our vision of a world that values and sustains the diversity of all life. We will build a strong and thriving conservation community to sustain the treasures of South Africa’s wildlife heritage for generations to come.

The Conservation Campus is a long-term project but 2018/19 saw the EWT take ownership of the property, embark on the planning processes, and embrace new partnerships. Whilst the EWT has other conservation-based landholdings, becoming a first-time homeowner has been both a scary big step as well as one of the most exciting moves we have ever undertaken. No giant leap forward can happen without a support crew and our dream has become a reality entirely due to the sharing of our vision by the Hans Hoheisen



Charitable Trust and Rand Merchant Bank. Long-time firm supporters of the conservation champions in South Africa, these friends of the EWT have believed in us, supported us and made this legacy project a reality, for not only the EWT, but the future of conservation in this country. If 2018/19 was anything, it was a year of realising the value of having a dream and the power of partnerships to make that happen.

Whilst all of this was going on, the EWT's tireless work to save species and habitats, and benefit people, continued unabated with remarkable results. The range of highly threatened species such as Wild Dogs and Cheetah was expanded by no less than 180,000 ha and 162,700 ha, respectively. We doubled the size of our conservation landholdings in the Soutpansberg Mountains and are well on our way to declaring more than 20,000 ha of critical biodiversity in the mountain under conservation stewardship. This is on top of our initiation of negotiations for the increased protection of 93,835 ha of important habitats, including montane grasslands, coastal wetlands and swamp forests in other parts of Africa. Despite Gauteng being the most developed province in South Africa, we made enormous strides in protecting what remains of its unique biodiversity by declaring 10,635 ha in the province under biodiversity stewardship. Importantly, eight of the priority species in the EWT Strategy – Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Wattled Crane, Border Barb, Eastern Cape Rocky, Marico Barb, Cheetah and African Wild Dog – have achieved stable or increasing populations in five countries in East and southern Africa. In a world where good news seems increasingly hard to come by, the EWT remains a beacon of hope for our planet and the creatures that call Africa their home.

A home must be a sanctuary, a safe place and a refuge. For thousands of wildlife species, their homes remain under increasing threat as this planet continues to suffer the ravages of human greed and destruction. And so the EWT celebrates when we discover new range for the Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit and witness the reversal in the decline of cranes across KwaZulu-Natal. When a snare-surviving leopard or Wild Dog gives birth in the wild, and a pangolin is rescued from the illicit wildlife trade to return

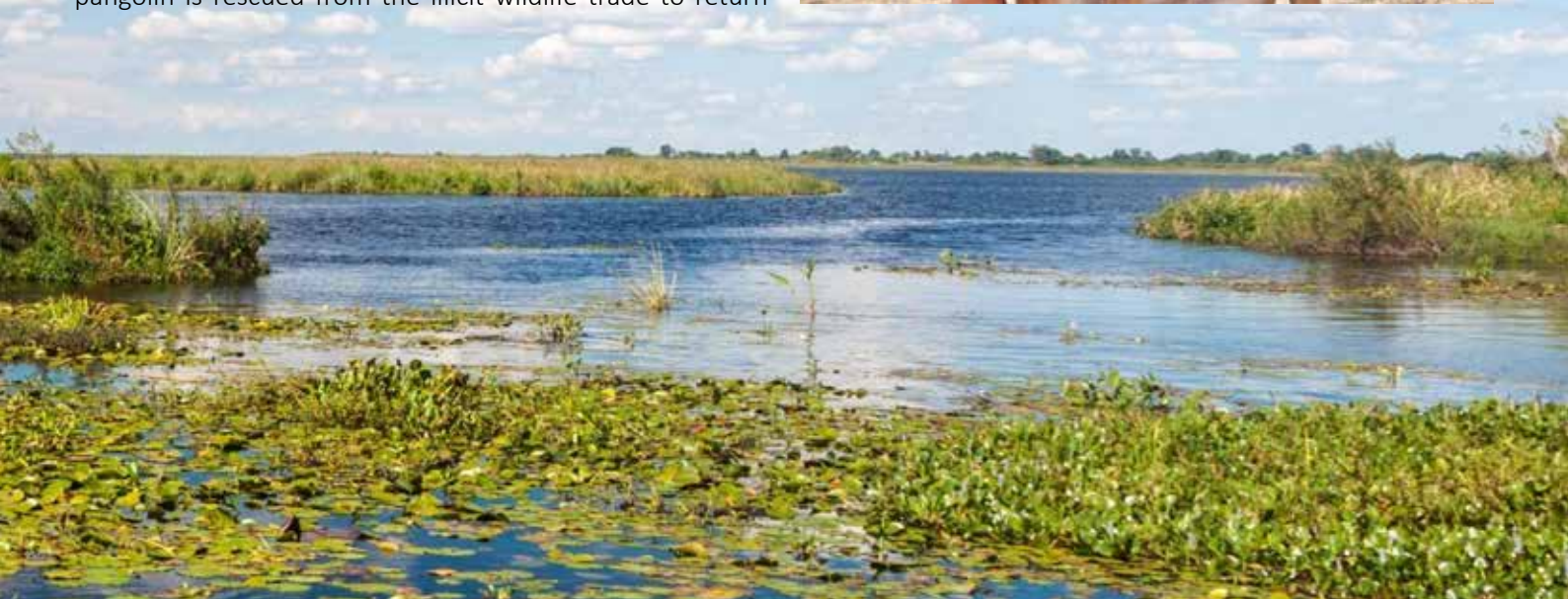
to the wild; it inspires us to keep going and to do more. You make this happen with the unwavering support that you give us, and to all who donate money to us, no matter how little or generous the sum may be, you share in all these moments with us.

To the staff of the EWT. You ARE conservation. Each and every one of you is part of a movement that is saving our planet. You are part of a family that is making a difference where it is needed. You are important and valued and you are our future. Thank you to the Trustees of the EWT who give up their valuable time for us. We simply cannot achieve any of our dreams without the role that each and every one of you plays.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our new home and to another year of protecting forever, together.

**Yolan Friedmann**

**Chief Executive Officer**



# WHO WE ARE



## WHO WE ARE

The EWT is a non-governmental, non-profit, conservation organisation, founded in 1973, and operating throughout southern and East Africa. We conserve threatened species and ecosystems by initiating research and conservation action programmes, implementing projects that mitigate threats facing species, and supporting sustainable natural resource management.

The EWT communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency for the benefit of the region. We have developed a unique operational structure through which our Mission and objectives are achieved – meeting our conservation goals through the work of specialist, thematic programmes, designed to maximise effectiveness in the field and enhance the development of skills and capacity.

These programmes form the backbone of the organisation and they harness the talent and enthusiasm of a dynamic network of individuals who specialise in an

area of conservation importance and have developed unique expertise in response to the challenges they face. Programmes work with multiple stakeholders and harness their diverse but relevant expertise to address environmental priorities. Stakeholders include national and provincial government, other NGOs, landowners, local communities, farm workers, conservancies, academic institutions and industry. The EWT also acts as a public watchdog, often 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 Africa to the benefit of all people.



*The EWT's conservation impacts are driven by three Strategic Imperatives that underpin everything we do.*





# STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 1 SAVING SPECIES

We achieve our impacts under Strategic Imperative 1 through three high-level goals that aim to improve our understanding of species and their threats, undertake targeted interventions to reduce threats, and improve the status of threatened wildlife populations.

**KEY:**

- On track
- Some progress



Published **14** papers on the status and threats to species in southern Africa



Conducted aerial population surveys at **6** sites in **3** countries (South Africa, Zambia and Mozambique)

**65**

Deployed more than **65** tracking devices on target species to better understand their movements as a basis for more effective conservation action

Improved understanding of population status and threats for species of concern



Adopted innovative solutions to locate hard-to-find species like Riverine Rabbits and golden moles

Expanded passive acoustic monitoring of threatened frogs to **2,550** hours at **5** sites



**10**

Monitored breeding success for **10** different species to better understand population drivers

Deployed **11** livestock guarding dogs to make **30,000** hectares of farmland safer for carnivores



**246**

Cleared **246** wire snares from Medike Game Reserve in the Soutpansberg Protected Area and removed **4** snares from Wild Dogs in the Kruger National Park

**GIS**

Used GIS technology to develop proactive platforms for tackling threats such as wind farm collisions and poisoning

Targeted interventions lead to measurable reduction of threats to species of concern



Trained **384** people in **7** countries to improve their response to poison incidents

Commented on **4** pieces of national legislation in South Africa



100% of **21** audited beekeepers complied with honey badger friendly practices

Contributed to **3** national species action plans, **1** provincial species management plan, and **4** municipal plans



Drove the range expansion of Cheetahs by **162,700 ha** and Wild Dogs by **180,000 ha** through reintroductions and translocations

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



Achieved stable or increasing populations for **8** threatened species across **5** countries in East and southern Africa (including populations of Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Wattled Crane, Border Barb, Eastern Cape Rocky, Marico Barb, Cheetah and African Wild Dog)



# STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 2 SAVING HABITATS

We achieve our impacts under Strategic Imperative 2 through three high-level goals that aim to improve the protection status of threatened habitats, reduce the rate of loss from threatening processes, and restore the ecological integrity of priority systems.

**KEY:**

- On track
- Some progress



Purchased **1,335 ha** to expand the footprint of the Soutpansberg Protected Area in Limpopo



Gazetted **10,635 ha** in Gauteng under biodiversity stewardship, fulfilling **35%** of the province's 2030 protected area expansion targets

**93,835 ha**

Entered negotiations for the increased protection of **93,835 ha** of important habitats, including montane grasslands, coastal wetlands and swamp forests

Formal protection of priority habitats and ecosystem functions



Initiated important partnerships that will result in the improved protection of **650,000 ha** in the Kafue Flats, Zambia, and **3,488 ha** of riparian habitat in the Lowveld of South Africa



Identified **4,250 ha** in new sites to target for increased protection of threatened amphibians



Of **>1,200** development applications recorded, we identified and registered as an Interested and Affected Party on **28** applications that will have direct potential threat to our core species or habitats of conservation concern

Significant reduction in loss of priority habitats



**3** potentially destructive development applications were withdrawn due, at least partly, to our opposition

Cleared **1,075 ha** of *Mimosa pigra* infestation in the Kafue Flats, Zambia, providing jobs to **150** local people



Cleared alien invasive plants from **450 ha** of wetlands important for Pickersgill's Reed Frogs, at the same time creating **75** jobs for local people

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

Helped to build institutional capacity to ensure ecological integrity of habitats through the development of **3** municipal wetland management plans, **1** water management plan, and a catchment management forum representing **15** organisations and communities



Shared sustainable land management best practices with **32** emerging farmers in the Karoo, trained **17** farmers on climate smart agriculture in Koffiekraal, and **5** farmers on permaculture practices in Reboile



# STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 3

# BENEFITING PEOPLE

**KEY:**

- On track
- Some progress
- No progress



We achieve our impacts under Strategic Imperative 3 through four high-level goals that aim to improve our understanding of threats to biodiversity from industry, implement innovative solutions for reducing industry impacts, promote the development of sustainable nature-based economies, and encourage the adoption of biodiversity-friendly lifestyles.



Recorded **189** wildlife related incidents for Eskom distribution, investigated **88** of these and generated **82** recommendation letters



**166**

Trained **116** Eskom staff to assist in the identification and reporting of wildlife incidents

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



Accumulated **>25,000** data points for wildlife-related crashes on roads in South Africa, primarily from the N3 Highway

Searched **176** plots underneath wind turbines at Sere Wind Farm, totalling **~5,000** km of walked transects



Guided the retrofitting/replacement of **668** Eskom electricity poles to ensure that they are wildlife friendly, and marking of **463** spans with bird flight diverters



Proactively marked **114** high-risk spans of transmission line with bird flight diverters and a further **820** spans of distribution lines, under the Eskom/EWT Partnership



Uptake of innovative solutions for reducing industry-related environmental impacts

Assessed the biodiversity mainstreaming readiness of **362** Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed companies, and **2** state-owned enterprises



Launched the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Toolkit to improve business practices relating to biodiversity

Signed **18** conservation agreements, bringing livelihood benefits to **1,519** people in Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya



Employed **14** local people to support our work in the Soutpansberg Protected Area

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

Trained and distributed beehives and equipment to **16** new beekeepers in the southern Drakensberg



Capacitated **22** families living on the Eskom Ingula Reserve with the necessary skills to prevent livestock losses in a non-lethal manner

**400** people took the Wild 'n Free pledge, and made a commitment not to visit centres offering wildlife interactions



**3,000** people participated in the 2019 Leap Day for Frogs

Adoption of biodiversity-friendly lifestyles among target audiences

Increased awareness of carnivore conservation through **72** talks to **1,152** international tourists



Tested the effectiveness of road collision awareness signs in national parks: they reduced collisions by **24%**

# AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The four threatened crane species of Africa 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 conservation is mainstreamed into local decision making and practices for sustainable species and habitat conservation impacts. In South Africa, the African Crane Conservation Programme (ACCP) works in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Mpumalanga, while across the rest of Africa, the ACCP has projects in Zambia, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, and supports work in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Senegal.





# PROGRESS BAROMETER



## TAKING FLIGHT FOR CRANES

We conducted the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive KwaZulu-Natal crane aerial survey in July 2018, in partnership with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and supported by Eskom. A film crew and producer from Reuters accompanied us, covering the aerial survey – one of the longest running aerial surveys for cranes in the world – and highlighting how the survey supports efforts to conserve cranes. The survey yielded 380 Wattled Cranes, the highest ever count for the species here, with 3,132 Grey Crowned and 1,295 Blue Cranes recorded. This is incredible news and demonstrates that our conservation actions continue to ensure growth of all three of South Africa's crane species.

We also concluded the 2018 aerial survey of the Kafue Flats in Zambia. Here, we recorded a notable reduction in the population of the endemic Kafue Lechwe antelope, and local extinction of the Blue Wildebeest. Exacerbating the situation, livestock numbers and human encroachment increased. Wattled Crane numbers increased from 2,962 in 2015 to 3,169 in 2018 and appeared healthy, with large flocks, and many pairs boasting small chicks. Our survey report will be useful in developing a zonation map of the Kafue Flats to guide future land use, given these threats to

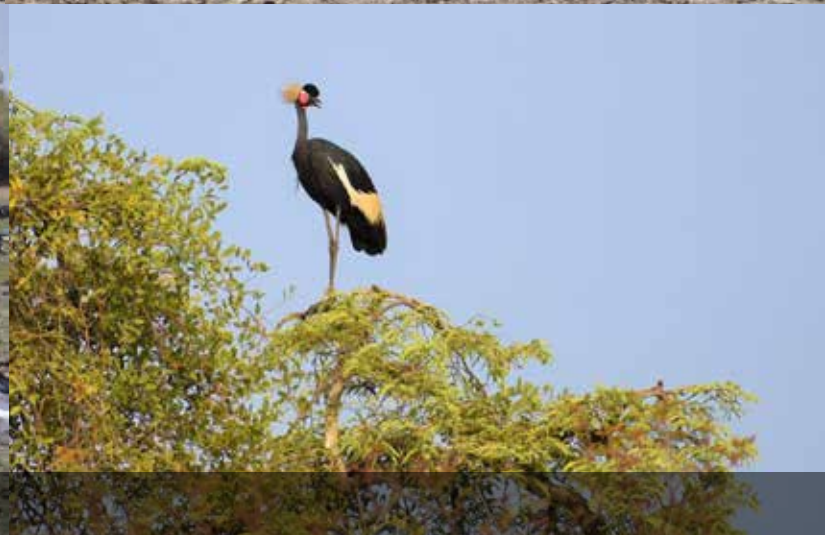
cranes. We also took the opportunity to draft a Kafue Flats Emergency Plan, and are now exploring the opportunity of entering into a partnership with government to improve the management of the Flats to the benefit of this important wetland and its wildlife.

*This work is made possible by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Eskom, Rand Merchant Bank, N3TC, WWF Zambia, and Nimick Forbesway Foundation.*

## ZAKOUMA RANKED AS CRANE HOTSPOT

In April 2019, we had the pleasure of counting 13,885 Black Crowned Cranes in Zakouma National Park in Chad. This is the highest number of cranes ever recorded from the ground, anywhere in Africa, for any crane species. Our count confirms Zakouma, and southern Chad more generally, as an important stronghold for this Vulnerable species. In fact, our work also elevates the status of Zakouma to one of the most important crane areas in the world. In addition to their high population numbers, the cranes appear to be breeding well, as we saw many hundreds of family groups with chicks.

*This work is made possible by the Leiden Conservation Foundation.*



*Cranes in Chad*

## BUOYED UP IN ETHIOPIA

During a trip to Ethiopia in March 2019, we developed a conservation plan for Boyo Wetland and its Black Crowned and Wattled Cranes, in close collaboration with local leaders and community members. Developing the plan was a remarkable process, as it required translation between three different languages. We are pleased to report that community members and local authorities took ownership of what needs to happen to improve the functioning of the wetland for both the people and its cranes. In addition, we visited the key crane sites in the southern parts of the country to explore crane conservation and research needs. The remote Gambella region in the south west appears to be a key area for Black Crowned Cranes, with more than 3,000 counted in the two days we were there.

## THE SCIENCE OF CRANES

We participated in the Max Plank Institute's 1,000 crane tracking initiative, which aims to fit 1,000 trackers onto the 15 crane species around the world to better understand migration and movement patterns within the crane family. In February 2019, as part of this initiative, we deployed the first 25 trackers we received from the Max Plank Institute – seven in the Overberg, seven in the Swartland, and 11 in the Karoo (all in South Africa).

We also presented a paper entitled *Review and Assessment of Birds in Support of an Integrated Flow Assessment for the*

*Kafue Flats to the 2018 WaterNet Symposium in Livingstone, Zambia.* Ours was the only paper that linked the presence of congregations of birds – including cranes – as an indicator of ecosystem health, based on long-term data of bird counts. Our presentation helped to underscore the importance of long-term data in monitoring threatened species like cranes.

*This work is made possible by the Leiden Conservation Foundation, Max Planck Institute, and Nimick Forbesway Foundation.*

## A PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO TRADE IN BLACK CROWNED CRANES

Burkina Faso and Senegal submitted a proposal to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to uplist the Black Crowned Crane from Appendix II to Appendix I at the CITES Conference of the Parties, in August 2019. Based on the criteria for uplisting to Appendix I, we motivated that a proactive and precautionary approach be adopted for the Black Crowned Crane proposal, and we supported their uplisting to Appendix I. Trade is a significant threat to Black Crowned Cranes, and the successful uplisting to Appendix I means that the legal trade in the species will be permitted only in exceptional circumstance, hopefully reducing both legal and illegal trade.

*This work is made possible by Aqualia International Foundation.*



*Kerryn Morrison with Wattled Cranes at Boyo Wetland, Ethiopia*

## A STING IN THE TAIL

Under the auspices of the Healthy Catchment Alliance, a partnership between the EWT, WESSA and Conservation South Africa, working together in three priority water catchments, we trained and distributed beehives and equipment to 16 new beekeepers in the Upper Umzimvubu catchment, near Matatiele, in the southern Drakensberg. Our Drakensberg Project Community Officer, Thabo Madlala, is a mentor for these beekeepers, working together to produce economically viable honey and associated products, under the banner of the micro-enterprise, 'Drakensberg Indigenous Honey'. Training focused on collecting wild bees, hive maintenance, and splitting swarms, which is a proactive method to colonise empty hives and improve hive productivity.

*This work is made possible by the HCI Foundation, WWF Nedbank Green Trust, European Outdoor Conservation Association, Rand Merchant Bank, and the European Union.*



*Beehives in the Drakensberg*

## CELEBRATING CRANES

In partnership with the Chrissiesmeer Community Forum, we hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Chrissiesmeer Crane Festival in July 2018. Following a slightly different format from previous years, the festival remained very popular with locals from Ermelo and surrounding towns, with over 150 people visiting the festival and, nearly 30 people participating in the crane viewing trips. We were fortunate enough to treat participants to a flock of over 80 Grey Crowned Cranes and a family of Blue Cranes during the trip.

We directly engaged with over 300 learners and members of public for World Wetlands Day celebrations in Newcastle and Wakkerstroom, school greening events in Chrissiesmeer, and surrounding areas such as Warburton, school excursions, and an associated information stand in Pietermaritzburg.

Building on the Chrissiesmeer model, our Uganda Crane and Wetlands Conservation Project held its first ever Crane Festival on 10 October 2018. The series of events demonstrated the importance of crane conservation. The festival drew over 860 attendees, which included media, politicians, community members, government leaders, teachers and students. We received positive feedback and commitment from government leaders to support this moving forward each year.

*This work is made possible by the Ford Wildlife Foundation, BAND Foundation, and the Dohmen Family Fund.*



*Grey Crowned Cranes*

## **TOUTING CRANE CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS IN KENYA**

We conducted a feasibility assessment for initiating Conservation Agreements at King'wal Wetland in western Kenya. Conservation Agreements are negotiated voluntary agreements that are designed to provide benefits to local communities in return for conservation action that reduces threats to cranes and wetlands. Our findings reveal that the Conservation Agreements model is feasible in the area and will build on the 18 Conservation Agreements signed with community groups to date, which commit communities to conservation action that reduces threats to cranes and wetlands, in return for livelihoods that have benefitted 1,519 people in Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya.

*This work is made possible by the Dohmen Family Fund, Conservation International, and Leiden Conservation Foundation.*

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

We hosted the first community workshop on waste management in Chrissiesmeer as part of our 'Healthy Environment' campaign launched earlier in 2018. Nearly 80 members of the Kwachibikulu township of Chrissiesmeer attended the event. During the workshop, Mr Thwala – the principal of Lake Chrissie Secondary – presented the two best essays written by learners on the issue of waste and litter. The learners highlighted that litter is a result of people's attitude, and that litter and waste dumping has no place in our environment. Learners reiterated that respecting the environment is critical, and equal to respecting yourself as citizens. The community was amazed by the messages brought by the learners and agreed that waste is a societal problem.



*Grey Crowned Cranes flying in Western Kenya*

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT TO RESTORE THE KAFUE FLATS

We continued our efforts to remove and control *Mimosa pigra*, an invasive exotic shrub that spreads quickly across floodplains, rendering these habitats unsuitable to birds and mammals. One hundred and fifty workers from local communities surrounding the Lochinvar National Park were re-employed to undertake physical removal of *Mimosa*; 1,075 ha of the initial 2,635 ha target (41%) of *Mimosa* had been cleared by June 2019. In addition, both the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) and Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), granted us permission to implement biological control methods to tackle *Mimosa pigra*. Their permissions allow the ICF/EWT Partnership, in collaboration with the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) Africa, ZARI and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, to import and release the *Carmentia mimosa* moth, a biological control agent that has proved to be effective in reducing the growth vigour of *Mimosa* in Australia and elsewhere. With this approval, we now have a fully integrated physical, chemical, and biological approach at hand to control this rampant, invasive plant.

*This work is made possible by Segré Fondation, WWF Zambia, Dohmen Family Fund, Nimick Forbesway Foundation, and Frankfurt Zoo-Stiftung Feuchebiete.*

## CRANES IN THE CLASSROOM

Through capacity building and mentorship, crane custodians and schoolteachers have developed a formidable and

dynamic network, able to take a leadership role in sharing and disseminating expertise and experience to fulfil our crane and wetland crane conservation mission in Kabale, southwestern Uganda. The two forces have worked tirelessly together to implement “Cranes in the Classroom”, a resource developed by one of our partners in South Africa, the KwaZulu-Natal Crane Foundation, in three primary schools of Buranga, Buhara and Rushabo.

*This work is made possible by the BAND Foundation and Dohmen Family Fund.*

## SEEING IS BELIEVING

For a wetland to be regarded as healthy, it needs to function optimally for each of the ecosystem services that it provides. These services include water purification, flood control, maintaining base flow of rivers, water storage, and sustaining various forms of biodiversity. Creating awareness through practical approaches, using wetland-monitoring assessments as a demonstration, is yielding promising results. Through our wetland health demonstrations using clarity tubes, small-scale farmers in southwestern Uganda and western Kenya now appreciate the difference in water appearance when streams flow through degraded areas compared to well-restored wetland areas. These changes have been as a result of restoring sections of wetlands previously used for agriculture, by the planting of wetland sedges and reeds, and withdrawing agriculture from the wetland. Small scale farmers see first hand the role wetlands play in cleaning water and preventing erosion.

*This work is made possible by the BAND Foundation, Dohmen Family Fund, and Leiden Conservation Foundation.*



*Wattled Cranes on Kafue Flats, Zambia*

## A GREENER FUTURE

To address the acute shortage of fodder/feed for cattle in Rwanda, due to a zero grazing policy in Rwanda's wetlands, and to reduce pressure on Rugezi Marsh and its biodiversity, our Rwanda Crane and Wetland Conservation Project embarked on the promotion of Napier Grass production as an alternative livelihood. Napier Grass is a fast growing, palatable grass pasture crop that can be used as fodder for cattle. To date, we have distributed over 100,000 grass seedlings to 529 households and there is a growing demand from community members.

*This work is made possible by the MacArthur Foundation and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.*

## A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW

During the reporting period, we unfortunately investigated a poisoning incident in the Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment, where 18 birds, including three Blue Cranes and one Grey Crowned Crane, were found poisoned around one of the pans within the Protected Environment. Samples were collected and test results confirmed organo-phosphate poisoning. The case was handed over to the relevant authorities, with whom we are working closely in order to investigate the motive and identify the perpetrators. This event serves as a constant reminder of the threat that poisoning poses to cranes and our biodiversity in general.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank and N3TC.*



*Grey Crowned Cranes flying in Rugezi Marsh, Rwanda*

# AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME TEAM



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# BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME



The purpose of the Birds of Prey Programme (BOPP) is to ensure that viable wild raptor populations continue to soar in the African skies and across its landscapes. We are committed to saving southern Africa's threatened birds of prey and the spaces they inhabit. Through our applied research and conservation of birds of prey, we preserve the irreplaceable ecosystem services they provide and synergistically safeguard their habitats that support not only the integrity and lives of other wildlife, but people too.

Throughout southern Africa, birds of prey are experiencing accelerated population declines, with many species (vultures in particular) shifting 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 nocturnal and diurnal birds of prey throughout southern Africa, to reduce the impact of anthropogenic threats, maintain and recover populations, and secure/create important raptor safe spaces to improve their overall conservation status. We identify and address key conservation threats to these species, and their critical habitats, through a combination of practical effectiveness, partnerships, education and awareness, legislative support, and robust science – strengthening the efficiency of the regional birds of prey conservation network. BOPP currently operates in important raptor spaces across South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana.

# PROGRESS BAROMETER

By 2023, our conservation action results in at least a 5% increase in the number of breeding pairs of threatened birds of prey in six focal sites.



Safeguarded all monitored breeding pairs across the Lowveld, Karoo and Kalahari (currently 32 Lappet-faced Vultures, >100 Hooded Vultures and >500 White-backed Vultures), against development, disturbance and breeding site degradation.

149

Actively monitored and protected 149 pairs of breeding Martial Eagles on Karoo farmland.

Identify and protect at least ten raptor safe spaces under threat, conserving an additional 10,000 ha of priority threatened BOP safe space by the end of 2023 for long-term conservation benefit.

10

Actively protected 10 breeding pairs of African Grass-owls on their Highveld grassland patches.

3

Formed 3 important new partnerships (Kruger 2 Canyons Biosphere, Timbavati and BlyOlifants nature reserves) to reinforce our vulture conservation and research work in the Lowveld.

VSZ

Initiated a Lowveld Riparian Vulture Safe Zone (VSZ) along the Blyde and Olifants River to protect critical breeding habitat for Hooded Vultures and Pel's Fishing Owls, a Kalahari VSZ as well as a Karoo VSZ, which includes a network of over 400 local farmers.

By 2023, we have an improved understanding of the conservation status of four priority BOP species and their key threats in South Africa.



Launched research in the Karoo on threats to Martial Eagles that breed on electrical infrastructure. Fitted GPS trackers to 9 eagles to understand their spatial ecology, threats and survival.



Fitted GPS trackers to 3 Wahlberg's Eagles to understand their migratory movements. Recorded the first ever full migration flight of a GPS-tracked pair, from the Lowveld, South Africa, to South Sudan and Chad, and back again.



Only counted 6 Pel's Fishing Owls in winter surveys along a 90-km stretch of the Olifants River, raising concerns about this historical stronghold. Monitored breeding success and productivity of White-backed Vultures, Hooded Vultures and Pel's Fishing Owls.



Published 3 scientific papers that improve our knowledge on threats, ecology, and distribution of birds of prey.

By 2023, provide relevant data and research on BOP to guide, inform and support targeted interventions related to energy infrastructure for at least two threatened BOP species.



Initiated collision sensitivity maps for Cape Vultures in the Eastern Cape Renewable Energy Development Zone. We GPS-tagged 4 birds and will tag a further 10.



Began collecting breeding and movement data from GPS-tracked Martial Eagles that breed on electrical infrastructure along 1,700 km of transmission power lines.

By 2023, our interventions to address wildlife poisoning have led to a decline in poison-related mortality of scavengers at four focal sites in South Africa.



Engaged with >50 farmers to reduce the use of poisons to kill problem carnivores in the Karoo.

8

Supplied 8 poison response kits to key response units in northern Zululand.



Developed an early warning carcass detection system using GPS-tracked vultures to find poached or poisoned carcasses.

Facilitate the restoration of at least three degraded, altered and/or fragmented BOP habitats.



Established partnerships with two Highveld collieries to assist with the rehabilitation of degraded sites for the benefit of African Grass-owls.

**KEY:**

- On track
- No progress
- Some progress
- Planned objectives

## RESEARCH-GUIDED CONSERVATION ACTION

We have placed a strong emphasis on auditing and analysing our valuable population monitoring, GPS-tracking, and breeding datasets, that we have collected over the last two decades. Our initial analysis has revealed that breeding vulture populations – particularly White-backed Vultures in the northeastern regions of the country – have shown declines of over 90% at some sites. Ongoing nest checks at over 650 nest sites will elucidate whether these declines are simply because the birds have shifted their breeding colonies, or whether they are real declines, most likely associated with the recent increase in poaching activity and poisoning incidents in South Africa (Kruger National Park), Botswana, and in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, which spans the borders of South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Two such checks were conducted during the reporting period, and a final check for 2019 will be conducted in October. We will consolidate our findings in an annual report by the end of 2019. Guided by our data, we have identified key areas, including the central and Greater Karoo, the Lowveld region of Mpumalanga and Limpopo, core breeding and foraging sites in the moist savanna regions of North West and Gauteng, as well as the Kalahari and the Eastern Cape, where we are in the process of establishing Vulture Safe Zones (see Vulture Safe Zone section) around important vulture breeding colonies.

*This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, Cennergi, Amakhala Emoyeni, WindLab, and Eskom.*

## A VOICE FOR THE VULTURES

We formed three important new partnerships to reinforce our vulture conservation and research work. The first two are with Timbavati Private Nature Reserve and BlyOlifants Nature Reserve, where we will be establishing vulture feeding sites, monitoring vulture nest sites, and trapping birds for a study on vulture health and disease transmission. We are proud to say that Timbavati Private Nature Reserve

will soon become 'lead-free', choosing to use only unleaded ammunition, thereby helping to reduce the risk of lead poisoning in both vultures and people. The third partnership is a research agreement with the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Laboratory (University of Pretoria) to investigate population genetics, disease, and a suite of contamination and health aspects in vultures

We have guided the establishment of a new vulture feeding site north of Phalaborwa, where we plan to conduct fieldwork for our study on vulture health from 2020 to 2022.

