INTEGRATED REPORT

2016–2017

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

www.ewt.org.za

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WE SUPPORT

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

IUCN

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The facts are undisputable. Human beings are currently living less and less in balance with nature, and more and more on the resources borrowed from our children. Yet despite this, the political, economic and social leaders of today seem more at odds than ever before in their struggle to balance economic expediency and the security of our future. The time for political postulating about economic development versus environmental sustainability is running out and we need to make urgent calls on the deteriorating health of our planet and our contributing actions. Economic solutions to human developmental needs must be in harmony with nature as humans need the planet to survive; but the planet does not need humans. In fact, she will be better off without us as our current toxic modes of production and selfish, short-term we are mostly in conflict with her. It is alarming that, with all the knowledge that has been shared for decades about the need to ensure medium- and long-term planetary health for our species to survive, we still can't seem to achieve a synergistic, populist perspective. Most seem to still believe the earth is so big that we are able to treat it like the nomadic tribes of old, who would move from one location to another as the required resources for their existence were depleted; and then return many years later to find it rejuvenated and ready to sustain them again. This is clearly no longer possible, because there are just too many of us and too little land to go around. Besides, many of our destructive habits and toxic modes of production have laid waste to vast tracts of the earth that will never be able to rejuvenate themselves again.

Until we have mastered the ability to live in outer space and are capable of colonising other planets, we best start having more respect for our natural environment. Right now, it's all we have. We urgently need to stop trying to force the adoption of commercial solutions to provide for our needs, which damage the planet's ability to nurture both humans and the life-giving fauna and flora on which we all rely.

Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), speculates that the world has only sixty harvests left: intensive farming has drained the soil and is fast turning the planet into a dust bowl. It is estimated that to keep up with the demand for global industrial food production we will need to add another six million hectares of new farmland each year — we currently lose twelve million hectares a year through soil degradation. How on earth are we going to eat in the not-too-distant future?

There are so many clear and irrefutable examples of perversions of logic and common sense that have resulted in crimes against nature, that it is indefensible not to acknowledge the need to support the work of conservation organisations such as the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). We all need to engage in an urgent process of 'enculturation' that places conservation first in everything we do socially, economically and politically. Whilst we have to feed off the breast of Mother Nature, we can no longer only rely on the good and persistent work of those such as the staff of the EWT and other conservation and scientific organisations to rectify the natural imbalances we continue to cause. We all need to become actively engaged in funding and supporting conservation and adjusting our lifestyles to nurture nature, and we need to do it now! The consumption culture that has led to our throwaway society, and unsustainable population growth, are the real enemies. If they are to be conquered, we all need to become conservationists, not just leave it to the relatively few active bodies who, against all odds, are trying their best to stop the wanton and wilful destruction of our life-giving planet.

As Winston Churchill said to the pilots of the Royal Air Force at the end of the Battle of Britain: "never in the course of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few." We too are engaged in addressing human conflict, but its consequences stand to make anything that has come before it seem inconsequential by comparison. I am proud to have a role to play in this battle, as Chairman of the Board of the EWT, and even more proud of the tangible achievements that the organisation has realised this year through the efforts of its diligent team. It is no surprise to me, or to the rest of the Board, that this is a team that wins awards – their commitment to the cause and tireless efforts to see conservation in action are remarkable, and I speak on behalf of the entire Board when I say we are all extremely pleased with what has been accomplished this year. I must also thank the Board for their support and guidance, and our Trustees who are always willing to go the extra mile to offer whatever assistance is needed to make the work of the EWT possible.

There are still many who see the need for urgent change and increasing austerity in protecting our planet and its dwindling natural resources. To those that share our vision, thank you so much for your tireless efforts; your passion and dedication are the fuel of a sustainable tomorrow which will continue to nurture us all on Mother Earth if we all finally realise it is #cooltoconserve.

Dirk Ackerman
Chairman of the Board

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Everything seems to be getting more extreme. In the past year, storms have been more severe, crime and corruption seems to be at its worst. There are more people on Planet Earth than ever before, more Endangered species and transformed land, and yet less freshwater and rapidly declining clean air. Queues are longer, tempers are shorter, traffic is more congested and our days are busier than they've ever been. Habitats are being destroyed at unprecedented rates and entire ecosystems are being wiped out. We waste more of just about everything, yet more people are starving than in any previous generation. Any mention of overpopulation makes politicians wince and social scientists clamber to point out that consumption rates are the problem, and not the number of humans *per se*. Yet, one could almost guarantee that if you had to ask all those people at the bottom of the consumption pyramid about their aspirations, they would tell you that they aspire to consume – and possibly waste – just as much as those at the top who are blamed for devouring the planet.

And why not? If you look around you, everything encourages you to think this way. Every advert, corporate strategy or shareholder ambition, entrepreneurial dream and business plan: all are geared towards driving human consumption. Accelerated utilisation and acquisition are applauded as measures of success. No matter where one sits on the scale that measures human poverty and wealth, our modern world demands that every new human born to this planet (250 since you started to read this piece) needs a school to go to with a desk and chair; food and water; doctors and medicines and clothing and entertainment and a house and furniture and transport and and and…

From a humble two billion people in the 1920s to more than 7.5 billion today - we are a highly successful species. So is it really worth getting fixated on the debate of whether or not our planet can support a population of 10 or maybe 12 billion people? I say no, as no one can argue conclusively one way or the other. Our current level of knowledge does not support solid predictions as to whether or not such large population growth is sustainable, because it has never happened before. But we simply cannot wait to find out before we act. South Africa has a growing population, with around 30 million in 1980 and more or less 55 million in 2017. This means we need more food and water: just as 55 million people need more food and water than 30 million people, larger families also need more land, food, water, money and resources. It is naïve to assume that the fusion of a rapidly growing human population with a resource intense way of life will not pose significant risks to the survival of many species and natural s ystems, and ultimately, many human beings. There are schools of thought that suggest that technocentric solutions to increase food production and agricultural yields, will save us, and yet the impact of industrialised farming systems, genetically modified foods and intensive pesticide use on human health, wildlife species, and natural systems are significant, concerning and certainly not sustainable in the long run. There are no quick fixes to fundamental challenges and addressing the rapidly rising population size, and consumptive patterns of human beings can no longer be ignored for being politically incorrect or morally unsound.

I am proud to lead an organisation that has always been courageous, futuristic in its thinking, and pioneering in its work. The EWT was the first African NGO to integrate the serious need for family planning into its conservation work, by partnering with the Population and Sustainability Network and Pathfinder International to initiate the first Population, Health and Environment (PHE) projects in South Africa. The first of such projects was established in the Groot Marico to address the dire need for community education on sexual and reproductive health and greater access to family planning services, as part of an integrated project addressing water security and catchment management, emerging farmer support, livelihood creation and environmental education. Only by addressing the collective needs for education and supportive systems that drive social change across the issues of family size, consumptive patters, environmental sustainability, wildlife and social crime and community integration through a sharing of the global commons, will one create truly sustainable communities that will lead sustainable lives. And lest the social scientists feel that the EWT has an overly skewed focus on rural communities only, the Trust has also pioneered work to address industry and business impacts on biodiversity by working hand-in-hand with key partners to integrate biodiversity conservation into their consumer offerings and strategic visions. Our strategic work with business giants such as Eskom, reached a 21-year milestone in 2017 and hundreds of kilometres of power lines have been made bird-friendly, and thousands of birds have been saved as a result. Our groundbreaking work on urban conservation is changing the relationships of city dwellers with nature and is turning the tide on development which threatens to wipe out the remarkable wild animals that manage to persist in our increasingly built environment. Above all, as an organisation that walks the talk and leads by example, we have entrenched sustainable living into the administration and daily life of the EWT.

We are not afraid to debate, have a voice, make a noise and take action. We are not always right but we know that we can only invite you to show us when we are wrong, by having acted in the first place. The EWT underpins all our work with robust measures of success, scientific rigour where possible, transparent motivations and inclusive debate. All the great work described above and profiled in this report is as a result of the energetic, creative and passionate EWT staff who lead on these initiatives and gave life to efforts to keep changing the world. It is this fighting spirit that keeps us creating pioneering projects and having groundbreaking impacts.

As the world is moving faster and getting fuller, the time for action is more urgent than ever before. I am proud to be a part of an organisation that never gets lazy, tired or comfortable. And to work with supporters, partners, donors, trustees and friends who keep us moving forward with vigour and energy. I am proud of every staff member, led by an extraordinary Executive Management Team and guided by a Board of Management that steers with strength, wisdom and a clarity of vision, and I thank each and every one of our donors and partners who have given life to this vision and our work that is changing lives.

There is more work to be done. More ground to be broken and more debates to be had. More holy cows to expose and whispered notions to be openly confronted and aired. We invite you to stick with the EWT and bring your friends and colleagues along for the ride.

Yolan Friedmann
Chief Executive Officer

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 which mitigate threats facing species diversity; 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 are essentially self-managed projects harnessing 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 comprise 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 which does not meet sustainability criteria.

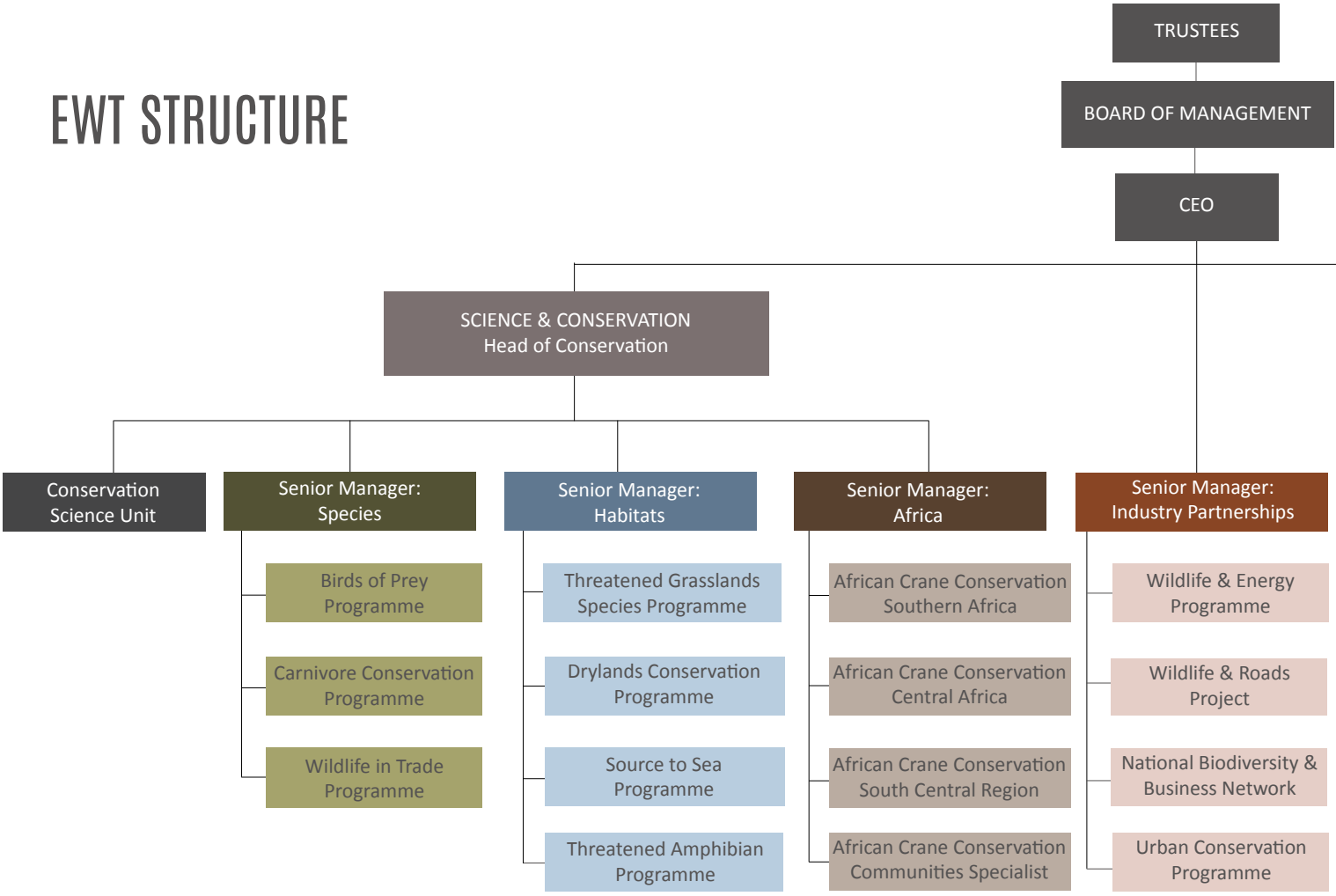
OUR VISION

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

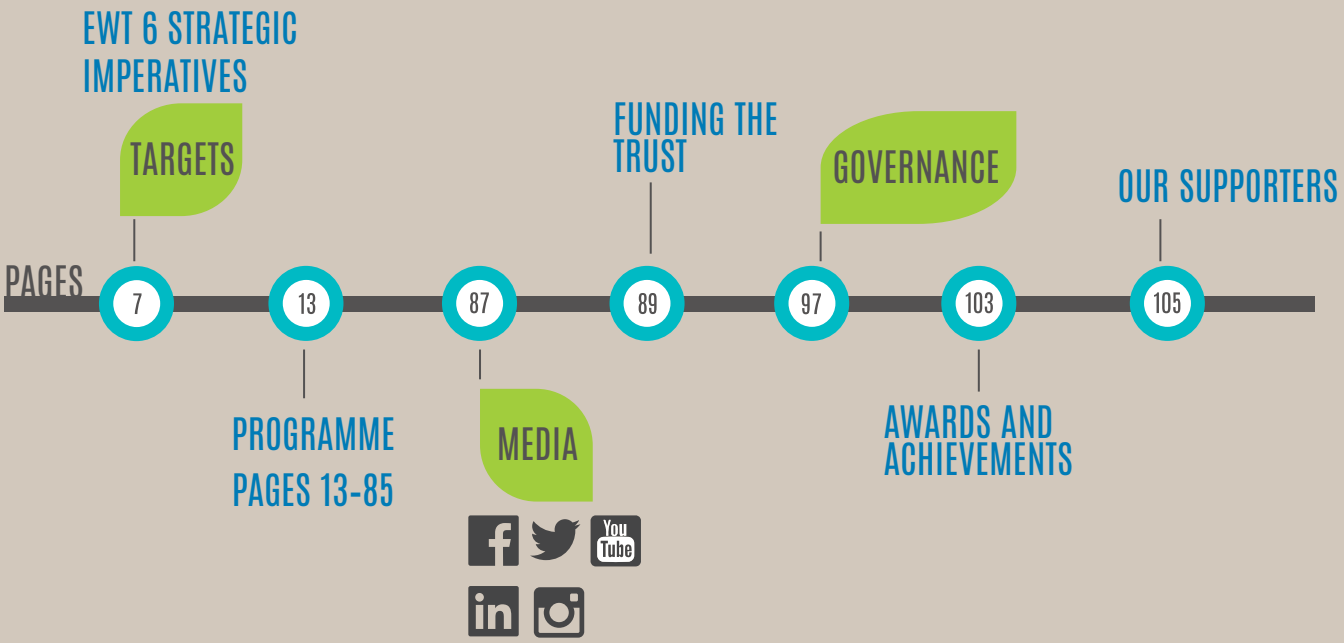
OUR MISSION

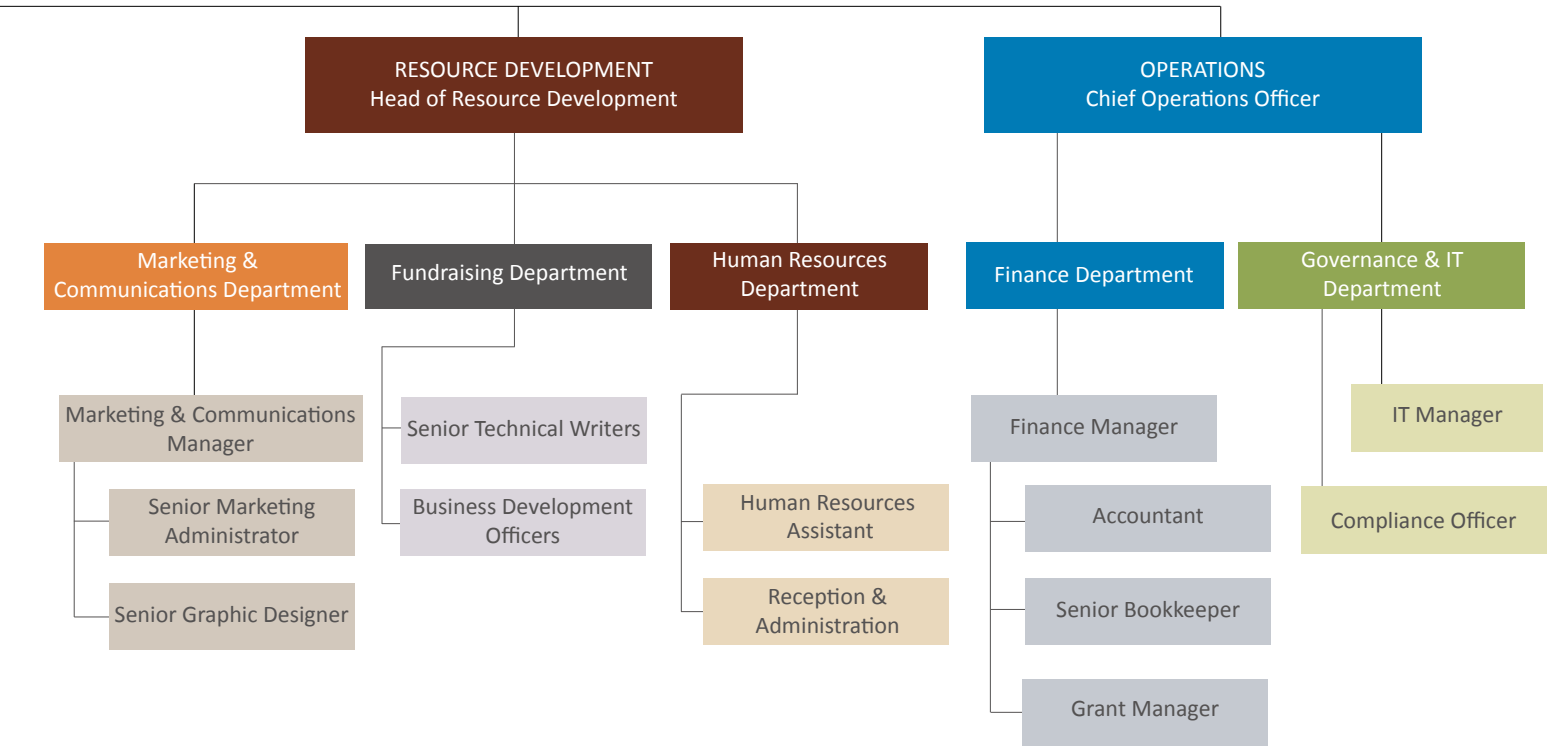
The Endangered Wildlife Trust is dedicated to conserving threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa to the benefit of all people.

EWT STRUCTURE



SNAPSHOT OF THIS REPORT





THE EWT CONSERVATION STRATEGY

LOOKING INWARDS: IMPACT-DRIVEN CONSERVATION

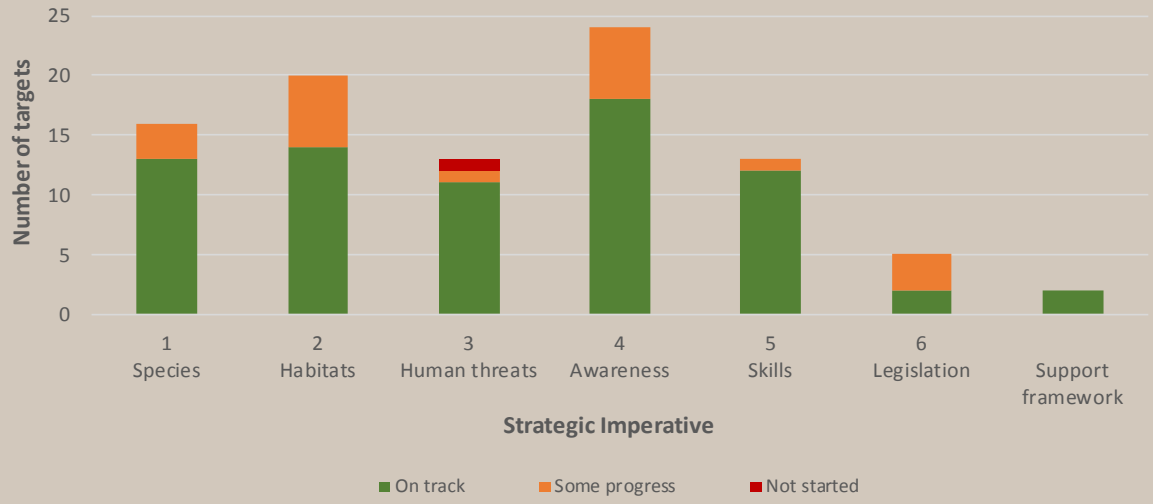
OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

The EWT's Conservation Strategy 2012–2017 centres around six Strategic Imperatives that encompass our broad programmatic focus (see opposite page). These imperatives focus on understanding and improving the status of threatened species; securing and restoring important habitats and ecosystems; preventing and reducing the impacts of human activities on biodiversity; ensuring that the general public and decision makers understand the importance of the environment and the role of biodiversity; building capacity and skills relevant to the conservation sector; and promoting the development and implementation of strong legislation to protect our natural world and ensure its responsible use.

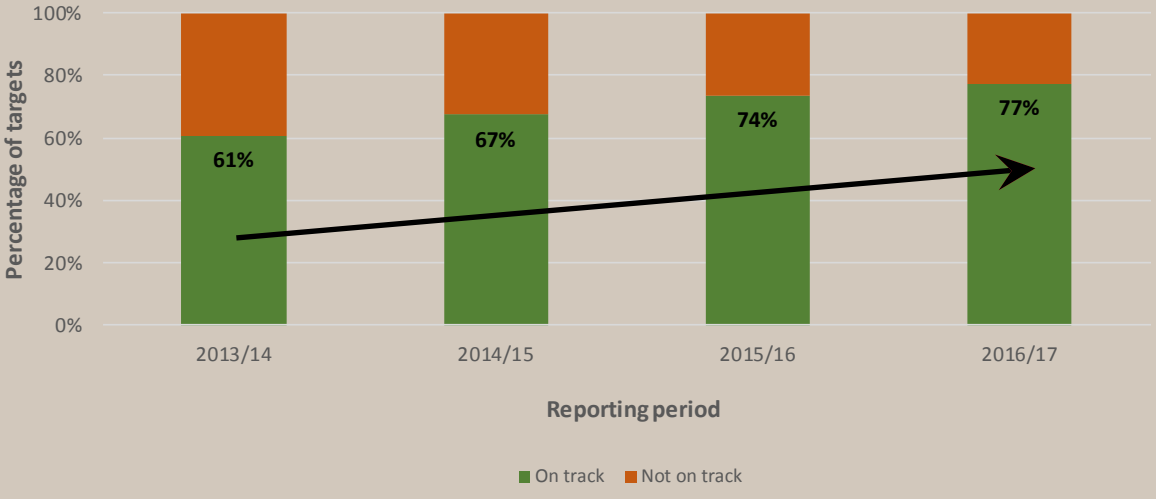
High-level organisational targets support the achievement of each Strategic Imperative. We action these through 93 specific, high-level programmatic targets that provide a roadmap for each of our 13 conservation programmes, and our Conservation Science Unit. Associated with each of these targets are high-level indicators that allow us to assess whether we have achieved our desired impact.

For the period under review we achieved anticipated progress in 77% of the 93 programme targets that were planned for this reporting period. The greatest success was achieved for skills and capacity-related targets under Strategic Imperative 5 (92% on track), and performance was lowest in the work under Strategic Imperative 6 (40% on track).

This is the fourth reporting year where we have collected comparable data on progress towards targets, allowing us to monitor trends in performance at the level of our Strategic Imperatives and as an organisation overall. We have been increasingly successful at meeting our programmatic targets over the past four years.



The number of planned programme targets that were on track, had some progress or were not started in 2016/2017, for each of our six Strategic Imperatives.



Annual progress towards achieving our programmatic targets between 2013 and 2017. Percentages indicate the number of targets deemed "on track" at the end of each reporting cycle.

EWT STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES: SOME FACTS AND FIGURES FROM 2016/17

IDENTIFY HUMAN-INDUCED THREATS AND THE AFFECTED SPECIES IN ORDER TO HALT OR REVERSE SPECIES DECLINE

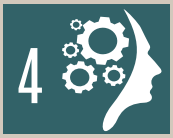
- Established Africa-wide protocols for crane breeding site monitoring. *See page 11.*
- Refined camera trap methodology for monitoring Riverine Rabbits in the Karoo. *See page 35.*
- Vaccinated 21 Wild Dog packs against canine distemper in the Kruger National Park. *See page 25.*
- Alien clearing efforts resulted in downstream increases in threatened fish populations in the Amathole Mountain Catchment. *See page 47.*

ENSURE THAT THE VIABILITY OF THREATENED HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS IS MAINTAINED

- Cheetah and Wild Dog populations now established and managed in 55 and 13 reserves, respectively. *See page 25.*
- >110,000 ha in the process of being proclaimed under Biodiversity Stewardship. *Several EWT programmes.*
- Wetland ecosystem health assessments undertaken in two large wetland complexes in Rwanda. *See page 11.*
- Alien invasive clearing has improved ecosystem service provisioning in critical catchments and wetlands. *Several EWT programmes.*

DEVELOP INNOVATIVE, ECONOMICALLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVES TO ADDRESS HARMFUL IMPACTS TO THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE AND BIODIVERSITY

- Poisoning intervention training provided to 335 participants in six different countries. *See page 19.*
- Published national guidelines to address wildlife–road conflict in South Africa. *See page 81.*
- Issued and closed out 224 recommendations for addressing interactions between wildlife and power lines. *See page 69.*



INCREASE AWARENESS AND MAINSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO THE DAILY LIVES OF PEOPLE AND DECISION MAKERS

- Our biodiversity mainstreaming tool was implemented by six companies. *See page 41.*
- Our species and ecosystem data supported the development of systematic conservation plans for provincial agencies. *See pages 35 and 53.*
- 160 organisations from 52 countries supported International Vulture Awareness Day. *See page 19.*
- Citizen scientists contributed ~7,000 roadkill records to our EWT Road Mortality Database. *See page 81.*

EXPLORE AND DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR MENTORSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING WITHIN THE CONSERVATION SECTOR

- We provided ecological niche modelling training to 26 students from Benin and Uganda. *See page 31.*
- We supported and facilitated 14 students and hosted 25 interns within our programmes and support services departments. *See page 94.*
- Trained 1,439 Eskom staff on wildlife and energy interactions. *See page 69.*
- Facilitated environmental education training for community leaders and educators in the Orange River Mouth. *See page 47.*
- We completed five weeks of advanced cycad species protection training for more than 20 law enforcement officials. *See page 45.*

PROVIDE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ENSURING EFFICIENT AND ADEQUATE IMPLEMENTATION, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

- Commented on numerous pieces of environmental legislation, including draft regulations and norms and standards. *Several EWT programmes.*
- We produced a wildlife trade crime handbook for state prosecutors and senior investigators, featuring commonly traded flagship species. *See page 75.*
- We deployed 12 specialised sniffer dogs who have been trained to detect rhino horn (and other endangered species) and ammunition to strategic locations in the country. *See page 75.*

EWT OUTLOOK

Each year, in preparation for the production of the EWT's Integrated Report, our suite of conservation programmes and support services departments are asked to reflect on the opportunities and challenges they face, and to assess major risks and identify growth areas for the future. In previous years, we have reported on these reflections on a programme/department basis. In this report, we have integrated the responses to identify the key material issues for the organisation as a whole.

OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDING EVIDENCE TO DELIVER IMPACT

The EWT's Biodiversity Databank is a repository of primary biodiversity information, collected by many projects over several decades. This data forms the basis for developing evidence for the effectiveness of our conservation interventions and informing best practice to systematically plan and implement projects that deliver long-lasting impact.

ESTABLISHING STRATEGIC SOURCES OF FUNDING

Our stringent governance structures and transparency make us an increasingly ideal project partner for larger donors, state agencies, international funding institutions and international NGOs.

UNLOCKING PARTNERSHIPS

The EWT recognises the importance of partnerships for achieving conservation impact and will continue to invest energy and resources into establishing relevant linkages with other civil society organisations, communities, government role-players and the private sector.

CHALLENGES

ADDRESSING CAPACITY SHORTAGES

We face challenges from both internal and external capacity constraints for the effective practice of conservation. Time and resources will be necessary to enhance both specialised and generalist skills, both for our staff as well as our many partners and stakeholders.

FILLING FUNDING GAPS

The environment competes with numerous other causes for funding and support, and we are challenged to demonstrate how our work saves not just species and their habitats, but also supports ecosystem goods and services that are essential for human survival and wellbeing.

ADOPTING CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES

Multi-sectoral, cross-cutting approaches are necessary to achieve long-term conservation impact and underpin improved human well-being. We will increasingly embed integrated solutions that encompass rights-based human socio-economic development approaches into our various programmes and projects.

EXPANDING OUR FOOTPRINT

We will expand the thematic scope and geographic reach of our work to address new and emerging threats and promote the uptake of solutions wherever they are needed in Africa and beyond.

DRIVING INNOVATION

We will ramp up the application of innovative processes and new technologies to develop conservation solutions that harness up-to-date support systems in a rapidly changing and increasingly inter-connected world. This includes the development of novel technology (such as the use of drones and thermal imagery to detect elusive species), as well as making use of cutting edge communications platforms to reach our diverse audiences.

GROWTH AREAS

RISKS

FACING ESCALATING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

Despite the ongoing best efforts of a wide range of conservation stakeholders, the primary threats to biodiversity continue to escalate at alarming rates. Habitat loss through agricultural and infrastructural development, and species declines from unsustainable consumption and persecution, continue to erode ecosystems and cause local population declines and even species extinctions. Society's need to provide food, power, raw materials and shelter to an increasing human population remains one of the greatest risks to the EWT's long-term conservation impact.

MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR CONSERVATION

One of the biggest risks to our work is that biodiversity and the environment are not mainstreamed into the daily lives of people and decision makers. To truly harness the opportunities provided by biodiversity, and avoid catastrophic risk to species and ecosystems, requires a paradigm shift by corporates, governments and other stakeholders, whereby they understand how the economy is underpinned by the environment. This shift will require compelling social and economic arguments.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

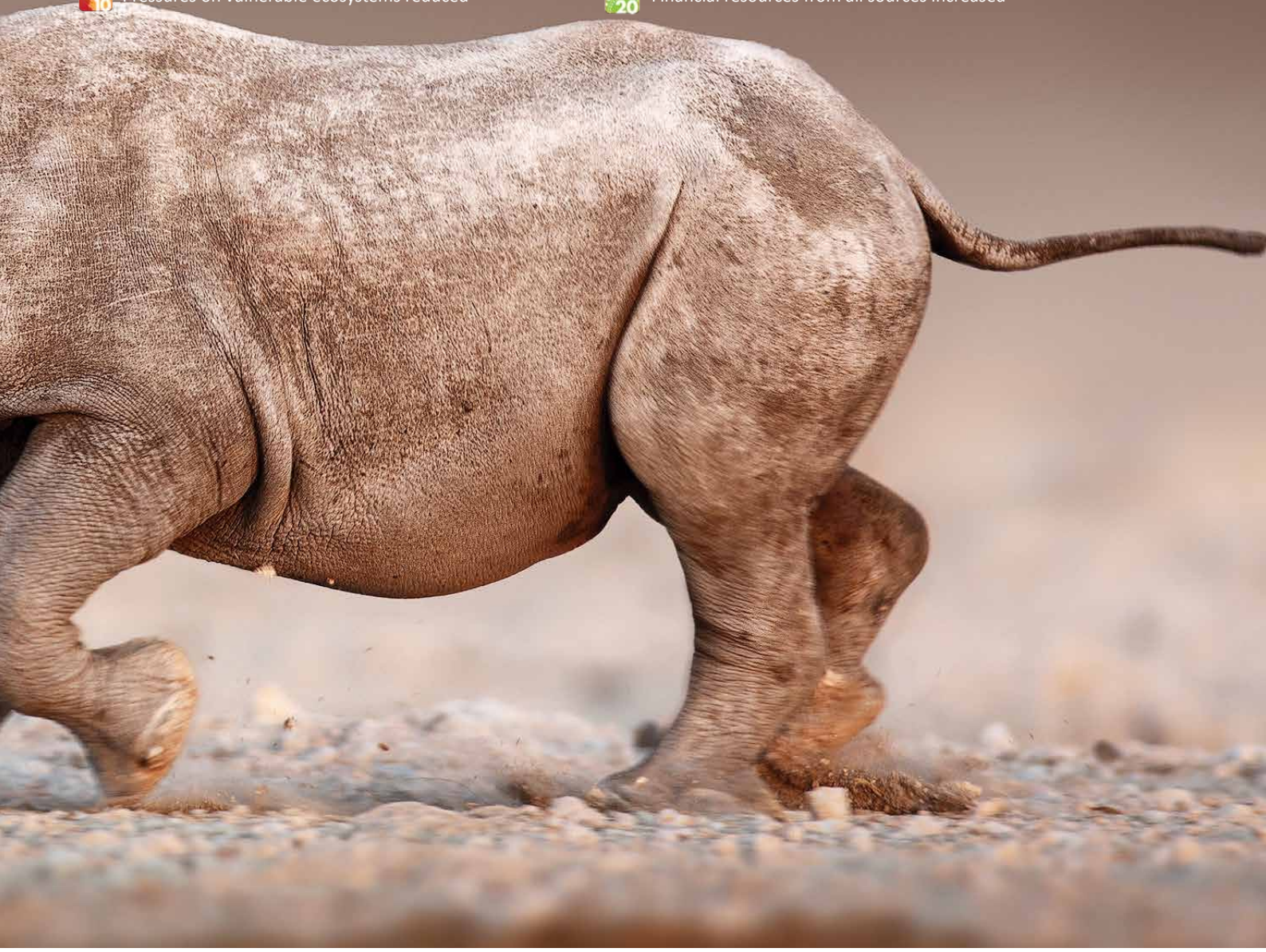
In September 2015, 193 countries around the globe adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. Our efforts to address specific goals are illustrated on the following programme pages, using the icons listed below.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

In October 2010, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a revised and updated *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity*, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011–2020. As a signatory to the CBD, South Africa is committed to meeting these 20 targets, and the EWT plays a significant role in supporting this. Our efforts to address specific targets are illustrated on the following programme pages, using the icons listed below.

- Awareness increased
- Biodiversity values integrated
- Incentives reformed
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Habitat loss halved or reduced
- Sustainable management of marine living resources
- Sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry
- Pollution reduced
- Invasive alien species prevented and controlled
- Pressures on vulnerable ecosystems reduced
- Protected areas increased and improved
- Extinction prevented
- Genetic diversity maintained
- Ecosystems and essential services safeguarded
- Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced
- Nagoya Protocol in force and operational
- NBSAPs adopted as policy instrument
- Traditional knowledge respected
- Knowledge improved, shared and applied
- Financial resources from all sources increased



AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION (ICF), OUR PROGRAMME FOCUSES ON SECURING AND IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF AFRICA'S FOUR RESIDENT CRANE SPECIES AND THE WETLAND AND GRASSLAND HABITATS UPON WHICH THEY DEPEND. WE ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH ACTIONS TO REDUCE THREATS TO THE SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS, BY WORKING CLOSELY WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS TO MANAGE CATCHMENTS SUSTAINABLY FOR BOTH PEOPLE AND CRANES, AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION ACTION.

CRANE CONSERVATION TAKES FLIGHT

The threatened cranes of Africa are ambassadors for the status of those ecosystems that provide humans with life-saving, precious water and these iconic and charismatic species provide many opportunities for collaborative conservation.

The ACCP contributes to five of the EWT Strategic Imperatives through a team of 21 staff and eight partner organisations across East and southern Africa. Our conservation action focuses on improving our understanding of cranes, the threats they face, and the threatened wetland systems that they depend upon. We reduce threats to both cranes and their habitats, and work closely with local communities and key stakeholders in finding solutions that benefit both cranes and people on the same land.

EXPANDING IN EAST AFRICA

Over the last year, we have experienced considerable growth and change in our East African programme. In collaboration with our in-country Rwandan partner, Kitabi College of Conservation and Environmental Management, we welcomed Richard Muvunyi on board as our Rwanda Country Coordinator in February. We also continued our partnership with Dr Olivier Nsengimana and his NGO, the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association. We entered into an agreement with Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO) as our in-country partner in Kenya, and welcomed Rudolf Makhanu on board as our Kenya Country Coordinator in March.

We also partnered with Nature Uganda, our partner in Uganda, which resulted in Jimmy Muheebwa joining the team officially as our Uganda Projects Coordinator in January. We are in the process of hiring an East African Regional Manager. For the first time, we have a full-time team of dedicated individuals across East Africa. Their roles include the coordination and implementation of our projects in each country and the promotion of cross border collaboration to address key transboundary threats including the illegal removal and trade of wild cranes.

BRIDGING THE GAP IN WATTLED CRANE CONSERVATION

South Africa's Critically Endangered Wattled Crane (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) population stands at an estimated 320 birds – up from the ~200 birds of more than two decades ago. This conservation success story is still being written, but can be attributed to increased protection of wetlands used by Wattled Cranes to breed, and the reduction of unnatural mortality of juvenile and adult birds, most specifically the proactive marking of high-risk power lines in and around Wattled Crane breeding sites through our partnership with Eskom. Aerial surveys over the past 24 years show that approximately 50% of the birds are within non-breeding "floater" flocks and the other half are known breeding pairs. The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Midlands and Drakensberg are home to 90% of South Africa's Wattled Crane population and are the focus of a PhD and post-doctoral study currently underway in partnership with the University of KZN and the KZN Crane Foundation. This research will improve our understandingofthenon-breedingpopulationanditsroleinahealthywild population, as well as understanding survival in the wild. We have fitted two of five leg-mounted satellite trackers to wild Wattled Crane pre-fledglings over the past year, and will be fitting the final three trackers in the second half of 2017. These are the first satellite trackers ever fitted to wild pre-fledging Wattled Cranes and the insights we have gained thus far have been invaluable. For example, we have mapped family home ranges and have observed how a juvenile Wattled Crane integrates into the floater flocks for the first time. We have also fitted two satellite trackers to adult, non-breeding Wattled Cranes – another world first – the results of which have confirmed movements by the non-breeding floater flocks over a distance of more than 300 km in a single day between the KZN Midlands and the Eastern Cape Highlands.

PERCEPTIONS AND TOLERANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL BIRD

Our National Bird, the Blue Crane (*Anthropoides paradiseus*) is near-endemic to South Africa, with only a handful of birds found in Namibia. In addition, the Western Cape is home to more than half of South Africa's and, by definition, the world's population of Blue Cranes. Unlike in the rest of South Africa, Blue Cranes in the Western Cape are completely dependent on and associated with the agricultural landscape characterised by mainly wheat, canola and pastures for sheep. This means that the conservation of Blue Cranes in the region is completely dependent on farmers, socio-economic and climatic dynamics, and farmer tolerance of an increasing population of Blue Cranes on their agricultural lands. We partnered with the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of the University of Cape Town to investigate farmer tolerances towards crop damage by Blue Cranes within the Overberg and Swartland regions of the Western Cape. Using semi-structured interviews with farmers in both regions, we found a significant difference in farmer tolerance to and perception of crop damage by Blue Cranes between the Swartland and Overberg. More than 65% of farmers within the Swartland perceive flocks of cranes as damaging to crops, in particular Sweet Lupin (*Lupinus angustifolius*), with 40% of these farmers reporting Blue Cranes as the most damaging of bird species. In contrast, farmers in the Overberg did not perceive cranes as damaging to crops, although there was some concern about cranes eating feed at sheep troughs. Our survey has highlighted a need to expand conservation efforts to farmers in the Swartland to understand the level of damage caused to crops and to find solutions that minimise damage to crops. This is essential to prevent any direct persecution of Blue Cranes as a means of preventing crop losses – a major driver of their decline in the 1970s, 80s and 90s.

AMBASSADORS FOR CATCHMENT PROTECTION AND WETLAND REHABILITATION

A major milestone for the conservation of South Africa's water resources and threatened Highveld grasslands and wetlands, was reached on 7 April 2017, when the MEC for Mpumalanga's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA), Mr Vusi Shongwe, declared the Greater Lakenvlei Protected Environment (GLPE) near Dullstroom. South Africa's grasslands and wetlands are poorly represented in formal protected areas and this declaration now adds 14,305 ha of important grassland and wetland habitat to the network of protected areas within the province. In partnership with Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency and BirdLife South Africa, we worked tirelessly with landowners over five years to create a level of

formal protection for the natural grasslands and rare peatland within the Greater Lakenvlei area. This wetland and surrounding catchment is home to one of Mpumalanga's last remaining Wattled Crane breeding pairs and is also home to South Africa's other two cranes and the elusive White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*). This brings the total size of new protected areas or safe space for cranes in South Africa to more than 93,000 ha over the past four years.

The rehabilitation of wetlands forms a critical component of our work to secure water resources and wetland-dependent biodiversity, including Grey Crowned (*Balearica regulorum*) and Wattled Cranes. Our work with Working for Wetlands (the State-implemented wetland rehabilitation programme in KZN) over the past three years to include Wattled Crane breeding requirements in wetland rehabilitation planning, culminated in the inclusion of unique engineering designs to

create open water at a site in the KZN Midlands. We conducted final field assessments of the results of the rehabilitation and creation of Wattled Crane breeding "space" in early 2017 and we are extremely pleased with the results, most notably that the depth and surface area of open water is in line with what research has shown to be suitable environmental determinants for Wattled Crane breeding. We now eagerly await the arrival of a new pair of Wattled Cranes to call it home. A big thanks to Working for Wetlands for embracing this approach to consider threatened wetland-dependent species in their rehabilitation planning and implementation.

CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS IN THE KABALE WETLANDS, UGANDA

Together with Nature Uganda, we have completed a three-month feasibility assessment for conservation agreements (CA) in the Kabale Wetlands in south-western Uganda, thanks to funding from Conservation International's Conservation Agreement Private Partnership Platform (CI-CAPPP). Conservation agreements are negotiated contracts where communities receive benefit packages in return for conservation action – a tool that we are now using in our community-based projects to build environmental accountability and custodianship.

We selected the Kabale Wetlands in recognition of their status in supporting the highest concentration of Grey Crowned Crane breeding pairs in Uganda (the country's National Bird). Securing the wetlands against encroachment and unsustainable utilisation will provide a lifeline for the species. We analysed social, economic, biophysical, policy and institutional factors influencing wetland and biodiversity conservation around the wetlands, with local communities playing a significant role in the process. Our analysis revealed the feasibility of introducing conservation agreements to address threats to the wetland system and associated biodiversity using community-based approaches. Significant ecosystem services provided by the wetlands could form collective motivations for wetland users to work together towards maintaining the ecological integrity of the wetland system. Community-based wetland management structures introduced by the ICF/EWT Partnership and Nature Uganda in some parts of the project area could become strategic entry points for the introduction of conservation agreements. The high level of commitment from the wetland user communities and support from the local district authorities are also positive attributes that may strengthen institutional support required for the successful implementation of conservation agreements. The development, implementation and monitoring of conservation agreements could also be framed within the framework of the national wetlands policy and the quest to save Uganda's National Bird. These agreements provide avenues for fulfilling part of our broader strategy to secure wetlands to ensure the survival of Grey Crowned Crane populations in East Africa.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FOR WESTERN KENYA COMMUNITIES

With a geographical focus on the Kingwal and Saiwa Wetlands in western Kenya, we worked with local communities, government departments and NGOs on crane and wetland conservation programmes. The wetlands and associated riverine forests provide habitats for birds and mammals that are increasingly threatened by human activities such as wetland agriculture, overharvesting of plants, overgrazing and deforestation. We implemented environmental outreach and community-based action to address threats to wetlands for the benefit of Grey Crowned Cranes and to sustain the livelihoods of local communities.

The target communities comprised households located within a distance of 3 km from the two wetlands. Apart from sourcing

water from the Kingwal and Saiwa Wetlands, these households also harvest plants from the riverine wetlands to supply fodder, and craft and construction materials. Local communities interact with Grey Crowned Cranes in wetlands when they harvest wetland resources and when carrying out farming activities in the uplands. We promote positive environmental attitudes and adoption of responsible wetland utilisation practices so that cranes and people can coexist at Kingwal and Saiwa wetlands.

We facilitated the successful adoption of three wetland-friendly livelihood options including modern beekeeping, fish farming, and community water point protection, by 195 households as a step towards reducing pressure on the wetlands. These livelihood projects have united community members and provided collective incentives to take action to curb wetland degradation. The beneficiaries are now responsible for monitoring the condition of the wetlands near livelihood project sites, ensuring that there is no disturbance to crane pairs during the breeding season and no overharvesting of plants around breeding sites. The livelihood projects are spatially located in such a way that the entire stretch of the Saiwa Wetlands and all the 12 known breeding sites have been included in the monitoring and protection system linked to the livelihood projects.

UGANDA'S
NATIONAL BIRD
GREY CROWNED CRANE

A FUTURE FOR CRANES AND BIODIVERSITY ON THE KAFUE FLATS, ZAMBIA

Mimosa pigra, commonly known as the Giant Sensitive Tree, is an invasive shrub that is rapidly invading the wetland grasslands of the Kafue Flats, a vast wetland complex in central Zambia. It is negatively affecting the habitat for thousands of Wattled Cranes and large herds of Kafue Lechwe (*Kobus leche kafuensis)*. We received a generous grant from Fondation Segré to remove over 90% of the infestation of this invasive species from the Kafue Flats over the next three years, with supplementary funding from WWF Zambia. This ambitious project will restore the floodplain grasslands of the Kafue Flats for cranes and lechwes and benefit local communities by way of gainful employment opportunities.

We will start the invasive removal project in July 2017, once we have complied with Zambian regulations of undertaking such a huge project. In order to set up our control strategy, a detailed map showing the distribution of the Giant Sensitive Tree was needed. We partnered with the Kafue River Trust to map Giant Sensitive Tree across the entire Kafue Flats so that we have a baseline against which we can measure success at the end of the project.

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING

"THANK YOU EWT-YOU HAVE TAKEN ME FROM ZERO TO HERO!"– THABO MDLALA, ACCP ECORANGER FROM MQATSHENI COMMUNITY (SOUTHERN DRAKENSBERG)

"YOU NEED PEOPLE WHO YOU CAN TRUST AND BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH IN ORDER TO WORK TOGETHER AND THAT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE WITH EWT CRANE PROGRAMME STAFF TO DATE-IT HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE."– ANDREA CLOWES, FARMER IN KOKSTAD AREA AND CRANE CUSTODIAN

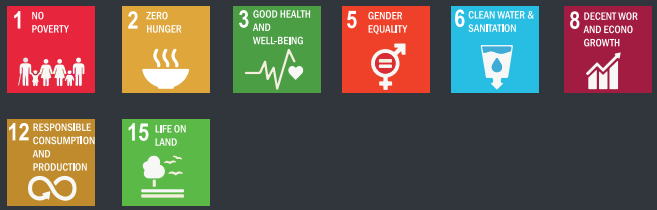
The ACCP appreciates the support of the following major donors: Bob Hallum, Conservation International – Conservation Agreement Private Partnership Platform, Dohmen, EU Aid, Fondation Segré, HCI Foundation, Headley Trust, Jim and Yuko Brumm, Leiden Conservation Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, N3TC, North Carolina Zoo, Pat Price, Rand Merchant Bank, South32, Stifting Feuchebiete/Frankfurt Zoological Society, WWF-Nedbank Green Trust.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

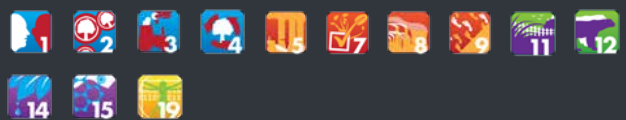
The ACCP works towards achieving the following targets:

EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

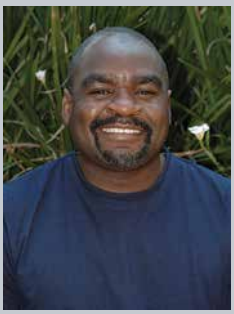


A legend for these icons can be found on pages 9–10.

Kerryn Morrison
ICF/EWT Senior Manager: Africa

Tanya Smith
Southern Africa Regional Manager

Cynthia Chigangaidze
Senior Administrator



Osiman Mabhachi
Community Project Specialist

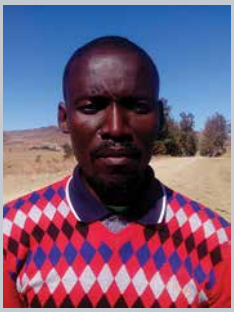
Janine Rennie
Southern Drakensberg Region Field Officer

Ursula Franke
Highveld Senior Field Officer

Steven Segang
Highveld Community Projects Officer

Matthew Becker
Midlands Senior Field Officer

Nduduzo Khoza
Eco Ranger



Thabo Mdlala
Eco Ranger

Yonela Sipeka
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Nyabaronga Wetland
Rwanda

BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME

WE ACTION CONSERVATION PROJECTS FOR A WIDE RANGE OF RAPTORS, INCLUDING VULTURES AND OTHER LARGE BIRDS, THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS CONSERVATION THREATS TO THESE SPECIES THROUGH A COMBINATION OF PRACTICAL EFFECTIVENESS AND ROBUST SCIENCE–STRENGTHENING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE REGIONAL BIRDS OF PREY CONSERVATION NETWORK.

PROTECTING AFRICAN ICONS

Birds of prey are icons of the African landscape: our savannahs, forests, grasslands, coasts, mountains and skies. They are arguably one of the most important groups of animals, owing to the vital ecosystem services they provide. From large scavenging vultures and predatory eagles, to small insectivorous falcons that migrate and breed across the globe, they link critical food chains and play key roles in maintaining healthy habitats.

Throughout southern Africa, birds of prey are experiencing accelerated population declines. Poisoning, persecution, energy infrastructure, food reduction and habitat loss are the major threats to raptors, driving many species towards extinction. The EWT's Birds of Prey

Programme (BOPP) is committed to saving threatened birds of prey and protecting the spaces in which they live. Our work incorporates key themes designed to combat the major threats that birds of prey encounter. These include creating and conserving safe spaces (important breeding and foraging habitats) for raptors; applied research and planning for conservation action; and addressing the negative impacts of energy infrastructure and poisoning. Our approach is to identify human-induced threats in order to halt or reverse species declines; ensure the sustained viability of threatened raptor populations; develop innovative, economically viable alternatives to ensure raptor-friendly production services; and increase awareness of raptors and their conservation needs amongst the public and decision makers. We work collaboratively with key partners and other conservation NGOs such as Wildlife ACT and BirdLife South Africa, as well as conservation authorities such as SANParks and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and a broad network of volunteers and researchers.

PEL'S FISHING-OWL PROJECT

Our Pel's Fishing-owl (*Scotopelia peli*) surveys, monitoring and research have expanded beyond the borders of the Kruger National Park, with the February 2017 launch of a new project on the ecology and movements of Pel's Fishing-owl on the Olifants and Blyde rivers, South Africa. The information we are gathering during this study will help guide

our conservation efforts for the species and the sensitive riparian habitat they call home, both within and outside of protected areas.