We are assisting the South African government with drafting a National Vulture Multi-species Action Plan, based on the international plan endorsed by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), which was published in 2017. As a signatory to the CMS, South Africa is obliged to formulate and implement a national plan. We have therefore offered our expertise and time in helping the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (previously the Department of Environmental Affairs) to draft this document, which will be reviewed by all stakeholders. We also have representatives on the National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Task Group, and on the Lead Task Team. These groups work to reduce poisoning in wildlife, and our focus as members is on reducing lead poisoning in vultures, and reducing direct and indirect poisoning, where the latter is the biggest threat to vultures throughout Africa.

We have published three peer-reviewed scientific publications this year. The first publication highlights the threats that captive predator facilities may pose to free-ranging vultures. The second publication describes the breeding ecology of Hooded Vultures and the first recorded case of an Egyptian Goose breeding in a Hooded Vulture nest. The third publication (in press at the end of this reporting period) quantifies the spatial distribution, contribution and trends of vulture supplementary feeding sites in South Africa.

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



*African White-backed Vulture in flight*

## VULTURE SAFE ZONES

In order to combat the concerning decline of vultures across South Africa, we have developed a suite of conservation interventions geared to address the key threats and stabilise and recover vulture populations. We are excited to be spearheading the establishment of the first Vulture Safe Zones in South Africa. The use of Vulture Safe Zones has been identified as a priority conservation intervention in the Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (which was published in 2017). The development of Vulture Safe Zones is one of the most effective ways to tackle the threats to vultures in South Africa's dynamic landscapes. They allow us to protect areas that are important to vultures by focusing on an area, identifying what the threats are, and implementing specific conservation interventions to address these threats.

Within these zones, we actively mitigate and, where possible, remove all major human-related threats to vultures. An important step in this process is the direct involvement of landowners in the establishment of Vulture Safe Zones,

engaging and empowering owners across large areas to commit to managing their properties in ways that will create safe spaces for vultures and other wildlife to thrive. This ensures that existing vulture populations stabilise and, importantly, provides the opportunity for vultures to return to their traditional home ranges and breeding sites. Vulture Safe Zones can also function as release sites for captive-bred birds and provide benefits for many other species.

To achieve this broad-scale conservation initiative across southern Africa, we are working with SANParks, private reserves including BlyOlifants and Timbavati Private nature reserves, and other key stakeholders including the Kruger 2 Canyons Biosphere (K2C), Raptors Botswana, BirdLife International and BirdLife South Africa, to create Vulture Safe Zones in important vulture breeding and foraging habitat across the SADC region.

*This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, Cennergi, Amakhala Emoyeni, WindLab, and Eskom.*



### WHAT IS A VULTURE SAFE ZONE?

*A Vulture Safe Zone is an appropriately-sized geographic area in which targeted conservation measures are undertaken to address the key threats relevant to the vulture species present. VSZs are being developed in southern Africa as an approach to complement national and international efforts to reduce the impact of existing and emerging threats to stabilise and promote recovery of existing vulture populations.*

## PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS LOWVELD RIPARIAN RAPTORS

The Lowveld riparian systems along the Blyde and Olifants rivers remain some of the most vital breeding strongholds for White-backed and Hooded Vultures, Pel's Fishing Owls and a diversity of other raptors in South Africa. These river systems form an integral core of the raptor conservation work the Birds of Prey Programme does in the Lowveld. We are building significant conservation networks and partnerships with landowners and reserves along these rivers to monitor and secure core breeding sites and reduce disturbance. Over the last year, we have monitored 250 breeding pairs of White-backed Vultures, 50–60 pairs of Hooded Vultures, and 17 pairs of Pel's Fishing Owls and are establishing new approaches to protect these populations and use these species as flagships for the conservation of the highly threatened Lowveld riparian habitat and its wildlife.

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



*Juvenile White-headed Vulture*



*Pel's Fishing Owl*

## PEL'S FISHING OWLS, THE TALE OF TWO RIVERS

After several years of studying Pel's Fishing Owls along the Blyde and Olifants rivers, the contrasts between the populations could not be more stark. Winter surveys along 80 km of the Olifants River took place in July and August 2018, and only turned up six individuals, and extremely few sightings through the rest of the year. Compared to the Blyde River where we recently had our first instance of two juveniles fledging in one territory, and with a pair spacing of 5 km, the notion of the Olifants River being a stronghold is sadly falling by the wayside. Urgent action is required to improve the current status of the Olifants River for this species, as well as many others.

The BOPP has become a partner in the "Friends of the Blyde" initiative, involving multiple NGOs and public partners in working towards protecting the Blyde River and associated riparian forest. Together, we will work to counteract mining threats in the upper catchment in particular, as well as alien invasive vegetation and monitoring illegal vegetation clearing. We are formalising partnerships with the local Kruger 2 Canyons Biosphere as well as a network of farmers to work towards protecting the riparian habitat through biodiversity stewardships and begin the rehabilitation of degraded riparian habitat.

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

## GAINING GROUND FOR GRASS-OWLS

We have actioned two new waves of conservation activity as part of our Guardians of the Grasslands Project, which replaces our Highveld African Grass-owl Project. The first tackles the most prevalent threats of livestock trampling and fire that continue to destroy breeding habitat for Grass-owls (more than 50% of our study sites were lost to fire this year). We are working with communities and schools in Witbank, Middleburg, and Kriel, as well as three private landowners in Kriel, Kendal and Delmas areas, to start burning firebreaks and constructing exclosures around active Grass-owl patches, as well as developing land management plans to support the conservation of these important grass patches. We have identified over 20 individual active Grass-owl patches across the Highveld coalbelt where we have started this phase of work.

Secondly, we have initiated the first formal rehabilitation of Grass-owl habitat on old mining sites, with a focus on restoring *Imperata cylindrica* grass patches, a grass species favoured by these habitat specialist owls for roosting and breeding. Over the past year, we have developed new partnerships with Mafube Operations, Anglo American, (near Middleburg, Mpumalanga) and a colliery in the Kriel area, Gauteng, to assist with the rehabilitation of degraded sites on their collieries and surrounding farmlands.

Our Grass-owl colour ringing programme, initiated in 2016, has also revealed some unique findings around the dispersal and survival in Grass-owl fledglings. To date we have re-sighted six uniquely colour ringed individuals that were ringed as nestlings. On average these birds dispersed <5 km from their natal territories and, in May 2019, we even recorded the first breeding of a colour ringed individual that had been ringed only two years prior. We also recorded the first direct fatalities of ringed individuals as a result of fire, highlighting the risk that fire poses to grassland species.

*This work is made possible by Anglo American and Rand Merchant Bank.*

## EAGLES LIVING ON THE LINE

Over the last year, the BOPP launched its new Karoo Martial Eagle Project in partnership with Eskom Research and Development. This conservation project aims to understand the population status and dynamics, breeding, diet and movement ecology in this pylon nesting population of Martial Eagles in the southwestern Karoo. An astounding proportion (~36%) of the national population of Martial Eagles lives and breeds on power lines that traverse the semi-arid central Karoo and southern Kalahari landscape. We conducted two aerial surveys in October 2018 and May 2019, which revealed 149 Martial Eagle nests along 1,700 km of transmission power lines. With an estimated 800 adult Martial Eagles left in South Africa, this represents a significant population of great conservation value indeed. Over the next two years, we will be intensively monitoring this population with the use of advanced GPS tracking technology, as well as aerial and ground surveys. This work

will provide the baseline on how we manage and conserve this important population of this globally threatened eagle. To date we have successfully trapped and fitted GPS units on four individual eagles (two juveniles and two adults) across our Karoo study site. These birds show varied movements and behaviour, with the juveniles currently displaying massive dispersal ranges of approximately 33,000 km<sup>2</sup> and adults displaying much smaller home ranges of 800 km<sup>2</sup>. We aim to track a total of 18 birds to investigate the spatial ecology and survival of birds in this poorly studied pylon-nesting population. The project is being run in concert with the Kruger National Park Martial Eagle Project run by the University of Cape Town, of which we are project partners.

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



*Dr Gareth Tate with a nestling Grass-owl*



*African Grass-owl in flight*

## MARTIALS IN THE KRUGER

Following on from an improved breeding season in 2018, this year seems to show another season of reasonable, although sub-optimal breeding. One of the highlights has been finding four new Martial Eagle nests that are all active, filling some of the gaps in expected territories. The trend from last year of poor breeding in the north seems to continue with improved breeding further south in Kruger. By the end of November 2019, with the help of high-tech remote nest cameras that we have installed on active Martial Eagle nests, we will have a better picture of this year's breeding status within one of the key protected areas for this species.

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

## FOLLOWING THE RAIN

This year, the BOPP officially launched its Wahlberg's Eagle Research and Conservation Project for this intra-African migratory raptor that is currently displaying population declines across Africa. This exciting new project will be run in collaboration with some of the world's top raptor conservation organisations including the Peregrine Fund, the Mara Raptor Project, Kenya Birds of Prey Trust, and the EWT. This will allow us to monitor and study key populations

of Wahlberg's Eagles across their African range, with the EWT leading the work in southern Africa.

The movement ecology of these intra-African migrants – that breed in southern Africa and overwinter in more equatorial climes – remains poorly understood. The present dearth of knowledge about these eagles impedes our ability to conserve them, develop effective management plans, or protect the core spaces they depend on to breed, forage and migrate. Importantly, information gathered from this study will allow us to elucidate the future threats posed by continued climate change – information fundamental in updating and reviewing the species' current global conservation threat status, as well as implementing the most critical conservation interventions in an uncertain future.

To date, we have GPS-tagged three adults and set up nest cameras on three different pairs in the Lowveld to monitor their breeding success and colour-ring their chicks. This work will be expanded significantly in the following years to include the population of birds across the Lowveld, as well as Namibia and Botswana. We currently have nine tracked birds in total and will be trapping and GPS tagging another 20 birds from South Africa.

*This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust.*



*Martial Eagle*



*Martial Eagle being ringed*



*Dr Lindy Thompson, John Davies and André Botha with a Cape Vulture*

# BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME TEAM



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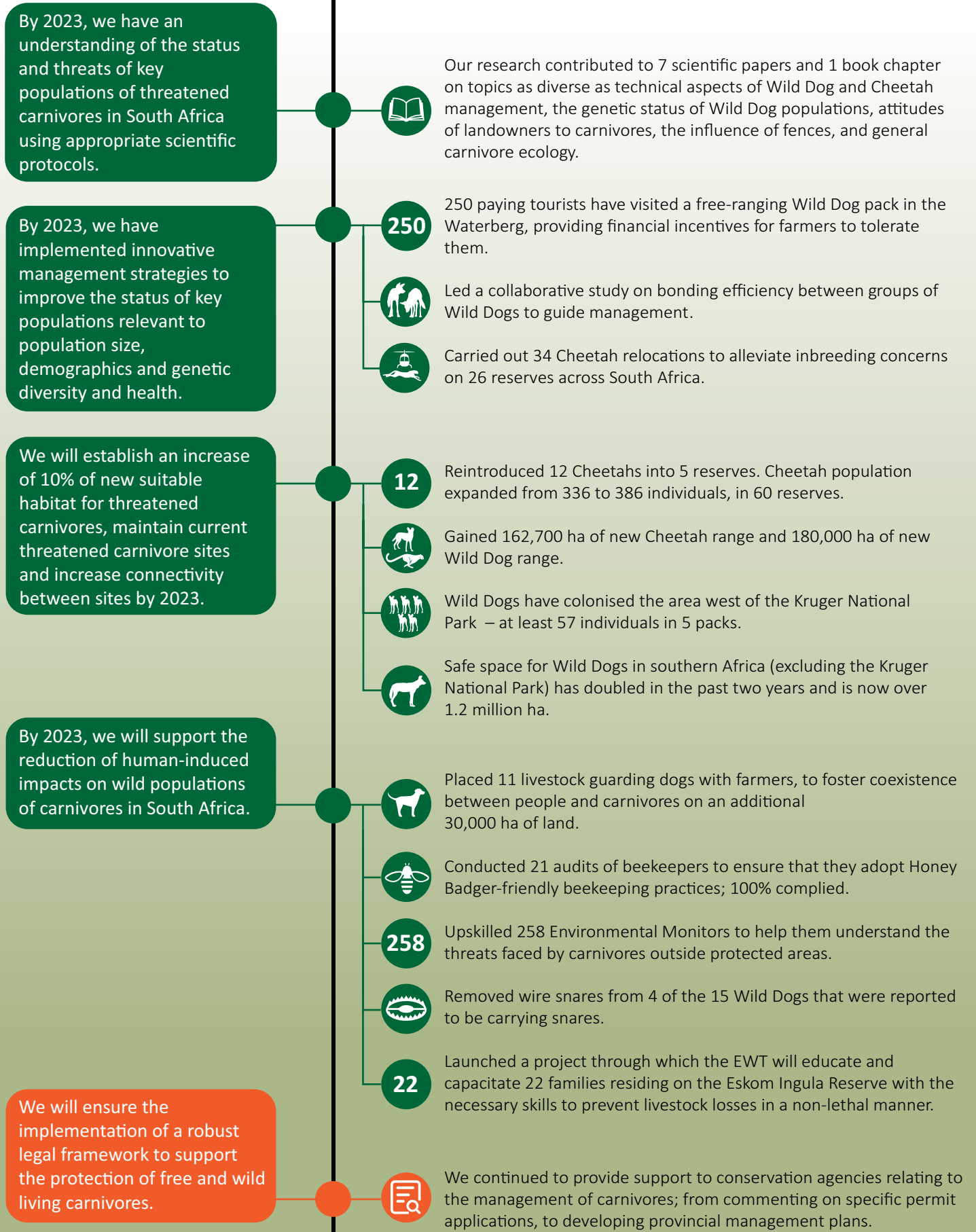
# CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



Carnivores are one of the most charismatic, yet threatened orders, and require innovative strategies to ensure their survival. The Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCP) boldly implements large-scale, collaborative, field-based projects to increase the range, numbers and status of Africa's threatened carnivores. 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 to carnivores; and supporting legislation to protect carnivores. We work in every province of South Africa and have recently expanded our work into Mozambique and Malawi.

## PROGRESS BAROMETER



**KEY:**  
● On track      ● No progress  
● Some progress      ● Planned objectives



## ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

The EWT launched the Cheetah Conservation Project in 2011, with the aim of increasing Cheetah numbers, and maintaining their welfare and genetic integrity across southern Africa and beyond. Working hand-in-hand with game reserves and protected areas, we are proud to report that the project continues to be a great success. This is thanks to many private and state reserves creating safe space for Cheetah populations. Through this year, Cheetah numbers in South Africa continued to grow, with litters of cubs born in many project reserves across South Africa, and even in Malawi. In fact, with 46 cubs born and just 11 mortalities recorded, the Cheetah Conservation Project's numbers expanded by 10% in the past year, allowing the total project population to exceed 380 individuals for the first time, spread across 60 reserves. By comparison, when the project started in 2011 there were 217 Cheetahs spread across 40 reserves in South Africa (excluding the Kruger National Park and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park).

Our work included the reintroduction of Cheetahs into a further six South African reserves, including Lapalala Wilderness and Rogge Cloof. These reintroductions increased the amount of safe space for wild Cheetahs by 61,000 ha (610 km<sup>2</sup>). The Rogge Cloof reintroduction brings Cheetahs back to the Roggeveld, from where they had disappeared in the 1860s. We also carried out 46 relocations to alleviate inbreeding concerns on eight reserves.

*This work was made possible by PwC, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Sere-med, Gaie Fergusson, and CRC Industries RSA.*

## WE'LL MEET AGAIN

A previously unknown population of wild Cheetahs residing in Namaqualand was discovered using the EWT's camera traps. The last wild Cheetah observed in Namaqualand was seen in 1993, and prior to that in 1955.

## EXPANDED HORIZONS FOR WILD DOGS

One of the Carnivore Conservation Programme's goals is to reverse the decline of Wild Dogs globally, by actively increasing their populations and range throughout southern Africa. We achieve this by establishing, maintaining, and expanding safe space for Wild Dogs; reducing threats to their survival; ensuring positive changes in human-based values to Wild Dogs; and supporting laws to better protect them. Despite this, Wild Dogs are still among the most threatened animals in Africa, under severe threat from snaring, poaching, disease, roadkill, and habitat loss. In southern Africa, the EWT is proud to help reverse this continent-wide trend, and the population has stabilised at around 500 individuals. Like Cheetahs, we have continued to increase the range of Wild Dogs. This included the 26,000 ha Makalali Game Reserve, which hosted the latest recruits into the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project, coordinated by the EWT and the Wild Dog Advisory Group of South Africa (WAG SA). While Wild Dogs have passed through Makalali before, the introduction of this new, young pack of four is aimed at making the species a permanent fixture in the reserve.

*This work was made possible by the Relate Trust, Painted Wolf Wines, the Bateleurs, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Christophe Lombard, and David Pocock.*

## ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

With some 500 individuals to monitor, keeping tabs on the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project takes time and diligence. There are 60-plus Wild Dogs living in the Kalahari region of South Africa. During the year we fitted each pack with a tracking collar, took genetic samples from several pack members and are developing an identity kit for each individual. We also located the Afsaal Wild Dog pack in southern Kruger National Park to replace a faulty GPS collar. The pack had not been seen since July 2018, when they started denning in a remote wilderness area.

In December 2018, we removed a snare from around the neck of a female Wild Dog in Punda Maria in northern Kruger National Park. This is significant given the isolated location

of this unknown group of dogs that have most likely moved into Kruger from Zimbabwe. An additional 14 Wild Dogs in and near the Kruger National Park were found travelling with snares, of which we were able to remove three.

As part of the exit strategy of the disease survey and targeted vaccination project in the Kruger National Park, we took four 24-month follow-up samples and removed or replaced six non-functional collars, including one from a dispersing Wild Dog that had evaded capture for over a year. This sample was important for assessing response to vaccinations that had been given 18 months before.

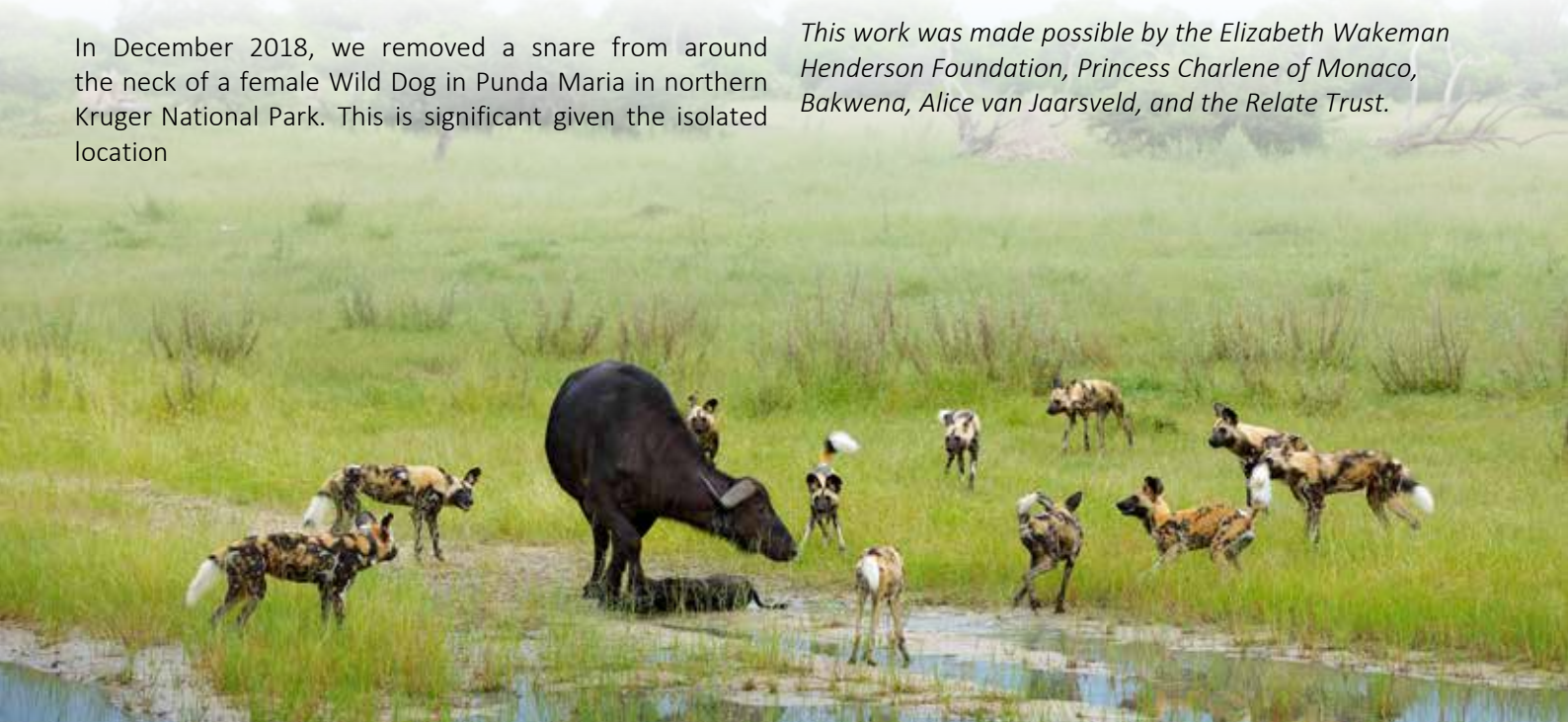
*This work was made possible by AON, Dane Haylett-Petty, Investec, Richard Bosman, Painted Wolf Wines, Tania & Rob Ihlenfeldt, Wildlife ACT, Riaan Nysschens from Wild Dogz Burger Bar, and Wildlifevets.com.*

## WILD DOGS DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES

We launched the Waterberg Wild Dog Ecotourism Project at the start of this year. The pack here is unique – the only known free-roaming Wild Dogs outside of protected areas in the whole of South Africa. These individuals wander through a tapestry of farmlands and wildlife ranches. In order to safeguard these special animals they must, literally, pay for themselves. Through Wild Dog ecotourism excursions, we are using funds generated from Wild Dog experiences and distributing these to landowners according to the space-use of the pack. Since the beginning of July 2018, we have taken out 250 paying tourists on Wild Dog tracking experiences, where visitors have been fortunate to view not only the pack, but the litter of nine pups at their breeding den.

During the year we were extremely pleased to locate a second Wild Dog pack roaming freely in the Waterberg. After eight months of trying, we finally managed to collar this elusive second pack. We are working hard with local landowners to establish a co-existence framework so that we can trial another ecotourism pilot this year.

*This work was made possible by the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, Princess Charlene of Monaco, Bakwena, Alice van Jaarsveld, and the Relate Trust.*



## GUARDING THE FLOCK

We placed two livestock guarding dogs with communities in the northern Waterberg. These are local Maluthi dogs, similar to the Anatolian sheep dogs traditionally used to protect cattle and sheep from predators including Leopards and Cheetahs, but bred locally, and more accustomed to African conditions. By warding off predators, these livestock guarding dogs help to alleviate human carnivore conflict that results from livestock losses to carnivores.

In November 2018, the second puppy placed in the Rebone community in the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve successfully completed his 12-month trial, with no livestock losses reported on this farm for the whole year. In fact, the Waterberg livestock guarding dogs have continued to be a success, with no losses to predators reported in areas where we placed the dogs.

We have placed 11 livestock guarding dogs with commercial and rural subsistence farmers since September 2018, effectively securing over 30,000 ha of additional safe space for carnivores where farmers and predators can coexist with minimal conflict.

*This work was made possible by the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, Princess Charlene of Monaco, Eukanuba, and Gaie Fergusson.*

## POWERING UP

We launched the EWT/Eskom Ingula Community Carnivore Conflict Mitigation Project this year. Through this project the EWT will educate and capacitate 22 families residing on the Eskom Ingula Reserve with the necessary skills to prevent livestock losses in a non-lethal manner.

*This work was made possible by a partnership with and support from Eskom.*

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Developing a Wild Dog Management Strategy and initiating a high-level meeting with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has bolstered our partnership with the provincial authority, and strengthened our conservation approach for Wild Dog management in KwaZulu-Natal. An important outcome was a renewed Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding with the provincial conservation authority.

We also worked closely with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to provide for the welfare of Tembe Elephant Park's Wild Dogs. These Wild Dogs were confined to boma living, due to concerns over their movements, which was not an ideal situation for the pack. However, following meetings between the EWT, Tembe Safaris, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and community members, an agreement was reached to release the Tembe pack back into the park. The pack has been restructured to increase its long-term prospects, and will be released once all the dogs are bonded.



*Handing over of a livestock guarding dog puppy*

## INCREASING WILD DOG RANGE IN MOZAMBIQUE

The addition of Karingani Game Reserve, Mozambique, to our Wild Dog Expansion Project has increased Wild Dog safe space in southern Africa by 150,000 ha. This was our second reintroduction into Mozambique and, with this inclusion, the safe space for Wild Dogs in southern Africa (excluding the Kruger National Park) has doubled in the past two years and is now over 1.2 million ha.

*This work was made possible through partnerships with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and The Bedari Foundation.*

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We continued to engage with communities in areas along the western boundary of Kruger National Park. We focus on educating individual youths in rural communities outside the western boundary of Kruger National Park through various initiatives and partnerships. Through a partnership with the K2C within the Kruger 2 Canyons biosphere, we have engaged with 258 Environmental Monitors from Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces to upskill them regarding the threats facing carnivores outside of protected areas, thus helping them to find non-lethal solutions to human-wildlife conflict in communities.

Over the last year, we have engaged with 139 school learners at the Timbavati Foundation. In cooperation with Spar Hoedspruit, 83 students from four schools were taken into the Kruger National Park to experience wildlife for the first time in a neutral location where wildlife was not damaging crops and livestock. This experience is critical to promoting a balanced view towards wildlife among the adults of the future. Our increased presence in communities adjacent to the Kruger National Park has allowed us to better understand the landscape of carnivore-livestock conflict in the area.

Through a partnership with G-adventures and National Geographic Journeys, we have given 72 conservation talks to 1,152 international tourists at Karongwe. These talks allow us to reach an international audience with the message of carnivore conservation. Our hope is that these guests will spread the word concerning the threats facing carnivores in southern Africa, and that some may be inspired to support our efforts to secure safe spaces for African carnivores.

*This work was made possible by Investec, G Adventures Africa, Rowan Ferreira and Spar Hoedspruit, and National Geographic.*



*Karingani Wild Dog relocation*



*Karingani Wild Dog relocation*

# CARNIVORE CONSERVATION TEAM



**Cole du Plessis**  
KZN Regional  
Coordinator



**Derek van der Merwe**  
Limpopo Regional  
Coordinator



**Grant Beverley**  
Lowveld Regional  
Coordinator



**Joseph Hlako**  
Waterberg Community  
Conflict Mitigation Field  
Officer



**Kulani Nyakane**  
Lowveld Carnivore  
Conservation Community  
Field Officer



**Vincent van der Merwe**  
Eastern Cape Regional  
Coordinator

# CONSERVATION SCIENCE UNIT

The Conservation Science Unit (CSU) 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 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. Our team consists of five staff members: a Senior Scientist, two Science Officers based at Head Office, and two Science Officers based in Cape Town.

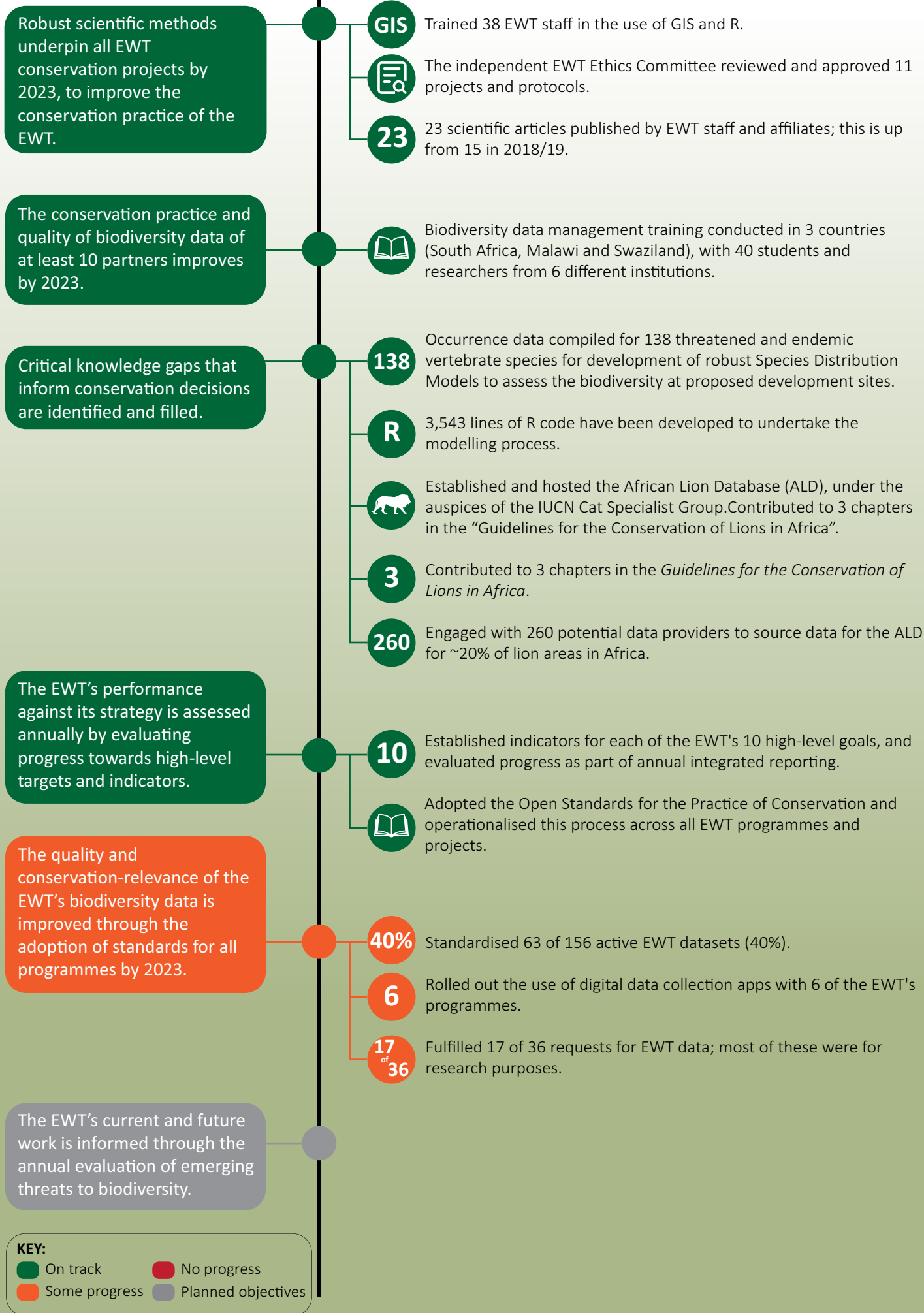
The CSU supports the work of the EWT wherever this takes place, while also working on obtaining and modelling data nationally across South Africa on endemic and threatened vertebrate species wherever they occur, and across the entire range of the African Lion in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as conducting training in South Africa, Malawi and Swaziland.