In South Africa, the most recent population estimates of Pel's Fishing-owl indicate 7–100 mature individuals, resulting in the species being uplisted regionally to Endangered. The South African population is divided into three main areas: the Limpopo and Levuvhu rivers in the north; the Olifants River in the centre; and northern KwaZulu-Natal in the south, stretching down as far as Richard's Bay, with isolated records further south. The Kruger National Park has long been considered the core area for this species in South Africa. The population estimates for the Levuvhu River range between 7–9 pairs and the population here has shown little fluctuation compared to estimates from 1987 indicating eight pairs. The Olifants River population, however, shows a marked contrast in size over the last 25 years. Surveys conducted in 1992 indicated a population of 18 individuals, in stark contrast to surveys conducted in 2014, when just three individuals were counted. Understanding the direct drivers of the population declines is critical for the conservation of the species. Major flooding events over the last 15 years, resulting in the loss of extensive areas of riparian habitat that the birds need to roost and nest in, as well as significant drops in water quality, have likely caused a decline in roosting, nesting and foraging habitat.

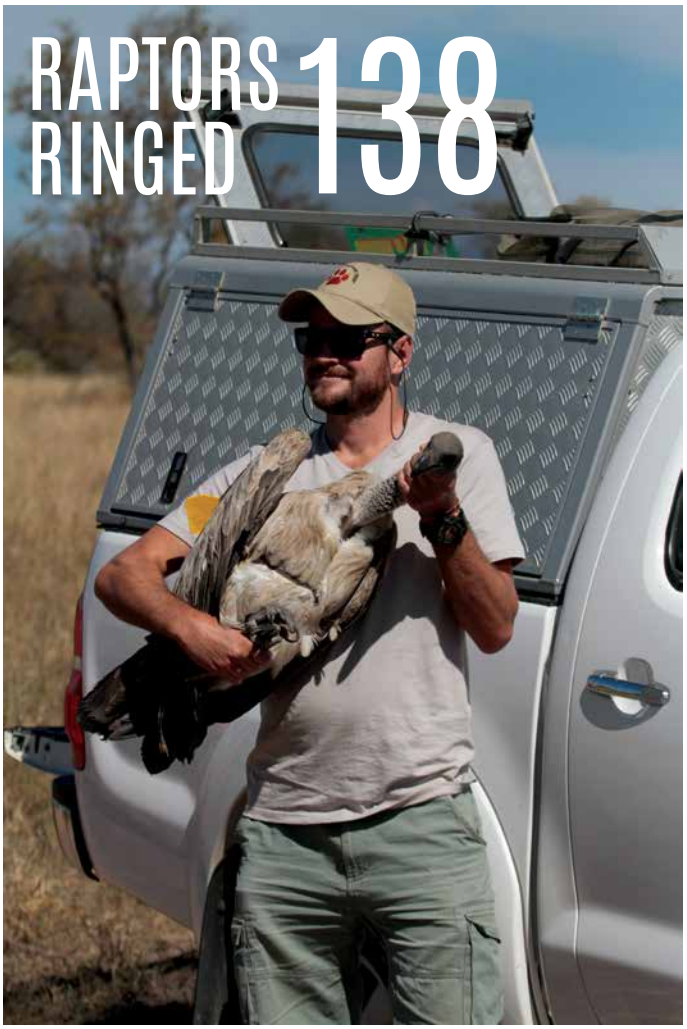
In light of this, as well as the fact that the population along the Blyde River may be of a large enough size to be of conservation significance, it is imperative that a full project on this species is conducted in South Africa in order to better understand its ecology and movements, as well as threats faced at present and in the future.

AFRICAN GRASS-OWL PROJECT

Across the Highveld region of South Africa, African Grass-owls (*Tyto capensis*) face real challenges, from habitat fragmentation, wetland loss, alien plant invasion, predation, rodenticides, to disturbance from mismanaged fires and livestock. We have been actively engaged in African Grass-owl conservation and research since 2008 and, over the last year, we expanded the project from Gauteng to new areas in the Mpumalanga Highveld. We monitored 30 active nests and recorded one of our most productive years yet, with four pairs even double brooding (successfully raising two clutches in one breeding season). This brings the project's total number of sites visited to 150, with 70 breeding attempts monitored. We have also expanded the scope of our research, initiating our GPS tracking and colour-ringing programmes to understand the movement ecology of adults and dispersal behaviour of juveniles. This year we managed to trap and fit GPS tags to five adult birds and colour-rings to 22 nestlings. Our tracking data and re-sightings records (seven chicks) are revealing interesting insights into the species' behaviour, including foraging and home range sizes, as well as specific habitat preferences. We are also gaining insight into the potential threats individuals encounter in the landscape, such as potential collisions with cars as birds fly across highways. Along with our continuous monitoring, camera trap surveys and new findings, we plan to move our project into its next phase, where we will provide specialist input and support for the rehabilitation and restoration of habitat transformed and destroyed from mining activity.

KALAHARI RAPTOR PROJECT

One of our flagship projects, the Kalahari Raptor Project, has been monitoring a number of key raptor populations throughout the North West Province and Kalahari, with a particular focus in the region between Setlagole and Askham, since 2010. During the year under review, we interacted with a significant number of farmers and communities, to involve members of the public in raptor conservation throughout priority raptor habitat across the Kalahari. We used our community engagements as platforms to raise awareness about the important ecosystem services raptors provide, to highlight the vulnerability of raptors, address the threat of poisons, drownings in farm dams, as well as the impacts of mismanaged tree clearing (which are used by tree nesting raptors) and development.



Our tagging and monitoring programmes have allowed us to identify priority conservation areas for raptors, where we then implement targeted awareness campaigns and interact with landowners and communities to reduce their impacts on raptors and develop solutions to prevent further raptor mortalities. Over the last year, the team monitored 339 nests and ringed 112 raptors. We continue to raise public awareness about vultures and other birds of prey amongst different communities within the study site in order to develop a positive attitude towards raptors and vultures, promoting them as indicators of a healthy and productive farming ecosystem.

PLATBERG KAROO RAPTOR PROJECT

Our Platberg Karoo Raptor Project monitors raptor populations over the Northern Cape, western and south-eastern parts of the Free State and parts of north-eastern Eastern Cape. This area lies in the vast plains of the central Great Karoo. The project addresses many of the common threats to raptors, such as poisoning incidents, vehicle collisions, power line collisions, reservoir drownings and persecution, with a focus on conserving raptors and resolving conflict situations on private land and in the small stock producing community.

Through our awareness building and interactions with farmers, landowners and developers, we have helped reduce negative impacts on raptor populations throughout the Platberg Karoo. Our biggest impact over the last year has been through developing solutions to resolve conflict incidents between livestock farmers and raptors. We have also provided specialist input for development close to important raptor breeding sites, preventing disturbance and development in critical raptor habitat.

Since July 2016, our project coordinator, Ronelle Visage, reported 21 different power line incidents, 90 raptor fatalities, ringed 138 raptors (including 92 White-backed Vultures) and monitored nearly 300 nests, providing important insight into local raptor population trends. Ronelle published 11 articles in various magazines and local newspapers, and helped resolve nine different conflict incidents involving people and raptors. The project provided specialist input and assisted in the avifaunal monitoring at two renewable energy developments, one in Upington and the other in De Aar, providing important data and support to inform bird-friendly developments. We kicked off our Mokala National Park Vulture Research Project with the Hawk Conservancy Trust and conducted migratory raptor counts at De Aar, counting 9,600 Lesser Kestrels in De Aar, 273 in Philipstown, and 7,530 individuals in Hanover. We assisted SANParks during two raptor surveys. Ronelle also successfully rescued and rehabilitated over 40 birds of prey, including owls, eagles, cranes, bustards, secretary birds and vultures.

WILDLIFE POISONING RESPONSES

We have launched exciting new projects throughout KwaZulu-Natal, a known hotspot for poisoning activities, to address the extent and drivers of wildlife poisoning amongst communities that border on some of the densest breeding colonies of vultures in southern Africa, areas where declines have also shown to be highest because of poisoning. We are keen to start engaging with communities in this diverse landscape and coming up with viable solutions to support the reduction in illegal killing, trade and consumption of threatened birds of prey in the region, for the betterment of people and wildlife in rural northern KwaZulu-Natal.

DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS VULTURE MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN–THE EWT'S CRUCIAL ROLE

During August 2016, the EWT's André Botha accepted the role as Overarching Coordinator for the drafting of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP) under contract and in partnership with the CMS Raptors MoU and BirdLife International. The overall aim of this document is to provide a comprehensive, strategic action plan covering the entire geographic range (128 countries) of 15 species of Old World vultures, to promote concerted and collaborative international conservation ctions. The main objectives of the Vulture MsAP are to:

- Rapidly halt current population declines in all species covered by the Vulture MsAP;
- Reverse recent population trends to bring the conservation status of each species back to a favourable level; and
- Provide conservation management guidelines applicable to all range states covered by the Vulture MsAP.

The process to develop the Vulture MsAP included four regional workshops involving more than 250 conservationist scientists, vulture experts and government stakeholders from Africa (Dakar, Senegal), Europe (Monfrague, Spain), Asia (Mumbai, India) and the Middle East (Sharjah, UAE). This was followed by a final Overarching Workshop held in Toledo, Spain, in February 2017, and a pubic consultation process involving more than 1,000 stakeholders and interest groups, which produced a draft MsAP document. In July 2017, the draft Vulture MsAP was approved following peer review by the CMS Scientific Council, and will be considered by Parties to CMS at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12), scheduled for October 2017, in Manila, Philippines. This is a crucial milestone for vulture conservation in Africa, Europe and Asia, as it facilitates the implementation of critical vulture conservation action, addressing key threats and guiding conservation efforts across the entire Vulture MsAP range.

The most significant threat that impacts vultures across the MsAP range is poisoning in various its forms. Most vultures that are killed by poisoning are the victims of unintentional poisoning when feeding on poison baits that are used to control mammalian predators, when they feed on carcasses treated with certain veterinary drugs that are toxic to vultures or due to toxic substances such as lead in their food. The EWT has been recording and addressing wildlife poisoning in South Africa since the early 1990s. We also see a significant role for ourselves in terms of expanding our focus and implementing the actions of the Vulture MsAP to address the poisoning of vultures and other wildlife in Africa and have initiated work in partnership with a range of stakeholders in key areas in Africa that were identified as poisoning hotspots. We are currently in the process of establishing a partnership with The Hawk Conservancy Trust, in the United Kingdom, who will support and assist our work in this regard.

In response to increasing incidents of vulture poisoning throughout southern Africa, we have conducted poisoning intervention training to 335 participants since July 2016, bringing the total number trained to 1,063, in six different countries including South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Namibia, Lesotho and Zambia. This work facilitates a coordinated, quicker and more effective response to incidents, with more efficient clean ups of poisoning sites, directly reducing further wildlife poisoning.

Another significant action promoted by the Vulture MsAP is to address the significant knowledge gaps in terms of vulture population trends, movements and conservation challenges in many African countries. To contribute to addressing these gaps, the EWT, through its partnership with The Hawk Conservancy Trust, has obtained permits and initiated projects at key sites in Mozambique and Zambia, two of the most significant gap-areas in southern Africa. As a result of this work, the first samples of vultures have been wing-tagged and equipped with tracking telemetry in the Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique (24 birds) as well as the Chisamba area in Zambia (4 birds), while the assessment and monitoring of nests by trained monitors from local partners was initiated in both countries.

André Botha
Special Projects Manager

SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL PROJECT

BOPP completed a three-year study on Southern Ground Hornbills (*Bucorvus leadbeateri)* in the Kruger National Park (KNP), and the completion of a PhD degree in collaboration with the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Extensive habitat loss and persecution has resulted in the significant decline of their population in South Africa, where they are currently listed as Endangered. A National Species Recovery Plan was developed, with reintroductions of the birds into suitable habitat outside of protected areas listed as a viable conservation intervention for the species. This plan also highlighted a number of knowledge gaps that need to be addressed and that are essential to the long-term conservation of the species. The exact habitat requirements (including specifics of nest cavities) and the foraging ecology of Southern Ground Hornbills were both identified as important knowledge gaps. Consequently, the main aim of our study was to determine the habitat, nesting and foraging requirements of the Southern Ground Hornbill with the intention of developing management guidelines for areas planned as reintroduction sites for the species. Our study focused on the population of Southern Ground Hornbills located within the Kruger National Park.

We found that the particular characteristics of the Southern Ground Hornbill nest (cavity dimensions, tree species, height of cavity, etc.) did not affect nesting success of the birds. The proximity of roads was important, with more successful nests being situated closer to roads. Habitat structure and diversity of vegetation around the nest also influenced the success of the particular group, with nests with more open habitats and a wider variety of vegetation types being more successful. Nest cavity temperatures were significantly different to ambient for selected nests studied across the 2013–2014 and 2014–2015 breeding seasons. However, we found that nest temperature did not affect their nesting success. Interestingly, the artificial nest within our study area showed extremes in temperature (significantly

higher and lower than ambient maximum and minimum temperatures, respectively) despite this being one of the most successful nests studied.

We used satellite tracking technology to investigate home range sizes and habitat use of Southern Ground Hornbills within Kruger and surrounding conservation areas. We then used first-passage time analysis to determine whether habitat type influenced certain movement behaviours. We found that there were marked seasonal differences in home range size and that all groups showed a range restriction during the wetter months (coinciding with the breeding season), where activities are concentrated around the nest site. We found that grassland, open woodland and dense thicket habitats were important habitats for foraging, and that grassland and open woodland areas were used in accordance with their availability within the groups' respective territories year-round. The results from this study have been consolidated into recommendations for areas being considered as potential release sites for captive-reared Southern Ground Hornbills.

OPERATION OXPECKER

BOPP established the Operation Oxpecker project in 2002, with the overall aim of ensuring the conservation of Red-billed (*Buphagus erythrorynchus*) and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers (*Buphagus africanus*) in South Africa through a reduction in poisoning and targeted reintroductions. Red-billed Oxpecker populations had suffered a drastic decline owing to the loss of some of their host species (through "Big 5" game trophy hunting and a Rinderpest outbreak in the 1890s and 1900s). Additionally, the use of incompatible ectoparasiticides as a tick-control measure, which was widespread across South Africa, also played a key role in the species decline. With the advent of new ingredients (toxic to ticks, but not to the birds) being incorporated into ectoparasiticides, the reintroduction of Red-billed Oxpeckers into their historic range became a possibility. SANParks managed reintroductions of Red-billed Oxpeckers from 1988–1998, with this role being taken over by the EWT in 2002.

We relocated Red-billed Oxpeckers into three new areas since the inception of the project, produced important research outputs and assisted two students in obtaining their Honour's and Master's degrees. The post-doctoral scholar associated with the project produced a habitat suitability map for Red-billed Oxpeckers for South Africa, using current and historical distribution data as well as a number of other factors (host availability, current tick distributions, nest-cavity availability, climate, etc.). This map is now used to assess the suitability of properties for reintroductions of Red-billed Oxpeckers and has provided us with a scientifically sound method of assessment. Over the last year, our work on Red-billed Oxpeckers played a crucial role in the downlisting of the species to Least Concern. The Development Bank of South Africa's Green Fund ranked our project "Operation Oxpecker" in their top five funded projects for "greening South Africa's economy".

The BOPP appreciates the support of the following major donors: Anglo iNyosi Coal, Charl Van Der Merwe Trust, DBSA Green Fund, Eskom Generation, Hawk Conservancy Trust, Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, National Lottery Commission, Rand Merchant Bank, Wageningen University.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

The BOPP works towards achieving the following targets:

EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A legend for these icons can be found on pages 9–10.

Gareth Tate
Programme Manager

Rebecca Mabuza
Administrator

Ronelle Visagie
Project Coordinator: Platberg Karoo Raptor Project

Tselane Rachuene
Field Officer: Anglo African Grass-Owl Project

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

OUR VISION IS SELF-SUSTAINING, WILD POPULATIONS OF CARNIVORES LIVING IN HARMONY WITH PEOPLE. THIS VISION IS BEING REALISED THROUGH HIGH LEVEL PROGRAMME TARGETS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES OF THE EWT AS A WHOLE. THE CCP WORKS UNDER SIX KEY THEMES: CREATING AND MAINTAINING SAFE SPACE FOR CARNIVORES; IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING THREATS TO CARNIVORES; INCREASING APPRECIATION FOR CARNIVORES; IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CARNIVORES; IMPROVING LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CARNIVORES; AND BUILDING CAPACITY TO PROTECT CARNIVORES.

CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR CARNIVORES

Carnivores are one of the most threatened group of species across the globe and require innovative strategies to ensure their survival in a modern world. Our Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCP) boldly implements large-scale collaborative field-based projects to actively increase the range, numbers and status of Africa's threatened carnivores. We achieve this by the re-establishment, maintenance and expansion of safe space for carnivores, actively reducing threats to their survival, ensuring positive changes in human attitudes to carnivores, and supporting legislation to protect carnivores. Simply put, we have a responsibility to protect our natural heritage that would be

compromised without the continued existence of wild carnivores. We have innovative and forward thinking strategies to achieve this with our conservation in action projects working to save carnivores from going extinct in southern Africa.

STOPPING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE

Canine distemper virus (hereafter distemper) caused the death of three packs of Wild Dogs in the Kruger National Park, Tswalu Kalahari Reserve and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park in mid-2016. In total, 55 Wild Dogs died from distemper in South Africa in 2016, which equates to 12% of the country's entire wild population. These alarming statistics required urgent action to protect Wild Dogs.

In collaboration with South Africa National Parks (SANParks) and the State Veterinary Department, we embarked on an ambitious project to vaccinate Wild Dogs in the Kruger. We aimed to vaccinate 30–40% of the adult Wild Dogs in the population, to protect them against distemper and rabies. Given that these diseases can decimate entire populations of Wild Dogs (a well-known example is the Serengeti Wild Dog population, which was decimated by distemper in 1992), coupled with the relatively small size of the Kruger population, the effects of not treating Wild Dogs could have been catastrophic for the Kruger population.

Kruger currently contains a population of approximately 280 Wild Dogs (140 adults and 140 pups) in 22 packs. We targeted every pack for vaccination where the procedure for vaccination required an initial vaccine, a booster vaccine 6–8 weeks later and another vaccine after a year.

We have achieved outstanding successes in the project. To date, we have vaccinated 21 of the 22 packs, totalling 69 individual Wild Dogs. Moreover, 56 individuals have received the booster vaccines, equating to 81.2% of the initial vaccinated individuals. In addition, we have taken 75 blood samples that have revealed no natural distemper immunity but showed a worrying 54% prevalence for tuberculosis, while 28% showed they had immunities to anthrax. These results illustrate that Wild Dogs in the Kruger have no natural protection against distemper, validating the need for active protection of the population against infectious diseases. We are monitoring the packs continuously to assess health and survival of the vaccinated Wild Dogs.

Lessons from the Kruger Wild Dog Vaccination Project are being utilised elsewhere in the South Africa, such as in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. Additionally, we are investigating the extent of immunity to diseases in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. Of 48 blood samples collected, the test results have revealed that 10.4% of the population have been exposed to, and survived, distemper, while 4% have immunities against

parvo-virus. These numbers are significantly higher than those in Kruger. We are continuing with this work to learn about disease in Wild Dogs, how this affects survival and what we can do to stop diseases from spreading.

MORE PACKS, MORE SPOTS

Wild Dogs are the most endangered carnivore in South Africa with just 450 individuals left. The world's fastest land mammal, the Cheetah, is listed as Vulnerable with a population of just 1,200 in South Africa. One of the ways in which we are increasing the Wild Dog and Cheetah populations in South Africa is by actively swapping and relocating animals that occur in small, isolated and fenced reserves.

This project involves working with many stakeholders through the national and provincial advisory groups. We coordinate the Wild Dog Advisory Group of South Africa (WAG-SA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Wild Dog Advisory Group (KZNWAG) as well as five annual Cheetah cluster group meetings (Eastern Cape, northern KwaZulu-Natal, Lowveld, Waterberg and Kalahari). These groups discuss and implement new translocations, identify research priorities, address key issues and ultimately guide the national goals to increase the range, numbers and status of Wild Dogs and Cheetahs.

We have completed nine Wild Dog and 35 Cheetah relocations over the last year; that is effectively a Wild Dog move every 40 days and a Cheetah move every ten days. This resulted in an 8% increase in the Wild Dog population from 234 in 20 packs to 253 in 26 packs. We maintained the number of Cheetahs at 315 individuals. Wild Dog safe space has increased 19% in the last year, from 11 (5,086 km^2) to 13 reserves (6,043 km^2). Cheetah safe space has grown by 7.5% from 53 (11,124 km^2) to 55 reserves (11,962 km^2).

Most excitingly, we expanded our approach beyond South Africa's borders with the reintroduction of eight Wild Dogs to Northern Tuli Game Reserve, Botswana, in December 2016 that have already established a home range and are denning. We also expanded our Cheetah population with the reintroduction of four Cheetahs to Liwonde National Park in Malawi. This marks the first time that Cheetahs have roamed freely in Malawi in more than 20 years. Considering the global decline of Cheetahs in all African countries other than South Africa, the re-establishment of a resident Cheetah population makes this the most positive conservation story for the species over the same period.

Over the next year, we plan to expand to include Wild Dogs into northern Kruger National Park, Liuwa Plains in Zambia, Etosha National Park in Namibia, Liwonde National Park in Malawi and Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique, while Cheetahs are going to Majete Wildlife Reserve and Nkhotakhota Reserve in Malawi.

SCOURGE OF SNARING

The use of wire snares is an illegal method of hunting, where snares are set around game paths and waterholes and can have devastating effects on carnivores, even though predators are not the hunter's target. Within southern Kruger, six Wild Dogs were snared but we successfully removed snares from four of these. Unfortunately the remaining two individuals died.

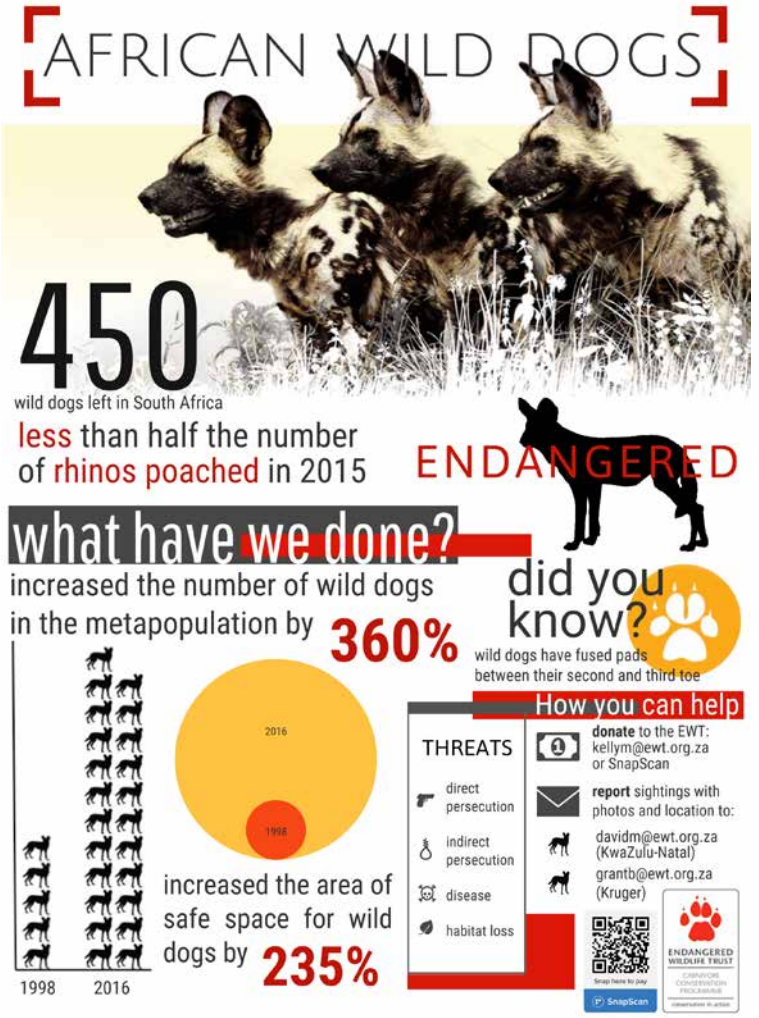
Snares affect other carnivores too. In Kruger, a snare was recorded around the midriff of a male Lion (*Panthera leo*) near Punda Maria. The problem is pervasive throughout the entire Lowveld region and in northern KwaZulu-Natal, and over the next five years, we plan to address the issue by identifying factors driving snaring, and exploring alternative ways of providing food and creating economic opportunities within the surrounding communities.

Snaring has also affected carnivores outside of the Kruger and metapopulation; two of three Wild Dogs were snared after being recently released on Lindani Game Reserve. Derek van der Merwe (Waterberg Regional Carnivore Coordinator) visited the area, went to all the police stations, visited various landowners and community members to inform them of the snared Wild Dogs and to determine if anyone had seen them. Unfortunately, the Wild Dogs have not been seen and we fear they may have died. One of our livestock guarding dogs, Alice, was also caught in a snare in June 2017, but her owner quickly removed the snare.

In order to mitigate against the effects of snaring, Vincent van der Merwe (Eastern Cape Regional Carnivore Coordinator and Cheetah Metapopulation Coordinator) organised and hosted a snare removal training and intervention workshop for 30 park rangers in Liwonde National Park, Malawi, to highlight the importance of timeous snare removal and the maintenance of a good fence to protect threatened carnivores.

CARNIVORES AND KARONGWE

We have been increasing awareness of the status and threats to carnivores. The entire CCP team has been working to raise awareness in the high-end tourism market by giving twice-weekly Cheetah conservation talks to National Geographic Journeys with G-Adventures in Karongwe Private Game Reserve in Limpopo. We gave over 100 conservation talks in the last year and interacted with over 1,500 guests. We have received positive feedback, with guests departing with a greater appreciation for carnivores.



DOGS DO DEFEND

Humans and predators generally do not get along, especially on commercial or subsistence livestock farms. Farmers are constantly battling with carnivores that prey on lambs, goats and cattle. Livestock guarding dogs present a long-term sustainable solution to livestock predation. This year we placed 11 dogs that cover 1,150 km² of farmland. The project has been extremely successful in the Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Northern Cape provinces over the past ten years where we have placed 191 dogs that secure over 5,650 km² of safe space for carnivores and livestock. This has increased the tolerance levels of farmers towards carnivores as farmers are experiencing fewer livestock losses to predation and are not killing carnivores as much as prior to the implementation of livestock guarding dogs.

SOUTH AMERICANS SAVING AFRICAN CARNIVORES

Livestock guarding dogs have shown to be less effective in protecting livestock breeds like Dorper sheep that do not flock the way other sheep do. In response to this, we have tested an innovative new method to place Alpacas (*Vicugna pacos*) on farms in the Northern Cape. This technique, which is relatively new to South Africa, was suggested to us by a farmer in Kakamas, Northern Cape, who had been using Alpacas effectively for two years to protect livestock. We sourced and placed four Alpacas that quickly adapted to the harsh environment and have proved to be very effective as guardian animals. They have been extremely successful, resulting in a 76% reduction in livestock losses to predation on farms utilising Alpacas.

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FOOD

Farmers in the Northern Cape report experiencing annual livestock losses between 7–20% every year, leading to retaliatory killing of carnivores. The CCP has completed a three-year study in the Northern Cape to produce Wildlife Friendly Lamb with livestock farmers. We assisted Woolworths to develop a Free Range Wildlife Friendly Mutton/Lamb Protocol that we utilised to work with farmers who supply mutton/lamb to Cavalier in the Northern Cape, who in turn supply Woolworths. We encouraged landowners to use more holistic and sustainable meat production methods and to coexist with carnivores by agreeing to trial mitigation tools and also to stop lethal control of carnivores on their farms. We trialled various non-lethal carnivore conflict mitigation methods (livestock guarding dogs, Alpacas, anti-predation lights) on all farms and managed to reduce predator losses across all of the project farms by 53%. We identified that livestock herds, including sheep, were better protected by Alpacas, but all other herds were effectively protected by livestock guarding dogs.

Currently we have a number of farmers farming within Woolworths "Wildlife Friendly" criteria who can produce up to 15,000 "Wildlife Friendly" lambs per year, which is a key financial benefit for the farmers that now have more lamb to sell. Ultimately, we would like to see our carnivore conflict mitigation methods being taken up and internalised within the farming industry. Woolworths "Wildlife Friendly'' lamb will address the consumers need for more environmentally friendly farming practices as well as offer incentives to farmers to change their farming practices. This will benefit farmers, consumers, the Woolworths brand, as well as biodiversity.

CCP AND LIONS

We have been working with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to assist with research and monitoring of the Lion population in KwaZulu-Natal this year. We have been active in supporting the collaring, micro-chipping and branding of Lions. We will be expanding this work to ultimately use our metapopulation expertise with Wild Dogs and Cheetahs to inform managers on best practice to ensure the maintenance of these important small Lion populations.

LEGAL TEETH

We have played an active role in commenting on the Lion bone export quota proposed by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in South Africa. DEA has approved the legal export of an annual quota of 800 Lion skeletons from captive animals from South Africa. We originally sent comments to the Minister on our concerns with the proposed quota, which related to the effect this could have on wild Lions, questioned how such a quota would be regulated, the significant welfare concerns and that the quota would need to be established from scientifically sound methods. These concerns were not formally addressed by the DEA nor the Minister in the review period and we therefore strongly oppose this quota. We are further concerned that this quota will incentivise trade and allow for a steady stream of Lion products out of South Africa.

The Cheetah and Wild Dog Biodiversity Management Plan is taking shape. We are incorporating comments from relevant stakeholders and will be developing the second draft of the plan this year. We aim to have the plan finalised by the end of June 2018.

We have also commented on the Norms and Standards for the Management of Damage-Causing Animals in South Africa, published for comment in Government Gazette No. 40236 on 30 August 2016.

RELEVANT RESEARCH

We are working with the University of Johannesburg's Dr Laura Tensen to understand the genetic diversity of Wild Dogs in the metapopulation and Kruger. We have also started a study investigating Cheetah immobilisation complications with Dr Cindy Braud from the University of Toulouse.

In addition, we are working with the University of Mpumalanga's Dr Courtney Marneweck and Prof. Dan Parker to investigate the long-term behavioural ecology of Wild Dogs in the Kruger. Our field worker Vincent van der Merwe recently joined the Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa at the University of Cape Town, where he has initiated his PhD research on expanding the managed metapopulation approach for Cheetah conservation into other parts of the continent.

The CCP appreciates the support of the following major donors: African Parks, Badger Holdings, Bakwena, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation, Ford Wildlife Foundation, G Adventures (National Geographic), Goldwagen, International Wilderness, Investec, Jaguar Land Rover Centurion, Jaguar Land Rover South Africa, Marsha and Emmett Duemke, Painted Wolf Wines, Q20, Relate Bracelets, Richard Bosman, St. Louis Zoo, Symrise, Tara Lal, Woolworths.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

The CCP works towards achieving the following targets:

EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A legend for these icons can be found on pages 9–10.

David Marneweck
Programme Manager

Derek van der Merwe
Limpopo Regional Coordinator

Vincent van der Merwe
Eastern Cape Regional Coordinator

Grant Beverley
Lowveld Regional Coordinator

Cole du Plessis
KZN Regional Carnivore Coordinator

CONSERVATION SCIENCE UNIT

THE CONSERVATION SCIENCE UNIT IS THE EWT'S SCIENTIFIC HUB. WE PROVIDE SUPPORT ACROSS THE ORGANISATION'S PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS, TO ENSURE THAT OUR WORK IS SCIENTIFICALLY SOUND AND EVIDENCE-BASED. WE MANAGE THE CENTRAL BIODIVERSITY DATABASE AND BUILD CAPACITY AMONG STAFF TO ANALYSE, INTERPRET AND PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF CONSERVATION RESEARCH, MAKING IT ACCESSIBLE TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES, ESPECIALLY DECISION-MAKERS. WE ALSO RUN SPECIAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE MAMMAL RED LIST REVISION, WHICH FALL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF OTHER PROGRAMMES.

EVIDENCE-BASED CONSERVATION

Our team consists of four staff members: a Senior Scientist, two Science Officers and a Science Intern, who are all based at the EWT's Head Office.

We held three external training workshops this year, one on data publishing, one on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and another on ecological niche modelling, with participants from our network of partners within South Africa and from Uganda and Benin. The CSU also contributes to the supporting framework for all programmes by working with them to ensure that the scientific components of their work are methodologically sound, and that all EWT programmes have measurable targets and

indicators by which to monitor their progress and impact at both project and programme level.

PUTTING SOUTHERN AFRICA'S MAMMALS ON THE MAP

To highlight the plight of mammals in southern Africa, as well as the fun facts and figures about our unique mammal species, we launched the Mammal of the Week campaign, to accompany our weekly releases of the Red List assessments of individual species. These posts have proved popular on Facebook, with the most popular receiving over 1,000 likes and over 200 shares. This campaign has also received traditional media coverage. Ongoing analysis of the data compiled for the Mammal Red List will deepen our understanding of the state and trends of mammal conservation in South Africa and guide conservation efforts where needed.

CONSERVATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH DATA

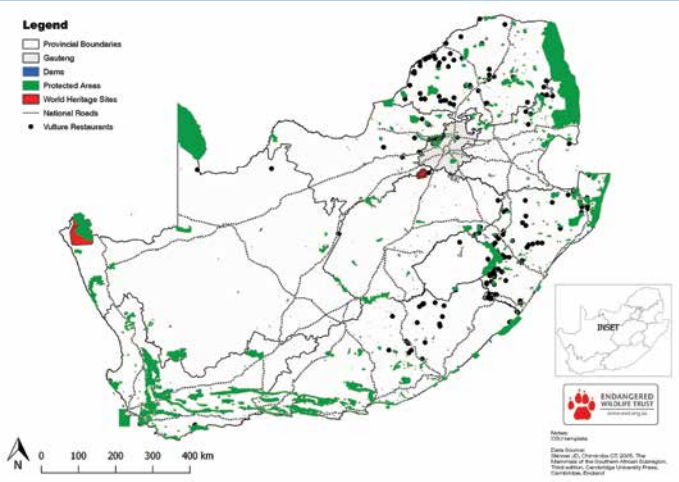
We made further progress towards the development of the Biodiversity Databank, a centralised database for all of the EWT's biodiversity data. We have focused in the past year on setting up a tracking system for datasets and their progress through the data value chain, from raw uncleaned data to standardised clean data

with a full metadata description. We reported on the progress of programme datasets monthly, with programmes vying with each other to be the best in any one month. In preparation for uploading to the Databank, programmes submitted 34 new datasets, and of these, we captured metadata for 22, and restructured, cleaned and standardised ten. Regular updates continued on an additional 41 ongoing datasets.

OUR DATA MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We received 25 requests for data through our online data request portal (http://www.ewt.org.za/biodiversitydata.html), and in the past year provided data for use in conservation planning (three datasets), Environmental Impact Assessments (two datasets), and for research (eight datasets). In addition, we shared four datasets with partners under various student and researcher agreements. While a wide variety of data was requested from eight of our programmes, data from the Wildlife and Energy Programme, in particular their ongoing datasets on wildlife-electrical infrastructure mortality incidents, were most frequently requested.

The EWT is an associate node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and we are part of the African group of nodes, which is one of the most active regional groupings within GBIF. We continue to make our data freely available online, via the GBIF (www.gbif.org). We uploaded 3,165 records of Cheetah satellite tracking data to GBIF, which is now the largest dataset on Cheetahs on GBIF. Our GBIF datasets continue to reach a wide audience and are downloaded partially or fully on average about 50 times a month.



PUTTING THE SCIENCE INTO CONSERVATION

The CSU provides mapping and data analysis support and training to our various programmes. Our online ecological niche modelling course was offered to EWT staff and partners, and was completed by five participants. Through our NPO GIS licence from ESRI South Africa, we were able to improve our mapping and spatial analysis support to programmes. We developed roadkill hotspot maps from road patrol data to identify sections of road that are most in need of mitigation; defined programme geographical boundaries based on rainfall and vegetation data; helped to design sampling protocols of river confluences for Riverine Rabbit (*Bunolagus monticularis*) surveys; and developed models of snake occurrence and conflict with people within the greater Johannesburg area for an urban ecology project. The EWT published 14 scientific papers this year, up from eight in the previous financial year. To reach a wider non-scientific audience, we published summaries of five of these in the EWT's bimonthly *Conservation Matters* magazine.

SCIENCE AND DATA PARTNERSHIPS

Dr Lizanne Roxburgh continues to serve on the AEWA (African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement) Technical Committee as the representative for southern Africa. The work mostly takes the form of advisory documents and tools to assist countries in the management and protection of waterbirds. In the past year, we worked on, amongst other things, the development of the Critical Sites Network tool, an online mapping tool that will assist in the protection of critical sites for waterbirds across the AEWA region.

Funding obtained by Makerere University in Uganda allowed us to conduct a Data Management and Data Paper Training Workshop in Kampala, Uganda in August 2016 for 25 participants, as part of our commitments as a GBIF associate node. We continued with ecological niche modelling training of another three graduate students from the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin, and launched the GBIF-funded online course. Lizanne Roxburgh was also elected to the judging panel of the African Biodiversity Challenge, which is a project run by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), in association with GBIF, which aims to mobilise priority biodiversity data in four African countries and build capacity in biodiversity data management and use.

The CSU appreciates the support of Esri South Africa.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

The CSU works towards achieving the following targets:

EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A legend for these icons can be found on pages 9–10.

Dr Lizanne Roxburgh
Senior Scientist

Claire Relton
Conservation Science Officer

Samantha Page-Nicholson
Senior Science Officer

340,000 RECORDS

SATELLITE-TRACKED LOCATIONS OF THREATENED SPECIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

IUCN RED LIST©

DRYLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

WE WORK TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF UNIQUE AND/OR THREATENED DRYLAND SPECIES, SUCH AS THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED RIVERINE RABBIT, AND ASSOCIATED CRITICAL HABITATS BY IMPLEMENTING SOUND CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES. WE USE RESTORATION TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY, HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES WHILST SIMULTANEOUSLY PROVIDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

The Drylands Conservation Programme (DCP) falls within the EWT's Habitats Cluster of programmes. Our mission is to sustain and restore the ecological integrity of outstanding drylands biodiversity. This allows us to focus on arid areas of high biodiversity importance along with the threatened or endangered species they sustain. Our approach is inclusive, characterised by innovation, and informed by science and the sharing of knowledge for a more sustainable approach to managing drylands for the benefit of ecosystems, habitats and species.

Centred in Loxton in the Northern Cape, the DCP represents one of the most remote EWT outposts. This location places us in the centre of Riverine Rabbit (*Bunolagus monticularis*) country where, up to now, we

have focused much of our energy on the conservation of the species, developing approaches towards sustainable land management and the implementation of restoration activities on degraded ecosystems.

In 2016, we reorganised our programme around three strategic pillars namely: species, habitat and "sustaining", with the latter referring to those social interactions that strengthen our conservation initiatives. In addition, programmatic themes such as collaboration, innovation, enhancing ecosystem goods and services, promoting protected area expansion and bringing about social cohesion in communities further guide our approach.

During the reporting period we have made significant progress in terms of realising these pillars and themes by:

- Initiating and receiving funding for two new projects aimed at social cohesion, empowerment and inclusion;
- Initiating the innovative use of drone technology and piloting a new ecosystem evaluation as part of our approach to habitat assessment;
- Initiating and piloting new approaches for finding cryptic drylands species such as Riverine Rabbits through the use of scent detection dogs and thermal imaging;

- Identifying and investigating new project ideas in different dryland locations and developing partnerships and collaborations;
- Finalising planning for the five-year Global Environment Facility (GEF5) project, which will focus on promoting sustainable land management;
- Engaging our target audiences in furthering sustainable land management practices, habitat protection and restoration; and
- Providing constructive input to discourage unsustainable development while promoting sustainable initiatives and alternatives.

A UNIQUE PROGRAMME IN A UNIQUE PLACE

The DCP is unique in terms of its approaches and our area of operation. Working actively with landowners across an area exceeding 350,000 ha, we facilitate one of the largest habitat conservation initiatives on private land in South Africa. Our programme operates in the Desert, Nama Karoo and Succulent Karoo biomes; these biomes also transition into the Fynbos, Savannah, Eastern Grasslands and Albany Thicket biomes allowing for a wide array of conservation opportunities.

Due to its vastness, isolation and low population, the drylands represent an area where conservationists are thin on the ground. Our actions have far-reaching and meaningful impacts, ranging from practical, on the ground restoration efforts to lobbying against unsustainable developments. The DCP is a leader in the protection and management of our drylands.

fragile ecosystem. Protection and management of this ecosystem is as important for species and habitats as it is for the people living here. As such, our approach is holistic and values interconnectivity between human and environmental systems.

TAKING FLIGHT

We conducted ecological assessments of river confluences in the Sak and Krom River catchments in August 2016. This entailed aerial surveying of confluences in selected parts of the rivers and grading them according to their ecosystem health. To do this we employed a hybrid technique developed by the EWT's African Crane Conservation Programme and the World Overview of Conservation and Agriculture Technologies (WOCAT). The results align closely to past Riverine Rabbit sightings and initial results demonstrate that our assessment technique is relatively robust, with the majority ofsightings falling within confluences that are graded as pristine or near pristine.

To save time and maximise effort, we have also been investigating the use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS or drones) in assessing Karoo vegetation. To this end, we are collaborating with the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture and one of their technicians to pilot the use of a RPAS in assessing the condition of riparian areas and Riverine Rabbit habitat. We are of the opinion that this technique, once perfected, will provide a revolutionary way of assessing habitat condition (baseline) and progress on some of our restoration sites.

THE NOSE KNOWS

In one of our most exciting highlights of the period under review, we successfully trained our scent detection dog, Jessie, to indicate on Riverine Rabbit scent. To date, Jessie is able to distinguish between other lagomorphs (rabbits and hares) and Riverine Rabbit scent. Field training has commenced to establish the connection between the scents used during conditioning (from dead rabbits) and live Riverine

14.3 ha FIRST EVER MAPPING OF OUR RESTORATION WORK BY A MODIFIED CANON CAMERA USING A DRONE

Rabbits in the wild. If Jessie is successful, to the best of our knowledge she will be the first dog to be trained on scent collected from a dead target and able to find a live target.

We kicked off a successful campaign to raise funds for the Riverine Rabbit scent dog detection and species distribution work in March 2017; to date we have received more than R 72,202 from over 106 donors. We will use the funds to support our scent detection work and the determination of the species distribution.

ENGAGING WITH LANDOWNERS, COMMUNITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In January 2017, one of our main programme funders, Rand Merchant Bank (RMB) through the First Rand Foundation, provided us with seed funding to investigate opportunities for conservation with emerging landowners. This gave us an opportunity to engage landowners with whom we have had scant contact in the past and has provided us with valuable contacts that will yield dividends during our GEF 5 project.

After several years of negotiation, our GEF 5 Project finally commenced in June 2017. This project will run for five years and will give us a unique opportunity to influence land management practices in the Nama-Karoo. The project is entitled "Securing multiple ecosystems benefit through Sustainable Land Management in the productive but degraded landscapes of South Africa." We will manage the Karoo node of this project, while other nodes will be managed by Rhodes University (Baviaanskloof) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) (Olifants river catchment – Mpumalanga).

During the reporting period, we also launched our Clever Rabbit Project. While not strictly an environmental project, the project

affords us an opportunity to address underlying social issues that can often lead to the unravelling of environmental initiatives. This project is funded by RMB and focuses on an intervention to assist pupils in Loxton with learning disabilities. The project uses several techniques to improve the concentration skills of pupils and, as a result, pupils learn more effectively. The techniques used incorporate environmental learning themes. We believe that our conservation efforts can only be sustainable if our communities are sustainable, and this project is part of our contribution to building resilience in these communities.

In August 2016, the DCP hosted a very successful "week of conservation" in Loxton, which brought provincial authorities, funders and partners to the area to be immersed in our work. The exposure of

our stakeholders to our work proved to be a valuable exercise and, as a result, we have had several initiatives come to fruition, such as our work with drones and some of our social intervention projects.

RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The DCP lead the development of an extremely comprehensive position statement on hydraulic fracturing and provided significant inputs into the CSIR Strategic Environmental Assessment report (SEA). We have commented significantly and have played a constructive role in respect of the issue.

We have analysed the survival rates for plants on all our restoration sites; these data are novel for the Karoo riparian species. The data form part of an ongoing dataset to demonstrate survival over time, providing a more accurate picture of restoration progress. The survival of plugs (nursery grown plants used in restoration) in association with different soil disturbance techniques is also being monitored over time. Our average survival rates on sites are very high despite drought conditions, indicating that our restoration approaches are appropriate and effective.

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING

"ESTE AND BONNIE, MY SINCERE THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE PARTICIPATED WITH THE KIDS THIS MORNING. INSPIRING TO BE PART OF SUCH A WELL-PLANNED, ORGANIZED EVENT WITH BENEFITS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. YOU ARE BOTH PRICELESS MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND PRIVILEGED TO HAVE YOU SO FAR FROM THE UNREAL WORLD." VOLUNTEER, ALLAN BOOYSEN, AFTER OUR LEAP DAY FOR FROGS EVENT ON 24 FEBRUARY 2017

"I AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH EWT'S WORK ON THE RESTORATION SITE ON SILVERY HOME. I WAS VERY CURIOUS TO SEE HOW WELL THE BOSSIES WERE ESTABLISHING, SO PULLED ONE OUT TO SEE THE EXTENT OF THE ROOTS (SORRY FOR THAT!). THE ROOTS WERE VERY LONG, SHOWING THE BOSSIES ARE ESTABLISHING WELL."– HENTIE WIESE, LOCAL LOXTON FARMER.

Note: Hentie has farmed in the Loxton area all his life; he is one of few farmers that has carried out regular restoration on his farm. His son, who now farms Silvery Home, is continuing this tradition.

"AS A DEPARTMENT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SECURE BIODIVERSITY TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF OUR PARTNERS. AS A COLLECTIVE, WE CAN FULFIL THE CONSERVATION MANDATE FOR THE PROVINCE, WITH PARTNERS SUCH AS THE EWT AND OTHERS TAKING ON PROJECTS IN AREAS WHERE OUR DEPARTMENT IS THIN ON THE GROUND." – RALPH VAN DER POLL, STEWARDSHIP MANAGER, NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION

The DCP appreciates the support of the following major donors: the Global Environment Facility, Rand Merchant Bank, First Rand Foundation, Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

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EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

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AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

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Cobus Theron
Programme Manager

Bonnie Schumann
Senior Field Officer

Esther Matthew
Field Officer

Insauf De Vries
Administration Officer

Hester de Wee
Nursery Keeper

Johnny Arends
Handyman & Nursery worker

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS NETWORK

THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS NETWORK (NBBN) FACILITATES THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY INTO BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THIS WILL REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF BUSINESS ON BIODIVERSITY AND HELP LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH COULD RESULT IN NET-POSITIVE IMPACTS. IN 2013, THE EWT FACILITATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NBBN, IN COLLABORATION WITH ITS FOUNDING PARTNERS: DE BEERS, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (DEA), HATCH GOBA, NEDBANK, PAM GOLDING PROPERTIES, PICK N PAY AND TRANSNET. THE NBBN IS A SOUTH AFRICAN-BASED NETWORK OF BUSINESSES, INDUSTRIES AND RELATED STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT, NGOS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND THE ONLY NETWORK OF ITS KIND ON THE CONTINENT.

BUILDING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

The National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) aims to assist businesses to reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity and to leverage biodiversity related business opportunities in order to protect the planet and ensure sustainable business growth. Biodiversity includes all plants and animals and the systems in which they function, and hence, the NBBN essentially aims to strategically integrate the inclusion of nature into business practice, risk mitigation and future planning.

We do this by working with business leaders to identify their impacts on the natural world, and their risks that they may face by biodiversity loss, and by working with them to integrate better biodiversity management into their business strategies and practices.

In 2013, the EWT led the establishment of the NBBN, in collaboration with founding partners De Beers, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Hatch Africa, Nedbank, Pam Golding Properties, Pick n Pay, and Transnet. In 2016, Woolworths and Eskom joined the network. Boasting over 600 individual members, the NBBN is a South African-based network of businesses, industries and related stakeholders, including government, NGOs and academic institutions, and is the only business platform of its kind in South Africa to target the challenge of integrating biodiversity into business practices.

THE POWER OF INFORMATION SHARING

The NBBN has presented more than 25 events since its inception. Through our events, we build the capacity of business and related sectors such as government, consulting, NGO and academia, to better integrate biodiversity into all levels of business. Over the past year, we presented four such events at venues across South Africa, including our first regional Indabas in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the Western Cape.

The “mitigation hierarchy” is a framework for managing risks and potential impacts related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and involves a sequence of four key actions, namely to avoid, minimise, restore and offset impacts. In August 2016, the NBBN, in partnership with the IUCN and De Beers, presented a one-day workshop at the De Beers’ offices in Johannesburg on *Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy*.

The objective of the workshop was to guide South African corporates on the practical implementation of the mitigation hierarchy, thereby improving their understanding of the process to reduce the extent of their future potential impacts on biodiversity. The workshop was attended by over 40 delegates from the mining, infrastructure, consulting, finance, government and NGO sectors. In addition to providing an overview of the overall framework and guidance on the mitigation hierarchy, the workshop provided attendees with an understanding of each step of the hierarchy, both at the initial design and planning stages of a project, and throughout the project's lifespan. Key principles of the mitigation hierarchy were illustrated through the sharing of case studies.

The NBBN presented its second annual National Biodiversity and Business Indaba at Hatch's offices in Johannesburg in October 2016. Proudly sponsored by the DEA, Hatch, De Beers, National Lotteries Commission, Woolworths, the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) and Painted Wolf Wines, the event attracted over 100 delegates from various sectors, including business (forestry, mining, agriculture, finance, insurance, oil and gas, retail and consulting), academia, the NGO sector, and government. Highlights of the event included keynote addresses from Deshnee Naidoo, CEO of Vedanta Zinc International, Africa and Ireland, and Gina Downs, Sustainability Manager at Eskom. The NBBN's annual Indaba is the only event of its kind in the southern Africa and has established itself as a much-anticipated highlight on the South African calendar of business and sustainability events. This second successful Indaba provided business with the opportunity to contribute to and learn from emerging best practice through showcasing their work on biodiversity and business planning. It facilitated further opportunities for the development of collaborations and partnerships to move the biodiversity and business agenda forward.

In March and April 2017, the NBBN presented its first regional Biodiversity and Business Indabas, in Durban and Cape Town. The Durban Indaba, presented at the offices of the South African Sugar Association (SASA), was attended by over 60 delegates. Event sponsors included SASA, National Lotteries Commission, Mondi and SACNASP. Business sectors represented included forestry, agriculture, consulting, infrastructure and mining, with academic, government and NGO sectors in attendance. The Cape Town Indaba was presented at Old Mutual's offices to just over 50 delegates from the business (consulting, infrastructure, agriculture, mining and finance), academic, government and NGO sectors. Event sponsors included Old Mutual, National Lotteries Commission, Woolworths and SACNASP. The first day of each event comprised a full day training session on the Natural Capital Coalition's Natural Capital Protocol, a framework designed to help generate trusted, credible, and actionable information for business managers to inform decisions (http://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/protocol/). Highlights on the second day of the Durban Indaba included a keynote address by David Everard, Divisional Environmental Manager at Sappi and at the Cape Town Indaba, a keynote address by Justin Smith, Sustainability Manager at Woolworths. As with the National

Indaba, the regional Indabas provided businesses in KZN and the Western Cape the opportunity to network and to contribute to and learn from emerging best practice.

BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS ASSESSMENTS

In 2016, the NBBN assessed the current status of the integration of biodiversity into the business activities and strategies of its founding partners. The aim of these assessments was to determine the extent to which biodiversity is currently being integrated into business practices, and to identify gaps, and offer recommendations for improvement. Assessment criteria included biodiversity policy and strategy, scope of activities, baseline information, targets, financial resources, human resources/skills, performance assessment and monitoring, to transparency/accountability dimensions. While the assessments showed that biodiversity considerations vary greatly amongst the NBBN's partners, their real value lies in the insight it has given the NBBN into where its partners require support in terms of mainstreaming biodiversity into their activities. The NBBN is now working to support its founding partners with the implementation of key recommendations from these assessments. Examples of recommendations made in the individual assessments include the following: the development of a company biodiversity policy and strategy, the development of a biodiversity gain/loss accounting and performance monitoring system, and the measurement, and valuation of their overall net contribution to society.