*As a support services function of the EWT, the CSU's work is made possible by our framework donors, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Barloworld, Rand Merchant Bank, Deloitte, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, and Artifact Advertising.*





## PROGRESS BAROMETER



## FROM DATA TO KNOWLEDGE

A key component of good institutional data management is maintaining an inventory of all databases. The EWT's inventory of our biodiversity datasets now stands at 370, many of which are historical. At present at least 145 datasets are in use and being tracked in the EWT dataset inventory. Just over half of these have been standardised according to global biodiversity standards and are described by metadata, which allows for effective use and sharing of data.

To assist programmes in making their field data collection and data management simpler, we have continued to develop customised data collection apps, through our NPO GIS licence from ESRI South Africa. Mobile apps have been developed with our Carnivore Conservation Programme, for capturing data during immobilisation and collaring of Wild Dogs, as well as a Wildlife Poisoning app for the Vultures for Africa Programme, which will be publicly launched in the near future once field testing is complete.

Ultimately our data should be used for scientific research and decision-making, and also be shared with our partners and the public for use in their research, conservation planning and environmental pre-screening and assessments. The EWT staff published 23 peer-reviewed papers this past year, which is up from 15 in the previous year. Our goal was to reach 20 papers by 2020, and we are happy to have reached our goal ahead of schedule. CSU staff collaborated on 11 of these papers.

We received 36 requests for data over the past year, and were able to provide data in 17 cases; four for use in conservation planning, three for use in Environmental Impact Assessments or for objections to developments, and 10 for research. In addition, data were also requested and shared five times from the African Wildlife Poisoning Database. Data were requested from eight of our programmes, but the most requested data were from the Wildlife and Energy Programme, and in particular its 23-year ongoing database of mortalities on energy infrastructure.

*This work is made possible by ESRI South Africa.*

## EFFECTIVELY CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY USING THE OPEN STANDARDS

The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation is a cycle of best practices and principles that assists teams to ensure they are systematic about planning, implementing and monitoring their conservation projects. The Open Standards has been developed and improved over the last decade by leading conservation planning practitioners, and is implemented into conservation projects across the globe.

The process of integrating the Open Standards into all EWT Programmes and projects began in 2018. Since then, all programme staff have participated in strategic planning workshops to work through Steps 1 and 2 of the Open Standards cycle. This involved fieldtrips and brainstorming sessions to understand the current ecological and social context of their projects, to prioritise threats to their target species and habitats, and to identify practical strategies to combat those threats. Teams are actively using the associated software programs, Miradi and Miradi Share, to save project plans and report on progress and indicators.

After a year of conservation action, effective monitoring and project reporting, the next step in the process is for teams to reunite to critically evaluate the assumptions they made during the first phase of the Open Standards process. This will allow for adaptation and improvement of project designs to ensure that our conservation goals and objectives are achieved. Through the Conservation Measures Partnership, a joint venture of conservation organisations and collaborators, we are also using the Open Standards and Miradi to share knowledge and lessons learnt globally across the conservation sector.



## THE EWT ETHICS COMMITTEE

In March 2018, the EWT formally established the Endangered Wildlife Trust Ethics Committee (EWTEC). The purpose of the committee is to provide guidelines for researchers and practitioners on essential information and requirements pertaining to ethical aspects of research projects and wildlife management. The committee consists of 10 members from six different institutions, and has been established in line with the South African National Standards (SANS 10386:2008).

In the last financial year, we held five EWTEC meetings and 11 EWT projects were granted ethics approval. It is important for the EWT to issue ethics approval to all our projects as this ensures that the work is carried out in accordance with the SANS, and that the work we do does not cause any undue harm to the animals or environment that we work to protect.

## USING BIODIVERSITY DATA AND ANALYTICAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING AROUND DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations provide a formal process for responsible decision-making to ensure that developments avoid undermining the integrity of socio-ecological systems in South Africa. A lack of government capacity and flawed regulations have, however, in many cases led to the loss and degradation of threatened habitats and their associated biodiversity. The failings in these processes stem from several issues relating to EIAs, including the conflict of interest between EIA practitioners and developers, and a lack of transparency and objectivity in ecological specialist reporting.

In order to tackle aspects of these issues the EWT, with support from Rand Merchant Bank, is working to develop objective methods and data products for assessing biodiversity at the site of a proposed development. To achieve this, we are gathering and collating species occurrence data for all threatened and endemic terrestrial vertebrates species (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) in order to produce a species distribution model (SDM) for each one.

SDMs provide an objective method to quantify and characterise a species' geographic distribution. We are developing an online web application containing our SDMs that allows a user to select a spatial development footprint outline after which the system will produce a report containing detailed information about the species that are predicted to occur at the site. We believe that this enables fine-scale insight into biodiversity at a site that can be used to guide decisions at various stages of EIAs. In addition, data and models from this work will be incorporated into an environmental screening tool currently being developed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF).

In addition to developing SDMs, we are also planning targeted fieldwork trips to gather more occurrence records for data-poor species. We are working with taxon experts and collaborators from SANBI, the Freshwater Research Centre, BirdLife South Africa and the Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation at the University of Cape Town.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank.*



**138**

vertebrate species included in the species distribution modeling database

**3,543**

lines of R code to get this process up and running



## DATA SCIENCE LEADS TO CONSERVATION ACTION FOR AFRICAN LIONS

In October 2018, we embarked on an exciting project on behalf of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, which is financially supported by the Lion Recovery Fund and the National Geographic Society. We are creating a first-of-its-kind database for African Lion population and distribution data. In recent decades, there has been increasing concern over the fate of this iconic African species. Some regions in Africa have observed declines of almost 43% in three lion generations, while others have seen local populations go extinct. However, few lion populations have reliable estimates of population size or trends, or demographic profiles. Furthermore, data that have been collected tends to be siloed in various research and government institutions and contributes little to conservation. A single database that consolidates population and distribution data for the species will be able to provide better conservation impact for the species. Therefore, a range-wide African Lion Database (ALD) would provide a solution to many of the current shortcomings that limit effective conservation decisions.

The database is proudly hosted by the EWT's Conservation Science Unit on behalf of the broader conservation community. Because we are hosting data that are owned by many different individuals and institutions across the globe, much of the focus of our work in the first year of the project has been on building relationships with data holders and lion experts generally, in addition to developing robust data sharing agreements to document data that are shared with the database. We have set up the database structures and

established a system of scoring the reliability of the data that we receive. We have also received some exciting out-of-known-range records for lions, that may hint at establishment of new lion prides, or previously undocumented linkages between lion populations. Our database will continue to grow in 2019 and beyond, and will develop into an online platform soon.

*This work is made possible by the Lion Recovery Fund and National Geographic Society.*



## SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT GOOD DATA MANAGEMENT

The EWT is an associate node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), which is an international network that promotes the sharing of biodiversity data and provides the infrastructure to do so. We received a grant through GBIF's Capacity Enhancement Support Programme to work with university staff and graduate students in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, to promote good biodiversity data management and sharing of biodiversity data, as very few institutions openly publish and share their data. We conducted three training courses at universities in Swaziland, Malawi and South Africa, along with surveys on attitudes towards data sharing. Attitudes were very positive to the sharing of data, but most were unaware of the platforms available to share data or how to do so. Our course was the first step in improving awareness of where and how to share data and how data generators may manage their own data resources more effectively.

*This work is made possible by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.*

## REVIEWING NGO CONTRIBUTIONS

NGOs play a significant role in helping South Africa meet its conservation targets, but our contributions as crucial implementers of conservation initiatives are not well documented. As a sector we have never collated information on our collective efforts, successes or failures, and have never reported these in a unified and standard manner. Thanks to funding from the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, the EWT has undertaken a preliminary review of the conservation work of 13 NGOs, with a focus on biodiversity conservation themes included in South Africa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. All participating NGOs were members of the IUCN, and data were collected using a detailed questionnaire survey that asked about conservation strategies, types of conservation work conducted, how impact is measured, and what that impact is. NGOs were also asked to provide non-sensitive information about finances and employment statistics. The entire process was overseen by an independent committee of three well-established, non-NGO conservation academics and practitioners. The review is currently in the final stages of drafting and will be released during the 2019/20 financial year. Once completed, we will liaise with a larger subset of NGOs to ascertain whether it would be worth conducting a similar (but streamlined) assessment on a regular basis.

*This work is made possible by the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust.*



## CONSERVATION SCIENCE UNIT TEAM



**Dr Lizanne Roxburgh**  
Senior Scientist



**Caroline Mfopa**  
Mapping Assistant



**Claire Relton**  
Conservation Science  
Officer



**Dr Dominic Henry**  
Ecological Modelling  
Specialist



**Samantha  
Page-Nicholson**  
African Lion Database  
Coordinator

# DRYLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The Drylands Conservation Programme (DCP) is the only conservation initiative dedicated exclusively to the conservation of the unique and outstanding habitat and species in the Karoo. This arid landscape is the largest ecosystem in South Africa, covering an area of approximately 400,000 km<sup>2</sup> (slightly larger than Germany).

The Karoo is a landscape in motion. Predicted climate change impacts and shifting usage patterns, mean that the conservation economy will become a significant contributor

to livelihoods in the near future. Rapid population growth and habitat transformation to the east of the country and along coastlines will redefine the Karoo as a conservation frontier, which will hold new opportunities for species and habitat conservation. Against this backdrop, the DCP team is fortunate to work in an inspiring landscape where the opportunities for conservation of species and habitats are as wide as the horizon. We work in the wide open spaces in the Western and Northern Cape.



*Esther Matthew and Bonnie Schumann in Anysberg Nature Reserve*

## PROGRESS BAROMETER

We will identify and work on improved conservation and protection of no less than four (4) dryland species of concern by 2023.



Significantly increased our research activities in the distribution range of the southern population of Riverine Rabbits, including conducting 3 comprehensive camera trap surveys in areas around Anysberg, Touwsriver and Baviaanskloof.



Identified 3 new species to include in our portfolio: Van Zyl's and De Winton's golden moles, and the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise.

We will, by 2023, have developed at least three (3) new technology or innovative approach based techniques to locate at least two elusive drylands species.



Expanded our portfolio of approaches to include innovations on scent detection dogs and thermal imagery. The scent detection dog has yielded positive results.



Collaborated with the University of Pretoria to develop an environmental DNA extraction technique to locate residual DNA in dune habitats.



Pursued thermal imagery to detect species of interest, machine learning to process data more effectively, and novel approaches to camera trapping for species of interest.

We will identify and operationalise protected area expansion projects in at least five areas representing unique dryland biodiversity by 2023.



Identified 5 properties of conservation significance for the Riverine Rabbit southern population, and explored the use of conservation servitudes to protect these sites.



Identified, mapped, and prioritised rabbit habitat in the northern population distribution range that will be suitable to pursue for protected area status.

By 2023, we will have 12 landowners (commercial and emerging) implementing sustainable land management strategies based on best practice guidelines across at least 25,000 ha.



Hosted two comprehensive 5-day training courses for 32 emerging farmers.



Received 11 proposals for sustainable land management projects. We will select four (encompassing approximately 8,000 ha) that will become eligible for small grants through our Karoo Forever Project.

We will initiate and implement at least one conservation-driven community programme in each of the five areas we work in by 2023.



Our Clever Rabbit Project provided learning support to 285 pupils across all seven grades in Loxton.



Our Loxton RMB eLearning centre has become an online study hub for the Loxton community affording them an educational opportunity that would be otherwise inaccessible. It supports 5 of our 8 AgriSETA students who have enrolled for an accredited course through AgriSETA. It also supports opportunities for online multimedia and marketing skills development, and it serves as learning hub for adult literacy (6 students).

By 2023, we will have identified, developed and promoted sustainable economic alternatives in each of the five project areas where we operate.



Conducted a tourism workshop in Nieuwoudtville which led to the development of a tourism and natural resource management strategy for the area.



Collaborated with stakeholders to develop tourism infrastructure in association with the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve in Nieuwoudtville to diversify tourist activities outside the current tourism season.



Handed over our indigenous plant nursery in Loxton to the newly established Garden Co-operative, aimed at promoting food security and entrepreneurship opportunities for the Loxton community.

### KEY:

● On track

● No progress

● Some progress

● Planned objectives



Anysberg Nature Reserve

## EMPOWERING LOCAL FARMERS AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTISES

As part of our GEF-funded Karoo Forever Project, we finalised the development of a comprehensive 5-day Integrated Farm Planning and Management Course, along with supporting materials. We collaborated with several provincial agricultural departments, the Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute and external agricultural training providers to develop this unique and topical resource.

In February 2019, we hosted our first course in Loxton in the Northern Cape, attended by 13 emerging farmers and four agricultural extension officers from the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development. The course will now be rolled out to other geographic areas in the Karoo. We are also working on a digital platform for the course. Farmers participating in the course can submit sustainable land management proposals which are considered for support by the EWT. We have received 11 such proposals to date and will begin to implement them shortly.

By identifying and harnessing sustainable land management champions, “indigenous farming knowledge”, and promoting peer-to-peer learning, the Karoo Forever Project aims to promote dialogue and action to improve sustainable land management in drylands. This is critical as these arid landscapes are typically vulnerable to degradation and climate change. This project has positioned the EWT as a land reform and sustainable land management thought leader in the Karoo landscape and beyond.

*This work is made possible by the Global Environmental Facility, Department of Environmental Affairs, and the United Nations Development Programme.*

## BRINGING THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TO THE KAROO

Surprisingly, even in the remote Karoo, the fourth industrial revolution is providing opportunities for more sustainable livelihoods. Decoupling of livelihoods from local resource use has benefits for people and the environment. Our RMB Loxton E-learning Centre plays a significant role in this by giving people access to the internet. The past year has seen the centre train local pupils in computer and multimedia skills. In addition, we have also enrolled eight students in accredited online courses, affording them an educational opportunity that would be otherwise inaccessible.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank and the AgriSETA.*



RMB Loxton E-Learning Centre



## NEW APPROACHES AND INNOVATIONS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

Riverine Rabbits and other Karoo species of interest are particularly difficult to locate and study. Working with these species requires new approaches and techniques. Jessie, the programme's scent detection dog, has made great strides in the rapid location of Riverine Rabbits as demonstrated by an increase in finds in novel locations.

We have developed techniques to compare and analyse fixed point photographs of vegetation and are exploring machine learning to analyse the thousands of camera trap photos taken during biodiversity surveys. The latter capability will save time and will increase our capacity to do more frequent camera trap surveys and process images more efficiently.

In addition, we are looking at ways to apply infrared and thermal imaging to detect changes in vegetation, which will allow us to effectively monitor impacts of changes in land management approaches over time across multiple landscapes. This information will allow us to demonstrate which approaches are effective in restoring veld condition and provide effective monitoring tools. This technological advancement will be paired with remote sensing opportunities afforded to us by Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (drones) as soon as the EWT is fully compliant with Civil Aviation Authority regulations.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank and Zoologischen Gesellschaft für Arten, und Populationsschutz.*

## FILM PRODUCERS

The German-based Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP) has funded our work for 20 years, supporting many of our most innovative ideas and projects. In 2018, they launched a video competition for grant recipients to showcase their work. The DCP won the second prize in 2018 and the third prize in 2019, bringing in prize monies of R25,000. We have invested this money in our audio-visual equipment and hope to produce even more exciting footage in the future.

*This work is made possible by Zoologischen Gesellschaft für Arten, und Populationsschutz.*

## CAUGHT ON CAMERA

We have significantly increased our research activities in the distribution range of the southern populations of Riverine Rabbits, including conducting three comprehensive camera trap surveys in the Anysberg area, the Touwsriver area and in the Baviaanskloof area. This work has significantly increased our understanding of how Riverine Rabbits occurring in this range utilise the habitat and has provided us with baseline information which will be used to develop a vegetation signature for areas that contain Riverine Rabbits. We have also engaged farmers in these regions to investigate how to better secure the populations in light of our 2023 vision for the species. By this date we aim to have secured sufficient habitat through legally recognised mechanisms to ensure that viable populations of the species are able to persist in the northern and southern population.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank, Zoologischen Gesellschaft für Arten und Populationsschutz, and National Geographic.*



*Jessie the scent detection dog*



*Preparing the Riverine Rabbit scent for Jessie*



*The DCP team in the field*



*Bijstein camera placement*



*Bijstein Riverine Rabbit*

## HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES BY BRINGING ADDED VALUE

Sustaining communities forms an important part of our work to provide a stable foundation for conservation initiatives. Working in small towns means that our activities have a compounded impact as a large proportion of the community is exposed to our work.

We have had a dramatic impact on learning in the local school through our Clever Rabbit Project. This project provides learning support to 285 pupils across all seven grades. The learning support has also been extended to assist our students enrolled in online courses through the RMB E-learning Centre and to provide adult literacy classes to our emerging farmers. We have regular environmental education sessions with local schools including movie nights and outdoor programmes.

We coordinated the sterilisation of domestic animals earlier this year by collaborating with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's veterinary services. Much-needed veterinary care was provided for pet owners who are unable to access veterinary services on their own. When numbers of unwanted domestic animals spiral, this has health and safety implications for communities, as well as posing a danger to wildlife on farmland surrounding towns. DCP staff visited the community to compile a list of pet owners and numbers of animals needing sterilisation. On the day of the sterilisation drive we helped to transport animals to the venue, register pets, and manage the patients. Altogether 29 animals were sterilised.

The lack of economic alternatives in the Karoo means that unsustainable developments are sometimes entertained. The DCP is hard at work to create sustainable alternatives that promote the conservation of species and habitats. We are working closely with a dynamic farming family on the Bokkeveld Plateau (Nieuwoudtville) to explore exciting nature-based tourism strategies for the Bokkeveld area. These strategies will be implemented in the year ahead. As part of our Karoo Forever Project, we are looking at developing alternative livelihood opportunities in each geographic location that we work in.



*Sterilisation drive in 2019*



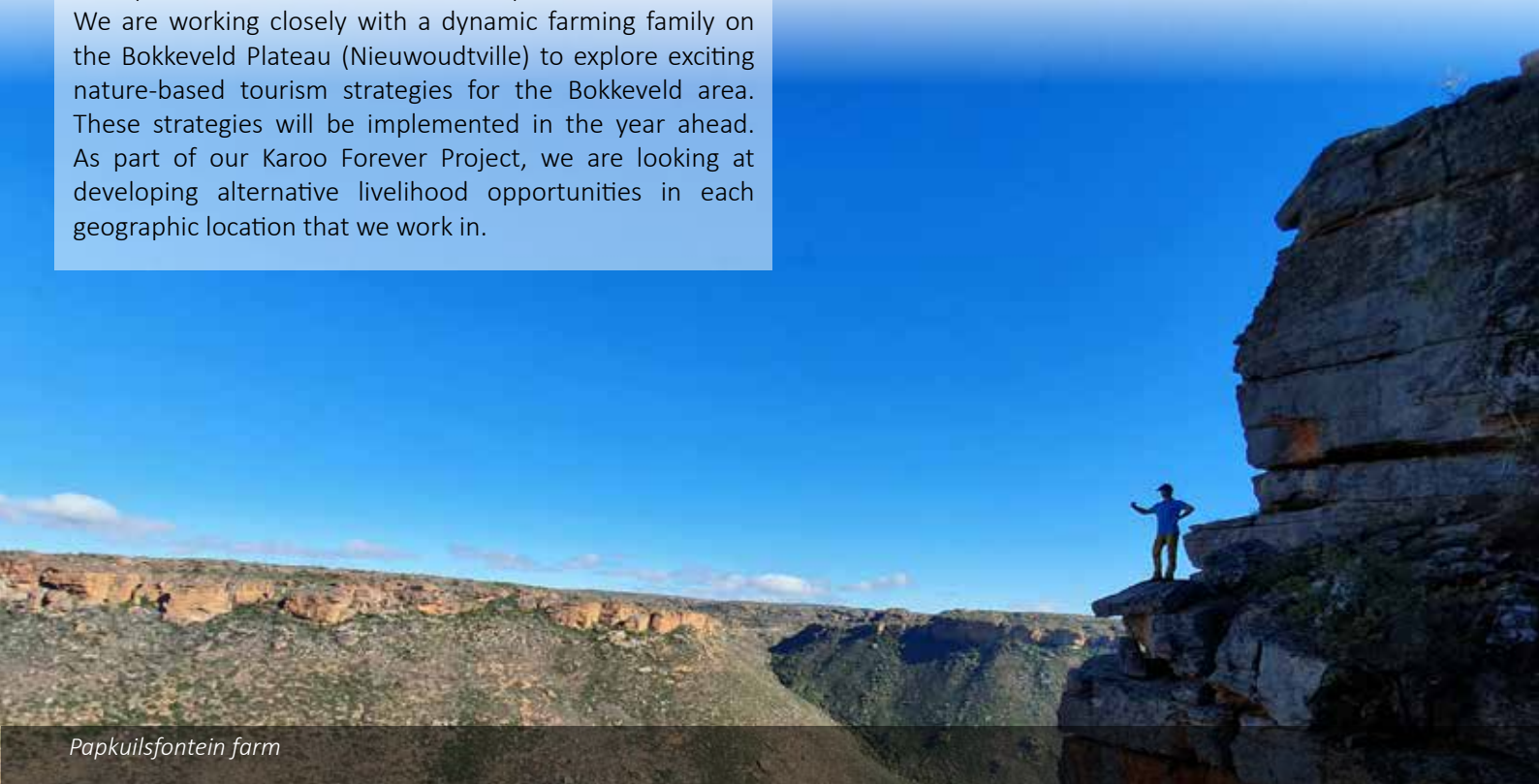
*Photography workshop display*



*Movie night at school hostel*



*Taking photos for photography workshop*



*Papkuilsfontein farm*

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

In August 2018, Specialist Conservation Officer, Esther Matthew received a National Geographic Early Careers grant and became an official National Geographic Explorer. In November of the same year, National Geographic awarded her a second grant to pursue learning experiences abroad. As a result, Esther travelled to the United Kingdom, where she received training on the analysis of drone footage (Karoo vegetation) and machine learning (camera trap photos) at the Liverpool John Moores University. While in the United Kingdom, Esther also completed a Tracking Instructor course, followed by a Scent Detection Handler accreditation, both at the UK College of Scent Dogs Ltd (UKCSD). In addition, and on her own steam, Esther completed her Level 3 Canine Behaviour Diploma through the British College of Canine Studies, with merit.

*This work is made possible by National Geographic.*

## LEAPS AND BOUNDS

We confirmed the exciting discovery of a new population of Riverine Rabbits in the western Baviaanskloof, following the recording of a Riverine Rabbit roadkill in this area in December 2018 by scientist Alan Lee. We carried out an extensive camera trap survey on two farms and confirmed the presence of what is now the third known population of this species. This represents a brand new distribution in an area not previously identified by distribution models. The other two populations occur in the Nama Karoo, first documented in 1901, and in the Succulent Karoo, only documented in 2003.

The discovery highlights, once again, just how incredibly elusive and secretive the Riverine Rabbit is, being present but undetected in a farming area for almost 200 years. Our aim is to secure viable populations of Riverine Rabbit in two separate geographic areas by 2023 through voluntary stewardship agreements with private landowners.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank and Zoologischen Gesellschaft für Arten und Populationsschutz.*



*Esther Matthew and Jessie*



*Southern population Riverine Rabbit*



# DRYLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME TEAM



**Cobus Theron**  
Programme Manager



**Bonnie Schumann**  
Nama Karoo  
Coordinator



**Esther Matthew**  
Specialist  
Conservation Officer  
and Jessie, scent  
detection dog



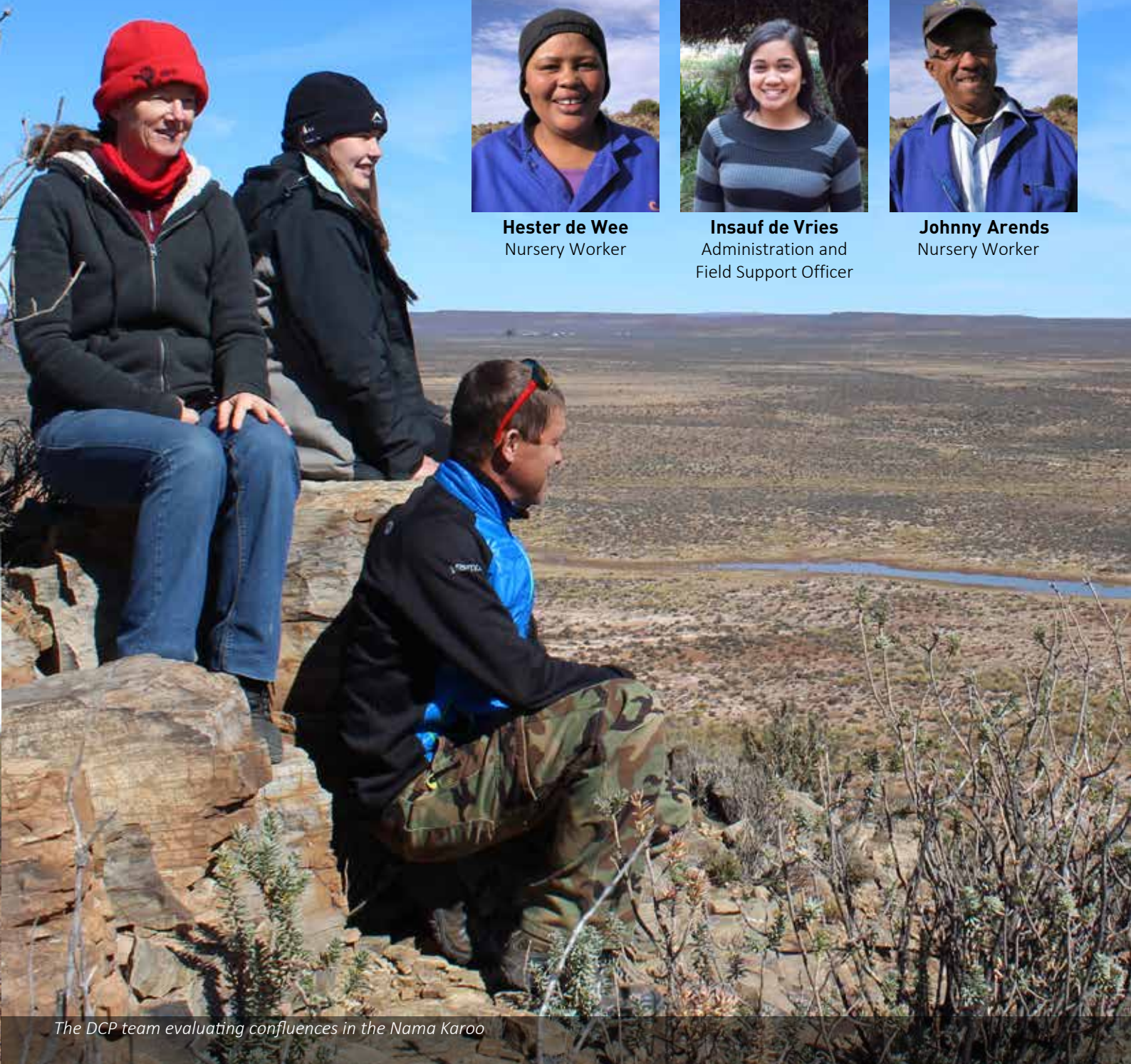
**Hester de Wee**  
Nursery Worker



**Insauf de Vries**  
Administration and  
Field Support Officer



**Johnny Arends**  
Nursery Worker



*The DCP team evaluating confluences in the Nama Karoo*

# 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 important role in the value chain of any business. We work with innovative business leaders to identify and manage the business risks and opportunities that result from their interactions with

the natural world. We provide a platform for businesses to proactively engage with each other and discover solutions that lead to sustainable business growth and many exciting business opportunities such as new sources of revenue and the opportunity to reduce production costs. The NBBN works with businesses across South Africa in all nine provinces.

NBBN partners include Eskom, Anglo American, Nedbank, Woolworths, Pick n Pay, the Department of Environmental Affairs (now the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries), SANBI and De Beers.



## PROGRESS BAROMETER

By 2019, develop and implement an online mainstreaming biodiversity into business toolkit to build the capacity of businesses to better manage their direct and indirect dependencies and impacts on biodiversity.



Developed the biodiversity mainstreaming toolkit, which is currently available on the online platform: [www.bdprotocol.org](http://www.bdprotocol.org).

9

The toolkit consists of nine steps which will assist businesses to better recognise, measure, value, and responsively manage their direct and indirect dependencies and impacts on biodiversity. The nine steps follow sequentially and can be used by all business sectors.

By 2020, produce a Biodiversity Measurement Protocol that enables companies to measure and monitor losses/gains in biodiversity values over time.



Developed the Biodiversity Measurement Tool using accounting principles; this was designed as a comprehensive biological diversity accounting and reporting framework to help businesses produce the credible and unbiased information needed for various biodiversity-related applications, from site management to disclosure. During a pre-consultation phase, we identified that the naming of the protocol was ambiguous and thus the name was changed to the Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol).

By 2023, least 10 companies are reporting annually on their biodiversity performance through the BDP platform.

JSE

Assessed the biodiversity mainstreaming readiness of the 362 Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed companies, as well as two state-owned enterprises. We used the findings generated to raise awareness around the importance of biodiversity to business and to raise the profile of the Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP) within the business community and its stakeholders.

By 2020, develop a Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP) platform that provides companies with a practical avenue through which to voluntarily disclose their biodiversity impacts, risks and performance on an annual basis.

By 2023, we are working with at least five corporates to mainstream biodiversity into their activities.

### KEY:

- On track
- No progress
- Some progress
- Planned objectives



## MANAGING ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES AT SIBANYE

Recently we have expanded our portfolio to assist companies with in situ biodiversity-related projects. During the reporting period, we began work with Sibanye Stillwater mines on two alien invasive plant management plans. The main driver for the NBBN to be involved in the development of these plans is to assist in improving the biodiversity in areas that have been previously polluted or disturbed. This work is ongoing.



*Pompom weed*

## BIODIVERSITY DISCLOSURE PROJECT

Biodiversity can present both an opportunity and risk to businesses. Through this realisation, a gap was acknowledged and the Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP) was initiated. The BDP is a suite of tools used to enable business to identify, measure, manage, and report on biodiversity. Through July and August 2018, we assessed the biodiversity mainstreaming readiness of the 362 Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed companies, as well as two state-owned enterprises. We used the findings generated by the study to raise awareness around the importance of biodiversity to business and to raise the profile of the BDP within the business community and its stakeholders.

On the back of this, the BDP has taken off in leaps and bounds, with companies contacting the NBBN for assistance in the monitoring and planning of strategies concerning biodiversity. The project website is up and running at [www.bdprotocol.org](http://www.bdprotocol.org), with several tools already available for use by all, including a biodiversity performance self-assessment questionnaire and concise guidelines on mainstreaming biodiversity in business.

We were also proud to have been invited to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 14) at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2018. We were given a speaking slot to present the work done on the BDP, and the presentation was well received, garnering interest from international companies and other civil society organisations.

*This work is made possible by Eskom and WWF Nedbank Green Trust.*



# Biodiversity Disclosure Project

## THE LINK BETWEEN BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

Business depends on a wide variety of services provided by biodiversity and is one of the primary drivers of its degradation and loss.

## THE BUSINESS CASE FOR BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity dependencies and impacts generate both risks and opportunities for business and its stakeholders, resulting in a strong business case for biodiversity.

## BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING IS THE SOLUTION

Business needs to mainstream biodiversity into its activities in order to effectively manage its biodiversity-related business risks and opportunities.

### BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROTOCOL GOES LIVE

This year we launched the draft Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol) for consultation online. The BD Protocol aims to enable companies to record and consolidate their biodiversity impacts for both management and reporting purposes. This addresses a critical gap in the need for guidance on how to identify, measure, account for, and report on, corporate impacts on biodiversity in a standardised, comparable, credible and unbiased manner. This is the first tool of its kind for biodiversity. It adopts similar principles to those of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, a reporting standard widely used by companies for greenhouse gas emissions disclosure.

The Natural Capital Coalition, an international collaboration that unites the global natural capital community, has sponsored our access to the online consultation platform Collaborase. This has been instrumental in helping us gather comments and contributions on the draft BD Protocol from dozens of professionals and experts worldwide.

*This work is made possible by Eskom and WWF Nedbank Green Trust.*

### THE ROLE OF BUSINESS IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

In July 2018, the NBBN, on behalf of the then-Department of Environmental Affairs, presented a half-day event on the role of business in biodiversity. The purpose of the event was to provide the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity the opportunity to engage with South African businesses. At this event, we presented the results of the mainstreaming readiness assessment that we conducted as part of the Biodiversity Disclosure Project (see page 52).





## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS INDABA

The NBBN Indaba is an annual event that aims to disseminate knowledge around the interdependence of biodiversity and business. The 2018 Indaba focused on the theory behind and integration of offsets into business development. The mitigation hierarchy is a framework for managing the potential impacts of development projects on biodiversity. Biodiversity offsets are the fourth and final step in the mitigation hierarchy, after avoidance, minimisation and rehabilitation, and aim to compensate for residual impacts caused by development projects. When implemented correctly, biodiversity offsets have the potential to help slow the decline of biodiversity and ecological infrastructure, and contribute to the country's conservation estate. Consideration of offsets can also reinforce use of the mitigation hierarchy.

Biodiversity offsets are increasingly being required in terms of national policy and legislation, by international finance institutions and through the biodiversity commitments made by companies themselves. Biodiversity offsetting is, however, inherently complex and still an emerging practice.

To date, offsets in South Africa have been undertaken within the context of policy uncertainty and with a lack of understanding and capacity amongst all role-players on the subject. Further problems include timing issues in relation to the EIA process, the practical challenges of identifying offset sites, costing the offsets and establishing appropriate institutional and financial arrangements. The track record in terms of developing and effectively implementing biodiversity offsets in South Africa is consequently poor. This led to the overarching theme for 2018 of biodiversity offsets.

Anglo American kindly provided their facilities to hold our 2018 Indaba. The event was well attended by several different business sectors. With the imminent release of the Department of Environmental Affairs' policy documents, the indaba included some heated debate around the topic.

## PUTTING TRUST IN OUR TRUSTEES

We welcomed Angela Cherrington to our team in May 2019. Angela brings with her a wealth of expertise as she is not only a trustee on the EWT's Board, but is also a Chartered Director (SA), and the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Institute of Directors in southern Africa (IoDSA).



# NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY & BUSINESS NETWORK TEAM



**Megan Murison**  
Programme Officer



**Angela Cherrington**  
Consultant



**Dr Joël Houdet**  
Consultant

# PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The recently established People in Conservation Programme (PICP) is an exciting addition to the EWT's conservation portfolio. The mounting pressures on our natural resources are daunting, but we believe that these can be addressed through the development of innovative conservation strategies that integrate solutions for addressing the social and economic needs of people. We work with a range of partners to develop initiatives that are tailored to the needs of local stakeholders and contribute to the improved management of species and habitats, as well as human well-being. Our projects range from the facilitation of biodiversity stewardship agreements between private

and communal landowners and conservation agencies; implementing climate resilient agriculture with small-holder farmers; developing micro-enterprises in the green economy; addressing poaching in collaboration with private landowners, communities and other stakeholders; and developing eco-clubs, adventure activities and education initiatives to ensure that future generations are well positioned to continue these efforts. The PICP is currently focusing on projects in the Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, North West and Eastern Cape provinces, but also provides support to EWT programmes countrywide.



## PEOPLE POWER

Following a strategic review in late January, in which the EWT evaluated all its work on developing solutions for nature and people, it was decided to integrate this work into a new, holistic programme, the PICP. Our aim is to ramp up and expand our work with communities across our diverse programmatic portfolio. We have transferred several staff into this new programme, and appointed a new programme manager.

Several projects that were previously housed within other EWT programmes were transferred to the PICP, including Guardians of the Future, the Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Project, Marico Catchment Conservation Project and the communities' component of the Amathole Freshwater Species Project. The PICP team has pulled together well in their new roles, with work on these projects continuing smoothly. A number of exciting new projects are also being evaluated.

## A BETTER UNDERSTANDING

As manager of the newly established programme, Dr Jenny Botha visited several of our project sites to understand the dynamics between the various stakeholders and our broader conservation agenda. These included visits to the Soutpansberg, KwaZulu-Natal Midlands and Marico in North West Province. Follow up visits to additional projects are planned for late 2019.

## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

We have been forging strong collaborations with other NGOs and state departments over the past year, and one product of this was a very successful re-launch of the national Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative, as well as the national Biodiversity Stewardship Conference, that we co-hosted with the Department of Environmental Affairs

(DEA), the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) between 9 and 11 October 2018. This year's conference focused on the implementation of biodiversity stewardship in community-owned and land reform sites, which we would like to focus on as phase two of the project. The conference provided excellent exposure and facilitated discussions around collaborations between organisations, facilitating much stronger relationships between us and our partners.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EWT field officers, JP Le Roux and Nathi Nama, are continuing their work in the Groot Marico (North West Province) and Amathole Water Catchments (Eastern Cape), respectively. In both areas, the EWT is contributing to improving water catchment management, the biomonitoring of rivers, and development of micro-enterprises, including beekeeping and climate resilient agriculture. The work being conducted in the Amathole is part of the EWT's Restoration of Amathole Freshwater Project, funded by Rand Merchant Bank.

The farmers in Koffiefontein, close to Groot Marico in the North West Province, are still struggling with their farming efforts due to lack of water. In 2019, the Marico dam dropped to 8.7%, with late rains in April increasing dam levels to 11.4%. As a result, the farmers managed to plant winter vegetable crops relatively late in the season.

In our beekeeping project, 30 hives have been set up in Marico; 25 in the Amathole in the Eastern Cape, and 56 in Underberg (KwaZulu-Natal) and Matatiele (Eastern Cape). Some of the hives in Marico were placed on citrus and avocado farms. Given their proximity to the orchards, it is hoped that these hives will increase honey production in the upcoming season as well as provide a range of different types of honey to an increasingly discerning South African market.



*School led anti-poaching dialogue*

## GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE

The Guardians of the Future Project, which is being funded through the Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concessionaire (Pty) Ltd, is a stimulating education project designed to take conservation into the classroom. To foster an interest in wildlife, we use Endangered species and the threats they face as a focal point, but integrate these messages with content in the formal school curriculum. At the start of the project, we spent a significant amount of time conducting research, attending relevant fora, such as the Gauteng Environmental Education Forum, and meeting with educators and representatives from other organisations involved in the sector. We have also tested boosters in Hammanskraal, Gauteng Province, alongside educators. This helped us to develop a platform with solid grounding, from which we could identify what resources were available already, how we could fill the gaps, and where we could provide curriculum support to teachers. We used what we had learned to create interactive learning experiences called 'Curriculum Boosters', and brainstorm which curriculum topics to prioritise, in order to assist teachers and improve learner engagement and retention of content. We believe that this will help to ensure that the resources we develop are aligned to learner and teacher needs, and will enhance the quality of education in the life sciences. Although we initially demonstrate the implementation of boosters in the classroom, a key component of the project is to build the capacity of often over-loaded and under-resourced teachers to seamlessly integrate these tools into their lessons going forward.



*Sungazer awareness in schools*

# PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME TEAM



**Dr Jenny Botha**  
Programme Manager



**Emily Taylor**  
Project Coordinator



**JP Le Roux**  
Field Officer



**Nkosinathi Nama**  
Field Officer



**Samson Phakathi**  
Senior Field Officer



**Zethu Sibiya**  
Junior Field Officer

# SOURCE TO SEA PROGRAMME

Water is the basis for life on earth and supports some of the most species-rich habitats on the planet. The Source to Sea Programme, while in operation, worked at the coalface of conservation through a range of multi-sectoral partnerships that implemented innovative and catalytic solutions to address the direct threats to aquatic ecosystems and the root causes of those threats. This work was done in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and North West provinces.

Growing human populations are putting increasing pressure on freshwater ecosystems globally: altering and fragmenting river flows, abstracting water for agriculture, sanitation and drinking, and releasing unprecedented amounts of pollutants into water bodies. Despite freshwater ecosystems occupying less than 1% of the Earth's surface, they support around 10% of all known species. In South Africa alone, nearly 71% of

the main rivers are already regarded as threatened. In order to support the sustainability of freshwater ecosystems and ensure resilience of the communities that rely on them, it is of great importance to manage and conserve rivers that are still in relatively good condition. The Source to Sea Programme implemented a suite of river catchment and estuary conservation projects in southern Africa to support integrated and collaborative management strategies for our water resources.

*Given that much of this work is focused on working with people, we have integrated most of it into a focused programme (the new People in Conservation Programme) which will build capacity and strengthen skills in order to achieve these priority conservation and human resilience outcomes in a strategic and focused approach.*



# PROGRESS BAROMETER

Protect and improve the ecological functioning of at least four freshwater and estuarine ecosystems, by 2023.

10



The Marico Biosphere was approved on 25 July 2018, during the 30<sup>th</sup> Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme by the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of UNESCO. The reserve is South Africa's 10<sup>th</sup> biosphere and is situated in the North West Province, South Africa, which falls under the Ngaka Modiri and Bojanala District municipalities. The biosphere encompasses an area of 447,269 ha.

The Knysna Estuary Project was successfully passed on to our partners in the region and one of the major catalytic highlights for the sustainability of this intervention is the handover of the floating islands to South African National Parks (SANParks).

In collaboration with the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA), the EWT secured Glenara Farm located in the Elandsberg near Hogsback as the first reserve aimed at protecting the Amathole Toad (*Vandijkophrynus amatolicus*).

Continued to monitor conservation efforts on a 90 ha site that is located on Amathole Forestry Company land. This site is a breeding site for the Amathole Toad.

Improve integrated water resources management, in at least two catchments, through evidence-based management support, by 2023.



Through strategic community engagement and enterprise development in the Marico catchment we altered water use dynamics and micro-enterprise opportunities to incentivise improved resource management practices.

17 farmers implementing Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in Koffiekraal. 5 farmers implementing permaculture as a sustainable agricultural practice in Reboile.

5 beekeepers practicing beekeeping in the area as sustainable green enterprises; 5 apiaries with 25 hives have been set up. Contributed to the development of a Water Management Plan for the Marico Biosphere Reserve.

Capacitated 8 beekeepers in the Amathole catchment. All beekeepers combined have a total of 75 hives, with about 16 hives colonised. 15 organisations and communities were represented in the Amathole Catchment Forum, with an average attendance of 35 people per forum. The forum is attended by all spheres of government, civil organisations, community members and other parties.

Maintain or improve target populations of six threatened aquatic species by at least 20% in priority sites, by 2023.



Target populations of Marico Barb (*Enteromius motebensis*) were all in good condition, with frequency of occurrence ratings at target sites 4–5 (75–100%).

Monitored target populations of both Eastern Cape Rocky (*Sandelia biansii*) and Border Barb (*Amatolacypis trevelyani*). There has been a sturdy improvement in the species population numbers. *A. trevelyani* has made up on average 40% of the total fish population surveyed during surveys with *S. biansii* making up on average 10%.

**KEY:**

- On track
- No progress
- Some progress
- Planned objectives

## BIOSPHERE BOOST FOR MARICO CATCHMENT

The Marico Catchment was listed as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO during the 30th International Coordinating Council (ICC) session of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme, which sat on 25 July 2018. The Marico Biosphere Reserve was officially opened on 12 October 2018. The event was hosted by the North West Department of Rural, Environmental and Agricultural Development (READ). Biosphere status strengthened our ability to protect the catchment and Mmtulwa wa Noko, one of our local partner organisations, has successfully appealed numerous mining applications in the area. The EWT has formed part of the steering committee of the biosphere assisting with the development of a water management plan, where we have set priority sites for conservation action as well as quality objectives for the water resource. We also form part of the North-West provincial climate adaptation team and wetland forum. Our awareness campaigns led to the construction of a Waste Water Treatment Plant for Marico, which is close to completion, this will ensure that the Marico River retains its status as a pristine river.

## LIVELIHOODS

The Reboile permaculture project and Koffiekraal climate-smart farm has, through the training and ongoing support received over the project period, been able to implement techniques to enable them grow crops during the drought. The Reboile permaculture project has five beneficiaries who have been able to support themselves and their families through this enterprise. We have facilitated partnerships with these farmers and other local permaculture farms to support the expansion of their enterprise over the next few years. Koffiekraal's climate smart farm has 25 beneficiaries who have all continued to work and develop the pilot site. They are also expanding their enterprise to work on larger farms in the area.

A beekeeping enterprise started in 2018 has six beneficiaries who have set up five apiaries comprising 30 hives. One apiary was set up on a commercial farm where it provides pollination services. Honey is sold locally, as there is a big demand for it in the town of Groot-Marico. The beekeepers have received their beekeeping certificate and are now a registered entity. This allows them to do bee removal which increases the income generated by their business. The registration will help them to expand to commercial level although substantial work is required to transition from micro-scale to commercial production.



*Beekeepers in action*



## POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The EWT was one of the first organisations worldwide to adopt the more holistic Population, Health and Environment approach to human and biodiversity needs. Population Health and Environment (PHE) aims to link environmental health with community health. It is critical to improve local people's access to health services and to educate and empower local woman about their reproductive health and contraceptive options. This will have long-term benefits in terms of resource requirement and ecosystem pressures. This year we conducted a baseline PHE survey, including a total of 109 respondents interviewed, in Reboile (Groot-Marico) and Koffiekraal to assess the implementation of the PHE project and ascertain some of the perceptions of the communities around conservation, poverty and reproductive health.

The EWT and its partner, Pathfinder, hosted an Arbour Day event in April at Uitkyk, one of the river communities where the PHE project is being implemented, as well as two community dialogue events in Pachtsdraai and Groot-Marico to engage with the men of these communities and get them interested in the family planning side of the project. Positive community engagement led to increased awareness among partners and beneficiaries about the linkages and benefits of an integrated PHE programme. There was also more participation at community meetings and other events around PHE, and increased uptake in services provided by the clinics after these community dialogue events.

- 6 clinic assessments were conducted;
- 164 service providers were reached through values clarification;
- 61 providers were trained on how to provide effective pre-contraceptive counselling;
- 24 providers were trained on the interactions between contraceptives and antiretrovirals;
- 106 providers trained in the insertion and removal of implants; and
- the PHE messaging reached 59,760 community members from six villages in the catchment.

The integrated PHE messaging also helped to mobilise communities on related activities and projects in the area. For example, reproductive health services were provided to 29,897 women. The PHE approach to catchment management helped to clarify the links between health and the environment to the more than 150,000 people living in the catchment .The success of the project led to it being included on the Common Good First [webpage](#), where learnings from the project can be shared with the world.

*This work is made possible by Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation and Phumelela Gaming.*

## BIOMONITORING

The EWT has conducted extensive monitoring in the area, which is critical to catchment management, and assisted several universities with research. The monitoring shows that the rivers are in very good (close to natural) condition.

Fish surveys were also conducted to determine the status of key fish species populations. Species such as the Marico Barb, Shortspine Suckermouth and Stargazer Catfish occur in high numbers. Invasive species such as Largemouth Bass populations decreased in the upper part of the catchment, reducing their predation on indigenous fish. This was mainly due to the effect of the recent drought. Regular fish surveys also brought a new risk to the fish populations to light. Gillnets were found at multiple points along the Marico River which poses a big threat to larger fish species such as Yellowfish. Regular monitoring of key sites took place throughout the year where many illegal nets were removed. Awareness around the threat of illegal gillnets and the importance of this water resource was highlighted during events such as World Water Day, where we engaged with the community and hosted events for various schools in the area. During Arbour Week we hosted a tree planting event in Brakkuil where we planted 20 indigenous trees at Brakkuil Primary School to contribute to raising environmental awareness amongst the school's 300 learners.

*This work is made possible by Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation and Phumelela Gaming.*



## HEALTHY CATCHMENT ALLIANCE PROJECT DECLARED A GREAT SUCCESS

The external technical evaluation and video production for the European Union-funded Healthy Catchment Alliance Project (HCA) was completed and the evaluation found that, of the 14 targets, the project has exceeded seven, fully met five and partially met two of the findings and specifically mentioned that “On an output level, it can be stated that no other project implemented in the three geographic areas has been as successful as the HCA in creating so many jobs, and this should continue to benefit the communities in the medium and longer term. The awareness created regarding biodiversity and the skills developed are transferable to other initiatives outside of the HCA, which will contribute to sustainability”. Arguably the most important achievement of

this project is the establishment of the ongoing collaborative network of stakeholders which will continue to drive the objectives of the HCA and has shown good momentum since the close out of this funding. The core work under this project focused on eco-schools work (16 schools) trained in ecosystem health assessments, Invasive Alien Plant clearing in the Amathole catchment over three years, establishing the Meat Naturally beef production process for local communities in the Umzimkulu catchment, beekeeping enterprise development in the Eastern Cape and southern KZN, protected area expansion in the Cedarville flats and the refinement of the Ecosystem Goods and Services (EGS) tool for assessing and monitoring the state of agricultural land. See [here](#) for further details.

*This work was made possible by the European Union.*



*The Marico River*

## HONEY FOR MONEY

We had the first successful honey harvest in 2018 and external sales for the Amathole beekeepers, giving them access to the broader value chain of the honey industry in our green economy work. From this harvest the beekeepers produced 56 jars of honey which they sold 24 jars in Johannesburg and 32 jars to local community members at a locally affordable rate. The beekeeping group invested the income earned back into the project for maintenance of their protective equipment. The project currently supports eight beekeepers in the Amathole region and continues to provide extension support services.

Follow up training was provided by Mr Trevor Morely in early December 2018, and provided the beekeepers the opportunity to implement what they had learnt previously. The training built on the skills and expertise the beekeepers need to not only manage the beehives but also to run small businesses allowing local communities to supplement their income in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. Extension support services are still being provided, and the beekeepers are being connected with other small business institutes such as the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) as well as other beekeeping groups.

Through these training opportunities, 19 hives are now colonised. The persistent drought that has gripped the

Amathole has severely affected project outcomes, including the beekeepers' growth. There was insufficient honey to harvest this year and three colonies absconded due to the low flowering rates of plants as a result of the drought. We are in discussion with private landowners from the small village of Hogsback to allow the beekeepers to place hives on their land. This will assist in colony retention as there are widespread flowering plants and orchards in this area. The beekeepers are also assessing the potential of additional sites.

Currently the beekeepers have 75 hives, two extractors and extraction equipment such as hive tools, honey strainers and packaging equipment. In 2019, the beekeepers have performed three successful bee removals within the Amathole catchment, one of which was in a public school.

Ongoing support is crucial to improve production levels and expand the market. Most of the beekeepers are under-employed, and the supplementary income derived through beekeeping would be a welcome contribution to their households. It takes time to develop apiaries, however, and ongoing specialist support is needed until sufficient experience in apiary and business management is gained.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank.*



APNCA apiary site

## INDIGENOUS FISH ON THE RISE

The EWT team conducted the biannual high-flow fish surveys of the Tyhume River in Amathole. Preliminary results indicate a higher number of indigenous fish species than previous surveys. Prevalent indigenous fish species are the Border Barb and the Eastern Cape Rocky. However, Rainbow Trout remain a problem in the cooler forest-covered upper reaches of the river and populations of this invasive alien fish species remain persistent in the cooler forest shaded upper river. Rainbow Trout currently make up 64% of the total fish population within the Tyhume River.

While this data is yet to be analysed, invasive alien trees provide shade which cools the water temperature, creating favourable conditions for the invasive and predatory trout. Through clearing of riparian invasive alien plants, the resultant increased water temperatures shift the micro-climatic conditions in favour of indigenous fish species. The project has built up a long-term fish monitoring database for the Tyhume River system which can be used to inform management decisions on the Tyhume River moving forward. The project maintains a close working relationship with the South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity and the University of Fort Hare as well as Rhodes University where it assists with research on the Border Barb and Eastern Cape Rocky.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank.*



# SOURCE TO SEA PROGRAMME

## TEAM



**JP Le Roux**

Marico Catchment  
Conservation Project  
Coordinator



**Nkosinathi Nama**

Amathole Freshwater  
Species Project  
Coordinator

# SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA

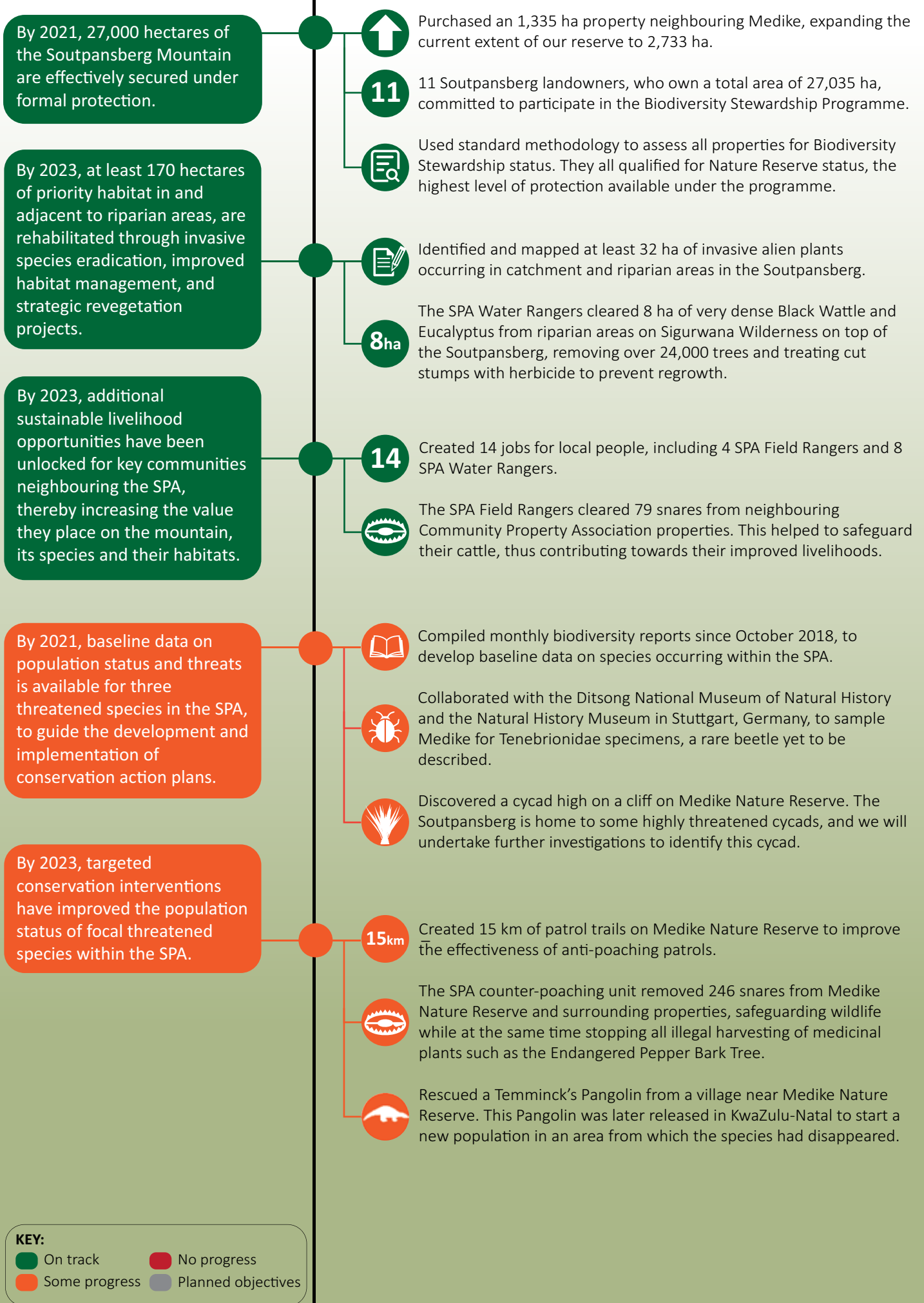
South Africa's Soutpansberg Mountains are noted for their high levels of species endemism and unique ecosystems. They form part of the core area of the UNESCO Vhembe Biosphere Reserve that also includes the northern Kruger National Park and Mapungubwe National Park and Cultural Landscape. Five different biomes are present in the EWT's focus area on the mountain, known as the Soutpansberg Protected Area (SPA) – namely forest, thicket, savannah, grassland and wetland. All the vegetation types that occur in the SPA are endemic to Limpopo Province, or the Soutpansberg Mountains, apart from the Northern Mistbelt Forests, which also have limited range into the Mpumalanga Escarpment. Despite this, less than 1% of the Soutpansberg Mountains is formally conserved and hence there is a critical need to declare more of this area under formal conservation status.

In 2015, the EWT entered into a land purchase on behalf of the Roberts family in Australia. The result, after two years of negotiations and site visits, was the purchase of Medike Mountain Reserve (1,398 ha). Simultaneously, the concept of an expansive SPA was developed, and further funding was secured through Rainforest Trust and Phumelela Gaming. This ambitious project will see the establishment of the SPA. The EWT plans to link the Luvhondo Private Nature Reserve (LPNR) towards the western edge of the mountain, eastwards including Medike to the Happy Rest Provincial Nature Reserve. We are in the process of creating a protected area covering over 33,515 ha that will protect a number of threatened and locally endemic species of animals and plants and culturally important sites.



*Soutpansberg Mountains*

## PROGRESS BAROMETER



## MEDIKE NATURE RESERVE

We celebrated the first anniversary of ownership of Medike Nature Reserve this year. Over the past year, much work has gone into the management of this reserve. We have a dedicated Field Ranger team who spend most of their time on various work from anti-poaching patrols, trail development and maintenance, to infrastructure maintenance. The team has developed over 15 km of patrol trails that double up as hiking trails, has removed over 246 snares from Medike and surrounding properties, conducted surveys on invasive plants and railway wildlife mortalities, developed infrastructure such as the installation of solar systems and Wi-Fi and general reserve maintenance.

Medike has also been the home to volunteers Melissa Petford and Ryan van Huyssteen from the Soutpansberg Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation who have been instrumental in documenting the biodiversity on Medike. We have also welcomed visiting researchers including Ruth Miller of Ditsong National Museum of Natural History and Daniel Bartsch of the Natural History Museum in Stuttgart, Germany, who came to sample Tenebrionidae specimens, a rare beetle yet to be described.

*This work is made possible by the Roberts family and Rainforest Trust.*



*Retz's Helmetshrike*

## CONSERVATION AREA EXPANSION

Through the generosity of the Roberts family living in Australia, and with funding from Rainforest Trust, we were successful in our bid to purchase the Moss and Gawsorth land parcels, securing an additional 1,335 ha of near pristine land in the western Soutpansberg. These properties are strategically located next to the existing EWT-owned property, Medike Nature Reserve. This will unite these properties as a single conservation area – and comes with an extremely high biodiversity value.

Following the successful visit of Rainforest Trust's supporters and CEO to the SPA during September 2018, one donor, Douglas Wilson, donated significant funds towards the purchase of additional critical habitat in the western Soutpansberg, as well as towards camera trap equipment to assist with our long-term Mammal Research Project on the reserve.

In December 2018, the Weeden Foundation's Quick Response Biodiversity Fund (QRBF) awarded a USD37,000 grant towards the acquisition of critical habitat in the western Soutpansberg.

*This work is made possible by the Roberts family, Rainforest Trust, Douglas Wilson, and the Weeden Foundation's Quick Response Biodiversity Fund.*



*Yellow-spotted Hyrax*



*Sand River looking south*

## ON THE MOVE

The SPA team was incredibly fortunate to receive a sponsored Nissan NP300 Double Cab project vehicle this year, which makes traversing the mountainous terrain in the Soutpansberg much easier and facilitates the critical conservation work being done by this project.

*This was made possible by Nissan South Africa (Pty) Ltd.*

## WATER RANGERS

In August 2018, our Water Conservation Project became fully operational with additional support from loyal Sigurwana Wilderness guests. We initiated work on Sigurwana Wilderness, within the greater SPA, to clear a 13 ha plot of mostly Black Wattle, as well as *Eucalyptus* species. Since the project started, the team has cleared 8 ha of very dense Black Wattle, removing over 24,000 trees and treating cut stumps with herbicide to prevent regrowth. In March 2019, we secured an additional 18 months' of funding for this work from Coca-Cola's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN). The project will focus on alien tree clearing, protected area expansion, and workshops on water and hygiene in schools surrounding the mountain. This has allowed us to employ eight Water Rangers from local communities on the project, thus opening up opportunities for employment to local communities.

*This work is made possible by Coca-Cola's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN).*

## COMMITTING TO CONSERVATION

The SPA's Biodiversity Stewardship programme is working with landowners in the western Soutpansberg to form a

large conservation area, with the aim to formally proclaim this as a Nature Reserve. Currently, there are 12 landowners committed to the Stewardship programme, leading to 27,035 ha of this unique landscape being proclaimed as a Protected Area.

The team has assisted these landowners with applications followed by site assessments as part of the formal governmental process. The site assessments were conducted as part of the Limpopo Province's Biodiversity Programme, and all the properties qualified for Nature Reserve status. This represents an achievement of almost 18% of the protected area target for Vulnerable Soutpansberg Mountain Bushveld, 7.8% of the target for the extremely rare Northern Mistbelt Forest and 72% of the target for endemic Soutpansberg Summit Sourveld.

On 14 March 2019, the Soutpansberg Biodiversity Stewardship Assessment Team presented the assessment findings to LEDET's Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Committee. The Committee agreed with the assessment findings, which resulted in LEDET issuing formal letters to the landowners that their land qualifies for Nature Reserve status.

The next steps for this project will be to work with landowners to form a Landowner Association as a Management Entity, and to develop a Constitution and Management Plan for the new Reserve. Conservation Outcomes has been offering their expertise to our Biodiversity Stewardship programme from the start, as four of ZZZ's stewardship properties are part of the SPA, and will be doing so until proclamation.

*This work is made possible by Rainforest Trust and Coca-Cola's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN).*



*SPA Water Conservation Project's water ranger team, working in high altitude catchments of the western Soutpansberg*



*Pangolin rescue with the help of SAPS*

## SECRET CYCADS

In January 2019, SPA Programme Manager, Oldrich van Schalkwyk, discovered a Cycad (*Encephalartos* species) in a secluded gorge on the EWT's Medike Nature Reserve while carrying out an anti-poaching patrol. We made several attempts to identify the species – the Soutpansberg is home to some highly threatened cycads – but this was abandoned due to the dangerous locality on a high cliff line. We will employ drone technology in the near future to identify the species.

## TO THE RESCUE

In May 2019, the EWT, in collaboration with H12Leshiba, rescued a young male Temminck's Pangolin from the illegal wildlife trade in a village close to Medike. Through an EWT crowdfunding initiative, we raised R56,169 which has gone towards rehabilitation costs, a tracking device, and to monitor the pangolin over the next year. Louis, as the pangolin was affectionately nicknamed after the town Louis Trichardt, was later released in northern Zululand with a pregnant rescued female, to start a new population in a specific area from which the species has disappeared.