BLACK MOUNTAIN MINING

In 2015, the IUCN approached the NBBN for support on the implementation of their partnership with Black Mountain Mining (BMM). The goal of the partnership is to support BMM with the development of a biodiversity offset for their Gamsberg Project in the Northern Cape. Working closely with the IUCN and the Gamsberg Project team, the NBBN provides specialist advice to assist BMM in addressing key gaps in their approach to the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy for biodiversity on site.

NETWORKING BUSINESS PARTNERS

The NBBN keeps in regular contact with its more than 600 members via a monthly newsletter and email invitations to attend its events. Our newsletter keeps NBBN members up-to-date with the latest biodiversity and business related information from across the world, including South Africa. In the newsletter we have also profiled six of our eight corporate partners to date, including De Beers, Woolworths, Pam Golding Properties, Pick n Pay, Nedbank and Hatch. We will be profiling our remaining two partners, Transnet and Eskom before the end of 2017. These profiles serve to provide the readers of our newsletters with general information on our partners as well as specific information on their sustainability activities and ambitions.

PAM GOLDING PROPERTIES BIODIVERSITY GUIDE

In October 2016, Pam Golding Properties published *A Guide to Biodiversity in Your Garden* in collaboration with the NBBN, Nedbank and Enviropaedia. We provided specialist content for this book, which provides homeowners with practical and simple guidance on how to increase the biodiversity value of domestic gardens. Dr Andrew Golding, CEO of Pam Golding Properties wrote the foreword of this guide and stated the following in terms of the need for such a guide:

"Aside from the long-term vision required to protect life on our planet, we need to consider the behaviour of the growing number of conscious consumers who are undoubtedly reshaping the future economic worth of almost everything."

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING

"DE BEERS GROUP IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT BEST PRACTICE BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP IS EMBEDDED THROUGHOUT OUR BUSINESS. WE KNOW THAT COLLABORATION WITH BIODIVERSITY PARTNERS IS CRITICAL TO ACHIEVING THIS. AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS NETWORK, AND AS A COMPANY THAT STRONGLY RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERS ACROSS ALL ASPECTS OF OUR BUSINESS, WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES." –BRUCE CLEAVER, CEO OF THE DE BEERS GROUP OF COMPANIES.

"ASIDE FROM THE LONG-TERM VISION REQUIRED TO PROTECT THE NATURAL CAPITAL OF OUR PLANET, WE, AS AN INDUSTRY LEADER, NEED TO ALSO CONSIDER THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF CONSCIOUS CONSUMERS WHO ARE UNDOUBTEDLY RESHAPING THE FUTURE ECONOMIC WORTH OF ALMOST EVERYTHING...THIS EXTENDING TO THE INNATE VALUE IN HOMES WHICH HAVE THESE HUGELY VALUABLE 'GREEN CREDENTIALS'. IT IS ALSO INCUMBENT ON US TO ENSURE THAT THIS CONSCIOUSNESS EXTENDS TO UNDERSTANDING THE HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL ROLE THAT THE BUILT DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT PLAYS IN THIS." –ANTHONY STROEBEL, STRATEGY AND INNOVATION, PAM GOLDING PROPERTIES.

The NBBN appreciates the support of the following major donors: De Beers Group Services, Department of Environmental Affairs, Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Hatch, Integrated Sustainability Services, Nedbank, Pam Golding Properties, Pick n Pay, Transnet, Woolworths.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

The NBBN works towards achieving the following targets:

EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A legend for these icons can be found on pages 9–10.

Shelley Lizzio
Programme Manager

Michael Adams
NBBN Coordinator

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

BUILDING CAPACITY

The Skills Development Programme (SDP) provides skills and knowledge to increase capacity of those responsible for the protection of our biodiversity. Most of our current activities target members working in protected areas with a primary focus on tackling the illegal trade of wildlife. We offer both generic training programmes and those which are species-specific, all with an emphasis on sustainable conservation. The SDP also strives to explore and develop opportunities for mentorship and capacity building within the conservation sector with an aim to providing opportunities for aspiring conservationists.

SUPPORTING ANTI-POACHING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND ANALYTICAL TRAINING

Cmore is a collaboration ecosystem developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to aid with situation awareness in a wide variety of law enforcement sectors, including those relating to wildlife crimes. The Cmore application allows for the efficient collection of various forms of wildlife related data, such as animal sightings, as well as crime related information such as evidence of potential poaching incursions. During the reporting period we supported the integration of Cmore technology into the South African Wildlife College's (SAWC) anti-poaching ranger training curriculum, and to date approximately 140 rangers have been trained on the use of Cmore. We have also supported the integration of Cmore into ten state and private reserves in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State and the Eastern Cape.

Over 20 protected area security managers have undergone training in basic wildlife crime analysis. This links theories of crime prevention with data collection and analysis techniques, with the aim of training analysts to describe wildlife crime problems clearly, devise solutions to these problems and optimise anti-poaching patrol planning. This training was conducted over four 2-week interventions in partnership with the SAWC and the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime

and Law Enforcement. The hoped for impacts will be a recognition of the importance of data collection to aid in anti-poaching planning, a better understanding of spatial and temporal analysis techniques that can be used to interrogate poaching related data, and implementation of these skills in the anti-poaching arena.

TRAINING IN PREDICTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIES

In collaboration with the EWT's Conservation Science Unit, the SDP assisted with the development of an online ecological niche modelling course, which provides selected conservation practitioners with the skills to develop species distribution models to predict the presence of species across a geographic area. These models can assist in conservation planning and guiding field surveys to find rare species, as well as to predict the impacts of climate change on species.

TELEKISHI COMMUNITY PROJECT

We continue to provide experiential learning for junior conservationists, as well as ecological value-added services in the Telekishi rural community located in the Waterberg, Limpopo Province. This isolated and impoverished rural community, within the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (WBR), consists of a little more than 400 households, most of which are dependent on surrounding natural resources. The primary aim of the project is to work with this community to attempt to relieve the pressure on the environment surrounding a protected area. Telekishi was specifically selected as this community not only appreciates the value of buffer areas adjacent to protected areas (which greatly contribute to the overall integrity of the protected area), but is also a cultural village (known as Telekishi Ramasobana Cultural Village), linking cultural and environmental protection in one project.

We assist the community to manage the surrounding environment and maintain ecosystem integrity as best as possible. We achieve this through sharing environmental skills and knowledge with the community. The focus of this project has been rehabilitation and monitoring of the Telekishi wetland for the provision of water for the local community and their livestock. The various project activities themselves are carried out with junior EWT conservation staff, thereby also providing experiential learning for these aspiring conservationists. The future of nature conservation cannot ignore community-based natural resources management. In addition to fencing the wetland off (to protect it from livestock) and maintaining this fence, we have cleared alien plants around the wetland. These activities always include members of the community who in turn are upskilled. The positive effects of our initiatives in this area are noticeable, chief among the benefits is restored water flow to the wetland, meaning that people can now source water directly from the wetland when there is shortage in the community. The Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation is kindly supporting the project.

COURSES FOR CREDITS

The EWT is a registered training service provider and the SDP continues to meet these requirements under the auspices of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). Being a registered training service provided allows us to issue internationally transferable credits for registered programmes or qualifications that enable career pathways. Our accreditation is vested with the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA), the sector education training authority responsible for nature conservation training standards. It is important for the EWT to retain this status since it determines whether an organisation meets the minimum standards of quality.

The SDP appreciates the support of the following major donors: Bakwena, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

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SOURCE TO SEA PROGRAMME

THE SOURCE TO SEA PROGRAMME IS DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTHY, FUNCTIONAL FRESHWATER, COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT A MYRIAD OF AQUATIC SPECIES, AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE WHO RELY ON THEM. WE APPLY EVIDENCE-BASED CONSERVATION ACTION, ACHIEVED THROUGH HIGH-IMPACT FIELD PROJECTS BASED ON OUR HOLISTIC AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMME STRATEGY.

WATER WORKS

The Source to Sea Programme (STSP) implements a suite of river catchment and coastal conservation projects in southern Africa to support holistic and collaborative management of our freshwater and coastal resources. Our long-term goals are to improve the population status of targeted aquatic species; to secure priority freshwater/coastal habitats and improve their ecological integrity through rehabilitation, restoration and sustainable management; to promote and facilitate the drive towards a green economy in priority sites; and to drive positive change in behaviour and practice among targeted stakeholder groups. In order to achieve these goals, we have a dedicated team of seven project staff, working on projects in the

Amathole Mountains, the Marico River catchment, the Orange River mouth, the Olifants-Doring catchment and the Bazaruto Archipelago, in Mozambique.

BAZARUTO DUGONGS AND SEAGRASS

Working in Mozambique has always been challenging, given the poor infrastructure, and regulatory and logistical constraints of operating on the islands of the Bazaruto Archipelago. There are currently no fully operational local conservation partners based on site; travel to and between islands is time-consuming and costly; and the lack of supportive infrastructure slows the progress of social development initiatives. Within this context, there is still a critical need for conservation and socio-economic support to this area, which is home to East Africa's only known viable population of Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*). The seagrass meadows, both within the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park and north to the Save River, support this population, as well as the fishing grounds that local people depend on for subsistence and income generation. Unregulated fishing poses a significant risk to Dugongs and seagrasses as well as to the livelihoods of these coastal and island communities.

Over the last year, we have been working to address some of the drivers of seagrass ecosystem degradation such as fishing pressure, lack of other livelihood options and unmet family planning needs. Highlights during this year include the initiation of the Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) methodology – a tool we are testing – to monitor fish diversity and abundances. Isabelle Giddy, our Marine Project Officer, is working with Raquel Raiva, a student from the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, to assess the fish communities in areas zoned for varying levels of use. This should give us an idea of the status of the fishery, and we will assess whether it would be suitable for long-term monitoring within the park.

An added advantage is that we can use the footage as fun educational and awareness raising material. In November 2016, Isabelle and the president of the Bazaruto Fishers' Association attended a workshop in Cape Town on the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in small-scale fisheries. Following this workshop, we began working with six island fishers, to pilot a mobile application designed by the EWT – with the assistance of Abalobi and Blue Ventures – to record fisheries data. The fishers found a lot of value in the application as a feedback mechanism for informing and managing closed seasons. This year, we are working to develop the application further and make it available to more fishers on the mainland.

The EWT recognises that the health of the environment is intimately linked to the health of the community, which relies on natural resources. In partnership with Blue Ventures, the EWT completed a baseline assessment of family planning practices and needs by the communities on Bazaruto. We will use this report to support a Population, Health and Environment (PHE) approach in conservation planning and management. Coastal communities rely directly on the fisheries to support their immediate needs and, when marine resources are under too much pressure these communities may struggle to maintain those livelihoods, making it harder to support their families, with food security, health and income levels all being threatened. It is very hard for communities to rebuild collapsed fisheries and might be impossible to restore or reverse some actions, and so it is important to plan ahead. When people are able to exercise their rights to use voluntary family planning services and can choose to have smaller families, they place less strain on natural resources, helping to protect their livelihoods. This is particularly important locally, as those living in coastal areas and on islands are at particularly high risk. The EWT will continue to work with Blue Ventures to support a PHE approach within local organisations in Mozambique and the Bazaruto Archipelago specifically.

CAPE CRITICAL RIVERS

River systems in the Western Cape and parts of the Northern Cape are under severe pressure from development and agricultural production, and water resources are already over-allocated, leaving insufficient water instream to maintain the ecological reserve. The Oorlogskloof River and Nature Reserve represents one of the most important freshwater biodiversity nodes in the Northern Cape. The river falls within a National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (NFEPA) and not only does it support three endemic Red List fish species, but it also provides habitat for a very rare freshwater mussel population, discovered there in 2012. Very little is known about these unusual mussels, other than that their distribution has been declining along the western limits of their range.

During April 2017, in partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Nature and Environment Conservation (DENC), the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve (OKNR), the Freshwater Research Centre (FRC) and the University of Cape Town (UCT), the Cape Critical Rivers (CCR) project undertook a survey of both the fish and mussel populations in this unique river. This study will contribute to the understanding of freshwater fish community changes through the years, as well as provide valuable first insights in the basic ecology of the freshwater mussels. We expect the findings to contribute significantly to managing the aquatic ecosystems of the nature reserve with respect to water quality and quantity, as well as habitat integrity and the impact of invasive species. The project team provided Solinst® flow, temperature logger communication ports to the OKNR staff – and the DENC will take over regular downloads and maintenance of the river flow monitoring stations on the Oorlogskloof River.

In April 2017, the CCR teamed up with the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) to undertake a Social Scoping Assessment of some of the water resource challenges faced by farmers in the Kouebokkeveld area. The Kouebokkeveld is an important agricultural and agri-processing region of the Olifants-Doring rivers catchment in the Western Cape, and large parts of the catchment are fully allocated in terms of water resources. More water will be required to meet the needs of emerging farmers and these needs will have to be met without unduly compromising the integrity of downstream freshwater ecosystems and threatened fish species including the Clanwilliam Sandfish (*Labeo seeberi*) and the Clanwilliam Sawfin (*Barbus serra*). All this will have to occur in the context of the most severe droughts the region has ever faced. The information gathered during this scoping survey will inform joint proposals involving the EWT, INR, FRC and JNCC and contribute to the baseline social survey of any future projects. Progress has been a bit slow in the Barrydale area, while we wait for the municipality to commission the Donkergat weir on the Huis River. We are following this process closely as this weir needs to allow for Ecological Reserve releases to be made to the river ecosystem downstream to support the Critically Endangered Barrydale Redfin (*Pseudobarbus burchelli*) population.

HEALTHY CATCHMENT ALLIANCE–AMATHOLE FRESHWATER SPECIES CONSERVATION PROJECT

This initiative was the consolidation of a number of conservation projects within the Amathole, uMzimkhulu and uMzimvubu catchments of the Eastern Cape and southern KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) provinces of South Africa. As a result of a European Union grant,

the EWT, Conservation South Africa (CSA) and the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) joined forces and started working together cohesively towards our joint and aligned objectives. The overall aim of this project is to protect and manage key freshwater and rangeland ecosystems while at the same time, stimulating change in conservation perceptions and driving local green economies in these areas. The formalisation of our partnership as the Healthy Catchment Alliance has been one of the key achievements, and by working together, we are able to contribute our skill sets and leverage off the skill sets of other organisations in a multi-sectoral space. Within the broad project, uMzimvubu sites are under improved management, comprising around 20,000 ha with nine villages committed to continued alien vegetation follow-up clearing in exchange for husbandry support from CSA and Environmental Rural Solutions (ERS). In the Amathole, invasive Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in the Tyume River are still present in relatively high numbers but the EWT and the South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) are designing a strategy to secure more habitat for indigenous fish. A major highlight this year was the increase in recorded abundances of indigenous fish (Border Barb and Eastern Cape Rocky) since the last survey. This may be due to the alien clearing work happening upstream (we have treated 1,251 ha over the last three years) and we are working to verify this observation as it has significant implications for the conservation value of catchment rehabilitation to aquatic biodiversity.

The educational and skills development component is going exceptionally well, with 18 Eco-Schools engaged throughout the region and 68 educators trained in environmental curricula by WESSA. We have focused much attention on bringing youth and women into the green economy by providing relevant training and making livelihood opportunities available. We provided financial literacy training to 86 community members, and social enterprise and business development training to 51 of those participants. We also trained and provided start-up equipment to 30 beekeepers, and we are off to a good start, with some of the hives already colonised. The value of the Healthy Catchment Alliance partnership is exemplified by it replicability and scalability. In the next year, we are looking to embed these achievements in a long-term strategy for natural resource management and further develop these inclusive eco-enterprises around that.

MARICO CATCHMENT CONSERVATION

The Marico River catchment is situated in the semi-arid North West Province where it forms the headwaters of the Limpopo River Basin – a strategically important water basin that supports four countries: South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The Marico River catchment headwaters – where our project is based – remain in a good condition but the lower reaches face a variety of anthropogenic threats. This region is vulnerable to water shortages (currently coming out of the most severe drought in the last 100 years) and effective water management needs to be top priority.

One of the factors that negatively affect rivers and water resources is water pollution that stems from poverty and a lack of access to sustainable economic opportunities. To address one of these drivers of environmental degradation, we have facilitated Old Mutual's "On The Money" training for 30 beneficiaries in the Marico catchment to provide them with basic household financial management skills, debt management and family budgeting with variable income. We have facilitated alien vegetation clearing training for six beneficiaries, permaculture training through a local permaculture expert and AgriPlanner training through the South African Institute for Entrepreneurship for ten local youth. In terms of business and enterprise development, we have three beneficiaries from both villages that attended Local Green Economy Initiative Training (start-up support for enterprises in water and sanitation, an initiative of *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) and in cooperation with Seecon International and ICRD Group Foundation Trust). The EWT also provides mentorship support, through staff trained in Social Enterprise Development and Human-Centred Design.

Through our partnerships with Pathfinder International and the Population Sustainability Network, the project provides "Future Planning" training to youth in the area on career development, basic healthcare, family planning and nutrition. This partnership also provides training of local clinic staff and capacity building of the facilities. This is part of a holistic Population Health and Environment (PHE) approach to catchment conservation through meeting the reproductive health needs of the communities (see text box). To our knowledge, this is the first integrated PHE project in freshwater conservation in South Africa. This work is the foundation for improved catchment conservation because effective water resource management and freshwater biodiversity conservation relies on local communities to be a stronger position to drive change.

Local impacts of a growing human population include less land being available per person and greater pressures being placed on water resources; a growing population therefore impacts both human and ecosystem health. When women are able to time and space their pregnancies, they are better able to quickly return to full strength, their children are healthier, they are able to balance their productive and reproductive roles, and they have more time for income generating activities to support their families. When water is polluted (for instance when corruption, poor planning and poverty lead to sewage flowing directly into the river) this is both an environmental disaster and a human rights abuse. Having a diversity of sustainable livelihoods available to a community can help a community to face livelihood challenges, and healthy ecosystems are better able to support diverse sustainable livelihoods.

ORANGE RIVER MOUTH PROJECT

The Orange River Mouth was declared a Wetland of International Importance, or Ramsar Site, in 1991, and is South Africa's second most important estuary (after the Knysna estuary). Sadly, a number of threats including diamond-mining activities, flow alteration of the Orange River, and poor management of the mouth have put this often forgotten gem in the far north-west corner of our country at risk. Many of the birds have left, fish stocks are depleted, and the vegetation has become desertified.

The EWT has been working to create formal protection for the site, and its rehabilitation since 2014, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Orange Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). At the end of 2016, we were in the final stages of commissioning a hydrodynamic model, using the LiDAR data that would allow us to strategically plan and eventually implement rehabilitation activities to lend support to the site's formal proclamation. Highlights this year include the provision of training for 21 community leaders and 23 educators from Alexander Bay, Port Nolloth, Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, Lekkersing, Eksteenfontein and Kuboes. This training on the environmental significance of the site and the influence of climate change on water resource management was facilitated by the EWT and provided by WESSA. Participants from both courses displayed a high level of engagement and participated enthusiastically, indicating a love of the area they live and work in, and a real commitment to addressing environmental challenges in the area.

HUMPBACK DOLPHINS IN RICHARDS BAY

Humpback Dolphins (*Sousa plumbea*) are listed as Endangered on the updated IUCN Red List and are South Africa's most threatened marine mammal. In Richards Bay, a major threat to their survival remains the use of shark nets for swimmer protection and it is important that we understand how the dolphins are using the area near the deadliest net in order to recommend management adaptations. This year we supported a Humpback Dolphin research and awareness project in Richards Bay, where the KZN Sharks Board has made a video camera and hydrophone available to monitor dolphin activity. Five hundred hours of video footage and 1,000 hours of recording are currently being analysed for dolphin sightings, whistles and clicks, and a citizen science website (www.conservedolphins.weebly.com) has been established to encourage the public to contribute sightings information.

UNDERSTANDING PHE

The EWT was the first conservation NGO in the country to recognise the importance of Population, Health and Environment (PHE) programmes as a means of acknowledging women's reproductive and health rights, and the improving women's agency in deciding on the number, spacing and timing of their pregnancies. These kinds of programmes provide an important model for marginalised rural areas where community health and wellbeing is dependent on ecosystem health, like many of those in which the EWT operates. PHE programmes integrate improved sexual and reproductive health services with conservation actions and the support for improved livelihoods. They have been proven to result in greater health, human welfare and conservation outcomes than single sector approaches, and the EWT is proud to be the only South African conservation organisation currently implementing such programmes.

The STSP appreciates the support of the following major donors: Department of Environmental Affairs Natural Resource Management, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation, European Union, Foundation for Human Rights, Global Environment Facility, Leisure Charitable Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, Relate Bracelets, Seacology, UNDP New World, WWF Nedbank Green Trust.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

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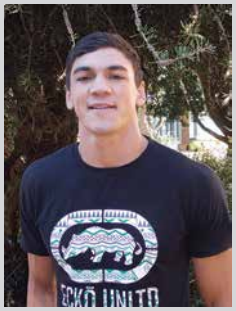


JP Le Roux
Marico Catchment
Conservation Project
Coordinator

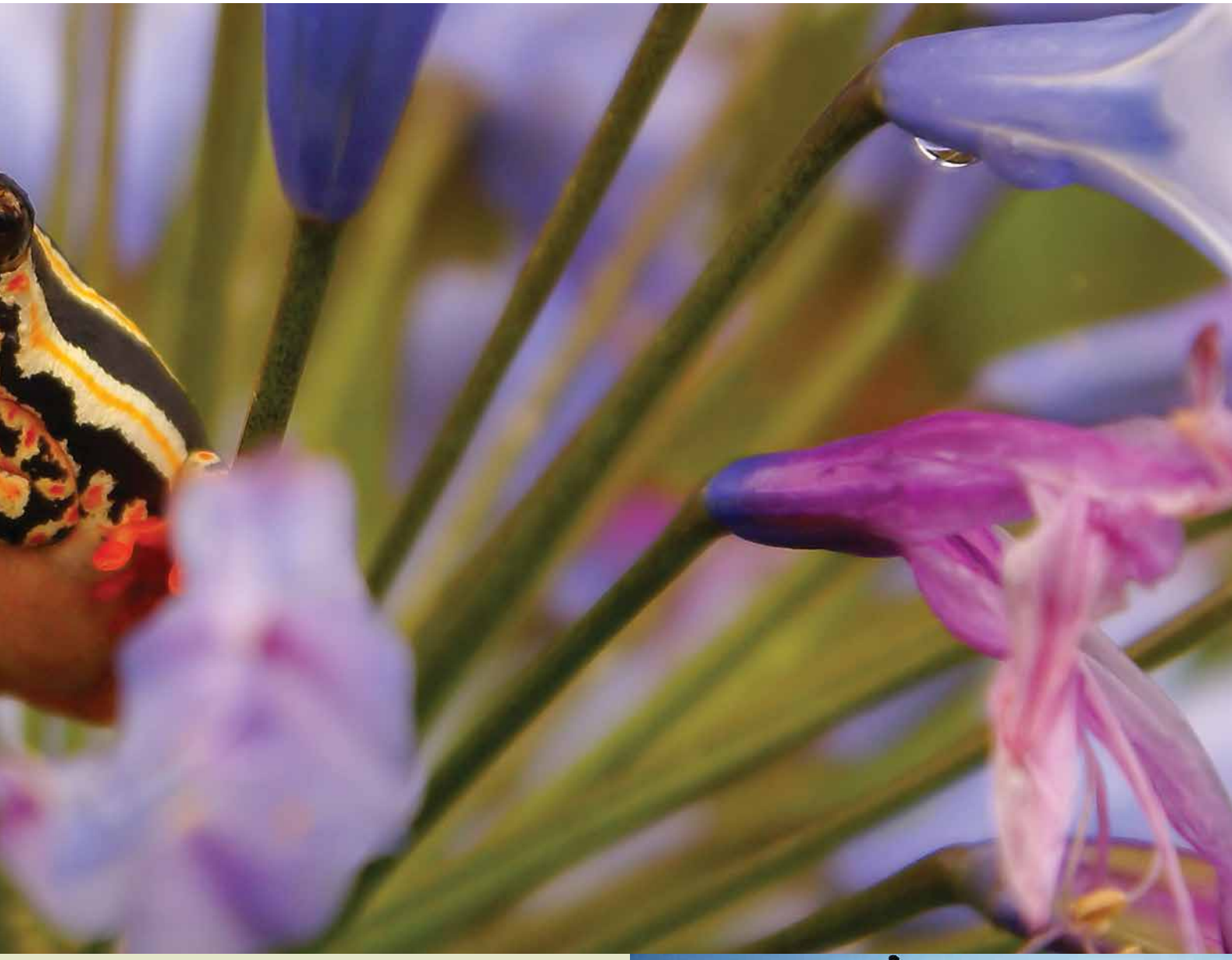
Oscar Mohale
Field & Research
Assistant

THREATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME

THE PROGRAMME FOCUSES ON FROGS! INDEED, AMPHIBIANS ARE THE MOST THREATENED GROUP OF VERTEBRATES ON EARTH. COUPLED WITH PEOPLE'S GENERALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THEM HERE IN SOUTH AFRICA, CONSERVING OUR THREATENED FROGS IS AN ONGOING CHALLENGE. OUR PROGRAMME FILLS THE GAP BETWEEN APPLIED CONSERVATION RESEARCH AND ON-THE-GROUND AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION ACTION BY ADDRESSING DIRECT THREATS TO SOME OF OUR MOST THREATENED FROG SPECIES. WE HAVE A GROWING INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, WITHOUT WHICH CONSERVATION INITIATIVES ARE FUTILE.

FOR FROGS' SAKE

The Threatened Amphibian Programme (TAP) aims to put frogs and their freshwater habitats on the conservation agenda in southern Africa, by implementing conservation actions that align with global amphibian conservation goals, and driving sustainable natural resource use to the benefit of amphibians and their habitats. Why? The unprecedented loss of both freshwater and terrestrial habitats in the past century has translated into 43% of amphibian species currently experiencing population declines according to the International Union for the Conservation of Union (IUCN). This is an alarming indication of the global threat to water security, and ecological infrastructure in general. Continued biodiversity loss has major impacts on both



rural and urban areas, since biodiversity is linked to human health and well-being and provides a buffer against extreme events, such as flooding and slow-onset disasters like climate change. We are the only NGO programme in South Africa with a focus on frogs at the heart of our conservation activities.

Using threatened frog species as flagships, 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 about frogs and the importance of their habitats in South Africa…and beyond!

During the reporting period, our projects focused on four of South Africa's threatened frog species across the country, including the Critically Endangered Amathole Toad (*Vandijkophrynus amatolicus*), the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog (*Hyperolius pickersgilli*), Endangered Mistbelt Chirping Frog (*Anhydrophryne ngongoniensis)* and Endangered Kloof Frog (*Natalobatrachus bonebergi*). We also provide input into a project on the Endangered Western Leopard Toad (*Sclerophrys pantherina*), aimed at addressing the threat of roadkill to this species through working with local volunteer group, the ToadNUTS in Noordhoek, Cape Town.

Beneficiaries of our projects, in addition to the target species and habitats, include local communities through improved well-being and clean water, local municipalities, landowners, conservation planners and the general public. We also contribute to the Sustainable

Development Goals by promoting the green economy, food security through alternative livelihoods, small, medium and micro-enterprise development, youth development, training and learnerships, and climate change adaptation.

PICKERSGILL'S REED FROG RECOVERY

Pickersgill's Reed Frog is a tiny amphibian known only from a handful of densely reeded wetlands along the KwaZulu-Natal coast. We highlighted this frog as a priority species for conservation action in 2012, due to the rapid rate of habitat transformation of this region and the fact that only 8% of this species' range is currently under formal protection. By implementing the Pickersgill's Reed Frog Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), for which we were a lead author, our project aims to secure 30% of the total population through habitat protection, monitor the species at key sites, improve habitat management, facilitate research, and improve awareness about the species. We have achieved the first objective, with the BMP being approved and gazetted by the Minister of Environmental Affairs on 2 June 2017. This is the first gazetted plan for a threatened frog in South Africa, and provides a legislated means of tracking implementation of conservation interventions aimed at mitigating its main threats. We have been instrumental in initiating, driving and implementing this process, which took four years to complete. Further to this, the recent Red List assessments for South African frog species saw Pickersgill's Reed Frog being down-listed from Critically Endangered to Endangered – a big step in the right direction in terms of achieving the objectives set out in the BMP.

In terms of rehabilitation work, between April 2016 and March 2017, we cleared a total of 560 hectares of alien vegetation across six sites within eThekwini Municipality coastal dune and priority wetlands for Pickersgill's Reed Frog, through the employment of 73 beneficiaries supported by funding from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Natural Resource Management grant. We have also initiated habitat protection work for Pickersgill's Reed Frog where we aim to protect approximately 400 hectares of coastal wetland at sites that occur in largely urban and semi-urban settings. We are working within the Traditional Authorities for the Adams Mission area – an extensive and relatively intact system of wetland and swamp forest (habitat that is itself classified as Critically Endangered) and which hosts both Pickersgill's Reed Frog and the Endangered Kloof Frog. The Adams Mission site is the only area in which these two frog species are known to co-occur within such close proximity. As part of this project, we have selected and begun training of four young community members from Adams Mission as Nature Site Guides to promote ecotourism possibilities in this bio-diverse area. The guides are receiving South African Qualifications Authority-accredited Level 1 training with the view to being able to lead small eco-tourist groups in the area. In order to better understand land-use, resource-use and community attitudes to nature, we are conducting community surveys in Adams Mission and iSipingo. This also forms part of TAP intern, Jiba Magwaza's, Honours project in community development through the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN).

CONSERVING THE ENDANGERED KLOOF FROG

As an extension of our monitoring work on the Endangered Kloof Frog at several sites across KZN and the Eastern Cape, we embarked on a new project with the University of KZN student, Cameron Price and supervisor Dr Sandi Willows-Munro, to investigate the conservation genetics of this species. Kloof Frogs are highly habitat specific and are restricted to riverine forests of the Eastern Cape and KZN. Very little is understood about their population dynamics or phylogenetics (the study of the evolutionary history and relationships among individuals or groups of organisms, such as species or populations). Our research will include ecological niche modelling to predict distribution, used to guide sampling for the genetic component of the project. The project has initiated sampling which will provide important information on the relationships between populations of this species between fragmented forest patches. Preliminary data analysis indicates that the Kloof Frog population is highly genetically structured in correlation with geography. These results confirm that protection of all sites in which the Kloof Frog occurs will be crucial to protecting the genetic diversity of the population as a whole.

AMATHOLE CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Amathole Mountains are an important Strategic Water Source Area in South Africa (defined as those areas that supply a disproportionate amount of mean annual runoff to a geographical region of interest, and which make up only 8% of the land area across South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland but provide 50% of the water in these countries). These water-supplying highland grasslands are the very lifeblood of our country and yet many are threatened by land degradation linked to mining, agriculture, poorly managed forestry and invasive alien plants. Given the ongoing drought situation and deterioration of water resources in South Africa at large, management and protection of this small fraction of land that contributes vitally to our water security is a priority. This landscape is also home to the rare and endemic Amathole Toad. Together with the provincial conservation authority, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA), we have identified several properties for habitat protection within this priority area that are also home to this Critically Endangered species. So far, three private landowners have indicated interest in taking part in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. In total, their properties cover 19,600 acres of important grassland and water-source habitat. The first owner of the land where we recently confirmed the presence of the Amathole Toad, has signed up for Biodiversity Stewardship with ECPTA. This is an exciting step towards creating what will be the first officially protected area for this highly threatened species and its very important habitat.

PROMOTING A FROG-FRIENDLY SOCIETY

In order to achieve frog conservation, we need to promote behavioural change across the various sectors of society with whom we engage. This can only be achieved by creating an appreciation for the importance of frogs and their role in the freshwater habitats upon which we all depend. The conservation of any species depends on community attitudes, relationships and interactions with their

natural surroundings which impacts on the success or failure of our conservation efforts. Through all of our work, we aim to understand cultural beliefs and local knowledge and to encourage continuous, consistent positive action and consideration for the natural environment by instilling a culture of conservation. In 2017, our fourth consecutive Leap Day for Frogs campaign aimed to break the Guinness World Record for the largest game of leapfrog. While we failed to break the world record on this attempt, we did get about 1,000 people of all ages jumping for frogs on the Durban beachfront, including learners from ten different schools – a South African record at least! The EWT's partner advertising agency Artifact produced a lot of exposure for TAP, with four events, one television news story, three radio interviews and at least 32 online/print articles including coverage in Afghanistan, Australia, Kenya and the United States during February 2017. Overall, during the past year our programme reached approximately 46,000 people through social media; produced >100 written articles, newsletters and online videos (our video of frog calls alone has been viewed more than 25,000 times); delivered >40 presentations to the public and at conferences; and we retained a steady presence at expos and shows.

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING

Since May 2017, we have had the privilege of training four Nature Site Guides from the Adams Mission area in an effort to increase ecotourism capacity to this amazingly biodiverse part of the eThekwini Municipality. We have been working in the area since February 2016 to restore wetlands and surrounding habitat for the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog and Kloof Frog. The trainee Site Guides had the following to say about working with TAP:

NTUTHUKO CHILI: "DOING THE COURSE AND BEING INVOLVED WITH THE PROGRAMME HAS GIVEN ME MORE CONFIDENCE."
NJABULO GCABASHE: "I HAVE LEARNT SO MUCH ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, LIKE BIRDS."

NONKULULEKHO NZAMA: "THE COURSE HAS HELPED ME TO LIKE NATURE MORE AND CARE MORE ABOUT NATURE."

We also started working more closely with Conservation KZN this year, the NPO that coordinates the Conservancies of KZN.

ROB CRANKSHAW, THEIR CEO, SAYS OF THE EWT:
"I AM INVOLVED IN THE WIDENHAM AREA SOUTH OF DURBAN WITH YOUR EXCELLENT COLLEAGUES JEANNE TARRANT AND CHERISE ACKER AT THE PICKERSGILL'S SITE. AS YOU KNOW, JEANNE HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANISING THE DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED MOA BETWEEN CONSERVATION KZN AND EWT. AT CONSERVATION KZN WE ARE ENCOURAGING OUR CONSERVANCIES TO ENGAGE IN SPECIFIC, PLANNED AND BUDGETED PROJECTS RATHER THAN OPEN 'CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES'. INEVITABLY, THESE PROJECTS REQUIRE PARTNERS AND WE TRY TO ATTRACT THE INTEREST OF MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHER CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE EWT."

The TAP appreciates the support of the following major donors: Department of Environmental Affairs Natural Resource Management, Disney Conservation Fund, Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Rain Forest Trust, Rand Merchant Bank.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

The TAP works towards achieving the following targets:

EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A legend for these icons can be found on pages 9–10.

Dr Jeanne Tarrant
Programme Manager

Cherise Acker
NRM Operations
Field Officer

Jiba Magwaza
Assistant Field Officer

THREATENED GRASSLANDS SPECIES PROGRAMME

THE PROGRAMME WORKS TOWARDS AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH FOR GRASSLAND CONSERVATION. TO DO SO WE FOCUS ON TARGETED AREAS WITHIN GRASSLANDS WHERE WE PRIORITISE WORK ON THREATENED, SPECIALIST AND ENDEMIC SPECIES – INCLUDING YELLOW-BREASTED PIPITS, BLUE SWALLOWS, ORIBI, SUNGAZERS AND BOTHA'S LARK. OUR ACTIVITIES TARGET BOTH SPECIES-SPECIFIC ACTIONS AS WELL AS BROADER HABITAT CONSERVATION WORK THAT PRESERVES THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES – ESPECIALLY GIVEN THAT GRASSLAND CATCHMENTS ACT AS THE "WATER FACTORIES"– CRITICAL FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING.

CUSTODIANS OF OUR WATER FACTORIES

The Threatened Grasslands Species Programme (TGSP) protects South Africa's Grassland Biome through the conservation of key species and their habitats, thus contributing towards the EWT's Strategic Imperatives 1 and 2. In achieving this goal, we also aim to secure the vital services provided by these special ecosystems, such as a clean and plentiful supply of water, fertile soils and good harvests, food for people and animals, and healthy biodiversity that we can enjoy in our recreation time. Our current focal species for conservation action include Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*), the endemic and charismatic Sungazer (*Smaug giganteus*),

as well as Botha's Lark (*Spizocorys fringillaris*), Blue Swallow (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*), Yellow-breasted Pipit (*Anthus chloris*) and cycads (*Encephalartos* spp.), ultimately contributing to Aichi Target 12, which strives to prevent species extinction and decline.

Working with private, and increasingly with communal landowners, we use the biodiversity stewardship approach to formally secure land for conservation, using flagship species as the catalyst. Many of South Africa's grassland areas are privately or communally owned, and it is imperative that efforts to conserve these areas include consultation and collaboration with both sets of stakeholders.

The TGSP also works to prevent wildlife crimes that affect grassland species. We are involved in strong partnerships to combat poaching (with a focus on Oribi, Sungazers and cycads), and strive to create awareness of the illegality of and procedures around the illegal harvesting of threatened or protected species (EWT's Strategic Imperative 6).

VICTORY FOR BIODIVERSITY

In a major victory for biodiversity, we welcomed the rejection of the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed construction of a raw water supply dam in the uMkhomazi

catchment (KZN) by the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). This was achieved through a team effort from passionate Blue Swallow custodians (landowners), Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, BirdLife SA and the EWT. The proposed construction was intended to take place in close proximity to several known Blue Swallow nesting sites. The site also supports populations of Pennington's Protea Butterfly (*Capys penningtoni*) and Riverine Keeled Millipede (*Gnomeskelus fluvialis*), which are found only in the uMkhomazi River Valley region. Although the dam was proposed by the Department of Water and Sanitation to supply water to the area's people, its construction is deemed to be an unfavourable option by hydrologists and biodiversity experts alike, due to the pressing need for (less costly) improved catchment management in the area. Catchment management actions could include the protection of healthy grasslands and rehabilitation of overgrazed land and wetlands, which would increase natural vegetation cover and interception of rainfall, and prevent sedimentation, which if not addressed would lead to siltation of a new dam over time. Dam construction may still go ahead, but the fact that the DEA is taking biodiversity issues so seriously is very exciting news.

STELLAR RECOGNITION

In September 2016, one of our Senior Field Officers, Samson Phakathi, received a Lifetime Conservation Achiever Award in celebration of the WESSA's 90th anniversary of caring for the Earth. We are delighted with this recognition of Samson's passion for the environment and work with rural communities and, in particular, of the very personal and dedicated contribution he has made towards Oribi conservation through his the fight against illegal poaching with dogs in KwaZulu-Natal.

A second major acknowledgement of the work of the TGSP was that of our former manager, Dr Ian Little, who was the recipient of a Whitley Award in London in May 2017. Ian is now the Senior Manager of the Habitats programmes at the EWT. Edward Whitley, Founder of the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN), said: "WFN focus on conservation success stories, which give us a reason for optimism. The Awards Ceremony is about recognising progress – winning those small battles, which cumulatively equate to change at the national level." Ian was one of six individuals awarded a share of the prize money, worth £210,000, winning the Whitley Award donated by the Garfield Weston Foundation. We will be using this funding for the Eastern Great Escarpment Project.

HIGHLAND GRASSLAND CONSERVATION PROJECT

This project aims to expand the existing protected area network in the highland grasslands of the Free State and Mpumalanga through formal declaration of highly sensitive areas (using various mechanisms including biodiversity stewardship) and thereby improve their conservation status. The project also aims to protect these areas from over-utilisation and inappropriate development applications (such as mining). This facilitates the creation of important corridors required for the survival of threatened and endemic species such as the Vulnerable Sungazer and Endangered Botha's Lark. Through our partnerships with private and communal landowners, we work towards improved management of the highland grasslands in order to restore ecosystem functioning for long-term ecosystem service provision (especially freshwater production) and climate change adaptation. We achieve this through developing mutually agreed management plans with the landowners for sustainable land management while still allowing for profitable farming and food security.

The areas currently proposed for proclamation as protected areas under biodiversity stewardship in the Free State and Mpumalanga,

some in partnership with BirdLife SA and WWF-SA, currently total approximately 130,000 ha. We work in close collaboration with the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (FS-DESTEA) and Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA). Our custodianship programme for Sungazers and Oribi (see below) which recognises the efforts of conservation-minded landowners, continues with great success, and includes those landowners who may not fall within a formal proposed protected area.

As part of this project, the EWT administers the Sungazer Working Group, a collective group of organisations that oversees the compilation of the Biodiversity Management Plan for the species (currently under review), as well as Sungazer research and monitoring of local and international trade. We currently have three students (based at SANBI and studying at the Tshwane University of Technology) working with us on projects investigating area of occupancy using GIS and modelling techniques (at the University of KZN), and establishing where wild Sungazers are harvested, the price for which they are sold, turnover rates and uses in traditional medicine.

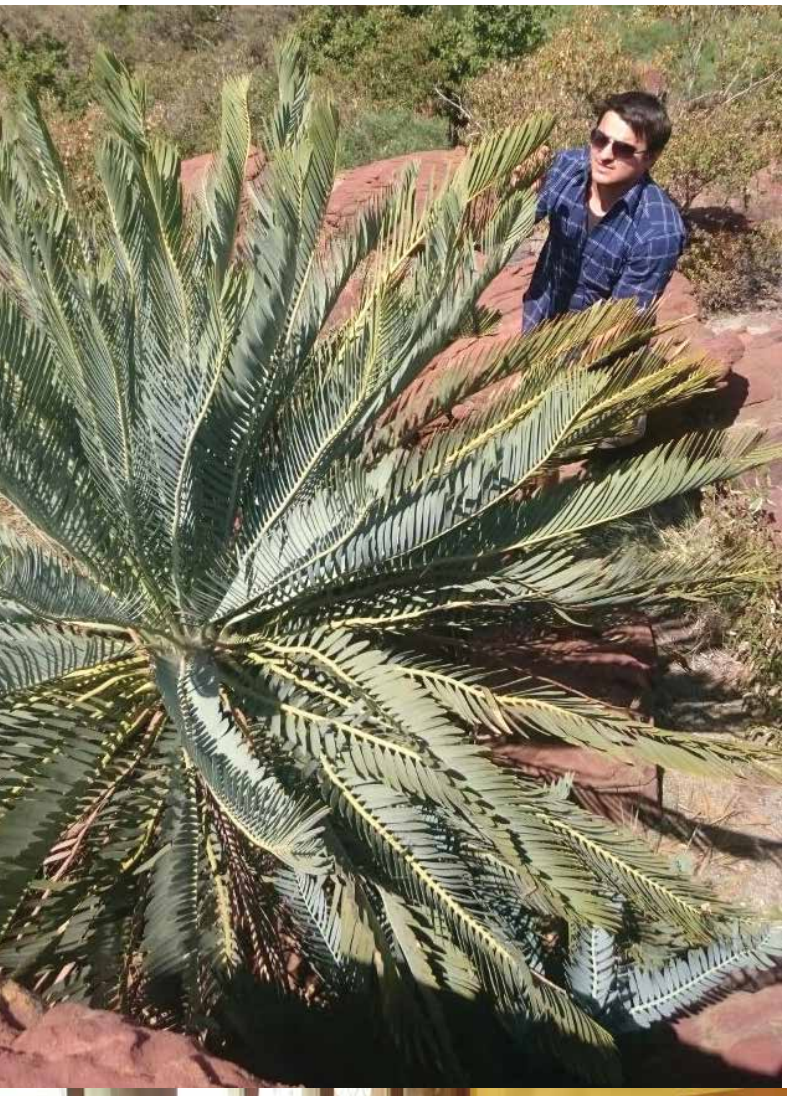
One of our field officers has also just completed a model to estimate the extent of habitat for Botha's Lark so that we can attempt to incorporate important habitat hotspots in our protected area expansion plans. Finally, we are supporting PhD research on Yellow-breasted Pipits through the University of Pretoria, with co-supervision at Tshwane University of Technology. This thesis focuses on the population genetics of the Yellow-breasted Pipit, pipit phylogenetics, niche modelling and assessing the use of this and other species as indicators of change in highland grassland systems.

ORIBI CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Oribi is a highly specialised antelope inhabiting African temperate grasslands. Oribi prefer high altitude, high rainfall, undulating and open, healthy grasslands. In South Africa, their numbers have declined sharply in recent years due to large-scale habitat loss and illegal hunting (mainly with Greyhound-like dogs), and they now exist in only a few formally protected areas. Most South African Oribi occur on privately-owned land, where their protection is highly dependent on the landowner. The Oribi is listed as Endangered in the latest Regional Red List for South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland.

The TGSP continues to work towards curbing illegal hunting with dogs, a widespread form of poaching, in areas in which Oribi populations are threatened. We place particular emphasis on engagement with rural communities and the understanding of traditional hunting practices. We aim to support private landowners, as well as rural communities that are facing an influx of criminal activities due to "taxi hunters". We do this through ongoing engagement with local communities (and alleged poachers), as well as continued collaboration with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, KZN Hunting and Conservation Association and the SA Community Action Network (SACAN), amongst others. This collaboration has grown from strength to strength in the last year with several meetings convened, and involvement of the EWT in discussions with rural communities with whom we had not previously engaged, particularly in the Cato Ridge and Kamberg areas. Through SACAN, the partnership is also looking to expand the use of technology to report and respond to wildlife crimes such as poaching of Oribi, and to analyse trends.

We are also developing a structured education, training and capacity building approach for members of the police and other law enforcement agencies to create an understanding of the law surrounding poaching with dogs. With support from the National Lotteries Commission, we carried out a targeted awareness campaign in early 2017 at various police stations, schools and communities in northern KZN and southern Mpumalanga, with over 1,200 people reached.



KZN CYCAD CONSERVATION PROJECT

Cycads (*Encephalartos* spp.) are collectively the most threatened plant group in South Africa and the world. In KZN, there are 13 species of the cycad genus *Encephalartos*. Our fledgling project held a successful workshop to identify key stakeholders, and we will be working with WWF-SA, the Botanical Society and other NGOs, landowners, communities, local authorities and businesses in selected areas in KZN in order to ensure the sustainability of this initiative. We will be conducting population counts in various key areas, as well as looking to protect existing populations (and their habitats) using the biodiversity stewardship approach.

ILLEGAL HUNTING WITH DOGS

In KZN in particular, but also in other provinces, traditional hunts have begun to be replaced by "taxi hunts," which are both destructive and indiscriminate. During these hunts, the hunters and their dogs (which are normally well trained) are typically transported by taxis to a certain selected area, hence the name taxi hunts. Taxi hunting is mainly motivated by the thrill of killing for sport and gambling. The hunts involve groups of people with large packs of slender-bodied dogs; they are often heavily armed and have little respect for the law, or private property.

Participants place bets on which dogs will be the first to bring down an animal, the length of time it takes for the hunt, as well as which species of animal will be caught. Punters may bet thousands of Rands on a specific dog.

EASTERN GREAT ESCARPMENT PROJECT

With Dr Little's receipt of the Whitley Award in May 2017, we were able to kick off this exciting new initiative. This project is a collaborative effort towards conserving priority catchments along the length of the Eastern Escarpment of the Drakensberg, and will

involve other NGO and government partners. The region houses most of the threatened and endemic species in the grasslands of South Africa, and is the major water catchment area of the country. To kick-start the project, the TGSP team held a successful workshop at Normandien Farms near Newcastle (which is our first identified potential stewardship site under this project) in June 2017. The team experienced the beauty of the site's indigenous forest and grassland areas first hand, and learned about the exemplary conservation work that the farm managers carry out in addition to running a successful business, illustrating the potential for collaboration between conservation-minded business owners and conservation bodies.

CUSTODIANSHIP AND BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

Custodianship (as described in the EWT's National Guidelines for Custodianship in South Africa) is the recognition of voluntary commitment to the conservation of intact habitat and threatened species. Custodians, usually private landowners, are the real reason why we have any biodiversity left in the matrix of land outside of protected areas, they are also our champions on the ground who spread the word about the need to conserve our natural resources. We are incredibly grateful to these passionate individuals and they deserve all the recognition that they get.

Biodiversity Stewardship is a national programme for the formal proclamation of privately protected areas. These properties remain under the ownership of the private landowner but are formally recognised as protected areas (usually either Protected Environments or Nature Reserves, the latter being the higher category but both signed into the property title deeds). These are always associated with a negotiated management plan, which, in the case of Protected Environments, strategically governs continued production on the land while still protecting priority areas and species, and for Nature Reserves, these management decisions are significantly more strongly focused on habitat and species protection.

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING:

Whitley Award – Dr Ian Little, TGSP manager June 2010–August 2016:

"CONGRATULATIONS, IAN! THIS IS FANTASTIC NEWS AND WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU AND THE GREAT WORK YOU DO. WE WILL CIRCULATE THE GOOD TIDINGS THROUGH OUR COMMUNICATION NETWORKS."–SINCERELY, YOUR FANS AT RMB

"NO DOUBT YOU'VE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY COMPLIMENTARY MESSAGES, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS FROM FARMERS AGRI-CARE ON BEING RECOGNISED FOR YOUR EFFORTS, AND THE DIFFERENCE YOU HAVE MADE WHAT A REMARKABLE HONOUR FOR A PASSIONATE CONSERVATIONIST, IT HAS BEEN OUR PRIVILEGE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU. THE WORLD NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU!" –ROY CACKETT, FARMERS AGRI-CARE (PTY) LTD

"CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND YOUR TEAM FOR THIS WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT –IT IS VERY ENCOURAGING AND GIVES US ENERGY TO CONTINUE WITH OUR PLIGHT."–MIKE ERASMUS, VREDEFORT DOME CONSERVANCY

The TGSP appreciates the support of the following major donors: Carter Cycad Foundation Trust, Farmers Agri-Care, Ford Wildlife Foundation, N3TC, National Lotteries Commission, NCT Forestry Co-operative Limited, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Rand Merchant Bank, Whitley Fund for Nature, WWF Nedbank Green Trust.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

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Catherine Hughes
Programme Manager

Mauritz De Bruin
Field Officer

Bradley Gibbons
Field Officer

Samson Phakathi
Senior Field Officer

URBAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

THE URBAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME IS ONE OF THE EWT'S YOUNGEST PROGRAMMES, ESTABLISHED IN 2013 IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING PRESSURE THAT EXPANDING URBAN AREAS HAVE ON OUR BIODIVERSITY. WHILE FORMALLY PROTECTED AREAS ARE CRUCIAL FOR CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY, WE NEED TO CONSIDER CITIES AND OTHER URBAN AREAS IN OUR CONSERVATION THINKING TOO. OUR PROGRAMME AIMS TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP URBAN RESIDENTS HAVE WITH THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND THE WILDLIFE ON THEIR DOORSTEPS. OUR FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE IS THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MODDERFONTEIN RESERVE IN THE HEART OF JOHANNESBURG.

NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Unbeknownst to many urban residents, having wildlife in our cities is fundamental to maintaining the integrity of broader natural ecosystems, and green spaces are vital to our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, providing us with spaces for recreational, cultural and spiritual activities. The Urban Conservation Programme (UCP) strives to create an environment that is conducive for both human and wildlife habitation in an urban setting, and to develop public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and green spaces in and around urban areas. We develop environmental awareness through targeting three main groups: schoolchildren and the general public through environmental education and awareness raising, and

decision makers through active participation in planning and legislative processes that may impact biodiversity. Furthermore, the UCP focuses on supporting and encouraging owners of private green spaces in Gauteng to manage their properties so that they benefit from the land and also contribute positively to conservation. The sound management of these green areas provides opportunities for the public to experience biodiversity first-hand and learn about the natural environment on their doorstep. These sites also serve as examples of how green spaces in and around urban areas can benefit both humans and wildlife, while being socially, ecologically and economically sustainable. Last year, the UCP co-founded the Johannesburg Wildlife Network to encourage and facilitate meaningful dialogue and collaboration between all parties working on urban conservation issues in Johannesburg, combining research and action so that we can identify gaps, and effectively address these gaps through collaboration.