*This work was supported by the African Pangolin Working Group and Johannesburg Wildlife Vet, as well as all individual donors via the fundraiser.*

## TRACKING TOKOLOSHE

During July 2018, a research team from Durham University based on Luvhondo Nature Reserve captured footage on a camera trap of a Leopard with a snare around her waist. The Leopard, locally known as Tokoloshe, appeared to be suffering from a wound caused by the snare, which was still in place. A team was assembled, including the EWT's Oldrich van Schalkwyk, to try track and capture the Leopard to remove the snare. Unfortunately, they were unable to capture the elusive Tokoloshe, however they were able to continue monitoring her condition through further camera trap data collected over the following months. Fortunately, a few weeks later, camera trap images of Tokoloshe revealed that the snare had thankfully come off, and that the wounds had healed well.

## CELEBRATING MANDELA DAY

Our Field Rangers celebrated Mandela Day, in partnership with WESSA Eco-Schools, the Soutpansberg Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation and H12Leshiba Game Reserve, by visiting Pharani Primary and Mmilige Secondary Schools in the neighbouring Midoroni village. Here, we donated 32 indigenous trees to each school. We also played the Reserves and Neighbours picture-building game to explain the vital relationship between the EWT's reserve and our neighbouring rural communities, and we also donated library books. At Mmilige Secondary School, the EWT's Field Rangers talked to learners about career opportunities in conservation and tourism.



## LE TOUR DE MEDIKE

This year, the regional High School Cycle Tour ran from Beitbridge (Musina) to Stanford Lake College (Tzaneen). As part of the SPA programme's effort to build positive relationships between our protected area and its surrounding communities, the tour passed through the EWT's Medike Nature Reserve. This leg of the tour included 23 cyclists representing schools from Louis Trichardt, Polokwane, Mokopane, Tzaneen and Phalaborwa. The region's cycling community was extremely grateful to the SPA for making our scenic reserve available for such a positive event.

## EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

In May 2018, the Western Soutpansberg Conservation communication network was initiated by our team. This is a network of stakeholders in the western Soutpansberg area including landowners, managers and researchers, all with an interest in conservation of the area. The communications

network, via a WhatsApp group, is a platform for sharing relevant conservation information to the group, as well as notifying the group of any incidents of concern in the area. Our members have used the group to communicate around several topics, including alerting neighbours to a fire their property, to new sightings of an invasive plant, as well as providing updates on Tokoloshe, the snared Leopard.

## REACHING OUT

As part of our community outreach, we collected much-needed supplies including baby clothes, baby blankets, reusable cloth diapers, and feeding chairs. We donated these gifts to Tswelopele Pre-school and Crèche, which takes care of 195 children.

*These items were sponsored by the EWT's Shelley Lizzio and the Underhay family, the previous owners of Medike.*



EWT staff donated baby clothing

# SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA

## TEAM



**Oldrich van Schalkwyk**  
Programme Manager



**Catherine Vise**  
Water Conservation  
Project Coordinator



**Climate Vhutari Hlungwani**  
Senior Water Ranger



**Elias Elvis Sithole**  
Water Ranger Team  
Leader



**Khathutshelo Mukhumi**  
Field Ranger



**Lufuno Willington Mavhandu**  
Water Ranger Intern



**Richard Ndou**  
Senior Water Ranger



**Shumani Makwarela**  
Water Ranger Team  
Leader



**Shumani Edward Mutenda**  
Senior Water Ranger



**Tharollo Mthisi**  
Field Ranger



**Tsumbedzo Munyai**  
Water Ranger Intern



**Vumbhoni Clyde Kubayi**  
Water Ranger Intern



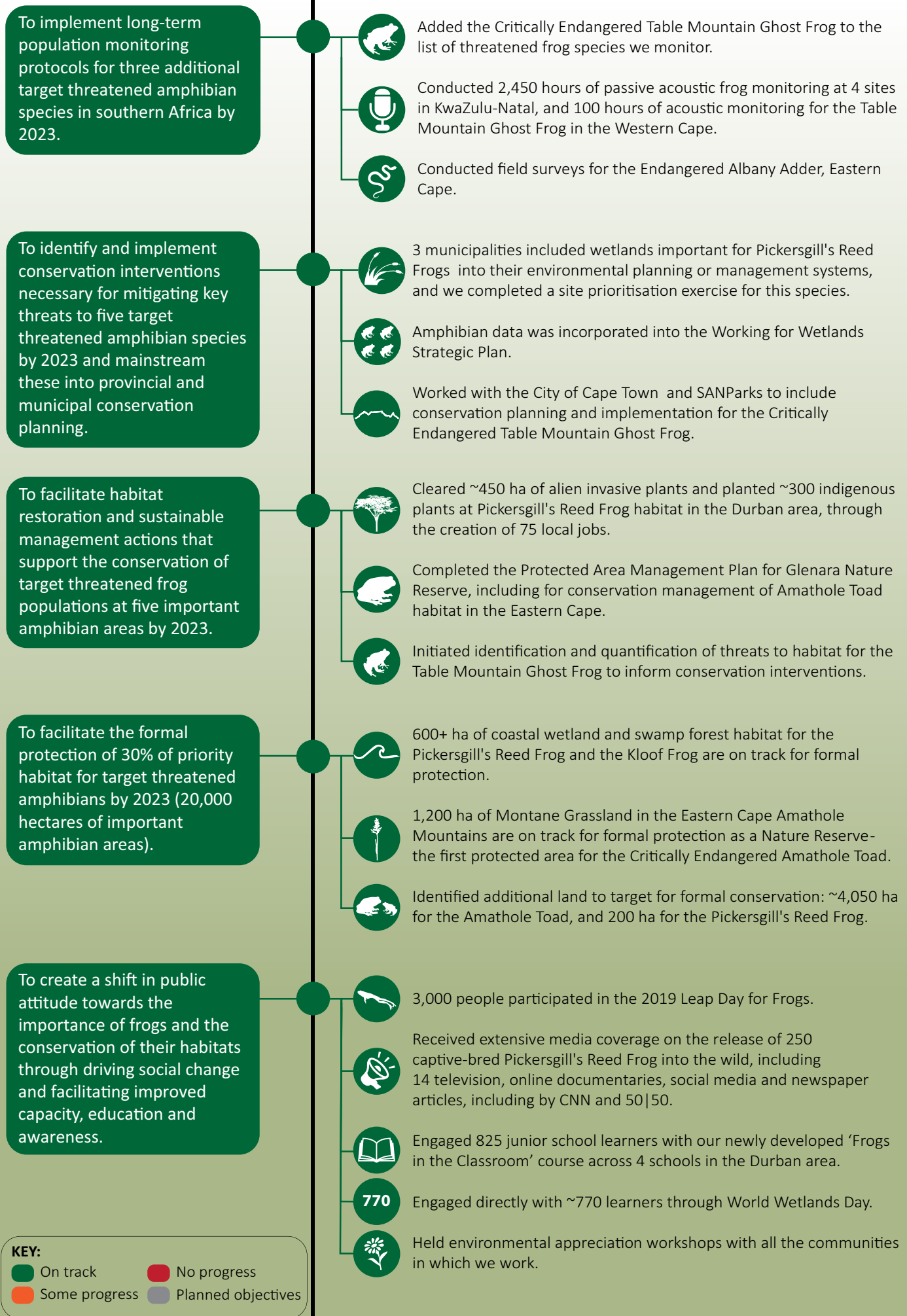
# THREATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME



Accelerated loss of biodiversity in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries has resulted in extinction levels way beyond what would be considered natural, and calls for urgent and innovative action to stem these losses. This is especially true in the case of amphibians where, since the 1980s, research has shown that modern amphibian declines and extinctions exceed that of any animal class over the last few millennia. Currently, almost half of all known amphibian species worldwide (over 8,000) are experiencing population declines. This trend is mirrored in South Africa, where 30% of our frogs are considered threatened. Furthermore, only about 0.01% of the world's total freshwater is readily available to terrestrial life. If amphibians are to survive this mass extinction event, it is critical, not only that aquatic ecosystems are protected, but also that associated terrestrial habitat is secured. The degradation of either ecosystem type disrupts amphibian life cycles and affected populations become vulnerable.

The EWT, through its Threatened Amphibian Programme, is the only NGO in South Africa to include frogs as a conservation focus. Our work contributes to the objectives of IUCN's Amphibian Conservation Action Plan, a global high-level strategy for amphibians. Our approach uses threatened frog species as flagships for the conservation of important freshwater and terrestrial habitats, we implement species and habitat monitoring, initiate habitat protection strategies at important amphibian areas, improve management of important amphibian habitat, use research to support conservation action, and promote social change to galvanise behavioural change towards frogs and recognition of the importance of their habitats in South Africa – specifically in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

## PROGRESS BAROMETER



## AMATHOLE TOAD FINDS FIRST SAFE SPACE

Since discovering a single male of the very rare Amathole Toad atop a misty mountain near Hogsback in the Eastern Cape, back in 2012, we have been working with the landowner of Glenara Farm, and the Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency, to formally declare the site as a Nature Reserve through Biodiversity Stewardship. This is a tool to encourage private, and communal, landowners to have their properties proclaimed as formally protected areas, while retaining ownership and management rights. They do so according to a negotiated management plan that benefits the conservation of biodiversity. Through this process, Glenara was selected for Nature Reserve status and will officially be called the Elandsberg Private Nature Reserve. These 1,200 ha will be the first, and only, formally protected area that holds a population of the Critically Endangered Amathole Toad. In November 2018, the “Notice of Intention to Declare” was published in the Eastern Cape Provincial Gazette.

*This work is made possible by Rainforest Trust.*



*The Critically Endangered Amathole Toad*

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS JOIN FORCES

The programme made the important conservation decision to incorporate reptile conservation formally into its mandate, adding a number of additional focus species—including the Sungazer (a large girdled lizard) and Albany Adder (a dwarf adder snake). This decision provides us with an opportunity to collaborate more with other EWT programmes.

We started a new project on the Critically Endangered Albany Adder in the Koega region of the Eastern Cape (our first project on a threatened reptile). This species has an extremely limited range and is known only from a very few historical records. The aim of our project is to survey for new sites, understand habitat requirements of the dwarf adder, and initiate possibilities for formal habitat protection. We also expanded the geographic scope of our work, starting a new project in the Western Cape in November on the Critically Endangered Table Mountain Ghost Frog, which aims to conduct never-before-done research to advise improved habitat management for it and four other threatened or localised species that occur only on the mountain.

*This work is made possible by Peoples Trust for Endangered Species and the Table Mountain Fund.*



*The most threatened snake in South Africa, the Critically Endangered Albany Adder*

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

We have renewed our five-year partnership with the global network Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), which commits us to:

- Prevent the extinction of amphibian species;
- Improve the conservation status of amphibian species;
- Protect, improve, and enlarge areas of habitat important for amphibians;
- Provide national governmental and other decision-makers with conservation advice based on the best scientific studies available;
- Build broad partnerships with all stakeholders needed for effective conservation;
- Coordinate amphibian conservation actions worldwide through the ASA Secretariat; and
- Help, through amphibians, to conserve broader biodiversity and improve the quality of people's lives;
- Educate people about the wonders of amphibians and their roles.

*Dr Jeanne Tarrant is an appointed Chair for the Amphibian Specialist Group's Habitat Protection Working Group.*

## GOOD POST FOR ENDANGERED REED FROGS

A Facebook post about the captive breeding and subsequent release of Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog – one of our focal species – in collaboration with Johannesburg Zoo, achieved over 8,000 views and some excellent, positive feedback. We posted the news in the lead up to the release of some 200 captive-bred Pickersgill's Reed Frog back into the wild in September 2018. Our role in the project is that of in situ partner, making us responsible for habitat protection and management, and post-release monitoring. This is the first reintroduction of a threatened frog species in South Africa and is the culmination of a decade of collaborative work by many stakeholders. The frogs were bred at the Johannesburg Zoo following collection of adult frogs from two sites in Durban in September 2017, assisted by the EWT. The captive-bred juveniles were released at Mount Moreland, with the story generating over 150 popular articles, as well as being featured in several documentaries, including by CNN and 50|50. Since then, a further 50 frogs have been released at a second site, and the programme is set to continue with more releases to additional new sites – all improving the chances of the long-term survival of this species and achieving the objective of downgrading its threat status.

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



*Pickersgill's Reed Frog*

## FROG RANGER

The Threatened Amphibian Programme was the extremely proud and happy recipient of a Ford Ranger from the Ford Wildlife Foundation. The handover took place on 16 October 2018 at the Ballito Ford Dealership, KwaZulu-Natal. With a team of five members now, this sponsorship has been extremely helpful in, especially for our Pickersgill's Reed Frog recovery work in KwaZulu-Natal. The vehicle is used for both field work and research as well as for community

and other stakeholder engagement. This includes species and habitat monitoring and assessment; facilitation of habitat protection and management strategies; environmental education and skills development and development of frog-related ecotourism opportunities. This is the first, and only sponsored vehicle for the programme and has already made a huge impact on our ability to reach people and places towards our project objectives; for example having reached well over 1,500 learners in the past year alone.



*SMME development candidates from Isipingo on a site visit to Adams Mission*



*Traditional leaders from the Sobonakhona Traditional Authority on a Stewardship Learning Exchange*

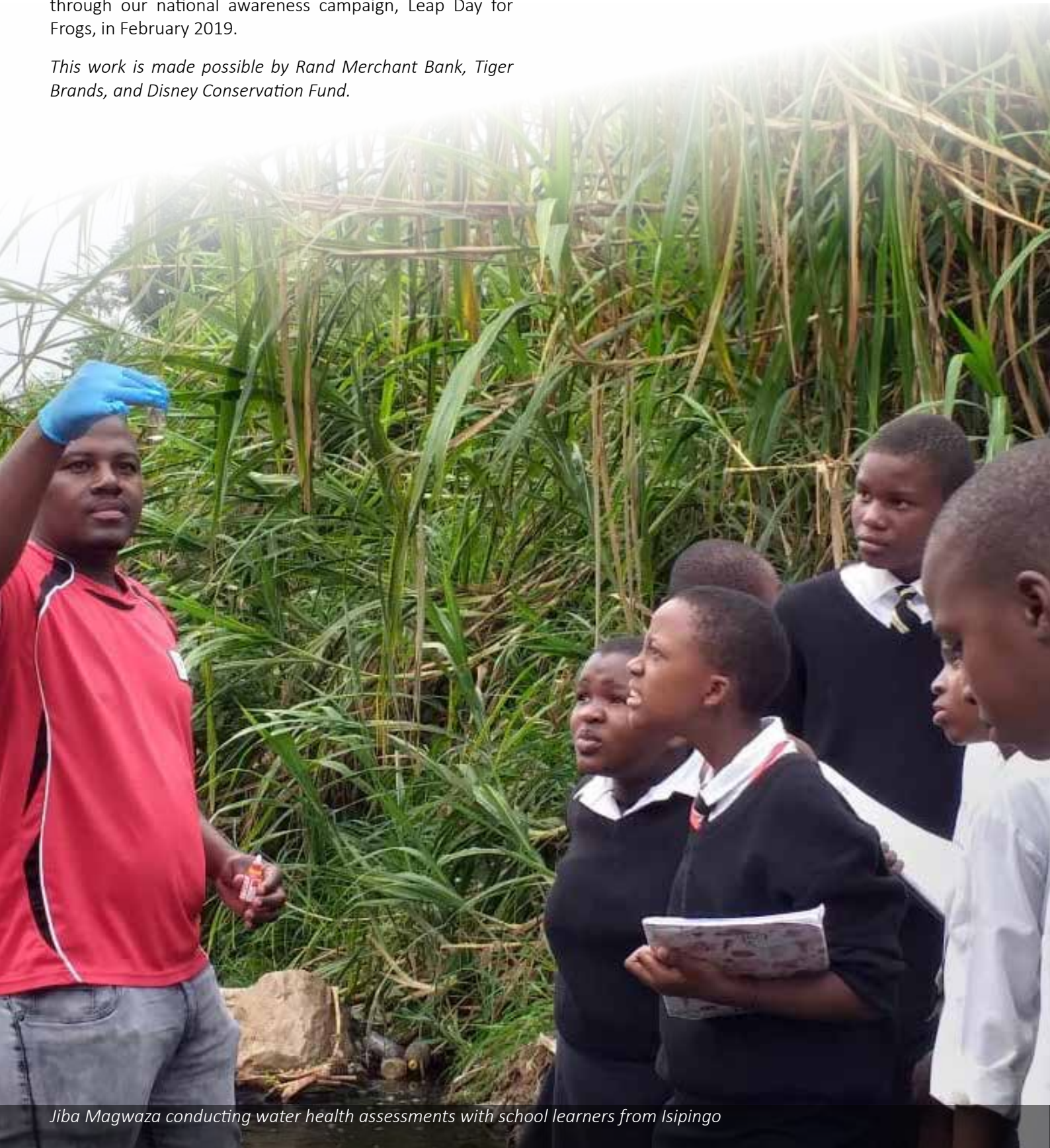
## FROGS IN THE CLASSROOM

During the period, our programme engaged 825 junior school learners with our newly developed 'Frogs in the Classroom' course across four schools in the Durban area. This includes an assessment of knowledge and attitudes towards frogs before and after the lessons and we have recorded positive improvements in both aspects across the schools. We also engaged directly with approximately 770 learners on World Wetlands Day 2019 and with 3,000 members of the public through our national awareness campaign, Leap Day for Frogs, in February 2019.

*This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank, Tiger Brands, and Disney Conservation Fund.*

## STAR ACHIEVER

Dr Jeanne Tarrant received the EWT's Programme Manager of the Year award at the 2018 EWT Conservation Week, in recognition of her outstanding work towards the protection, and highlighting the plight, of South Africa's amphibians.



*Jiba Magwaza conducting water health assessments with school learners from Isipingo*



## MAKING PROGRESS WITH ENDANGERED REED FROGS

The second Pickersgill's Reed Frog Forum was held on 30 April 2019, hosted by the South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) in Durban. This forum is held annually to report on progress against the Biodiversity Management Plan for the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog. The EWT is the lead implementing agent for this plan (with Dr Jeanne Tarrant as the co-author). Excellent progress has been made by all active role-players, especially the EWT in terms of habitat protection, habitat management, public awareness and community engagement. The forum now has 25 members, representing 17 entities. As a result of its work, three municipalities have included wetlands hosting Pickersgill's Reed Frogs into their environmental planning or management systems. And approximately 450 ha of alien invasive plants have been cleared and approximately 300 indigenous plants planted at Pickersgill's Reed Frog habitat in the Durban area through the creation of 75 local jobs by the EWT, funded by the then-Department of Environmental Affairs Natural Resources Management programme. One site has been rezoned to Conservation Reserve status and 70ha of habitat are under a Biodiversity Agreement at Adams Mission. Four youths have been trained as local Nature

Site Guides and two employed as Biodiversity Protection Officers. Passive acoustic monitoring of Pickersgill's Reed Frog sub-populations has been done at four wetlands and new Pickersgill's Reed Frog sub-populations have been found, bringing the total to 38.

A database of distribution records for Pickersgill's Reed Frog is maintained by members of this forum, while research led by the National Zoological Garden (NZG-SANBI) indicates that Pickersgill's Reed Frogs have a single genetic population. The lifecycle of Pickersgill's Reed Frogs has been documented through captive-breeding at Johannesburg Zoo, reaching the second filial generation, and a captive assurance population established. A detailed husbandry manual has been compiled, as has a protocol that considers wild population sources for the parental frogs for captive breeding, diseases, simulation of natural environmental conditions in captivity, genetics, lifecycle stage for release, and choice of release sites. Testing for the lethal chytrid fungus in Pickersgill's Reed Frogs was carried out by NZG-SANBI. A total of 250 captive-bred Pickersgill's Reed Frogs was released at Mount Moreland and River Horse Valley, with initial monitoring resulting in one released frog being sighted.

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



*Pickersgill's Reed Frog*

## ICONIC AND ENIGMATIC SPECIES OF TABLE MOUNTAIN

As part of our new project, the first stakeholder meeting of the Table Mountain Freshwater Ecosystems Project was held on 13 May 2019 in Cape Town. Most key stakeholders were present – SANBI, SANParks, City of Cape Town, the EWT and CapeNature. The meeting covered all of our research and fieldwork implemented since January, including baseline ecological and habitat assessments, species surveys, tadpole occupancy, and movement studies. To date, we have found the Critically Endangered Table Mountain Ghost Frog at both higher and lower elevations than previously recorded in all streams on the mountain. We have also discovered an undescribed *Galaxias* fish species at 12 of 136 samplig sites. The purpose of the meeting was a move toward outlining the conservation needs for the Table Mountain Ghost Frog in particular that we will be compiling in a formal conservation plan for the species.

*This work is made possible by the Table Mountain Fund.*



*Table Mountain Ghost Frog tadpole*



*The Critically Endangered Table Mountain Ghost Frog*



*The TAP team with donors, Table Mountain Fund, exploring a stream for the elusive Table Mountain Ghost Frog*

# THREATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME TEAM



**Dr Jeanne Tarrant**  
Programme Manager



**Cherise Acker**  
Senior Field Officer



**Jiba Magwaza**  
Junior Field Officer



**Joshua Weeber**  
Table Mountain Project Intern



**Njabulo Gcabashe**  
Biodiversity Protection Officer



**Nonkululeko Nzama**  
Biodiversity Protection Officer

# THREATENED GRASSLAND SPECIES PROGRAMME

Grassland species and habitats are widely threatened by mining, agriculture and urban development and the Threatened Grassland Species Programme (TGSP), while in operation, implemented conservation action for priority grassland species. Through this action, we maintained resilience of ecosystem services provided by grasslands to ensure food and water security for society. These services include water supply and quality, soil fertility, clean air and carbon sequestration. Landowners were inspired to take ownership of conservation-friendly land management on their properties using threatened, endemic and specialist

grassland species as flagships. This work was focused in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, Free State and Mpumalanga.

*With the focus of the programme being largely on landowner engagement, stewardship proclamation and community conservation development, the work of the Threatened Grassland Species Programme was absorbed into other EWT programmes in October 2018 to strengthen EWT capacity in these cross-cutting areas.*



*Sungazer*

## PROGRESS BAROMETER

By 2023, Biodiversity Management Plans and/or population status, trends and threat reports are documented and implemented for threatened grassland species.



The Sungazer Biodiversity Management Plan was finalised and is with the Minister for official gazettal. This, and other priority focal grassland species populations, are well understood and documented.

By 2023, documentation is submitted to the relevant departments for proclamation of 270,000 ha of suitable habitat for target populations of priority threatened grassland species.



Stewardship projects in the KwaZulu-Natal escarpment, eastern Free State, and Mpumalanga, all proceed as planned, with imminent submissions for protected environments including the Eeram, Hoëveld, and Upper Wilge protected environments.



The uMsoni Private Nature Reserve was proclaimed in May 2019, and the Witkoppen and Bezuidenhoutshoek Private Nature Reserves are ready for submission.

By 2023, we have provided practical, implementable guidance to various audiences at two biodiversity planning or species-specific events per year, and we have appropriately informed and/or influenced conservation planning and development processes within our target habitats.



In this reporting period we finalised the content of the Sungazer Biodiversity Management Plan, which informs management practices across the species' range in the Free State and Mpumalanga.



Darren Pietersen completed his PhD and submitted a paper on Yellow-breasted Pipit distribution and management.



A Botha's Lark management plan was drafted to guide grassland management practices for this and associated species.

Baseline levels of illegal harvesting of Cycads, Oribi and Sungazers are defined by 2019 and, by 2023, these are measured and reduced.



Zwelakhe Zondi's finalised and drafted his MSc for submission; this thesis focused on quantifying trade in Sungazers for traditional medicine.



Ongoing monitoring of Oribi informed the extent and distribution of illegal harvesting for this species.



Some preliminary analyses and surveys provided an indication of cycad poaching levels in KZN (although this project has been delayed due to funding constraints and the departure of dedicated staff member in TGSP focusing on this species group).

By 2023, proclamation and post-proclamation support is secured for our grassland protected areas, to the benefit and enhanced resilience of focal species, habitats and local communities.



Only once sites are proclaimed can we measure and implement improved management practices and post-proclamation support and the resultant resilience for focal species.

### KEY:

On track

No progress

Some progress

Planned objectives



## **ORIBI ON THE MOVE**

For the first time in some years, the Oribi Working Group meeting was hosted by a province other than KwaZulu-Natal. Instead, the Free State's Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) held the meeting in Memel In March 2019. This was an effort to expand the impact of the working group and to continue to address threats and leverage support for the prevention of illegal hunting with dogs and other direct impacts to this and other threatened grassland species. The EWT continues to build on existing individual relationships with SACAN, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the KZN Hunting, Shooting and Conservation Association, Free Me and Project Rhino KZN to form a collaboration to combat poaching of wildlife in KwaZulu-Natal, with an emphasis on poaching with dogs. The collaboration aims to provide a coordinated response system for reported incidents, and to pursue continued conservation action and research around these issues. The collective team also coordinates various community outreach programmes in areas that are experiencing high levels of wildlife crime and looks for opportunities to encourage alternative recreation and subsistence activities that do not target threatened wildlife.

Following the success of a pilot project which encouraged responsible fishing instead of poaching, members of the fishing team held a meeting in August 2015, where a decision to explore mountain bike (MTB) cycling as a follow-up initiative to discouraging poaching with dogs in KwaZulu Natal Midlands was taken. To this effect, the club members have participated in several official MTB races in KwaZulu-Natal where, through ROAG, a body which administers professional mountain bike cycling races, many members of the cycling team entered races under the theme of cycling to discourage poaching.

The cycling team uses the cycling route at Thurlow Nature Reserve as its base for practice. The Nature Reserve is home to a number of species including Oribi, breeding pairs of cranes, Reedbuck and duikers. This initiative has really appealed to the KwaZulu-Natal public, who continue to show support through donations of second-hand cycling gear and bicycles to the team. The members have participated and completed the SAPPI Karkloof Classic, Hilton Classic, Mandela Marathon and the 100km Underberg to Nottingham, to name just a few. Recently there has been a suggestion by several honorary officer groups to have the club as the first township-based honorary officers.

## HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

After a year of extremely hard work, the Whitley Award project team submitted the final report for our Eastern Great Escarpment Project, which was funded by Dr Ian Little's 2017 Whitley Award. The Whitley Fund for Nature team was pleased with our progress: "Congratulations again on your achievements towards the conservation of South Africa's grassland habitat and its wildlife with local landowners!" said Danni Parks, Deputy Director at Whitley. We have over 14,000 ha of land under private ownership, with landowners having formally signed their intention to declare themselves as protected areas. Core to this and taking the lead is uMsoni Nature Reserve near Normandien Pass which was formally proclaimed in March 2019.

*This work was made possible by the Whitley Fund for Nature.*

## PROTECTION FOR THE EASTERN FREE STATE

In the Moist Highland Grasslands our team made amazing progress towards proclaiming over 20,000 ha of critical habitat for Sungazers, Botha's Larks, Yellow-Breasted Pipits and other threatened and endemic species on the priority highland grassland areas of the eastern Free State and southern Mpumalanga provinces. These areas are also part of the nationally designated Strategic Water Source Areas and are thus not only important for the persistence of these threatened species but also for our water security as a nation. This protected area expansion work will ensure the long-term protection of these key areas for species conservation and water security. Our work will continue to expand on these protected areas in the eastern Free State and KZN escarpment under the banner of the African Crane Conservation Programme.

*This work was made possible by RMB and WWF Nedbank Green Trust.*



# THREATENED GRASSLAND SPECIES PROGRAMME TEAM



**Bradley Gibbons**  
Highlands Grassland  
Field Officer



**Samson Phakathi**  
Senior Field Officer

# URBAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The Urban Conservation Programme's purpose was to encourage urban residents to rediscover their link to nature, and to conserve and reduce threats to biodiversity and the remaining green spaces in urban areas, for the benefit of people and wildlife, now and into perpetuity.

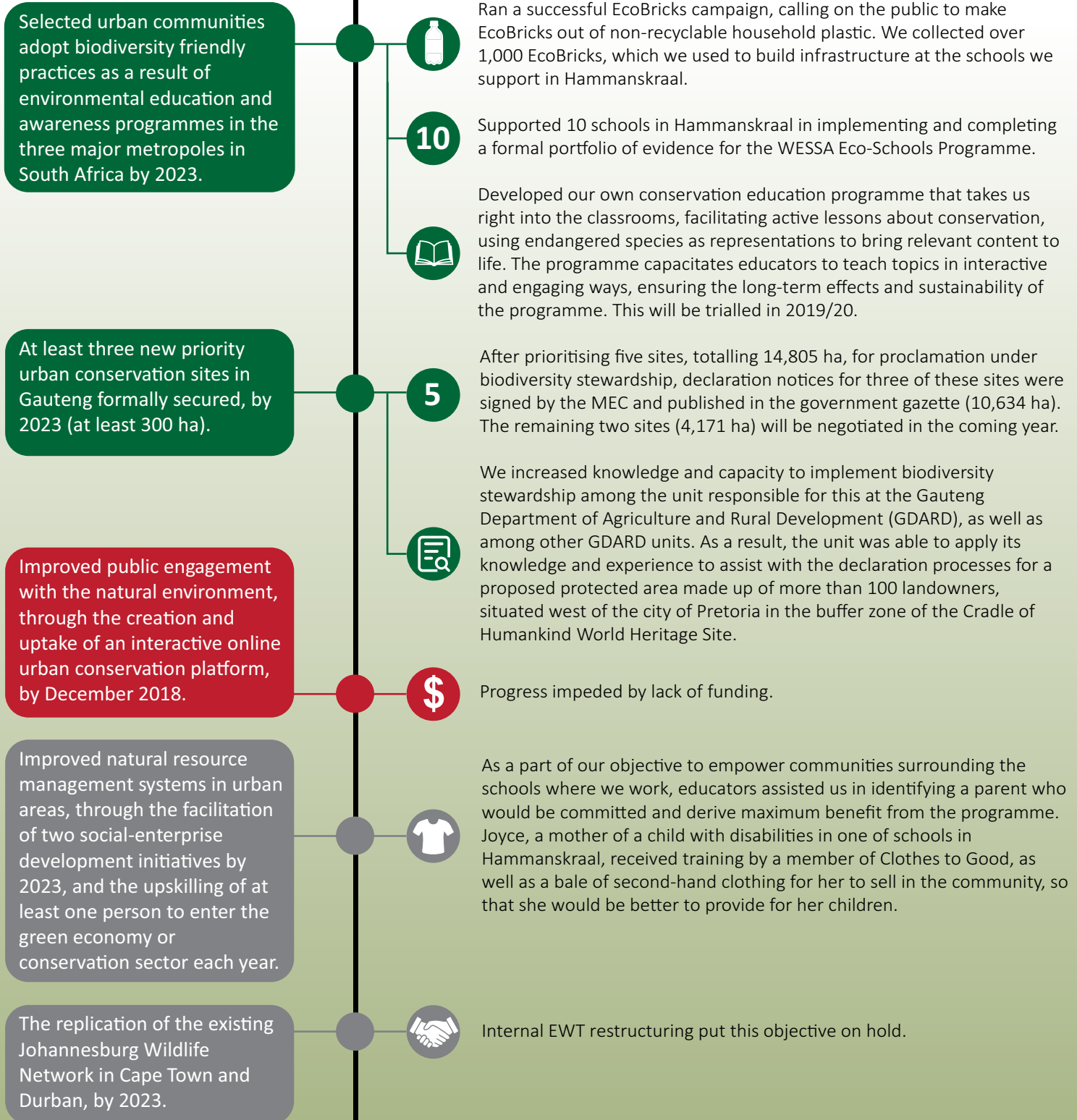
Many urban people have forgotten that, no matter where we live, we are completely reliant on the natural environment and the vital services it provides for our survival. Studies have shown that people who live in or near green areas have better physical and mental health. We wanted to show people the direct link between a healthy environment, healthy people and a healthy economy, to ensure that

current and future generations are fully able to experience all the benefits and wonder of wildlife and the natural environment – both in cities and outside of them. This work was focused in Gauteng.