A TORRENTIAL YEAR FOR THE MODDERFONTEIN RESERVE

The 275 ha private Modderfontein Reserve, the second-largest private park in Gauteng, had a particularly busy year; with not only floods from the extreme storms Johannesburg experienced, but also with floods of visitors and school groups.

The education centre we created out of an old explosives bunker provides a much-needed facility to ensure that schools have a place to take their learners so they can engage with nature, without having to travel outside the city. This year we hosted seven schools – with a total of 137 learners, and 120 Scouts – providing them with an opportunity to experience nature first-hand and learn about the importance of urban green spaces like the Modderfontein Reserve. The recreational activity user numbers increased by 25% this year, as the reserve gained popularity. The reserve offers beautiful picnic and braai areas, a peaceful lakeside restaurant and wedding venue (Val Bonne Country Estate), and weekend running and cycling events. With assistance from the Modderfontein Conservation Society, we conducted 23 interactive walks, a night-time bat excursion with 98 eager citizen scientists, and 11 bird walks. These events really emphasised how important this green space is, and how much biodiversity can be found right in the middle of the city. There were magnificent sightings of both flamingo species, our National Bird the Blue Crane (*Anthropoides paradiseus*), European Honey Buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*), Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), African Fish Eagles (*Haliaeetus vocifer*), Great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*), and many other wild and wonderful creatures.

To ensure that recreational activities do not compromise the ecological integrity of the reserve, we adhere to the official Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the reserve. The floods did however lead to drastic soil erosion and made trails inaccessible, and so remedial actions added to the workload.

THE GAUTENG BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME

Even though the rest of South Africa is arguably more famous for its biodiversity and scenic splendour, Gauteng also contains an exceptional number of species that are globally unique. As the country's economic hub, the pressures of increasing economic development, including the clearing of natural areas for mining, agriculture, residential developments and industry, has led to significant habitat loss and fragmentation, resulting in severe threats to the survival of the province's plants and animals. More than half of the natural habitat in Gauteng has already been lost. The EWT entered into a partnership with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) to work towards securing valuable biodiversity on privately owned land in Gauteng in close collaboration with the local farming community, using the biodiversity stewardship approach. This approach secures land in priority biodiversity areas by entering into voluntary agreements with private and communal landowners, municipalities and other government entities, led by conservation authorities. These agreements ensure that the land is placed under formal protection, in some cases affording it the same status as that in state-owned nature reserves, and protect the biodiversity occurring there. Our project is fairly unique, as there is a strong focus on collaboration and capacity building between an NGO and a government department, GDARD. The EWT team comprises staff from both the Urban Conservation Programme (UCP) and Threatened Grassland

Species Programme (TGSP; please see page 59 for more on the work of the TGSP).

In the past year, the GBSP team has prioritised six potential stewardship sites, totalling 12,083 ha, of which 7,700 ha are untransformed. One of these sites has formally agreed to participate in the programme and will become the first Private Nature Reserve to be proclaimed under biodiversity stewardship in Gauteng. In terms of the project's capacity-building goals, the combined EWT/GDARD team has attended two learning exchanges with more than 80 stewardship practitioners in Gauteng and Mpumalanga. They have also attended two conferences, and gained positive and constructive feedback on the project's progress. Furthermore, the team held a workshop in May 2017 to explore ways in which this initiative (and stewardship initiatives in general) may be funded sustainably into the future, without having to rely too heavily on donor funding.

THE JOHANNESBURG WILDLIFE NETWORK (JWN)

The Johannesburg Wildlife Network, an initiative started by the UCP, in 2015, to facilitate collaborative urban conservation activities and research in urban Johannesburg, has maintained a high level of interest and buy-in from stakeholders. The network met four times in the last year, produced a website that will go live in September 2017, developed a cross-organisational research project on the connectivity functionality of urban green spaces, and has a number of other exciting projects under development. Urban conservation is an increasingly important area of research that will improve our understanding of the threats that urbanisation poses to biodiversity and habitats, and how we can use partnerships and innovative solutions to address these threats, secure priority habitats and ecosystem functions, provide urban residents with opportunities for capacity building and alternative livelihoods, and foster improved attitudes towards nature as a valued resource worthy of conservation.

THE WESSA ECO-SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The WESSA Eco-Schools Programme is an extensive and hands-on, internationally recognised, environmental education programme that focuses on improving environmental management within schools, as well as promoting environmental learning and providing opportunities for students and educators to improve and empower their schools and communities at large. Since 2013, the EWT, with generous support from Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concessionaire (Pty) Ltd N1/N4 Toll, has implemented Eco-Schools in ten previously disadvantaged primary schools in Hammanskraal, Gauteng. In 2016, we extended this successful programme into two schools in Alexandra. At the end of each year, WESSA assesses portfolios of evidence compiled by the schools to ensure that the programme is having a positive impact on the environmental management of the school and that projects are implemented effectively. For schools to proceed, these portfolios must contain proof that relevant subject matter was integrated into the school curriculum through multiple lesson plans, that the children were actively involved in all aspects of their project, and that the project yielded some tangible result, such as having a growing vegetable garden or working recycling system in place. Of the 12 schools assessed in November 2016, 11 passed and were eligible for an award and to progress to the next level. Of these 11, six passed with merit (61–79%), two with distinction (80–89%) and one with honours (90–100%). One of the schools was awarded their "Green Flag" for successfully completing three themes and showing consistent involvement over three years. This flag can be hoisted alongside their school flag, identifying them as an official "Eco-School".

The UCP appreciates the support of the following major donors: Bakwena N1/N4 Toll Concessionaire, SBV, WWF Nedbank Green Trust.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

The UCP works towards achieving the following targets:

EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A legend for these icons can be found on pages 9–10.

Boaz Tsebe
Reserve Manager

Shumani Makwarela
Reserve Field Officer

Zethu Sibiya
Eco-Schools Programme Intern

Emily Taylor
Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Project Coordinator

WILDLIFE & ENERGY PROGRAMME

WE STRIVE TO MINIMISE THE IMPACTS OF ENERGY AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE ON WILDLIFE. SUCH INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDES POWER LINES, POWER STATIONS, WIND TURBINES, TELEPHONE LINES, CELL PHONE TOWERS, AND PIPELINES. STRUCTURES LIKE THESE REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT INTERFACE BETWEEN MAN AND WILDLIFE, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH AFRICA'S GROWING ECONOMY.

POWERING CONSERVATION

Where there is a need for electricity, there is usually a corresponding impact on the environment and, with our ever-increasing population and subsequent demand, these impacts need to be addressed on an ongoing basis. The EWT entered into a strategic partnership with Eskom in 1996 and has since then, been striving to address some of the most pressing issues pertaining to wildlife interactions with electrical infrastructure. The Wildlife and Energy Programme (WEP), tasked with the oversight of the partnership, has a staff complement of 11 who ensure that negative wildlife interactions are investigated, reported, audited, documented, researched and mitigated.

WEP also assists Eskom on a number of other biodiversity related issues, such as management of game at power station compounds, drafting of game management plans, building capacity through training, conducting various research projects specific to the Eskom business, and operational monitoring at Sere Wind Farm, the Eskom owned renewable energy facility.

WEP represents the NGO sector on the Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group and the South African Bat Assessment Association Panel. We are also involved in the Bearded Vulture Task Force, the Cape Vulture Task Force, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Energy Task Force and the International Crane Foundation (ICF) Energy Task Force. This affords us an opportunity to contribute to a variety of policies and guiding documents, which supports our own objectives relating to wildlife and energy challenges.

WEP contributes to the EWT strategy by assisting the energy industry to find solutions to address harmful biodiversity impacts including research and development of products, the introduction of new technology, engaging with stakeholders on a global scale, and engaging with government through renewable energy forums where we are able to guide the monitoring requirements at renewable energy facilities. Our training programme also builds capacity within the energy sector pertaining to wildlife interactions with infrastructure.

INCIDENTS AND ACTION

During the last year, we received 221 reports of wildlife-infrastructure related incidents. Of these, 163 incidents were associated with Eskom Distribution and 51 with Eskom Transmission infrastructure. Seven incidents were classified as unknown. Together this resulted in the mortality of 70 different species (a total of 469 individuals). The most impacted species were the Cape Griffon (*Gyps coprotheres;* n = 117), Blue Crane (*Anthropoides paradiseus;* n = 56), Ludwig's Bustard (*Neotis ludwigii*; n = 20), Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*; n = 16) and Marabou Stork (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*; n = 16). We also recorded incidents of other wildlife such as Elephant (*Loxodonta africana)* as well as an Eland (*Taurotragus oryx)*, the latter being the first such record in our database.

Once an incident is reported to the EWT, we apply an incident investigation decision-making tool, after which we either close the incident or investigate it further. Once we have completed the investigation, we make an official recommendation to the affected Eskom Business Unit. Different mitigation methods for electrocution incidents include covering exposed jumpers on transformers with specially designed insulation material, changing pole configurations to bird friendly ones, cutting a gap in the earth wire, or fitting raptor protectors to live phases. For collision incidents, mitigation measures generally include fitting bird flight diverters to the spans on the line or, in extreme cases, we may recommend that the line is re-routed or removed. We track each reported incident to ensure that work is being done timeously and correctly. Once the mitigation is completed the incident is officially closed out by the Eskom Business Unit.

The final step is to confirm that the required action was taken by Eskom and, in this regard, audits are conducted annually to ensure that mitigation was applied correctly and that the suggested solutions are indeed effective. This information will help us to build a record of bird friendly hardware across the Eskom network and assist us in calculating the reduction in mortalities on a national scale.

TIME TO BE PROACTIVE

Working towards a completely wildlife friendly electricity network is an ongoing and arduous task. One of the biggest challenges currently across Africa is historic electrical infrastructure that was constructed using wildlife unfriendly designs, causing an alarming number of mortalities. Rectifying this would take an enormous amount of resources and effort. The Eskom/EWT partnership started this journey in 2016, when we compiled detailed sensitivity maps for both Eskom Distribution and Transmission networks, which indicate where bird and energy infrastructure interactions are most likely to take place. Using these sensitivity maps, we rolled out detailed proactive plans across all Eskom Distribution Operating Units and Transmission Grids across South Africa in the form of regional workshops.

Some of the key objectives of the proactive strategy are to create a cultural shift within Eskom, to influence line design, route planning, asset selection and application, operations and maintenance, and to use all possible opportunities during operations and maintenance to ensure that infrastructure is changed to wildlife friendly designs. To date approximately 16,013 structures have been proactively insulated, modified or replaced to be bird friendly, and a further 969 spans of power line have been marked with bird flight diverters. The strategy is off to a promising start but much more time and effort will be required over the coming years to see the project through.

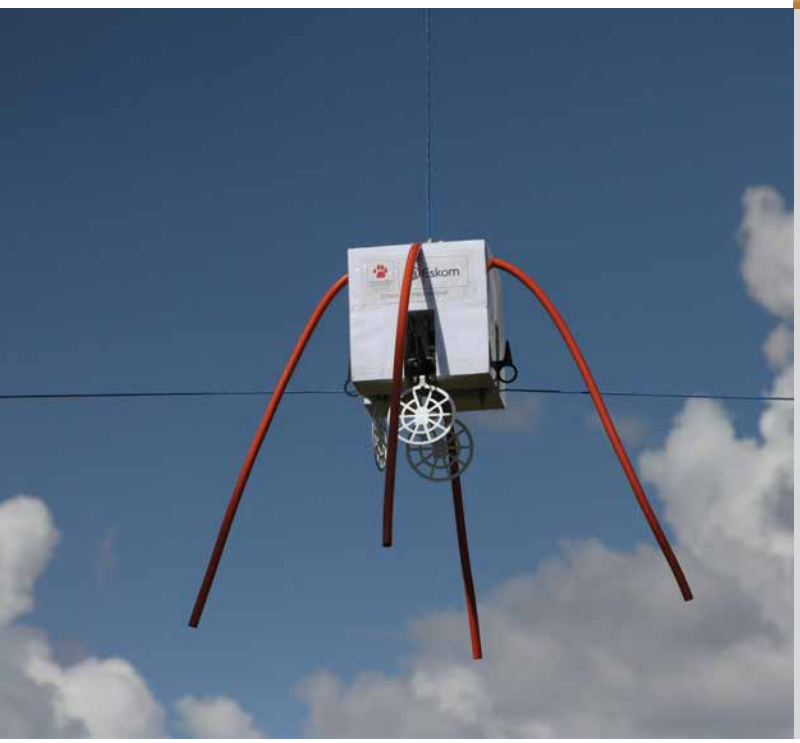
WEP attends many of the regional steering committee meetings where we assist the Eskom teams in planning and execution of mitigation projects in their respective operating units. Engineers, technicians and environmentalists are now all working together towards a single goal that will ultimately lead to the transformation of the entire Eskom electricity network.

LOOKING TO THE SKIES: A HIGH-TECH SOLUTION FOR MARKING POWER LINES

Bird collisions with power lines make up over 63% of all wildlife mortalities on electrical infrastructures in South Africa. To address this impact, Eskom has been marking power line cables with "bird flight diverters" to make them more visible to birds in flight. Traditionally, attaching these devices to the cables has been done by hand; live-line technicians are hoisted up to the cables using bucket trucks or, for larger power lines, by lowering them down by means of a helicopter. Working with live power line cables is an inherently risky exercise and, while Eskom linemen are rigorously trained to avoid these risks, working at heights introduces an added challenge. The cost and availability of live-line teams and helicopters, as well as issues related to difficult access also restricts Eskom's capacity to mark lines using these methods.

In 2016, WEP and Eskom Research, Testing and Development initiated a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) project to develop a way to attach bird flight diverters to the conductor and shield wire cables of overhead power lines. Our aim was to conceptualise and test a mechanism that can hoist up to four bird flight diverters at a time and deploy them in such a way that the multirotor RPAS, or drone as it is commonly referred to, hovers a safe distance from the cable. The marking mechanism had to be completely metal-free, containing no additional robotics, in order make it safe for contact with a high-voltage power line. The RPAS itself also needed to be a commercially available platform capable of carrying the required heavy payload.

Engineers from Preformed Line Products, the principal supplier of power line marking devices to Eskom, designed the initial mechanism for holding the bird flight diverter clamps in a primed position. Following several design iterations for the rest of the system, which includes a mechanism for directing the bird flight diverter clamps into a position

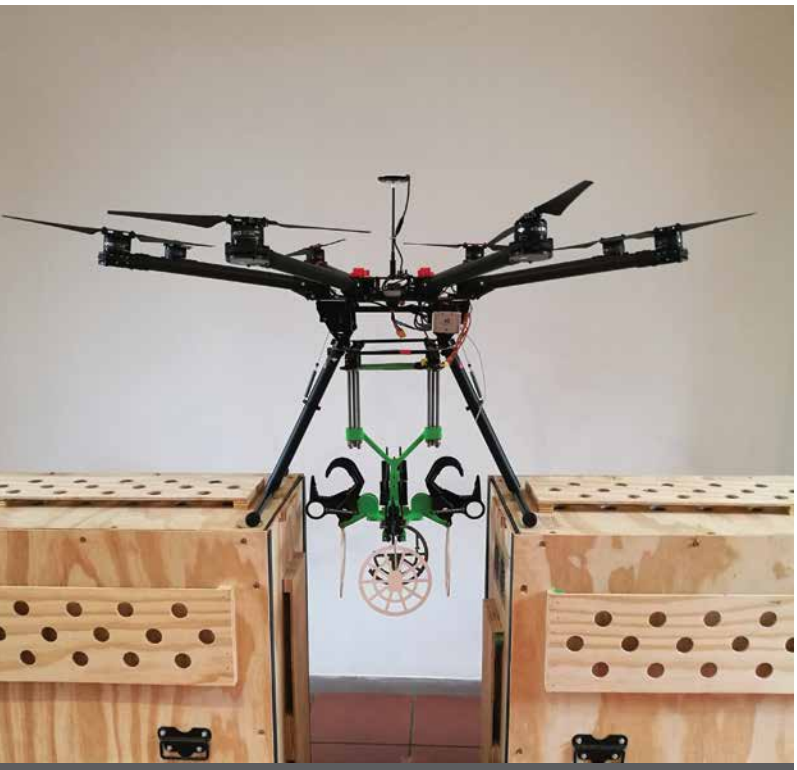


over the cable, and another for attachment to the RPAS itself, we finally developed a workable prototype. Initial tests have been encouraging. We now have a proof of concept for the device and believe it to be a viable, safer alternative to current line marking methods.

We are currently working on improving the mechanism into a more elegant and practical form, manufactured using 3D printing technology. In order to realise the future commercial application of this system, the EWT is currently in the process of registering as a legal RPAS operator in South Africa, underwritten by the requirements of the South African Civil Aviation Authority. Matt Pretorius (WEP Senior Field Officer) and Lourens Leeuwner (WEP Manager) have already obtained their remote pilot licenses as a part of the process. We believe that this technology will improve the safety and efficiency of marking power lines for birds in South Africa.

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT MONITORING AT THE SERE WIND ENERGY FARM

The Sere Wind Energy Farm (WEF) was one of the first operational facilities of its kind in the country. This wind farm is located along the west coast of South Africa near Lutzville in the Western Cape. As per the EWT/BirdLife South Africa Best Practice Guideline, any new wind



farm in South Africa should complete a two-year study of avifaunal impacts during operation, and the EWT has been involved at Sere every step of the way. Eskom has now opted to continue this monitoring beyond the second year, while also assessing other biodiversity impacts such as the impact on bats, roadkill, power line collisions and interactions with associated infrastructure. This ongoing monitoring effort is especially important as it aids in the understanding of the long-term interactions of biodiversity with wind turbines.

To connect the facility to the energy grid, a 44 km power line was constructed between Sere and Vredendal. Using data from the first year of power line surveys, we were able to identify bird collision hotspots along the line and advise Eskom accordingly. The total length of mitigated power line equated to 12 km, and continuous monitoring revealed a major reduction in bird mortalities related to the line. Bird mortalities were unfortunately not the only problem, as large numbers of tortoise shells were often collected underneath power line pylons. A research project, led by the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town, concerns the impact of crows on the tortoise population. It was observed that crows nests are present in many of the pylons and that these birds prey heavily on tortoises during certain times of the year. By assisting with this important work we hope to uncover some answers in the coming months and adapt the management of infrastructure if required.

The team of field officers at Sere is continually building capacity through knowledge of the local species and their surroundings. Furthermore, three of the team are in the process of obtaining their drivers' licenses and there are hopes of a future potential business venture in the ecotourism field with Sere WEF and its many bird species as its focus. The team is also actively involved in the community, through beach clean-ups and awareness campaigns at schools. At Sere we continue to illustrate that renewable energy is about much more than just turbines; there are negative impacts on biodiversity through associated infrastructure, positive impacts on the local community as well as opportunities to educate residents and tourists around wildlife and renewable energy matters.

BUILDING CAPACITY AND RAISING AWARENESS

Our training project, Wildlife and Power Line Interaction Training, forms a significant component of our work, and aims to raise environmental awareness amongst Eskom staff and introduce the participants to the various interactions between Eskom infrastructure and wildlife. A number of species across South Africa, birds in particular, interact with power lines, bringing about many harmful outcomes, which have a negative impact on species and can interrupt power supply. This training has equipped a large number of Eskom's field staff with the conservation knowledge required to identify and report incidents to the EWT.

Over the last year we completed an additional 86 training sessions, attended by a total of 1,455 Eskom employees and 18 Eskom contractors. This brings the number of participants to approximately 10,000 since 2010.

WEP continuously filters awareness material into the Eskom business. We designed the BirdSmart campaign in January 2017 to increase awareness surrounding specific bird species that are most at threat of collisions and electrocutions on electrical infrastructure, and how to effectively mitigate against these threats. We allocated each of the nine Eskom Operating Units (OUs) five priority species to focus on, and we created informative posters for each of these species. For example, the Martial Eagle poster, a top priority species for the Northern Cape OU, gives information surrounding the population trend of the species, a description of the bird and its collision and electrocution risks.

WOOD-BORING BIRDS AND DISTRIBUTION POLES RESEARCH

Since 2016, the partnership has been involved in a research project concerning birds that cause damage to wooden electrical poles. Damage to utility poles by wood-boring bird species is a phenomenon that occurs globally. This damage has far-reaching consequences, often resulting in severe economic losses to utility companies, and it also poses safety issues when poles eventually break leaving high voltage cables at ground level. The possible attributing factors vary from behavioural traits such as foraging, communication, nesting/roosting cavities, and caching of food. In order to provide clarity, we completed an assessment to determine what species are involved in boring holes into Eskom`s wooden poles. Once we have this information we can recommend and test different preventative measures.

We began our monitoring of damage to utility poles in October 2016 in Bela Bela, Limpopo. The line concerned was the Zwartkloof Rural-Groenkop (ZG) line, which was built in 1989, and spans the length of a privately owned farm. We selected this line based on bird-related damage to most of the sixty-one poles that traverse the property. We attached camera traps to the poles in order to record any interactions between birds and the poles. Two woodpecker species were recorded actively making holes, namely the Bearded Woodpecker (*Dendropicos namaquus*) and the Golden-tailed Woodpecker (*Campethera abingoni*). The project is ongoing and we have not yet drawn any conclusions. It is interesting to note, however, that it is not only birds that make use of the poles, a number of mammals and reptiles have also been captured on camera including squirrels and Common Egg-eaters (*Dasypeltis scabra)*.

STORY FROM THE FIELD: ENDANGERED BUSTARD GETS A SECOND CHANCE

In May 2017, BOPP Field Officer Ronelle Visagie received a call from Prieska in the Northern Cape. She was informed of an injured Ludwig`s Bustard. The Ludwig`s Bustard is a priority species for WEP as it is Endangered, and power line collisions are thought to be a major driver of its decline in numbers in southern Africa. We have been researching anti-collision devices for over eight years in the Karoo and extensively monitoring mortalities under power lines in the region. The opportunity to save even a single bird of this species could simply not be turned away. Realising the importance of the incident, Ronelle travelled a distance of 182 km, from De Aar to Prieska, to collect the bird. She discovered that the bird had a slight wing injury, possibly from a collision with a farm fence. She identified the bird as a juvenile as it was still calling for its parents. As the bird was too young to be on its own, had been away from its parents too long and there was no food in the dry winter veld, Ronelle decided to hold it in captivity until summer. Before its release, we will fit a transmitter to the bird to follow its movements and ensure a 100% recovery.

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING

"WE CONSIDER OURSELVES VERY LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO CALL ON THE SERVICES OF SUCH A WELL-FORMED AND WORTHWHILE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL AS OURSELVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR WILDLIFE AND WILD SPACES" KATIE ROOKE, CONSERVATION MANAGER, PIDWA WILDERNESS RESERVE. WE REALLY DO APPRECIATE ALL THE EFFORT THAT THE EWT CONTINUES TO GIVE ESKOM IN SUPPORT OF OUR OBJECTIVES. THE EWT GOES OVER AND ABOVE WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ENABLE US AS A PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE THOSE OBJECTIVES AND I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THAT!" — KISHAYLIN CHETTY, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISOR, ESKOM

The WEP appreciates the support of Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST
www.ewt.org.za

Eskom

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The WEP works towards achieving the following targets:

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

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WILDLIFE IN TRADE PROGRAMME

WE WORK TO REDUCE THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS THROUGH VARIOUS INITIATIVES INCLUDING CAPACITY BUILDING AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE JUDICIARY, COOPERATION AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT WITH OTHER CONSERVATION NGOS, COMMENTING ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION, AND SUPPORT FOR VARIOUS RHINO CONSERVATION INITIATIVES.

TACKLING TRAFFICKING

The Wildlife in Trade Programme (WIT) implements a range of exciting and innovative projects that encapsulate action-based activities to address the illegal, unsustainable or irresponsible trade of wildlife. We apply a multi-pronged approach to strengthen both the practical and responsive abilities of personnel to fight wildlife trafficking; from securing protected areas to improving wildlife contraband detection, the WIT team endeavours to find ways to tackle this illegal trade. The programme applies a philosophy of tackling critical links within the wildlife trade supply chain. WIT focuses on ensuring that wildlife is not threatened because of illegal trade. We do this by supporting and delivering capacity building initiatives and conducting studies on trade dynamics to better identify

solutions that mitigate the negative impacts of trade. Consequentially, WIT has developed species-focused protection projects for rhinos, cycads and pangolins as a result of the increased and ongoing detrimental trade of these species.

Over the last 12 months, we have provided specialised skills and knowledge to over 1,000 officials across the wildlife trade supply chain. The programme team has supported the uptake of specialised situational awareness software known as Cmore, developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which enhances the operational and tactical response of anti-poaching units, covering more than 500,000 hectares of protected area habitat. The programme has deployed nine sniffer and tracker dogs that work with endangered species protection at strategic locations across the country. Here, they search vehicles and other property on a daily basis for rhino horn and other endangered species contraband, illegal firearms and ammunition. We also work continuously to develop and produce many different types of awareness raising materials that target a wide range of audiences, from members of the public to state prosecutors.