*With the primary purpose of the programme being to reconnect people with the natural environment and help them to see that they are part of a larger ecosystem, and have a responsibility to protect it, the work of the Urban Conservation Programme was absorbed into the EWT's People in Conservation Programme in March 2019 to better fulfil this purpose.*



## PROGRESS BAROMETER



**KEY:**

- On track
- No progress
- Some progress
- Planned objectives

## PORTFOLIO OF EVIDENCE

All but one of the WESSA Eco-Schools we supported submitted their portfolios of evidence for assessment at the end of October 2018. All nine schools who submitted their portfolios to WESSA passed and were eligible to proceed to the next level of the programme. While working in these schools, we identified the need for an interactive classroom programme to reinforce and support the work that teachers and other programmes are doing at a school level. Through consultations with teachers and education specialists, and our own experiences, we created the EWT's Guardians of the Future (GOTF) Project, which has now been transferred to the recently established People in Conservation Programme. Once the project is fully developed, we are planning to roll it out in schools throughout the EWT's focus areas.

*The work was made possible by Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concessionaire (Pty) Ltd.*



*Guardians of the Future booster in progress*



*School in Hammanskraal's annual WESSA Eco-Schools poster*

## BUILDING BLOCKS

As part of their WESSA Eco-Schools action projects, two of the schools we support in Hammanskraal chose to improve their school grounds by providing benches for learners to sit on at break, and walls around their vegetable patches so that they could be filled with fertile topsoil and compost. The schools have very limited resources and therefore decided to use EcoBricks to build the benches and walls. EcoBricks are made from waste plastic (that cannot be recycled) compressed into clean and dry plastic bottles and used for building. To make sure that the schools had enough bricks, we launched our EcoBricks social media campaign to encourage members of the public to make EcoBricks for the schools, and received very positive feedback from the public. We also placed collection boxes for the public to donate their EcoBricks in Pick n Pay Hypermarkets across the country. To assist the schools with their own collections, we held a wonderful workshop with learners, teachers and community members on 17 August 2018, facilitated by a trainer from the [Global EcoBrick Alliance](#). We received so many EcoBricks that we were able to build the desired infrastructure with the schools, and had extra, which the schools have kept to use in similar projects.



*EcoBrick vegetable garden at Reneilwe Primary School in Hammanskraal*



*Working on EcoBrick wall at Lefofa Primary School*

## DEFENDING THE GRASSLANDS

The Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Programme (GBSP), a partnership between the EWT, the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and the funders, WWF Nedbank Green Trust, was launched in August 2015 to expand the footprint of protected areas in Gauteng through biodiversity stewardship. The final year was exciting because all of our hard work over the four years came to fruition when two private landowners from the Klipkraal Protected Area signed declaration agreements, and seven landowners from the Devon area signed an agreement to declare their properties as part of the Devon Protected Environment. Of the 7,977 ha that will be included in the DPE, an estimated

5,500 ha is untransformed grassland. Combined with Klipkraal's 2,660 ha, this will more than double our initial project target of obtaining 'intent to declare' for 5,000 hectares. Both Intent to Declare notices have now been signed off by the MEC's office, and have been published in both the government gazette and two national newspapers for public participation. There were no objections from the public or other stakeholders, and we resubmitted the notices to the MEC to sign so that we can publish that these properties are officially classified as protected areas under the National Environmental Management Plan: Protected Areas (NEMP: PAA). The GBSP team has identified additional sites in priority areas, and will be approaching the relevant landowners to further expand in Gauteng.

### Biodiversity stewardship

Biodiversity stewardship (BDS) is an approach to securing land in priority biodiversity areas by entering into voluntary formal agreements between conservation authorities and private and communal landowners, to establish protected areas. These agreements promote and facilitate responsible and sustainable land use management, and ensure that natural systems (e.g. wetlands, rivers, and natural veld), biodiversity, and ecosystem services (e.g. water provision, filtration and flood attenuation), are maintained and enhanced for present and future generations. Ultimately, the BDS landowners become custodians of the biodiversity and natural resources on their land. The process and legal contracts are based on the requirements as set out in the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act No 57 of 2003 (NEM: PAA).

*Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Programme's Devon proposed Protected Environment*

## THE MODDERFONTEIN RESERVE

The EWT continued to manage the 275 ha private Modderfontein Reserve over the past year, although we moved into more of an advisory role from January 2019. Impacts are being increasingly felt on the reserve due to the escalation in the surrounding development of land, as well as the start of construction on the M60 road that will bisect the reserve. Rehabilitation work from these impacts, as well as clearing of alien invasive plant species, burning of firebreaks and other reserve management continued. The large antelope species occurring on the reserve, namely Blesbok, Black Wildebeest, Springbok, Red Hartebeest and Plains Zebra, were monitored on a monthly basis. There are

about 160 individuals occurring on the reserve, but as they are found mainly in areas outside of the reserve footprint, many of them will sadly need to be removed to other sites as the development around the reserve continues. The bird list for the reserve continues to grow, and a Mountain Wheatear was added in July 2018. A pair of our national bird, the Blue Crane, are still present in the reserve

The Education Centre continued to host school groups participating in environmental education activities, and regular monthly walks and events were held in the reserve with the Modderfontein Conservation Society. The continued growth in visitors to the reserve highlights the importance of this green space to people in our urban environment.



*Fixed point photography*



*School group enjoying the reserve*

# URBAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

## TEAM



**Emily Taylor**  
Project Coordinator



**Zethu Sibiya**  
Junior Field Officer

# VULTURES FOR AFRICA PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Vultures for Africa Programme (VFA) is to reduce the imminent and real risk of extinction in African vultures through effective intervention and focus on the most significant current threat facing these birds, which is wildlife poisoning.

African vultures have declined drastically over the last 30 years to the level where five species are currently listed as Critically Endangered. This decline was the motivation for the drafting of an international Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) which aims to stop this trend through effective intervention through a range of actions. Poisoning in its various forms is the most significant threat to these birds in Africa and impacts other wildlife across the continent. Vultures for Africa aims to implement specific actions to reduce the impact of wildlife poisoning, and to facilitate the collection of quantitative data on vulture populations in identified gap areas within the MsAP range.

A critical component of our work is achieved through our partnership with the Hawk Conservancy Trust and the University of Reading. In addition to providing substantial funding in terms of Poisoning Response Training and the issue of equipment to trainees for effective deployment in the field during incidents, these partners also work with us to determine the impact of our training on the ground and assess the benefits of successful intervention on vulture populations in the areas where we work. Another aspect of our work which they support is the filling of knowledge gaps about vultures in East and southern Africa, by means of research and monitoring in areas where little is currently known about the population status and trends of the vultures that occur there. VFA operates in Kenya and all SADC countries, with the exception of the Democratic Republic of Congo. While the primary focus is other African countries, the programme also works in all nine South African provinces, as required.



*Hooded Vulture. Photo credit: André Botha*

## PROGRESS BAROMETER

By 2023, our poisoning intervention programme has led to the implementation of poisoning response plans and a reduction in vulture mortalities at five target sites in southern Africa, outside of South Africa.

Operational research and monitoring projects to address knowledge gaps are in place in at least three known African MsAP countries working with local partners/individuals.



Engaged with national departments in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia to implement poison response protocols. Sadly, a spike in poisoning incident occurred in areas where we have not yet engaged.



Led on the drafting of South Africa's National Vulture Conservation Action Plan.



Contributed to the Zimbabwe Vulture Action Plan, which was ratified in April 2019.



Conducted 12 training workshops for 384 people in 7 countries, which included the first training in Botswana and Tanzania. We have now conducted training for 1,739 learners in nine countries in southern and East Africa since mid-2015.



Engaged in projects with partners in Mozambique (Gorongosa), Zambia (3 national parks and the Chisamba area), and Malawi (Liwonde National Park). Also worked with partners in Botswana and Namibia on ongoing projects.



Completed the first aerial survey for vultures and other raptor nests in the Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique, confirming that the park is an important site for Critically Endangered White-headed Vultures.



Trapped and fitted satellite tracking devices to a further 22 vultures of three species in Gorongosa between June and August 2018, bringing the total number of tracked and tagged vultures from the park to 46.



Doubled the number of tracked and tripled the number of wing-tagged vultures from Zambia over a period of 4 days, in August 2018, through our work in partnership with Birdwatch Zambia.



Hosted the Raptor Research Foundation's annual conference at Skukuza, Kruger National Park, from 12–16 November 2018, with 275 delegates from 41 countries attending.

### KEY:

- On track
- No progress
- Some progress
- Planned objectives

## COUNTING IN GORONGOSA

In early August 2018, we completed the first aerial survey for vultures and other raptor nests in the Gorongosa National Park (GNP) in Mozambique, with support from The Bateleurs and Flying for Freedom South Africa. As suspected, we found a relatively high density of White-headed Vulture nests in the area surveyed which confirms the GNP is a very important site for this Critically Endangered species. We located at least five new breeding locations for Marabou Stork which also makes the area a significant breeding location for this species. A complete survey of the park is planned for late 2019.

*This work is made possible by Hawk Conservancy Trust, Alterra Wageningen University, Flying for Freedom SA, The Bateleurs, and Network for Animals.*

## VULTURES ON TRACK

Working in partnership with the Boise State University, Idaho, USA, we trapped and fitted satellite tracking devices to a further 22 vultures of three species in Gorongosa between June and August 2018, bringing the total number of tracked and tagged vultures from the park to 46. We also managed to double the number of tracked and triple the number of wing-tagged vultures from Zambia over a period of four days, in August 2018, through our work in partnership with Birdwatch Zambia. Conducting tracking in identified gap-areas such as central Mozambique and Zambia enhances our understanding of vulture movements within the southern African sub-region and assists with identifying potential focal areas or hotspots that require specific conservation interventions. All Wildlife Poisoning Response Training conducted in these countries to date has focused on areas identified in this manner.

*This work is made possible by Hawk Conservancy Trust, Alterra Wageningen University, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and Boise State University.*



*White-headed Vulture in Gorongosa National Park. Photo credit: André Botha*

## TRAINING DAYS

Follow-up Poison Intervention Training (PIT) workshops were conducted for 42 entry-level field rangers at the Southern African Wildlife College in August 2018, while an introductory PIT workshop for 31 staff from the Botswana Department of Wildlife in Serowe, Botswana, and a 3-day workshop for 25 staff from Conservation Lower Zambezi and the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in the Lower Zambezi National Park that month.

Another successful poisoning intervention training workshop was conducted in Kenya in September 2018, where 35 participants from a range of stakeholder organisations received training. Learners will use these skills to conduct further in-country training with various community-based groups to expand the implementation of effective PIT in south-eastern Kenya.

We completed the first Wildlife Poisoning Response Training in the Limpopo National Park, Mozambique as well as at the Grumeti Fund, Tanzania. We have now conducted training for 1,739 learners in nine countries in southern and East Africa since mid-2015.

We conducted the first Wildlife Poisoning Response Workshop under the banner of a new US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grant at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve in southern Botswana during April 2019. The workshop was attended by 22 learners and a group of 10 individuals was identified to become the first trainers to be trained in Botswana to conduct these workshops. Similar training events have been confirmed in the coming months for South Africa, Zambia and Namibia.

This work has been made possible through a major USFWS grant. The project will focus on training PIT trainers in six countries in the SADC-region during 12 training workshops.

*This work is made possible by Hawk Conservancy Trust, University of Reading, USFWS, and The Peregrine Fund.*



Poisoning Response Training in Mokolodi PNR, Gaborone Botswana. Photo credit: André Botha

## NATIONAL VULTURE CONSERVATION ACTION PLANS

After more than three years of encouragement and support from the EWT, the then-Department of Environmental Affairs has, in principle, agreed to lead the drafting of a National Vulture Conservation Action Plan (NVCAP). This contributes to the implementation of Action 12.1.2. of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP). The first stakeholder meeting was held in Pretoria on 1 August 2018, with 48 delegates from a range of stakeholder organisations. Vultures for Africa Manager, André Botha, was asked to assist in an advisory capacity during the drafting of the NVCAP and Dr Gareth Tate, who manages our Birds of Prey Programme, has been included in the drafting team.

In Zimbabwe, the government approved the Zimbabwe Vulture Action Plan 2018–2022 in April 2019, following a drafting process that was initiated during a workshop in Harare, in March 2013. The EWT's Vultures for Africa Manager, André Botha, was involved in the initial workshop and provided input and comment to the plan which is the first government-sanctioned national vulture conservation action plan by any sub-Saharan African country to have achieved this action (which is recommended by the CMS Vulture MsAP). We will continue to encourage and, where possible, support implementation of the Action Plan which is in the early stages of implementation.

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



Lappet-faced Vulture, Namibia. Photo credit: André Botha



## WORKING TOGETHER FOR VULTURES

André Botha co-led the third and fourth Socio-Environmental Synthesis Centre (SESYNC) workshop under the theme “There still is time to save Africa’s vultures” with a group of 20 people – from various partner organisations from southern and East Africa as well as the United States – at the University of Maryland, Annapolis, USA during October 2018. SESYNC brings together the science of the natural world, with the science of human behaviour and decision-making, to find solutions to complex environmental problems. The final of four workshops was concluded during the second week of March 2019. To date, four peer-reviewed publications focused on various aspects covered during deliberations at the four workshops were finalised and submitted to a range of journals for publication. A fifth and final workshop to consolidate and finalise a further three publications will be held early in 2020. Symposia focused on the work completed during the workshops have also been registered for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) conference in February 2020 and at the Pan-African Ornithological Conference (PAOC) in October 2020.

Working with BirdLife South Africa and the EWT’s Wildlife and Energy, and Birds of Prey programmes, we hosted the Raptor Research Foundation’s annual conference at Skukuza, Kruger National Park, from 12–16 November 2018, with 275 delegates from 41 countries attending. In addition to a full programme of presentations reflecting current raptor research and conservation work from across the world, the conference also provided valuable opportunities for networking and discussions on a range of matters that included the establishment of the Vulture Initiative for sub-Saharan Africa (VISA), and a discussion group to facilitate the expansion of the EWT-Eskom Partnership model to other countries in Africa. Training workshops on a range of topics related to raptor research, conservation, and care and rehabilitation, were also presented by international and local facilitators. Due to the successful hosting of the conference, André Botha was nominated for election to the Board of the Raptor Research Foundation as Director for the Southern Hemisphere, in April 2019.

*This work is made possible by SESYNC, University of Maryland, USA, Raptors Research Foundation, and Eskom.*



*Gorongosa vulture collection. Photo credit: André Botha*

## VULTURES FOR AFRICA TEAM



**André Botha**  
Programme Manager



**Rebecca Mabuza**  
Administrator

# WILDLIFE AND ENERGY PROGRAMME

The Wildlife and Energy Programme's purpose is to reduce the impact of energy infrastructure on wildlife.

Energy infrastructure can have devastating effects on wildlife. We believe we can have a positive influence on the wildlife management policies of energy utilities to reduce impacts on wildlife, improve quality of supply to customers, and ultimately phase out problematic processes and hardware to substantially minimise wildlife interactions with electricity infrastructure in Africa. We operate across all provinces in South Africa and have engaged with and advised utilities in Uganda, Kenya, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Tasmania.

The Wildlife and Energy Programme continues to support Eskom daily through the investigation and mitigation of wildlife incidents on their infrastructure. During the financial year, a total of 189 incidents were recorded in the central incident register. In parallel, Eskom have also progressed with the proactive mitigation strategy. During this financial year, Eskom Transmission proactively marked 114 spans with bird flight diverters, while Eskom Distribution marked 820 spans and mitigated (insulated or replaced) 2,034 structures.



## PROGRESS BAROMETER

Deliver on all Eskom 5-year national contract objectives by 2022.



Recorded 189 wildlife related incidents for Eskom distribution, investigated 88 of these and generated 82 recommendation letters. This resulted in 668 electricity poles being retrofitted/replaced to ensure that the structures are wildlife friendly, and 463 spans marked with bird flight diverters.

116

Trained 116 Eskom staff to assist in the identification and reporting of wildlife incidents.

7

Assisted Eskom Research with 7 research projects for the year:

- The Flamingo Tracking project collected 32,426 locations for flamingos covering a total flight distance of 40,661 km
- Walked 160 km for our power line survey in the Karoo.
- Completed 1,750 km of aerial survey for Martial Eagle nest count, and 4,020 km for crane nest counts, covering an area of 25,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
- At Sere Wind Farm we searched a total of 176 plots underneath turbines on foot, totalling approximately 5,000 km of transects.

Build a database to quantify the reduced risk of wildlife mortalities related to the energy sector in South Africa by 2023.



Started mapping proactive mitigation progress as we receive this information from Eskom. Eskom proactively marked 114 high-risk spans of transmission line with bird flight diverters and a further 820 spans of distribution lines.



Modified/mitigated 2,034 distribution poles in high-risk areas to be bird friendly as part of the strategy, preventing an untold number of electrocution incidents.

Implement interventions, ideally through strategic partnerships, with at least three other African countries by 2023.



Co-hosted the inaugural African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE) in the Kruger National Park, where we engaged with several African utilities.



In advanced negotiations with Power Africa regarding engagements in 6 African countries. The proposal is to conduct readiness assessments, host in-country workshops, and set up partnerships between local NGOs and utilities.

Reduce wildlife mortalities on power lines and improve the livelihoods of a rural community by successfully implementing at least one 'Off the Grid' project, independent of Eskom funding, by 2020.



Designed a full conceptual model of this project and submitted a number of funding proposals, the results of which are still pending.

To improve the efficiency of power line marking by securing a working relationship with Eskom Aviation using drones to install mitigation by 2020.

### KEY:

● On track

● No progress

● Some progress

● Planned objectives

## GETTING CONNECTED

The Wildlife and Energy Programme (WEP) co-hosted the inaugural African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE) in the Kruger National Park from 10–15 March 2019. Here we established significant contacts with Power Africa, the USAID development arm for electrical infrastructure expansion in Africa. In response, we were invited to present the achievements of our partnership with Eskom at Power Africa’s annual field coordination meeting, and in May 2019 we submitted a plan for expanding the partnership model into Africa.

Following the success of ACLIE, we were honoured to receive an invitation from the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET) organising committee to chair a session on energy infrastructure at their conference in the United States, in September 2019.

## MYOPIC BUSTARDS

While bird flight diverters work really well to alert most flying birds to the presence of power lines – allowing them to take evasive action in time – some species such as Ludwig’s Bustards just do not seem to see them. Eskom has

now approved the testing of three new types of bird flight diverters, specifically aimed at reducing collisions for these threatened bustards. The first of these devices has been engineered and manufactured in Australia; another is from the United States designed by Powerline Sentry; while the third is a local product made by Preformed Line Products. The experiments will be set up on a transmission line near De Aar to test these products. We hope they provide a solution to reducing bustard fatalities in the future.

## NEW CROSS-PROGRAMME COLLABORATIONS

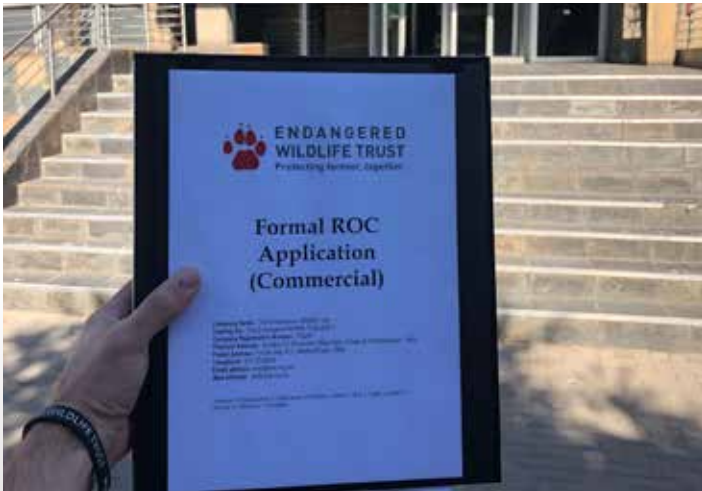
WEP has secured funding from Eskom Research, Testing and Development for two new projects focused on bird–power line interactions in the Karoo; one on Martial Eagles and the other on Blue Cranes, conducted by the EWT’s Birds of Prey and the African Crane Conservation programmes, respectively. These projects further facilitated cross-programme collaboration between WEP and other programmes within the EWT, providing more direct access to a greater set of expertise from the respective species experts, and are contributing to an improvement of our understanding of the impacts of distribution and transmission lines on threatened avifauna in the Karoo.



*Ludwig's Bustard*

## CHOCKS AWAY!

The Department of Transport awarded the EWT an Air Service Licence following a highly involved six-month application process, and a successful interview in Pretoria in September 2018. This licence forms a vital part of our application to the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) to commercially operate drones – or more correctly Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) – in South African Airspace. Eventually, in May 2019, we submitted our EWT RPAS Operations Certificate (ROC) application to the SACAA. The SACAA is satisfied with the application and we have also submitted two copies of the EWT Operations Manual for review. Following this approval, we will be prompted to set up a demonstration flight for the SACAA before the final approval is issued. Once this is in place, the EWT will have access to a variety of photographic, thermal imagery and survey opportunities which will enable us to work more efficiently and apply techniques that have previously been inaccessible or unaffordable.



*Matt Pretorius handing in the ROC application at the SACAA head office*

## PROGRESS IN AUSTRALIA

Constant Hoogstad, EWT Senior Manager: Industry Partnerships, travelled to Tasmania on behalf of WEP to facilitate the formalisation of a partnership between The Raptor Refuge, a local raptor rehabilitation centre, and Tasmania's electricity company, TasNetworks. The partnership is modelled on the Eskom/EWT partnership. Raptor Refuge has launched a toll-free hotline, where members of the public can report incidents in Tasmania. Although it is early days for the new partnership, our contacts in Tasmania have reported a massive increase in awareness from utility staff with a number of structures having been converted to a bird friendly design. This forms a crucial part of the ongoing conservation effort aimed at the Wedge Tailed Eagle.

## WILDLIFE REPORTING APP

Our wildlife reporting app is now available as a web application and on the Google Play store. The app will be officially launched once approved by the Apple App store. The application is called WEP incidents and is also available as a web based application [here](#). We believe this will greatly improve the quality and quantity of information we receive from the public, further enhancing our understanding of the impact of power lines on our wildlife.

## SEEING (INFRA) RED

The programme attended a special meeting hosted by SANParks in the Kruger National Park in January 2019, to discuss potential future drone work. The Kruger National Park's Airwing division hosted the meeting, after which we successfully field-tested the EWT's thermal camera from the ground, illustrating its potential as a tool to assist veterinarians darting animals at night. The challenge is to locate an animal quickly once the immobilisation drug takes effect as the impact of the dart may cause it to move away from the area. Using this technology, the team can easily locate animals in the dark and complete the necessary procedures before the effect of the drugs wears off.

## SERE WIND FARM COMPLETES ANOTHER MONITORING YEAR

Eskom's flagship 100 MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF), Sere, near Koekenaap (Western Cape coast), has been fully operational since April 2015. The Sere Biodiversity Impact Study commenced in May 2015 according to the newly established EWT/Eskom Environmental Management Plan and is now in its fourth year of operation. This is well beyond the minimum requirement for monitoring the impacts of wind energy facilities in South Africa. As part of the monitoring programme, seasonal surveys of the nearby Olifant's River estuary at Papendorp in the Matzikama municipal district

are also completed. The estuary is situated just 17 km south of the wind farm and forms an integral part of the Sandveld ecology.

The Olifant's River estuary is one of only four perennial estuaries on the west coast of southern Africa and although not under formal conservation status, has been identified by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The estuary includes a high diversity of significant habitats such as salt marsh, river and ocean, and hosts more than 200 coastal and estuarine bird species (86 species of estuarine water birds).

During seasonal surveys at the estuary and daily surveys on Sere, the EWT has recorded in particular, the intra-Africa migrants and nomads; Greater and Lesser Flamingos. Both flamingo species are seasonally common in the area and casualties of both species have been noted at Sere. The estuary area also boasts important breeding sites for Swift Terns, of which some fatalities were also recorded at Sere over the last four years of operation. The EWT's continued involvement in this project ensures legal compliance in terms of the environmental management plan for Eskom while contributing to the South African database of wind energy impacts as one of the few facilities that have continued monitoring after the mandatory two-year operational monitoring period.



*Mietjie Mathys and Dalena de Wee at Sere Wind Farm*

## THIS WAS A PLASTIC BOTTLE

As part of our ongoing #poweringchange campaign, which we are running in conjunction with our strategic partner, Eskom, we delivered over 100 Living Eco reusable shopping bags to Eskom's head office to create awareness and spark change. These bags are made from recycled plastic bottles thereby closing the loop on recycling and plastic. This coincided with Eskom's environmental week in June, where all the #poweringchange products, which include reusable bamboo straws and reusable coffee cups, as well as these bags, were on display.

The aim of this campaign is to make Eskom staff aware that by choosing biodegradable or reusable items instead of single-use plastics, they can reduce their impact on the environment, and power change. Over 46,000 employees at Eskom will receive this message, a huge stride forward in our ongoing quest to clean up the environment.



*Ndzalama Chauke with a Living Eco reusable shopping bag*



*Eskom live line team working on the structure where White-breasted Cormorants were nesting at Kriel Power Station*

# WILDLIFE AND ENERGY PROGRAMME

## TEAM



**Lourens Leeuwner**  
Programme Manager



**Amos Letsoalo**  
Senior Field Officer



**Dalena de Wee**  
Renewable Energy Field Officer Intern



**Ju-Ann Josephs**  
Renewable Energy Field Officer Intern



**Lizel Tolken**  
Renewable Energy Field Officer



**Marianne Golding**  
Administrator



**Matt Pretorius**  
Senior Field Officer



**Megan Murison**  
Programme Officer



**Mietjie Mathys**  
Renewable Energy Field Officer Intern



**Ndzalama Chauke**  
Junior Field Officer



**Oscar Mohale**  
Senior Field Officer



**Ronelle Visagie**  
Field Officer





# WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

The Wildlife and Transport Programme works to reduce the negative impacts of transport infrastructure on wildlife, and ultimately improve driver and passenger safety by reducing wildlife-vehicle-collisions.

We have all accidentally collided with an animal at some point in our lives, be it a small butterfly, a bird, or something larger like a kudu. While smaller species may not result in human injury or damage to vehicles, collisions with larger species can cause significant damage, and be fatal to vehicle occupants. An average of 45 people are killed

each day in vehicle collisions on South African roads, with many of these collisions involving animals. Insurance claims suggest that approximately R82.5 million is paid each year against vehicle collisions with wild animals, though the costs of these collisions to wildlife are never calculated. So what are the consequences for wildlife? The Wildlife and Transport Programme is tackling this question as well as working to find solutions to the problems associated with wildlife and transport infrastructure across all nine South African provinces, as well as collaborating on projects with colleagues in Kenya, Ethiopia and Pakistan.



## PROGRESS BAROMETER

Reduced wildlife-related incidents and the negative impacts of linear infrastructure through three focused intervention strategies on five major road networks that target ten priority flagship vertebrate species and five critical sites by January 2023.

4

Road ecology research supported through four projects involving students with previously-disadvantaged backgrounds.

We successfully piloted 3 intervention strategies trialled in 3 different areas:

1. 61% of drivers changed their behaviour in response to wildlife-warning signage;
2. identified optimal bridge-crossing structures for Samango Monkeys;
3. low-level roadside-fencing reduced roadkill of small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

3

Guidelines for best environmental practices to wildlife-conflict on roads are adopted by two toll concessionaires and the Department of Environmental Affairs, for Environmental Impact Assessments, by 2020.

N3TC

We worked with N3TC to identify hotspots on the N3 Highway, and areas where we can retrofit some road structures to ensure safe crossing passages for wildlife.



Our guidelines for road mitigation were referenced by Environmental Resources Management Consulting East Africa Limited (ERM) for the Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway Project in Kenya.



Captured 109 camera trap observations of animals making use of underpasses on the N3 Highway, underscoring the importance of these structures for wildlife safety.



Provided 6 training courses on wildlife incident data collection to 75 toll concessionaire staff, and accompanied 16 route patrols.



Held the inaugural African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE), in Skukuza, Kruger National Park. This was attended by 120 delegates from 21 countries.

Guidelines for best environmental practices to wildlife-conflict on roads are adopted by two toll concessionaires and the Department of Environmental Affairs, for Environmental Impact Assessments, by 2020.



Submitted several proposals to donors for consideration during the period, some of which are still pending adjudication.



Received approval for the implementation of our Illegal Wildlife Trade Analysis Project as part of the USAID/WWF Khetha Project. The body of this work will take place over the next reporting period.

### KEY:

- On track
- No progress
- Some progress
- Planned objectives

## CHAMPIONS OF CONSERVATION

The Wildlife and Transport Programme places a high premium on development and training, allowing for personal growth and promotion of a learning culture. We strongly believe in developing and supporting individuals and communities by empowering them with skills and knowledge that will provide them with the necessary tools to be the future ambassadors and champions of conservation. We provide training and support at three different levels: schools, universities, and road agency patrol teams.

### Schools

Raising awareness of our work so that all road users are safe—be they wildlife, motorists or pedestrians—is important to us. New in 2018 was the launch of our ‘Road Safety Campaign in Schools’ project, delivering road safety programmes to school learners. What makes our programme different is that we have incorporated an element of conservation alongside road safety, with the hope of establishing ambassadors in our schools to help make a difference on our country’s roads. The first recipients of this new initiative were 150 learners from Phelang LSEN and Refithile Primary School in Hammanskraal, in September 2018. One of the learners said, “We were taught to always look for a safe place when crossing the road, and also that animals get killed on roads too, and we need to try and protect them.”

### Students

The programme team is growing and becoming flourishing pioneers of road ecology, with the addition of four students undertaking research projects. These joint collaborations between the EWT and their respective universities (Tshwane University of Technology and University of Venda) will serve to increase the scientific credibility of our work. All of our students are from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. Two of the students (Innocent Buthelezi and Brilliant Mashao), undertook research in the Kruger National park for the Roads in Parks Project resulting in measures that will reduce roadkill. Brilliant has designed a Roadkill Risk Map, which will be able to predict where roadkill is most likely to occur, and

therefore guide where mitigation measures should be best placed. Innocent trialled different types of wildlife-warning signage in an effort to change driver behaviour. Interestingly, his preliminary data analysis has shown that our current roadside signage (i.e. the red triangle depicting a silhouette of a kudu, as well as an image of a speed camera) do little to encourage drivers to modify their driving behaviour. However, the signs we developed depicting a photograph of a snake resulted in a significant change in behaviour, ultimately showing a reduction in roadkill incidences. The outcomes of both Brilliant and Innocent’s research will assist national parks with traffic management plans.

### Road agency patrol teams

Working closely with stakeholders in the transport sector is integral to our work. Currently, we work with three of South Africa’s toll concession companies: Bakwena N1N14 Toll, TRAC N4, and N3 Toll Concession. Comprising almost 1,400 km of combined highway, the three toll companies are important because they pass through a diverse range of habitats ranging from urban landscapes, to communal land, to agricultural areas. These areas are home to people, domestic animals, livestock and wildlife, all of which may come into contact with the vehicles using the road. Such encounters can prove fatal for road users, particularly wildlife. In light of the above, we have an obligation to protect the wildlife that may be potentially at risk from this road. Together, we address a reduction in wildlife-vehicle collisions, as well as the impact of these collisions on human safety. Our work includes providing training to toll concessionaire staff in wildlife incident data collection, species identification and mitigation measures. As a result of this training, which began in 2014, we have seen a significant increase in roadkill reports as well as accuracy of species reports from the staff. In 2018, our field staff accompanied the teams on 16 route patrols and delivered six training courses supporting 75 staff in road ecology-related matters.

*This work is made possible by Ford Wildlife Foundation, Bakwena N1N14 Toll, De Beers Group of Companies, GreenMatter, TRAC N4, and N3 Toll Concession. It is supported by Tshwane University of Technology and University of Venda.*



Children learning about road safety



## DO ANIMALS USE CULVERTS TO CROSS THE ROAD?

Working with the N3TC route patrollers, 2019 saw the start of an exciting new project to conduct a survey of existing road structures and determine how they benefit wildlife. To do this, we installed six cameras inside of the culverts on the N3 to determine which species occurred in the vicinity of, and which species actually used the crossing structures to move from one side of the road to the other. Although these structures were mostly not built or erected for the express purpose of being wildlife passages, we believe that many animals use these underpasses to safely cross the road.

Over a two-month period, we captured 109 observations on camera traps; these included porcupines, mongoose, rodents, guineafowl, and even a Serval. These findings are exciting, as it means that animals are using these structures, and consequently, the passages can be retrofitted to be even more accommodating to animals...ultimately preventing them from accessing the road, by encouraging them to cross beneath the road. This will also improve human safety on the N3 highway by reducing collision, potential injuries and fatalities. Our work represents the first monitoring of animal usage in road underpasses in South Africa and will guide future solutions to prevent wildlife deaths on this highway and eventually other roads in the country, and the continent.

*This work is made possible by Ford Wildlife Foundation, N3 Toll Concession, and IdeaWild.*

## NEW SIGNS MEAN A REDUCTION IN ROADKILL

In an effort to reduce roadkill, we successfully tested the effectiveness of mitigation measures in the Pilanesberg National Park. This work has provided valuable data to assist with the future design of wildlife-warning signage on regional and national roads. Encouragingly, our Roads in Parks Project saw a 98% positive change in driver behaviour in Pilanesberg National Park, with signs significantly reducing collisions with wildlife. This project has received international acclaim as the findings have been published in a scientific peer-reviewed journal and presented at international conferences. Further promotion of this project has been through national newspapers and magazine articles, as well as radio stations. We also produced three videos that were shown throughout 2018 in SupaQuik stores around the country.

*This work is made possible by Ford Wildlife Foundation, Bridgestone SA, De Beers Group of Companies, TRAC N4, and GreenMatter. It is supported by Syntell (Pty) Ltd, SANParks, North West Parks and Tourism Board, and Pilanesberg National Park.*

## MAKING THE LINK

Together with the EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme, we co-hosted the first ever African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE), in Skukuza, Kruger National Park, in March 2019. Nearly 120 delegates attended from 21 different countries, giving some 70 presentations. The conference theme was centred around linear infrastructure, namely roads and rail, energy, power lines, canals, pipelines, and fences, and their impacts on the environment. ACLIE was the first of its kind, not only for Africa, but also in the framework of combining transportation and energy at one forum outlining multiple, common threats to the environment. Feedback from the conference delegates indicates strong support for ACLIE to establish itself a regular event on the global calendar – only through bringing together experts from around the world, will we truly address these very real threats to biodiversity.

One of the outcomes of ACLIE was provided networking opportunities with our counterparts in other countries and consequently, we established an important partnership with the Kenyan road and rail authorities, with plans underway to provide them with in-house training.

*ACLIE 2019 was organised with the assistance of africaMASSIVE, and was supported by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Road Ecology Center – UC Davis, TRAC N4, EcoKare International, SANParks, Balmoral Engineering, Painted Wolf Wines, and Arcus Foundation.*

## FLYING THE FLAG

In September 2018, WTP's Field Officer, Innocent Buthelezi, attended the Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE) Conference in Holland. Here he gave two presentations on behalf of the programme, one on the status of road ecology in Africa, and the other through a two-hour workshop on roadkill reporting systems in collaboration with our international counterparts.

We also presented both an oral and poster presentation at the De Beers Research Conference. The oral presentation can be viewed [here](#). In addition, Brilliant Mashao, our University of Venda MSc student presented at the SANBI Foundational Biodiversity Information Programme forum in Port Elizabeth. Brilliant is designing a roadkill risk map in Kruger National Park that can be expanded to other protected areas, once tested.

*TRAC N4 and the IENE Steering Committee provided support for us to attend IENE.*



*Culverts under the N3 Highway*

## BOOK WORMS

We were honoured to receive an invite to co-author a book provisionally entitled *Guidance for connectivity conservation impacted by linear transportation infrastructure*. This significant publication will be published in early 2020 under the leadership of the Transport Working Group (TWG) of the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group. We also published five scientific papers promoting the findings of our research in international peer-reviewed journals, bringing our research tally to ten, since 2014.

## ELEPHANT DERAILED

Following an incident in November 2018, in which a train killed an elephant on the railway that runs through Balule Private Game Reserve, we entered into discussions with reserve staff to discuss possible solutions, and the training of staff to gather rail mortality data. Reports indicate that nine elephants are killed by the train every year, while over 90 lions have reportedly fallen victim to it in the last ten years. Whilst there are little quantifiable data for the country on wildlife-rail-mortality figures, these statistics alone suggest that railways can have equally catastrophic impacts on biodiversity as roads. This provides a real opportunity to expand our programme to the rail sector, through the development of related projects.



The WTP team at ACLIE



**Wendy Collinson-Jonker**  
Programme Manager

# WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME TEAM



**Brilliant Mashao**  
MSc student



**Innocent Buthelezi**  
Field Officer



**Marianne Golding**  
Administrator



**Siboniso Thela**  
BTech student



**Thabo Hlatshwayo**  
MSc student

# 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.

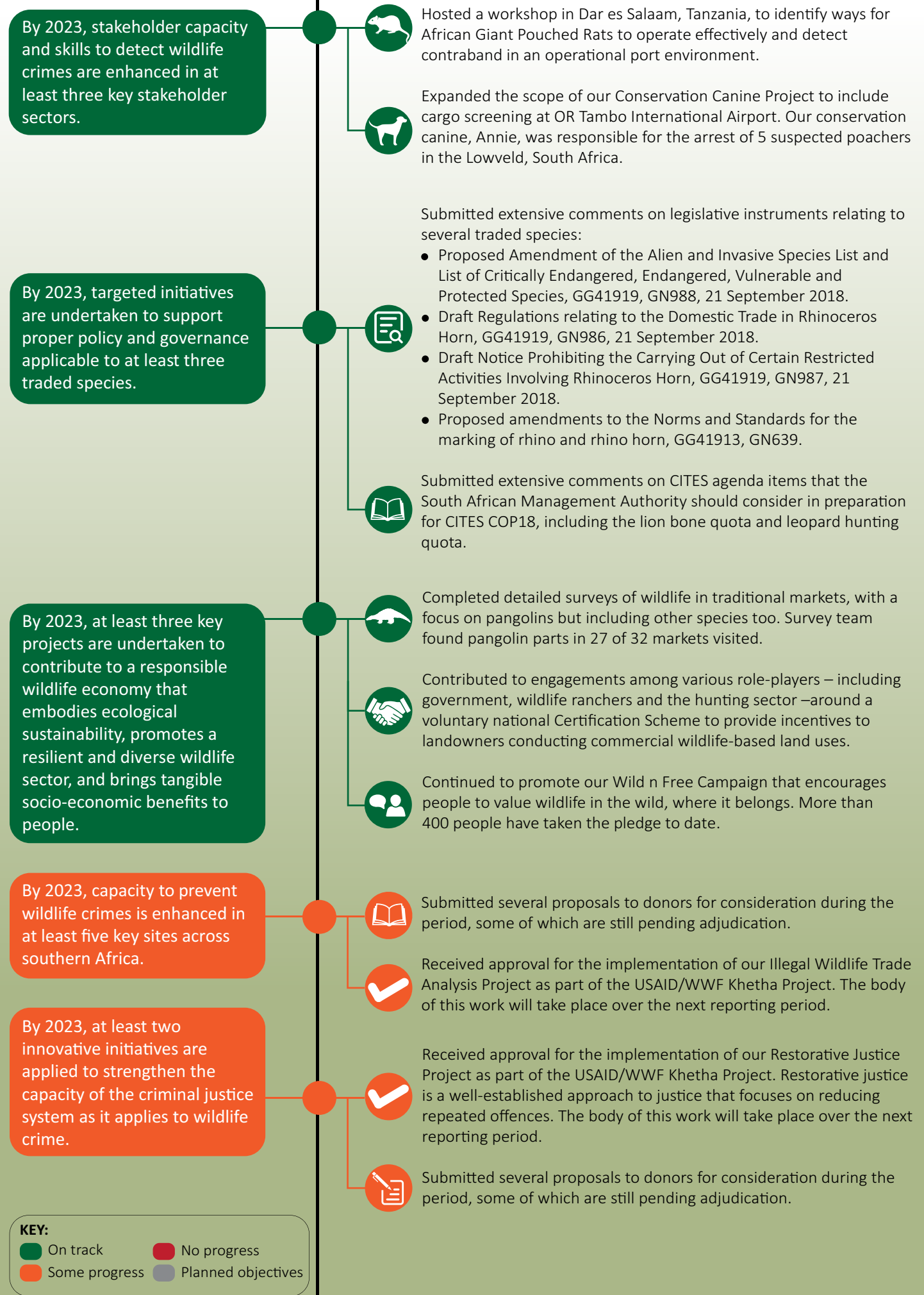
We continuously explore innovative approaches and opportunities to achieve our purpose. We focus our initiatives on five thematic areas: Prevention, Detection, Justice, Governance and Use. We implement projects that strengthen both the proactive and reactive capabilities

of the criminal justice system. We continually strive to improve our knowledge on species in trade and trends, to identify emerging threats as well as identify opportunities to improve compliance. We strive to be a thought leader within the wildlife trade sector.

The Wildlife in Trade Programme currently works in Gauteng, North West, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, as well as in Tanzania.



## PROGRESS BAROMETER





## PASSING WITH DISTINCTION

Working closely with APOPO in Tanzania, our illegal wildlife trade detection rats can now detect pangolin scales and one of the African hardwoods in a controlled training environment. We were able to showcase this amazing project to law enforcement agencies in a 2-day workshop held in Tanzania in December 2018. Officials from the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the Tanzanian Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU) attended the event. Our primary aim of the workshop was to identify ways for our wildlife detection rats to work effectively in an operational environment. The rats' training continues and will include addressing the ideas developed at the workshop for their deployment.

We also received high level project coverage at the 2018 London Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference. Here we showcased the project and received very positive feedback from our funders, while the opportunity to participate in the conference proved invaluable.

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

*APOPO rat in training tank*

## WILD 'N FREE

In conjunction with the EWT's Carnivore Conservation Programme and Communications Department, we launched our exciting new Wild 'n Free Project. This endeavour aims to keep carnivores where they belong, in the wild, by promoting the value and role of wild carnivores in natural free-living conditions. The project's three main themes are Wild 'n Free Space, Wild 'n Free Animals and Wild 'n Free Legislation. Our first initiative was a campaign calling for members of the public to take the Wild 'n Free pledge: "I pledge to keep all carnivores Wild 'n Free by not petting, walking, feeding or taking selfies with them. I vow to become an ambassador for wild carnivores and to honour their right to live a natural life. I encourage others to do the same." The public can download pledge cards and we have shared these to social media. More than 400 people have taken the pledge to date.

*Captive lion cub*



## ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

EWT Conservation Canine Annie has been instrumental in the apprehension of several poachers in the reserve in which she operates. In July 2018, she tracked two poachers to their hiding place where they were arrested and a rifle with silencer, ammunition, axe and other poaching equipment was seized, undoubtedly saving the life of many rhinos.

In November 2018, Annie was responsible for the arrest of another three suspected poachers in Balule Private Nature Reserve. In what may be one of the most exciting anti-poaching follow-ups of the year, Annie and her handler tracked late into the night to catch the suspected poachers and seize their rifle with silencer and other poaching equipment. The poachers had done everything to try and deter Conservation Canine Annie, including covering their shoes in sponge and continually backtracking and circling to try and confuse her, but to no avail. Annie and her handler were joined on this search by EWT Conservation Canine Fury (who is trained to detect rhino horn, ivory, and ammunition) and his handler Shay, who searched for evidence at key sites. Shay qualified as a canine handler under our USFWS Canine Learnership Project along with Qolile, our other canine learner.

*This work is made possible by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tourvest, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Relate Trust, MyPlanetRhino, Platinum Life, and Royal Canin.*

## ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AND COMMUNITIES

We have made good progress in moving towards the next phase of the USAID/WWF Khetha Project. This major project

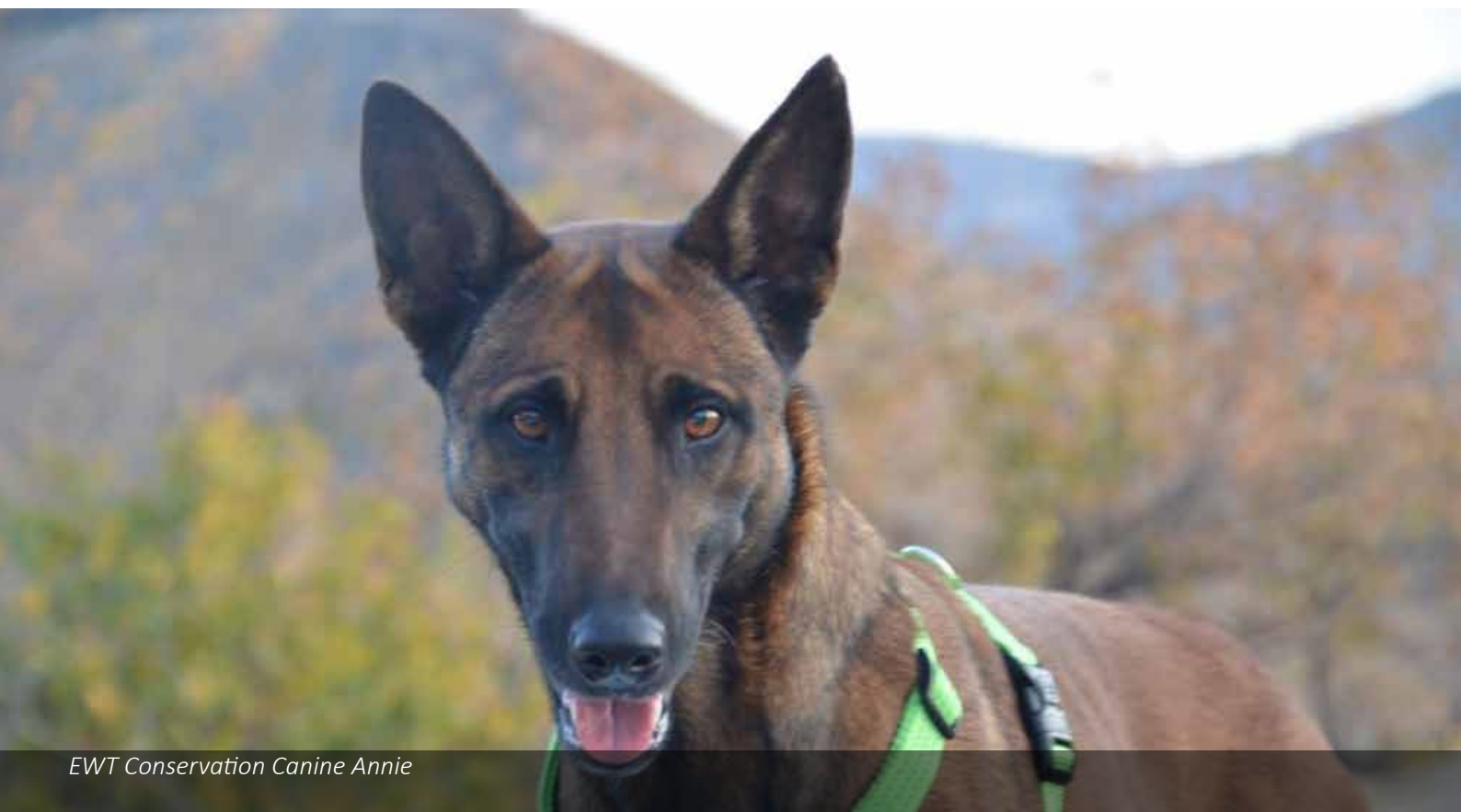
(Khetha means “choose”) funded by USAID, will see the EWT, WWF and a range of other partners, join hands to tackle wildlife trafficking with the goal of increasing population growth rates of Black and White rhinos, and maintaining positive growth rates for elephants, through paradigm shifts and partnerships to reduce trafficking impacts on flagship species and communities in South Africa and Mozambique.

The EWT is responsible for two key project outcomes, namely:

1. Undertaking a wildlife trade analysis to generate foundational information needed to identify the most effective methods for targeting wildlife crime. Recipients of the information will be law enforcement agencies, justice departments, Khetha partner organisations, other NGOs and intergovernmental organisations. The anticipated influence of this work will be twofold: it will lead to improved capacity in monitoring and enforcement, investigations and prosecutions; and it will generate greater understanding at a senior government level of the significance of illegal wildlife trade (e.g. value, lost revenues, links to organised crime and money laundering, corruption), which is one of the few ways to shift political will towards allocating resources towards tackling the illegal wildlife trade.

2. Applying restorative justice approaches to wildlife offences. Restorative justice is a well-established approach to justice that can (and will) have very meaningful impacts on wildlife offences in South Africa. It will promote enhanced community engagement, provide an opportunity to the victim to be properly heard and will contribute to a change in mind shift and reduce recidivism on the part of the offender.

*This work is made possible by USAID.*



*EWT Conservation Canine Annie*



*EWT Conservation Canine Hitsch with handler Qolile Mathebula*

## **FLYING WITHOUT A HITSCH**

While efforts have been made at OR Tambo International Airport to combat illegal wildlife trade the scale of transit from cargo and passengers through this airport is enormous and wildlife products have been missed. This was painfully evident in the seizure this year of over 176 lb of rhino horn and body parts, by Hong Kong customs, which had been smuggled through OR Tambo International Airport. To assist in the efforts to detect smuggled wildlife through OR Tambo International Airport, we negotiated a contract for the EWT to carry out wildlife detection work at this key location. Since January 2019, EWT Conservation Canines Hitsch and Fury have been screening cargo to ensure that wildlife contraband does not leave the country illegally.

*This work is made possible by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tourvest, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Relate Trust, MyPlanetRhino, Platinum Life, and Royal Canin.*

## **WILDLIFE AND THE LAW**

Our programme is actively involved in ensuring the legal framework applicable to wildlife is robust enough to ensure that proper regulation and conservation is achieved. We use every opportunity to meet this objective. We took part in several public participation meetings and submitted extensive comments on legislation pertaining to several traded species including rhino, elephant and lion, and we

sit and participate in the cycad task team. Our participation in these fora ensures our voice is heard and provides a basis from which to challenge decisions taken that are contrary to conservation imperatives outlined in section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

In August 2018, we participated in the Parliamentary Colloquium on Captive Lion Breeding for Hunting. The majority of parties who participated made submissions that supported the closure of this industry, expressing great concern that the practice is damaging our conservation and tourism reputation and track record. It was made very clear by a wide diversity of biologists, conservation experts, and animal welfare NGOs, that this practice has no conservation value whatsoever and is entirely driven by commercial gain. The Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs, after hearing two days of presentations, both for and against captive breeding and canned hunting of lions, published three recommendations to the then-Department of Environmental Affairs. These recommendations are to:

1. Undertake a policy and legislative review of the Captive Breeding of lions for hunting and the lion bone trade with the view of putting an end to these practices;
2. Conduct a full audit of captive breeding facilities to ascertain conformity with legislation;
3. DEA and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to present a clear programme of work on how they intend to address animal welfare.

## CONSERVATION CANINE PROJECT GAINS TEETH

We have a total of 14 Conservation Canines. Ten are deployed across over 250,000 ha of rhino protected areas in the Lowveld, Kwa Zulu Natal and the Eastern Cape. Our tracking dogs are integral team members in stopping the poaching of rhino and our detection dogs search on average 580 vehicles a month and have found firearms (which were removed), thereby preventing rhinos from being poached. We also have two detection dogs operating in Gauteng who have been responsible for screening at OR Tambo International Airport, supporting efforts to stop the smuggling of rhino horn. Lastly, we have two Conservation Canines in training and look forward to reporting their successes next year.

The Conservation Canine Project goes from strength to strength. In February 2019 our project was assessed by Megan Parker from Working Dogs for Conservation; in her report she held “the training and professionalism of all staff were excellent. The dogs were trained to the highest standards and welfare, bonds between dogs and handlers and health were outstanding.” Megan visited our canine teams in Gauteng and the Eastern Cape Provinces. We

recruited a new Conservation Canine Project Coordinator and a consultant senior canine handler and trainer.

*This work is made possible by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tourvest, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Greeff Properties, Relate Trust, MyPlanetRhino, Platinum Life, Royal Canin, and Paleo Pet.*

## ECO-USE OF WILDLIFE

We participated in an initiative emanating from the Biodiversity Lab of 2016 to develop a voluntary certification scheme for landowners conducting commercial wildlife-based land uses. The aim of the certification scheme, which is a work in progress, is to provide financial incentives for landowners conducting conservation friendly management practices and to provide a way for environmentally conscious consumers to support responsible land use. The development of the scheme is being driven by the then-Department of Environmental Affairs and SANBI, with the EWT providing support and guidance. A feasibility study has shown moderate initial backing from the wildlife sector, but much work remains to be done.



*EWT Conservation Canine Pirate in full flight during a tracking training session*

# WILDLIFE IN TRADE PROGRAMME TEAM



**Ashleigh Dore**  
Programme Manager



**Dr Andrew Taylor**  
Senior Trade Officer



**Matthys 'Gys' Geyser**  
Senior Conservation  
Canine Handler.  
EWT Conservation  
Canines, Pirate & Condor



**Ndifelani Mulaudzi**  
Trade Officer



**Ndzalama Chauke**  
Trade Officer



**Qolile Mathebula**  
Conservation Canine  
Handler.  
EWT Conservation  
Canine, Hitsch



**Samson Phakathi**  
Senior Trade Officer



**Shadi Henrico**  
Conservation Canine  
Project Coordinator  
Handler.  
EWT Conservation Canine,  
Hitsch



**Shayen Seebran**  
Conservation Canine  
Handler.  
EWT Conservation  
Canine, Fury



# THE VOICE OF THE EWT



The Marketing and Communications Department is the connection between the work of the EWT and the outside world. We are the custodian of the brand – both internally and externally – and we work in collaboration with all EWT staff to create a unified voice for the organisation.

This translates into increased brand awareness and enhanced reputation through engaging authentic content. Internally, we act as the go-to department, creating a cohesive culture of storytelling and increasing support for programmes through improved communication.

*As a support services function of the EWT, the Marketing and Communications Department's work is made possible by our framework donors, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Barloworld, Rand Merchant Bank, Deloitte, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, and Artifact Advertising.*

## A REVITALISED DIGITAL PRESENCE

As part of the brand refresh which was undertaken for the EWT by Artifact Advertising, our website has been completely overhauled and given a fresh new look and feel. The new website was launched in March 2019 and offers a simpler user journey, with easy access to information, while also enjoying a more striking appearance. Importantly, a direct donation portal has been included on the new site, enabling supporters to make a contribution without being redirected to a third-party donation site.

During the period under review, our website attracted in excess of 85,000 views.

Visit [www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za) for more.



## COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

We launched our #WildnFree campaign ahead of World Lion Day on 10 August 2018, inviting members of the public to take the pledge not to support captive facilities that offer interactions such as cub petting, thereby helping us to keep our carnivores Wild 'n Free. Local and international celebrities, including Cito from WONDERboom, Ross Learmonth from Prime Circle, Claire Johnston from Mango Groove, Glen Hodgson from the Parlotones, and South African and Australian rugby players, Joe Pietersen and Dane Haylett-Petty, have taken the pledge on their social media accounts and encouraged their fans to do so as well. To date, close to 400 members of the public have officially taken the pledge via the online portal, while countless others have shared the pledge on social media. Thanks to support from Artifact Advertising, Ad Outpost, and Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, billboards highlighting this campaign were placed in key locations in Gauteng in December 2018, and remained in circulation for upwards of six months, ensuring maximum exposure for the message.

We finalised the EWT's first explainer video, an animated video that explains the work of the organisation in just under seven minutes. This was launched in November 2018 and can be viewed on the EWT's YouTube channel.

Other communications campaigns included our annual Leap Day for Frogs campaign, which in 2019 saw Artifact develop a Facebook filter to raise awareness for frogs and the work of the EWT, as well as a number of billboards, with space provided by Ad Outpost, encouraging people to donate to our work with frogs.

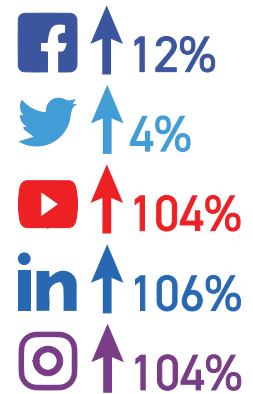
## SHARING OUR WORK

We continued to share our work through our electronic newsletter, *ChitterChatter*, and printed magazine, *Conservation Matters*. Six issues of *ChitterChatter* and four issues of *Conservation Matters* were distributed during the period under review. We will be consolidating these publications into one digital platform in the 2019/20 financial year, in the interests of sustainability and in line with current trends.

## KEEPING STAFF CONNECTED

Internal communications were prioritised during the reporting period, and a monthly internal newsletter, *Corridor Talk*, was introduced at the beginning of 2019. This offers a platform for team members, many of whom are based in the field and seldom see their colleagues, to share their news and find out more about each other. An EWT WhatsApp group was also created for all team members to keep each other up to date on their work.

*Social media growth in the last financial year*



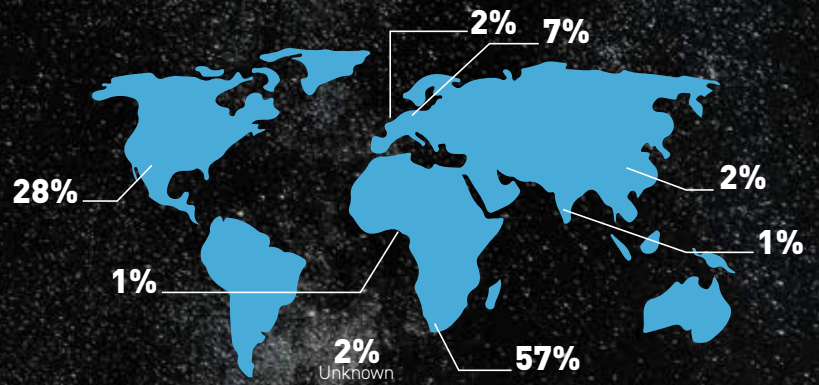
I pledge to keep all carnivores Wild 'n Free by not petting, walking, feeding or taking selfies with them. I vow to become an ambassador for wild carnivores and to honour their right to live a natural life. I encourage others to do the same.

#WildnFree



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

### Countries where coverage was received:



### Mentions of the EWT:

 **85%**

 **10%**

 **5%**

**25** radio & television interviews

**+ 1,000** articles  
print & online

**> 6 million**  
estimated Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) of coverage for July 2018 – June 2019

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



**Belinda Glenn**  
Marketing and Communications Manager



**Khanya Peacock**  
Designer



# FUNDING OUR WORK

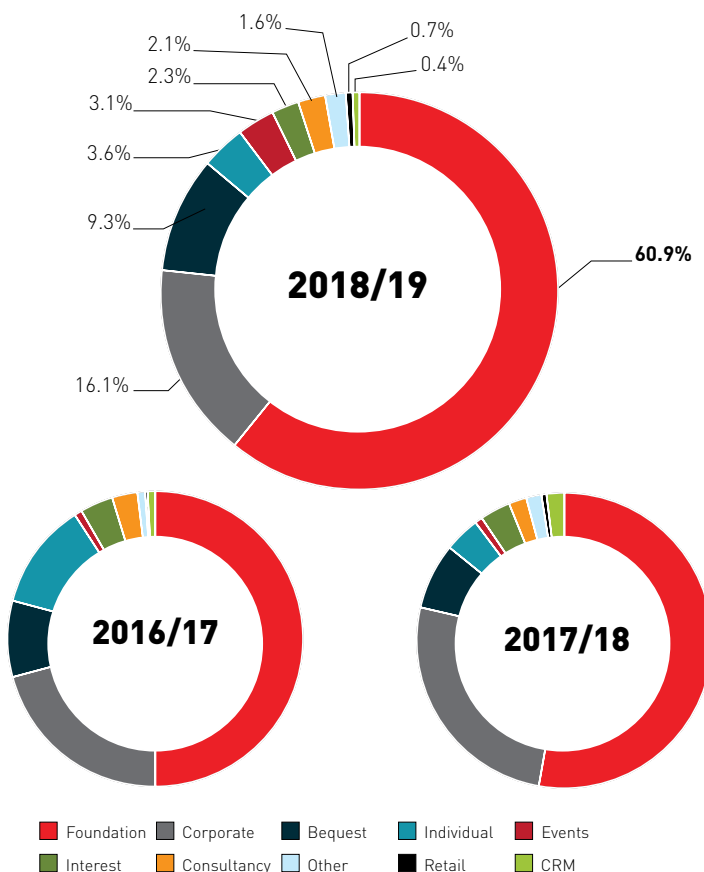


## INCREASING STREAMS

The EWT's income received increased year-on-year, from R52,129,622 in 2017/18 to R71,474,923 in 2018/19. This represents the highest annual income in the history of the EWT, and exceeds our 2016/17 record of R59,856,107. A large proportion of this income, R10,400,000, came in generous grants from the Rand Merchant Bank, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust and Standard Bank, and is intended to secure the future of the EWT by supporting the purchase of the EWT's Conservation Campus.

Foundational income (trusts, foundations and bilaterals) for specific EWT's conservation activities, increased significantly, from R27,577,731 in 2017/18 to R43,508,522 this past year. Rainforest Trust was our biggest funder, including donating R8,663,948 towards land purchases in the Soutpansberg Mountains.

Foundational income continues to represent the EWT's most important income stream, contributing 60.9% of our 2018/19 revenue; the first time it has exceeded 60% of annual income. At R11,475,359, corporate income accounted for 16.1% of our total income, a reduction from R13,513,667 in 2017/18, reflecting the challenging economic climate in South Africa. At only 3.6%, the contribution of individual donations continued to decline year-on-year, while the R2,180,502 contributed by events income was the highest this has been for many years. Continual realignment of the EWT's focus and investment into new avenues of income are reflected in the success of our income generation for this past year.



*The percentage of income generated from different sources reflects an increase in foundation income – due partly to generous pledges of support for the purchase of the EWT's new headquarters – offset by a reduction in corporate income, relative to the 2016/17 and 2017/18 income streams.*

## CORPORATE GIVING

Corporate giving remains an important means of securing income to support our work and aligning the EWT's values with good corporate citizenship in South Africa. We continued with a strong focus on the retention of corporate donors through the establishment of mutually beneficial relationships, which demonstrate how working with the EWT supports their own objectives and contributes to, among others, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Return on Investment (ROI).

In addition to the SDG and ROI reports, the EWT has a 95% Socio-Economic Development (SED) rating and is Level 4 on the Generic B-BEEE scorecard, thus contributing additional value to our corporate donors who can receive their full five SED points on their own B-BBEE scorecard. In addition, the EWT is able to offer a section 18A certificate to corporates who give bona fide donations supporting our work.

## LOYAL SUPPORTERS, CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

With the help of our loyal supporters, we hosted some wonderful fundraising events and campaigns during the last financial year. This included two events in Hoedspruit supporting Wild Dog conservation; our Go Green at Gold event in Cape Town supported by ex-Springbok rugby captain Jean de Villiers; four Johannesburg dinners; and our annual EWT Golf Day. All these events raised much-needed funding in a tough financial climate.

We were beneficiaries of the Balwin Charity Walk for the first time in December 2018, which was a great success and raised some excellent funds, while we also partnered with Faithful to Nature who donated funds via their Black Friday campaign. We continue to receive monthly support from the MyPlanet (R241,475) campaign and the GivenGain giving portal (R657,650), and we developed a PayFast donation portal available through our website, making giving even easier for our supporters.



*There were lots of great prizes up for grabs at the annual EWT golf day*



*Going wild for wildlife at the annual EWT golf day*



*Claire Johnston (Mango Groove), Mark Dando (Old Packhouse Distillery), and Yolán Friedmann (EWT) at the Kindness Connection fundraising dinner*

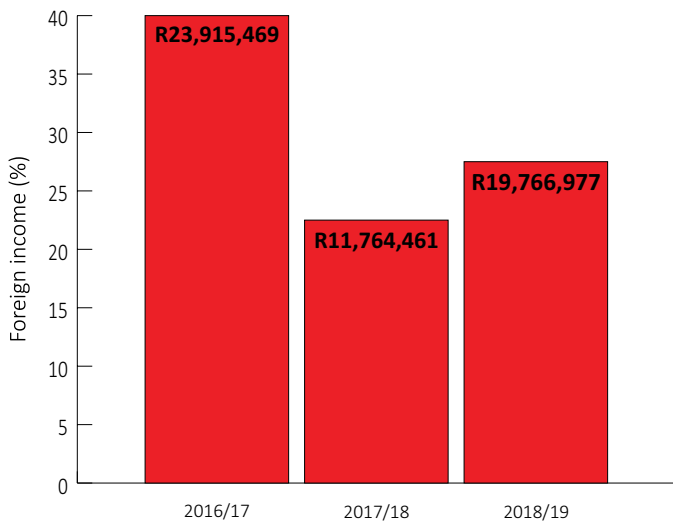


*A Pickersgill's Reed Frog shows off on a Relate bracelet, which raises funds for amphibian conservation. Photo credit: Tiaan Sevenster*

## FOREIGN VERSUS LOCAL INCOME

Foreign income improved year-on-year, from R11,764,461 in 2017/18 to R19,766,977 this year. As alluded to previously, Rainforest Trust contributed 46.9% of our forex income with a large grant towards the purchase of critical conservation land. The US Fish and Wildlife Service contributed over R2.5-million to several projects related to the prevention of illegal wildlife trade and improved vulture conservation. There was also an improvement in income from within South Africa, from R40,365,161 in 2017/18, to R51,707,952 in 2018/19, largely due to the support received for the EWT's Conservation Campus donors.

*The percentage of foreign income increased in 2018/19.*



## BEQUESTS

Bequests continue to form an integral part of our funding stream and we are incredibly grateful to those people who have remembered the EWT in their Will as part of their lasting legacy. We were privileged to receive R6,644,510 from the following individuals during this financial year, as well as ongoing support from the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust: Late CB Klopper, Late KBI Allen, Late CE Westergaard, Late Fenyves, Late NS Wrogemann, Late SM Wright, and Late JV Butler.

*As a support service function of the EWT, the Fundraising Department's work is made possible by our framework donors, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Barloworld, Rand Merchant Bank, Deloitte, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, and Artifact Advertising.*

## FUNDRAISING TEAM



**Alison Janicke**  
Head of Resource  
Development



**Claire Patterson-  
Abrolat**  
Senior Technical Writer



**Frank Jackson**  
Business  
Development Officer



**Rebecca  
Mabuza**  
Administrator



**Tammy Baker**  
Business  
Development Officer



**Dr Tim Jackson**  
Senior Technical  
Writer

# OUR PASSIONATE PEOPLE



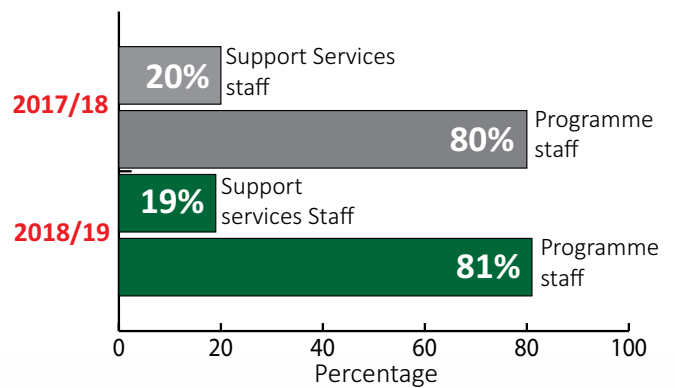
Through the delivery of innovative services and wellbeing-focused policies, the EWT's Human Resources team aims to lead in the application of best practice in the workplace, which will attract, retain and develop the best possible talent to achieve the goals of the EWT.

Employment Relations Exchange (ERX), an in-house Human Resources consulting company, has been contracted for three days a week to aid with the EWT's HR management. Their made-to-measure advisory consultancy uses its unique business experience to assist in understanding how to optimally apply legal rights, in all workplace-related matters, coupled with consideration of a practical application for sound business and management decisions in business, or personally.

*As a support services function of the EWT, the Human Resources Department's work is made possible by our framework donors, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Barloworld, Rand Merchant Bank, Deloitte, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, and Artifact Advertising.*

## HR OPERATIONS

The graph below represents a percentage split between Support Services staff and Programme staff:



## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

	Average age	Male	Female	Of colour	White	Annual staff turnover	Staff turnover as a % of all staff
2017/18	38.11	47%	52%	47%	53%	17	17.7%
2018/19	37.15	49%	51%	48%	52%	11	10.8%

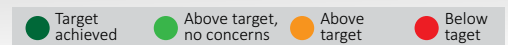




The EWT team at Conservation Week 2018

## EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Employment equity (EE) remains a top priority, with a new committee, named the Employment Equity Advisory Forum, assigned to this focus area in November 2018, and training for the committee carried out in June 2019. The table below compares our progress towards achieving our targeted demographic breakdown, against our actual demographic figures as of 30 June 2019. All targets were achieved barring the numbers of African and Coloured females, which remain below target. As the shortfall is minimal, we expect to reach this target during the next reporting period. The total number of males in the organisation is above the EE target, while that of females is below the EE target. With our current EE plan coming up for renewal in November of 2019, we have an opportunity to set new targets for the next five-year 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 2019	27%	1%	1%	21%	12%	5%	2%	32%	50%	50%
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## TALENT MANAGEMENT

It remains the philosophy of the EWT to promote and recruit from within the organisation, where possible. The benefits reaped from this practice include increased employee morale while reducing training and on-boarding costs.

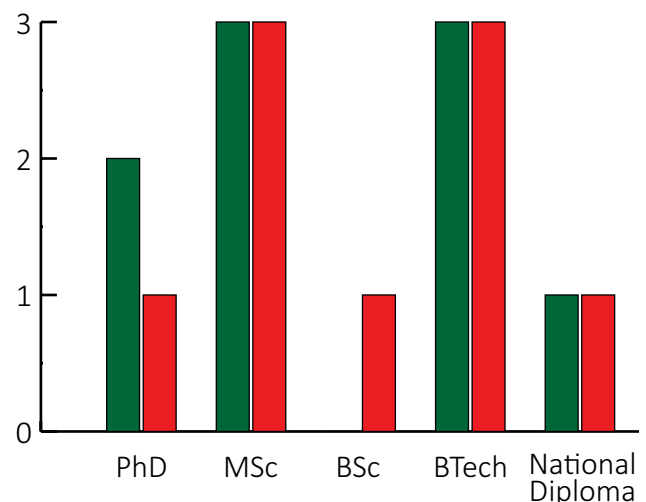
During this reporting period, the opportunity for internal recruitment was lower than in previous years. This was due to the need to source new skill sets that matched the changing requirements of our projects and programmes. Two internal promotions were awarded during the period under review, Zethu Sibiyi from internship to Junior Field Officer, and Ayanda Sibiyi from Accountant to Senior Accountant.

## LEARNING CULTURE

The last financial year saw a reduction in spend on both staff and internships/learnerships. With regards to internships/learnerships spend this was primarily due to the reduction in training needs for our current internships and learnerships.

## STUDENT FACILITATION

The EWT prides itself on being able to encourage our staff to further their studies by providing support where possible, which is ultimately beneficial for both the students and the EWT alike. The following students were supported this reporting period:



	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Training (all staff)</b>	R508,099	R144,093
<b>Internship/ learnership</b>	R962,245	R621,426

## ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment

We improved our B-BBEE rating from a Level 6 to a Level 4 within the Generic Enterprise Category, with the certificate being valid for the period ending May 2020. The EWT remains committed to maintaining and/or improving this rating in the forthcoming reporting cycle.

### Socio-Economic Development Certificate (SED)

The EWT received a 100% rating for our Socio-Economic Development Certificate for the eighth consecutive year. This means that EWT supporters can recognise 100% of the value of their sponsorship in the calculation of their scorecards.



## HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM



**Emma Chisare**  
Human Resources  
Assistant



**Dorah Mncube**  
Housekeeper



**Precious Morgan**  
Receptionist



**Sizakele Ntsele**  
Office Administrator  
& Catering



**Thembi Mlimi**  
Housekeeper

# ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The EWT is a Trust governed in accordance with the Trust Property Control Act No. 57 of 1988, under Masters 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.



## TRUSTEE STRUCTURES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Trust took place on 8 November 2018 at the EWT offices. The resignations of Mr Danie van der Merwe, Mr Bryan Courtenay, Ms Marilyn Dougall-Thomas, Mr Uwe Putlitz and Mr Lot Mlati as Trustees were ratified at the AGM. Dirk Ackerman's and Paul Smith's terms of office, as Chair and Treasurer, respectively, continue until the AGM of 2020. Mr Antony Wannell was elected Vice Chairperson, on the resignation of Mr Uwe Putlitz. The AGM voted that henceforth all Trustees would serve on the Board. The Board now consists of 18 Trustees, with the CEO as an *ex officio* member. The Trustees voted to retain Deloitte as the auditors of the Trust.

### BOARD AND COMMITTEES

As per the Trust Deed, the Board administers the affairs of the Trust, performing oversight of the management function of Executive Management staff members. 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. At the end of each year the Board evaluates its own performance in relation to its Work Plan for the year.

The Board in turn appoints Committees of the Board to assist the Board in the administration of the affairs of the Trust.



One of our Conservation Canines, Condor, eagerly awaits a reward during training

### Board meeting attendance during the period 2018–2019:

	06-Sep-18	30-Nov-18	19-Mar-19	26-Jun-19
Mr Dirk Ackerman – Chairperson	✓	✓	✗	✓
Mr Antony Wannell – Vice Chairperson	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr Uwe Putlitz – ex Vice Chairperson (resigned)	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mr Paul Smith – Treasurer	✗	✓	✓	✓
Prof Barry Ackers	✓	✗	✓	✓
Ms Angela Cherrington	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Mr Anthony Diepenbroek	✓	✗	✓	✓
Mr Mike Esterhuysen	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Joanna Goeller	✓	✓	✗	✓
Ms Sharmila Govind	✗	✗	✓	✓
Ms Karin Ireton	✗	✓	✓	✓
Ms Anusha Lucen	N/A	✗	✗	✗
Mr AK Mohamed	N/A	✗	✓	✗
Mr Crispian Olver	N/A	✗	✓	✓
Dr Veniela Pillay	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Lesego Rammusi	✗	✓	✗	✗
Mr Christo Reeders	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Mr Muhammad Seedat	N/A	✗	✗	✗
Ms Kiyasha Thambi	N/A	✓	✗	✓
Ms Yolán Friedmann – CEO – <i>ex officio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Mandy Poole – COO – In attendance	✓	✓	✓	✓

## AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) is an official sub-committee of the Board, established under Clause 23.1 of the Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014. In the period under review, it was chaired by Mr 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 for the Trust, to the Board, in particular the approval of the annual budget for the financial year and continual monitoring of performance against this budget.

*The AFC, and the EWT as a whole, are grateful for the support of Deloitte in the carrying out of the organisation's annual financial audit.*

### Audit and Finance Committee meeting attendance during the period 2018–2019:

	31-Aug-18	23-Nov-18	22-Mar-19	25-Jun-19
Mr Paul Smith – Treasurer & Chairperson – <i>ex officio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prof Barry Ackers	✓	✓	✓	✗
Mr A K Mohamed	✓	✗	✓	✓
Mr Neil Morris	✓	✗	✓	✓
Ms Lesego Rammusi	✓	✓	✗	✗
Mr Muhammad Seedat	✓	✓	✗	✓
Mr Antony Wannell	✓	✓	✓	✓
In attendance – Ms Yolán Friedmann – CEO	✓	✓	✓	✗
In attendance – Ms Mandy Poole – COO	✓	✓	✓	✓

## SOCIAL, ETHICS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee (SERC) met twice during the course of the financial year, in July 2018 and May 2019. At its May 2019 meeting, Mr Mike Esterhuysen stepped down as Chair and Dr Ven Pillay took up the position. Ms Karin Ireton was elected Vice Chairperson. The SERC also works to an annual Work Plan.

### Social Ethics and Remuneration Committee meeting attendance during the period 2018–2019:

	23-Nov-18	28-May-19
Dr Ven Pillay – Chairperson	✓	✓
Mr Mike Esterhuysen – ex Chairperson	✓	✓
Ms Karin Ireton – Vice Chairperson	✓	✓
Ms Sharmila Govind	✓	✓
Mr Paul Smith	✓	✓
In attendance – ERX HR advisor representative		✓
In attendance – Ms Yolán Friedmann – CEO	✓	✓
In attendance – Ms Mandy Poole – COO (no longer attending)	✓	N/A
In attendance – Ms Alison Jänicke – Head of Resource Development	✓	✓





## INTERNAL STRUCTURES

**Executive Management Team:** The EWT Executive Management Team (EMT) 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 Manager: Africa), Constant Hoogstad (Senior Manager: Industry Partnerships) and Dr Ian Little (Senior Manager: Habitats). The team generally meets on a weekly basis, subject to schedules and holidays and, during the financial year, the EMT met more than 25 times. Agenda items focus on operational and strategic matters, including issues such as governance and compliance, financial performance, resource development – human and financial, physical infrastructure – building, equipment and operations including IT and communications and branding, partnerships, and new ventures.

**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, strategic and programmatic issues. Matters discussed include programme and project management, conservation strategy, ethics, data sharing, science and research, partnerships, new projects, and regional field offices. Field-based managers are able to participate in the CMT using the Zoom™ software platform, enabling staff to participate remotely in these crucial meetings by video conferencing.

**Conservation Forum:** The EWT Conservation Forum (CF) met ten times in the course of the financial year. These meetings are for all staff, and field-based personnel are encouraged to participate by using the Zoom™ software platform or dial-in facilities as often as field activities and

budget allows. Meetings are podcast for staff to listen to in the event that they are unable to attend. The CF provides a forum for information-sharing between field and head office-based staff and seeks to promote a greater understanding of others' portfolios of work. Guest speakers often attend to raise awareness of issues not in the EWT's fields of expertise.

## POLICIES

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

ERX, the EWT's HR advisor, embarked on a process to update all the EWT policies and procedures, and its delegation matrix; to ensure congruency; to ensure full legal compliance and to identify gaps. ERX is also assisting in the development of a more user-friendly induction process for all staff, based on the use of technology to introduce these policies.

The EMT has revised the Trustee Induction Handbook and ERX will ensure that the final handbook ensures that the EWT Trustees are well prepared for the important roles and responsibilities they must play in the life of the Trust.

In the financial period under review, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr has provided invaluable assistance, in particular with regard to Trust Deed and property-related matters. We are grateful for the many years of continued support received from CDH in all matters requiring legal support.

*As support services functions of the EWT, the Governance structures are made possible by our framework donors, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Barloworld, Rand Merchant Bank, Deloitte, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, and Artifact Advertising.*



# GOVERNANCE TEAM



**Mandy Poole**  
Chief Operations  
Officer



**Florence Nkholise**  
Head of Finance



**Ayanda Sibiya**  
Senior Accountant



**Lauren Bailey**  
Senior Accountant



**Melissa Govindsamy**  
Senior Bookkeeper



**Yves Manana**  
Information  
Technology Manager



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## 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 2019, 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 2019. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 31 October 2019.

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 2019.

### 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 31 October 2019.

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**  
Registered Auditor  
Per: F Coovadia  
Partner  
31 October 2019

1

National Executive: \*LL Bam Chief Executive Officer \*TMM Jordan Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Clients & Industries \*MJ Jarvis Chief Operating Officer  
\*AF Mackie Audit & Assurance \*N Sing Risk Advisory DP Ndlovu Tax & Legal TP Pillay Consulting \*JK Mazzocco Talent & Transformation  
MG Dicks Risk Independence & Legal \*KL Hodson Financial Advisory \*B Nyembe Responsible Business & Public Policy \*TJ Brown Chairman of the Board

A full list of partners and directors is available on request

\* Partner and Registered Auditor

**B-BBEE rating: Level 1 contribution in terms of the DTI Generic Scorecard as per the amended Codes of Good Practice**

Associate of Deloitte Africa, a Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
as at 30 June 2019

	<b>30 Jun '19</b>	<b>30 Jun '18</b>
	<b>R</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Land holdings	16 600 000	4 100 000
Property and equipment	1 890 477	1 946 130
<i>Total non-current assets</i>	<u>18 490 477</u>	<u>6 046 130</u>
<i>Current assets</i>		
Accounts receivable	3 100 370	958 666
E-shop stock in hand	204 165	275 682
Deposit with conveyancing attorneys	8 050 000	1 250 000
Cash and cash equivalents	21 493 679	19 649 126
<i>Total current assets</i>	<u>32 848 214</u>	<u>22 133 474</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>51 338 691</u></u>	<u><u>28 179 604</u></u>
<b>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<i>Trust funds</i>		
Accumulated funds	9 472 014	9 432 519
Non-distributable reserves	17 934 280	5 475 222
<i>Total Trust funds</i>	<u>27 406 294</u>	<u>14 907 741</u>
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	1 967 399	707 481
Funds held on behalf of other organisations	4 598 656	1 121 667
Deferred revenue	16 828 159	11 083 524
Leave Provision	538 183	359 191
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	<u>23 932 397</u>	<u>13 271 863</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>	<u><u>51 338 691</u></u>	<u><u>28 179 604</u></u>



**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

	30 Jun '19 R	30 Jun '18 R
Revenue	65 984 010	62 115 383
Expenses	<u>(65 944 515)</u>	<u>(62 921 519)</u>
Total Comprehensive Operational Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>39 495</u>	<u>(806 136)</u>
<i>After charging:</i>		
Depreciation		
Owned and leased assets – charged to income	115 827	182 802
– charged to non-distributable reserves	<u>1 013 912</u>	<u>1 745 914</u>
	<u>1 129 739</u>	<u>1 928 716</u>
<i>and after crediting:</i>		
Interest received – bank deposits	1 673 432	1 741 278
Accumulated funds at beginning of period	<u>9 432 519</u>	10 238 655
Accumulated funds at end of period	<u><u>9 472 014</u></u>	<u><u>9 432 519</u></u>



## 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, grants, 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	33.33% 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.



## NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

#### 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 & ACHIEVEMENTS

## INTERNAL AWARDS

Our staff are regularly recognised for their outstanding achievements. The EWT also acknowledges deserving staff internally through monthly and annual awards. The top achievers for the calendar year ending December 2018 were:

- **CEO Award:** Andre Botha – Vultures for Africa
- **Programme of the Year Award:** Drylands Conservation Programme
- **Programme Manager of the Year Award:** Dr Jeanne Tarrant – Threatened Amphibian Programme
- **Conservation Achiever of the Year Award:** Cole du Plessis – Carnivore Conservation Programme
- **Conservation Supporter of the Year Award:** Claire Patterson-Abrolat – Fundraising
- **Honey Badger (Fiercest Field Officer) Award:** Derek van der Merwe – Carnivore Conservation Programme
- **Pawprint Brand Ambassador Award:** Dr Kelly Marnewick – Wildlife in Trade Programme
- **Media Award:** Vultures for Africa
- **Newcomer of the Year Awards:** Catherine Vise (Soutpansberg Protected Area Project)
- **Long Service Award:** Cynthia Chigangaidze (African Crane Conservation Programme), Thembisile Mlimi (Support Services), and Claire Patterson-Abrolat (Fundraising)



*Yolan Friedmann, CEO, and Dr Jeanne Tarrant, 2018 Programme Manager of the Year*



*Cole du Plessis, 2018 Conservation Achiever of the Year, and Yolan Friedmann, CEO*

*Andre Botha, winner of the 2018 CEO Award*

## EXTERNAL AWARDS

**Rhino Conservation Award – Special award for Endangered Species Conservation:** EWT Vultures for Africa Programme Manager, Andre Botha, was recognised with a special award for Endangered Species Conservation at the prestigious Rhino Conservation Awards on Friday, 24 August 2018.



*Members of the Drylands Conservation Programme team – 2018 Programme of the Year  
From left to right: Bonnie Schumann, Esther Matthew, Johnny Arends, Cobus Theron, and Insauf De Vries*

# 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
- Alliance for Zero Extinction (International)
- APOPO (Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling, or Anti-Personnel Landmines Removal Product Development in English)
- BirdLife South Africa
- CapeNature
- Community Action for Nature Conservation (Kenya)
- Conservation International Foundation South Africa
- Conservation South Africa
- Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- Fauna and Flora International
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (International)
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD)
- Hawk Conservancy Trust
- 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
- The Peregrine Fund
- Population Sustainability Network
- Rainforest Trust
- Saving the Survivors
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African National Parks
- The Wild Foundation
- 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
- Boise State University
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Mekelle Biodiversity Center
- North-West University
- Reading University
- 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
- University of Limpopo
- University of Mpumalanga
- University of Pretoria
- University of Utah
- 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 1,300 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 of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). Wendy Collinson is an active member of several specialist groups of the WCPA related to transport, connectivity conservation 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, Red List Coordinator)
- Amphibian Specialist Group (Dr Jeanne Tarrant, Facilitator: Habitat Protection Working Group)
- 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 (Yolan Friedmann, Dr Kelly Marnewick)
- Conservation Planning Specialist Group (Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, Yolan Friedmann, Kerryn Morrison,)
- Crane Specialist Group (Kerryn Morrison, Chair)
- Hornbill Specialist Group (André Botha)
- National Red List Alliance, member of the Coordinating Body (Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert)
- Stork, Ibis & Spoonbill Specialist Group (André Botha)
- Vulture Specialist Group (André Botha, Co-Chair)
- Lagomorph Specialist Group (Cobus Theron)

## OTHER PARTICIPATION

- Vultures for Africa Programme Manager, André Botha, continued in his role as the vice-Chair of the Technical Advisory Group of the Convention on Migratory Species' (CMS) Raptors MoU. He is also a member of the Convention's Working Group on the Prevention of Wildlife Poisoning, and served on its Lead Task Force. He is a member of the Working Group for the Prevention of Wildlife Poisoning in Southern Africa.
- Constant Hoogstad continued in his role as the Chair of the CMS Energy Task Force.
- Dr Ian Little became a member of the Key Biodiversity Areas Committee for South Africa, as well as the Adaptation Network Steering Committee.
- Dr Lizanne Roxburgh continued for a second term as a member of the Technical Committee for the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, and continued as an associate editor for Ostrich (*the Journal of African Ornithology*).
- Dr Jeanne Tarrant is chair of the Sungazer Working Group, as well as a member of the Steering Committee for The Conservation Symposium. She also became an associate editor for the African Journal of Herpetology.
- Ashleigh Dore remained a member of the national Cycad Task Team, and Samantha Nicholson joined the National Action Lion Task Team and the Lion Management Forum.
- Wendy Collinson joined the International Association for Impact Assessment, as well as the SANRAL Research Committee. She was an International Member of the Steering Committee for the International Conference for Ecology and Transportation, and a Programme Committee Member for the Infra Eco Network Europe.
- Yolan Friedmann is a board member of the Tourism Conservation Fund, and Just Share, and she served as the Environmental Representative for the BUSA Environmental Subcommittee and as an extension officer for the Rhino Conservation and Management Forum.

# THE EWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## THE EWT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dirk Ackerman (Chairman)	1999 – current
Antony Wannell (Vice-Chairman)	2005 – current
Paul Smith (Treasurer)	2011 – current
Barry Ackers	2017 – current
Angela Ruth Cherrington	2015 – current
Brian Courtenay	1996 – Feb 2019
Anthony Diepenbroek	2015 – current
Sthembiso Dlamini	2015 – Nov 2018
Marilyn Dougall Thomas	1993 – Oct 2018
Mike Esterhuysen	2001 – current
Joanna Goeller	2006 – current
Sharmila Govind	2017 – current
Karin Ireton	2004 – current
Rest Kanju	2008 – Nov 2018
Anusha Lucen	2015 – current
Lot Mlati	2007 – Nov 2018
Abdul Kader Mohamed	2015 – current
Crispian Garth Olver	2014 – current
Veniela Pillay	2017 – current
Uwe Putlitz	1980 – Nov 2018
Charlotte Lesego Rammusi	2017 – current
Christo Reeders	2014 – current
Muhammad Osiman Seedat	2015 – current
Kiyasha Thambi	2015 – current
Daniel van der Merwe	2005 – Oct 2018
Yolan Friedmann ( <i>ex-officio</i> member)	2007 – current

### AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AFC)

Paul Smith (Treasurer: <i>ex-officio</i> member)	2011 – current
Barry Ackers	2010 – current
Abdul Kader Mohamed	2016 – current
Neil Morris	2014 – current
Charlotte Lesego Rammusi	2017 – current
Muhammad Seedat	2016 – current
Antony Wannell	2008 – current

### SOCIAL, ETHICS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE (SERC)

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

### 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



Members of the Board of Trustees

# WHERE WE WORK

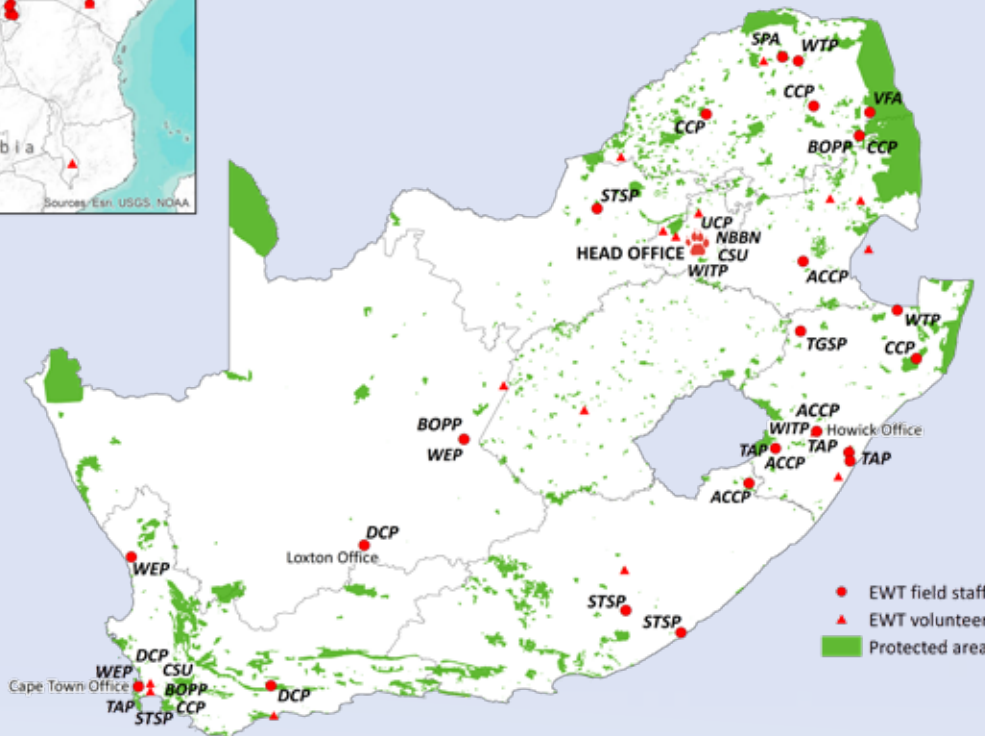
## LOCATIONS ACROSS AFRICA



## LOCATIONS IN EAST AFRICA



## LOCATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA



# CONTACT US

## GENERAL ENQUIRIES:

Telephone: +27 11 372 3600  
Fax: +27 11 608 4682  
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[www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za)

## POSTAL ADDRESS:

Endangered Wildlife Trust, Private  
Bag X11, Modderfontein, 1645,  
Johannesburg, South Africa

## PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

27 and 28 Austin Road, Glen Austin  
AH, Midrand, 1685, Johannesburg,  
South Africa

The EWT is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation, registration number 015-502 NPO and PBO Registration No 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



**Yolán Friedmann**  
Chief Executive Officer  
[yolanf@ewt.org.za](mailto:yolanf@ewt.org.za)



**Alison Jánicke**  
Head of Resource  
Development  
[alisonj@ewt.org.za](mailto:alisonj@ewt.org.za)



**Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert**  
Head of Conservation  
[harrietd@ewt.org.za](mailto:harrietd@ewt.org.za)



**Mandy Poole**  
Chief Operations Officer  
[mandyp@ewt.org.za](mailto:mandyp@ewt.org.za)

## SENIOR MANAGERS



**Constant Hoogstad**  
Senior Manager:  
Industry Partnerships  
[constanth@ewt.org.za](mailto:constanth@ewt.org.za)



**Dr Ian Little**  
Senior Manager: Habitats  
[ianl@ewt.org.za](mailto:ianl@ewt.org.za)



**Kerry Morrison**  
ICF/EWT Senior  
Manager: Africa  
[kerrynm@ewt.org.za](mailto:kerrynm@ewt.org.za)

**BACK COVER:** The image on the back cover depicts rare, ancient Khoisan paintings at the EWT's Medike Nature Reserve's Sand River 1 rock art shelter. This is one of two such sites on the reserve that could date back for thousands of years. The paintings are probably much older than 300 AD, but nobody knows for sure as we don't have an accurate way of dating these. The early Iron Age farmers arrived in the Soutpansberg around 300 AD, which would have had an influence on the art depicted from then on. These people interacted and intermarried with the Shona-speaking people living in and north of the Soutpansberg, forming a common culture by 1550 AD – the origin of the Venda nation.



**ENDANGERED  
WILDLIFE TRUST**

Protecting forever, together.

General enquiries:

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[ewt@ewt.org.za](mailto:ewt@ewt.org.za)