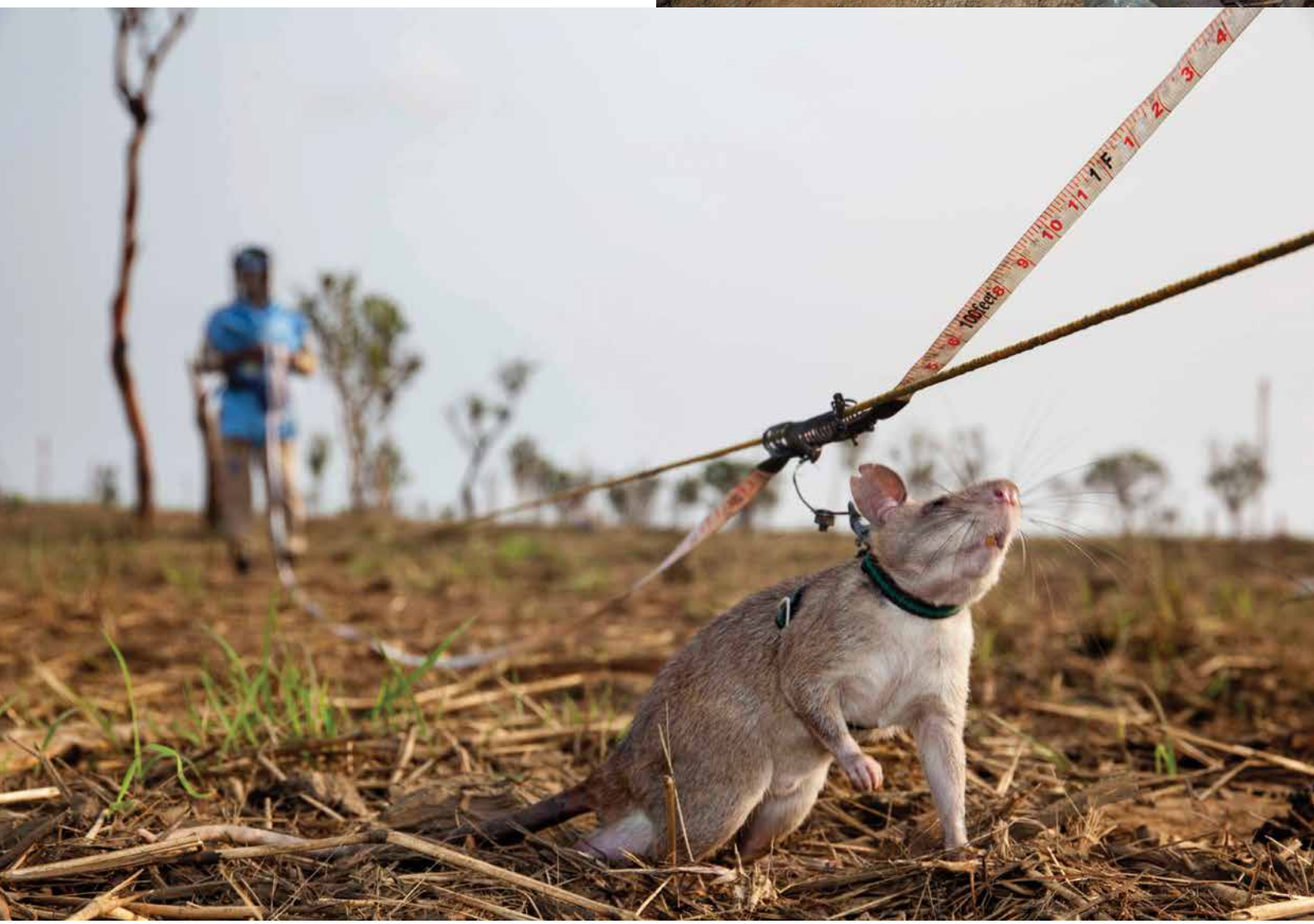
PROTECTING CRITICALLY ENDANGERED CYCADS AND ADDRESSING THE ILLEGAL PANGOLIN TRADE

We completed five weeks of advanced cycad species protection training and invited the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) to conduct an independent assessment of the more than 20 law enforcement officials, who all passed the independent assessment. The training programme moved across different provinces and included subject matter experts around the identification of cycads and enforcement case studies.

We also launched a new pangolin protection project, which will include a national survey to quantify the size of the illegal domestic consumer market. The project will initially commence with muthi market surveys in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces, and we have taken on three student interns to do this work.

USING INNOVATION TO DETECT WILDLIFE CONTRABAND

We have been applying innovative approaches to tackling illegal wildlife trade by conducting research to discover whether African Giant Pouched Rats can detect pangolin and timber specimens, through scent detection training. These animals are currently used to detect landmines and tuberculosis and have proved extremely accurate. We are implementing our project in partnership with APOPO (*Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling*, or Anti-Personnel Landmines Removal Product Development in



English) in Tanzania, and our rats are undergoing daily training to detect these two contraband wildlife specimens. Initial stages of the project focused on the basic indication response on a pure odor solution after which the true training targets will be included. Later, the rats will begin training to discriminate the new targets from the distracter/masking odors. Trials conducted using the pure odor have so far proved successful, and the next phase of training will commence soon.

SPECIALISED TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR REGULATORY PERSONNEL

We have implemented a range of other interventions over the past year. Some of these included:

- Endangered species identification and detection training, targeting approximately 60 officials from the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the South African Revenue Service (SARS);
- Approximately 60 advanced Grade Five Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) training sessions for rangers from provincial and national protected areas, with a focus on the legal framework of crime scenes, handling of evidence, arresting suspects and searching property;
- Two specialised training interventions for Grade One and Two EMIs explained how to use signs and tracks in the field to support investigations and how to apply these as evidence in a court of law; and
- Two online wildlife trade cybercrime training interventions which were held for approximately 30 members of the SAPS and provincial conservation authorities with the goal being to improve the awareness of the scope of illegal online wildlife trade, and build confidence in addressing this emerging aspect of wildlife trade.

PATROL OPTIMISATION

We have implemented 15 training interventions and distributed 80 Android-based devices and 20 computers to rhino protected areas to support the application of a specialised awareness software developed by the CSIR, namely Cmore. This has enhanced the protection of rhinos and other endangered species across 500,000 hectares. Cmore is an innovative, shared awareness and decision support technology platform. The technology applies real-time analytics to support patrol planning for proactive interventions, but also supports tactical response operations that are managed from a centralised control room. The technology is all-encompassing and includes rangers as well as other operatives and data detection points located within provincial and national protected areas. The technology also allows for the monitoring of assets such as rhinos in protected areas.

CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION WITH PROSECUTORS

We facilitated and implemented a regional state prosecutor workshop in Johannesburg in order to open dialogue between prosecutors from Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa with respect to transnational cross-border wildlife crime. Given the very nature of illegal wildlife trade, it is important that transboundary authorities collaborate on investigations and prosecutions and share best practices. In an effort to create a better understanding around the seriousness of wildlife crime, the scope of the issue, and the consequences, we also produced a wildlife trade crime handbook for state prosecutors and senior investigators,

featuring commonly traded flagship species. This handbook, together with a supporting PowerPoint library, provides the tools to support officials when testifying in aggravation of sentence.

CONSERVATION CANINES FIGHTING THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN RHINO HORNS AND WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

We deployed 12 specialised sniffer dogs who have been trained to detect rhino horn (and other endangered species) and ammunition to strategic locations in the country. These include protected areas where some of the most severe rhino poaching has been taking place, as well as cargo and freight operations, to address the risk of wildlife contraband being smuggled through the cargo sections of ports. A further seven canines have been undergoing training and will be deployed towards the end of 2017 as sniffer or tracking dogs. We have integrated a Cmore canine application extension as a trial with two handlers in order to provide live tracking of the canines and conduct easy analysis of all data, with integration into the larger patrol optimisation project. We have also taken on an expert canine handler and trainer to support our canines currently in the field and any future canines that need training before deployment.

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING

"THE EWT WILDLIFE IN TRADE PROGRAMME HAS REALLY COME TO THE PARTY BY SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (DEA) ANTI-POACHING PATROL OPTIMISATION AND GRADE FIVE EMI ADVANCED TRAINING INITIATIVES. THE WIT PROGRAMME HAS INTEGRATED THESE COMPLEX WORK PACKAGES SEAMLESSLY IN COLLABORATION WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS. EWT IS INDEED A FORCE MULTIPLIER."– MIKE STRANG, DEA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PROGRAMME MANAGER UNEP-GEF RHINO ENFORCEMENT.

"VITO THEN MOVED CLOSER TO ME AND AGAIN INDICATED TO ME BY SITTING AND SNIFFING IN THE GRASS. I THEN NOTICED THE AMMUNITION THAT SHE HAD JUST RECOVERED. VITO DETECTED FOUR LIVE .303 ROUNDS IN THE GRASS NEXT TO THE ROAD. WITH HER ASSISTANCE, WE WERE ABLE TO RECOVER EVERYTHING THAT THE POACHERS HAD DROPPED. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE POACHERS LOST ANOTHER RIFLE AND AT LEAST FOUR MORE RHINOS HAVE BEEN SAVED."– DOG HANDLER, EXPLAINING HOW ONE OF OUR DOGS, VITO, LED THE ANTI-POACHING TEAM TO SUCCESS.

The WITP appreciates the support of the following major donors: AVI Trust, Department of Environmental Affairs, Felix Schneier Foundation, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Mones Michaels Trust, Pangolin Photo Safaris, Running Man Adventures, UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

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Assistant Field Officer

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Assistant Field Officer

WILDLIFE & ROADS PROJECT

VEHICLES AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE HAVE A MASSIVE IMPACT ON WILDLIFE AND THE EWT'S WILDLIFE AND ROADS PROJECT ADDRESSES THESE CONCERNS BY WORKING WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO CURB THIS FORM OF HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT. OUR CURRENT FOCUS IS ON REDUCING THE NUMBER OF COLLISIONS BETWEEN WILDLIFE AND MOTOR VEHICLES.

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF ROADS

Roads are a critical element of human economic development and society, and global rates of road construction will likely continue to rise for the foreseeable future. Roads and road users have numerous, diverse, and mostly negative consequences for biodiversity by, among other things, destroying and degrading habitats, fragmenting wildlife populations and their dynamics, and creating direct impacts through collisions and secondary impacts through increased access to previously unattainable natural resources. The science of road ecology (our understanding of such impacts and how these can be minimised) is fairly well developed in North America, Europe and Australia, but is in its infancy in Africa, which is likely to

experience rapid infrastructure development in the upcoming decades.

To address the threat to biodiversity from roads and road users, the EWT launched the Wildlife and Roads Project (WRP) in 2010, the only large-scale initiative of its kind in Africa. Working in partnership with several of South Africa's road agencies, the WRP aims to reduce wildlife fatalities and improve driver safety on regional and national roads, through:

- Undertaking risk assessments (including research projects to inform the identification, quantification and prioritisation of risks).
- Developing policy and best practice research.
- Assisting and guiding the identification, development and implementation of mitigation strategies relevant to the African context.
- Training and capacity building.
- Awareness raising.
- Performance assessment.

The WRP works in collaboration with relevant stakeholders throughout the transport industry, in both the public and private sectors. We also use our existing network of international experts to guide interventions and provide expertise and support. In addition, the programme facilitates the establishment of relevant forums and networks of stakeholders to ensure their effective engagement and involvement in the solutions.

DRIVING AWARENESS

Studying the complex relationships between roadways and the natural systems they bisect is the focus of road ecology, of which the WRP has been at the forefront in South Africa since 2010. We have raised public awareness of its projects through media campaigns and engagement with South African road management agencies and road users. An increase in public awareness of roadkill has led to an increase in the reporting of roadkill incidences contributing to the development of a national database of roadkill occurrences. Data collected by the WRP and the public have enabled us to identify gaps in our current understanding of the impacts of roads and road users on wildlife.

Since the launch of the public awareness campaign in 2013, where members of the public have been encouraged to submit roadkill data from across the country through various reporting platforms, there are now over 16,000 roadkill data points for the country – an increase of almost 7,000 since last year. This has enabled us to identify priority species and habitats most at risk from roads and initiate research projects to investigate possible solutions.

To encourage members of the public to assist with data collection as well as raise awareness of our work, we held two roadkill awareness days in the Pilanesberg National Park this past year. We invited members of the public to chat to the researchers and find out what is being done to reduce roadkill in the country.

We presented some of our research at two national and three international conferences; the former being the Symposium of Contemporary Conservation Practice in Howick and the Southern African Wildlife Management Association in Tzaneen, and the latter being the ninth biennial International Conference on Ecology & Transportation (ICOET) conference, in Utah, USA, the Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE) in Lyon, France, and the Life Strade International Congress in Perugia, Italy. There were over 400 delegates represented at ICOET from 24 different countries, and we were the only representatives from the African continent.

CONSERVING ROUTES

South African highways 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 may result in fatal consequences.

Bakwena N1N4 Toll (Bakwena), N3 Toll Concession (N3TC) and TRAC N4 have a strong reputation for social commitment and improvement of safety on their roads. As such, they commissioned the WRP to

present training courses to their route patrollers, and other relevant staff, with a view to improving road safety for all road users – human and animal. We delivered six training courses in 2016/17, reaching 75 staff. The course covered a range of topics such as what is road ecology, the nature and importance of reliable data collection, an overview of mitigation measures (their purpose and required maintenance), species identification and legislation. In addition, our field staff accompanied the teams on 16 route patrols.

DRIVING INITIATIVES

In 2016, the WRP published the first national handbook entitled "The Road Ahead: Guidelines to mitigation methods to address wildlife road conflict in South Africa". Targeted at road development agencies, environmental assessment practitioners, academia, and decision makers, the handbook describes methods to reduce the impact of roads on wildlife at the design stage or when they are being upgraded.

Neil Tolmie, CEO of the N3 Toll Concession, and author of the handbook's foreword, adds, "The environment cannot be neglected by any segment of society; the world is in need of global leaders pioneering new development processes and techniques that will ensure a balance between development and environmental preservation and conservation. We are, every one of us, responsible for the world we live in."

PROTECTING THE PROTECTED

South Africa's protected areas are the prime custodians of biodiversity, intended for the conservation of biodiversity. The more popular parks receive high volumes of vehicular traffic, which impacts negatively on wildlife through wildlife-vehicle collisions. The WRP initiated its Roads in Parks Project in 2014 to reduce the impact of road users on wildlife in protected areas. The five-year project will ground-truth data collected via expert surveys and social media platforms in order to establish cost-effective, long-term roadkill monitoring and mitigation in parks.

The past year has seen the use of pre- and post- roadkill-reduction-surveys that examine ways to improve driver vigilance by assessing drivers' responses to various driver-alert-signage, measured through their response to fake animals placed on paved roads in Pilanesberg National Park. Early results suggest that, before signage 50% (n = 1,715) of observed drivers were looking at the road, rather than scanning the bush for wildlife. Of this 50%, 40% adapted their behaviour to "miss" the fake animal. Our prediction is that effective signage will increase driver vigilance. The next stage of the project will commence in the Kruger National Park.

WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

We have launched a joint project with the University of Limpopo to use bird road-mortality data from Limpopo Province to better understand the diversity of bird-roadkill and the resulting roadkill hotspots. The outcomes of this research will assist related agencies, such as Department of Roads and Transport (Limpopo), Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), the EWT and other conservation bodies, to motivate for a greater understand of the threats posed by roads for bird species as well as guide measures, which will act to reduce the rate of bird-roadkill.

TOADS ON ROADS

We are proud of our partnership with Toad NUTS (Noordhoek's Unpaid Toad Savers), a group of volunteers working to save the Endangered Western Leopard Toad (*Schlerophrys pantherinus*) from extinction. Every wet, windy and unpleasant winter night, volunteers from the

communities in the Western Cape southern peninsula patrol the roads in an effort to prevent the Western Leopard Toad from being killed as they cross roads in their annual migration to mating ponds. Since 2007, this dedicated group of residents has responded to the threats to the Western Leopard Toad – primarily migration hazards and manmade changes to their habitat. This year marks the 11th winter breeding migration to be monitored by Toad NUTs. A range of initiatives are used in an attempt to reduce road mortality. Signage directed at motorists, awareness and education drives, road patrols using trained volunteers and toad barriers have all contributed towards a significant reduction in toads killed on the roads.

AFRICAN GRASS-OWLS AND ROADS

We have partnered with the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme (BOPP) to collaborate on an in-house project to address the threat to the African

Grass-owl (*Tyto capensis*). This bird is threatened by significant habitat degradation and fragmentation, particularly in the Highveld region of South Africa, primarily due to increasing agricultural, mining activity and road development. Linear infrastructure, in particular power lines and roads, impact birds negatively, although the true impact on the African Grass-owl from these two threats is, as yet, unknown in South Africa.

Identifying high-risk key areas of where roadkill fatalities will occur for the African Grass-owl will assist in prioritising conservation actions for this species. With over 15 years of owl and African Grass-owl roadkill data (EWT Road Mortality Database, 2017), high-risk areas can be base-lined in South Africa. A further aim of this study is to identify high-risk roadkill mortality areas for the African Grass-owl in South Africa and generate sensitivity maps highlighting hotspot areas. These maps will be valuable tools in the future planning of expanding infrastructure with consideration for African Grass-owl habitat.

HOW TO GET THE MONKEY ACROSS THE ROAD

The Samango Monkey Roadkill Mitigation Project was initiated in April 2015 at the Lajuma Research Centre in response to regular road fatalities of Samango Monkeys on a particular stretch of road along the eastern Soutpansberg in northern Limpopo Province. The Samango Monkey is listed as Vulnerable in South Africa and is considered a rare species as it inhabits South Africa's smallest and most fragmented biome, indigenous high canopy forest. The aim of the project is to design and install permanent canopy bridges suited specifically for Samango Monkeys to mitigate road fatalities.

We are proud to be associated with this PhD project (through the University of Venda). Finding a solution to ensuring the safe crossing of the Samango Monkey is almost complete. With the camera trap survey completed and almost a year's worth of behavioural data of Samango Monkeys crossing the specially designed canopy-bridges, guidelines for the "primate canopy overpass" are being prepared for conservation and management use.

ROADKILL PROJECT IN FLORIDA, USA

This international project saw the implementation of the roadkill detection protocol designed by the EWT (in collaboration with Rhodes University and Tswane University of Technology), which was first trialled in the Greater Mapunguwbe Transfrontier Conservation Area, Limpopo. Mark Spicer (a Bachelor of Science student from the University of Kent, UK) trialled the protocol for a month in Florida, USA, where an assessment of temporal and spatial patterns of summer roadkill were undertaken on a 100 km stretch of road in southwest Florida – the first time that the protocol has been trialled overseas.

Over a 30-day period, nearly 550 bird, mammal and reptile roadkills were recorded, representing 60 species. This particular stretch of road is set to see increased traffic volumes in coming years and is scheduled for widening from two lanes to four. This research will consequently be extremely valuable in alerting the Florida Department of Transport to potential roadkill hotspots to be considered during their road expansion plans. Mark received a first class for his degree and was awarded the Gerald Durrell Prize for the best research thesis.

ETHIOPIAN HIGHWAYS

Our collaboration with the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (Mekelle Biodiversity Center, Ethiopia) is undertaking an assessment of roadkill rates for all wild vertebrates in the region of the Ethio-Djibouti highway. This highway passes through five spatially isolated protected areas in eastern Ethiopia and is home to several species of conservation significance, such as the Endangered Grévy's Zebra

(*Equus grevyi),* Near Threatened Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) and the East African Oryx (*Oryx beisa*). Outcomes of this research are expected in 2018.

LONG TERM MONITORING OF ROADKILL IN NORTHERN TANZANIA

An additional collaboration is with the School for Field Studies in Tanzania, in the Tarangire Ecosystem of Northern Tanzania. Students have been looking at patterns of roadkill and elephant crossing on the major highways in Northern Tanzania. The study found a host of animals killed representing most of the large animal taxa. The work is priceless in better understanding the impacts of roads on wildlife in East Africa, and is one of the few long-term monitoring programmes going on.

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING

"JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW I REALLY LIKED YOUR PUBLICATION "The Road Ahead". I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR WORK. YOUR TABLES AND FIGURES MAKE THE APPROACH TO PROTECTING WILDLIFE VERY ACCESSIBLE TO ROAD AUTHORITIES. I THINK YOUR TEAM DID A REALLY GOOD JOB OF YOUR HANDBOOK AND IT CAN SERVE AS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES CAN DO TO PROTECT WILDLIFE ON ROADS AND HIGHWAYS." – LEONARD SIELECKI, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, CANADA.

"THANKS FOR THE BOOKLET; IT IS SOMETHING ROAD ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS HAVE NEEDED FOR A LONG TIME. ONE ONLY HOPES THAT THIS BOOKLET GETS TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN PLANNING BECAUSE IT CAN REDUCE ROADKILL SUBSTANTIALLY."– RHETT HISEMAN, CAPENATURE, SOUTH AFRICA.

"CONGRATULATIONS ON PUBLISHING NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR MORE WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY ROADS IN AFRICA, BOTH YOUR COUNTRY AND MUCH BROADER. YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN THIS PUBLICATION IS TIMELY. THANK YOU FOR BEING A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR WILDLIFE! YOU ARE DOING IMPORTANT WORK." – SANDRA JACOBSON, WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RESEARCH STATION, USA.

RECOGNITION

The Sixth Annual Eco-Logic Awards identifies individuals, organisations and communities that positively contribute towards a sustainable world and the EWT is thrilled to have once again been recognised. The WRP won an award for their five-year project aimed at reducing roadkill in protected areas. We were very proud to be the recipients of the Transport Award and are extremely grateful to the supporters of this critical project.

WRP fieldworker, Innocent Buthelezi, has been selected by the Secretariat of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe to participate in the 2017 MAB Youth Forum – Committed to Sustainable Development, that will be held in Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy (September 2017). Fully in line with the Lima Action Plan, which was adopted in March 2016 on the occasion of the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, the 2017 MAB Youth Forum aims to strengthen the role and promote the active participation of youth in the MAB Programme and their contribution to the sustainable development of their communities within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The WRP has been actively seeking ways to reduce the impacts of roads on wildlife in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, Limpopo, for many years.

The WRP appreciates the support of the following major donors: Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concession, Bridgestone South Africa, Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversitie, French Embassy, Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE), N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited, TRAC N4.

Please see pages 109–112 for details of our other supporters.

The WRP works towards achieving the following targets:

EWT'S STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A legend for these icons can be found on page 9–10.

Wendy Collinson
Project Coordinator

Innocent Buthelezi
Field Officer

LOOKING FORWARD

PROTECTING THE SOUTPANSBERG MOUNTAINS

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. Six different biomes are present on the mountains – namely forest, thicket, savanna, grassland, fynbos and wetland. All the vegetation types that occur along the Soutpansberg range are endemic to Limpopo province, or the Soutpansberg Mountains, and have a relatively limited range. 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 was contacted by Fauna and Flora International (FFI), a long-standing conservation partner of the EWT, to enquire if the Trust would be willing and able to enter into a land purchase on behalf of the Roberts family based in Australia. Phil and Sue Roberts had, in previous visits to South Africa, fallen in love with the Soutpansberg, and had decide to support a land purchase that would conserve the region's biodiversity and in particular, its Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) population. During 2015 and 2016, the EWT visited the Soutpansberg Mountains several times to scope for suitable properties that would meet the requirements of establishing a long-term, sustainable and impactful conservation project, and accordingly, embarked on negotiating the purchase of the Medike Mountain Reserve (1398 ha) in late 2016.

Simultaneously, the concept of developing an expansive Soutpansberg Protected Area was developed and further funding was secured through a partnership with the Rainforest Trust and from Phumelela Gaming.

This ambitious project will see the establishment of the Soutpansberg Protected Area, catalysed by the initial purchase of the Medike Mountain Reserve by the EWT, using a generous donation of funding from the Roberts family in Australia. The EWT plans to link the Luvhondo Private Nature Reserve towards the western edge of the mountain, eastwards, including Medike, to the Happy Rest Provincial Nature Reserve. This will create a continuous protected area covering ~23,000 hectares that will protect a number of Critically Endangered, Endangered and locally endemic species of animal and plants. The project also incorporates the development of sustainable livelihood activities for local communities based on environmentally friendly micro-enterprises to the benefit of local people and the region as a whole.

THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE SOUTPANSBERG

- There are **44 known amphibian species** in the Soutpansberg of which one is endemic.
- The **542 bird species** recorded in the Soutpansberg represent 59% of the southern Africa's avifauna and 81% of the South African terrestrial and freshwater avifauna when vagrants and oceanic species are excluded.
- There are **140 known reptile species** in the Soutpansberg of which 16 species are endemic.
- There are **44 fish species in the Soutpansberg**, representing 28% all southern African freshwater fish species. Three Soutpansberg fish species are listed in the South African Red Data Book on Fishes.
- There are **152 mammal species** in the Soutpansberg, or 63% of the total number of mammal species that occur in South Africa.
- **550 species of spiders** have been recorded in the western Soutpansberg, and many remain undescribed.
- The western Soutpansberg has **19 species of scorpions** recorded and is considered a hotspot of scorpion richness in southern Africa. Two Soutpansberg scorpions are endemic species.
- The western Soutpansberg includes at least **133 species of ants** and is considered a hotspot of ant richness in southern Africa.
- The **52 species** of **dragonfly and damselfly** recorded in the western Soutpansberg, comprise about a third of the known South African species. The list includes three species that are listed in the recently published national dragonfly Red Data List.
- About **309 species of butterflies** occur in the area, or about 37% of butterfly species in South Africa. Some 3% of species are endemic. Similar statistics probably hold for **moths**, for which species numbers are much greater.
- Approximately **3,000 vascular plant** taxa, comprising 1,066 genera and 240 families are known to occur in the Soutpansberg Mountains. The Soutpansberg therefore contains 41% of all plant genera and 68% of all plant families of the flora of the southern Africa region. Altogether, 38 plant taxa are endemic to the Soutpansberg, comprising 27 genera and 17 families, of which approximately 58% occur within the mist belt region and 30% are restricted to it.
- Among the 18 recognized centres of endemism for southern Africa, the **Soutpansberg has the highest generic and family diversity**.

THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION IS HIGH-TECH

The use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), or drones, and the high-tech tools they provide, is presently neither affordable nor technically accessible to most conservation stakeholders in South Africa. The EWT aims to provide a novel conservation service and solution to NGOs, conservation bodies and other stakeholders by providing access to affordable and high-tech drone technology. By making the use of drones affordable, we want to mainstream drone technology into the conservation sector.

Using drones has the potential to save thousands of rands for conservation bodies, especially when they replace the need for other aircraft. Helicopters can cost upward of R6,000 an hour to operate and this excludes the cost of a pilot as well as the costs of getting the aircraft to site. We have already acquired a number of drones, some capable of carrying loads up 15 kg, with flight times exceeding 30 minutes, which means a variety of survey cameras, sensors or payloads can be transported. The EWT is currently in the process of applying for authorisation to operate through the Civil Aviation Authority and the work we have proposed to do includes surveys for specific animal species using thermal imaging cameras and thermal signature software; bat surveys; nest surveys for a variety of bird species; attaching bird flight diverters to power lines; and general photography and videography.

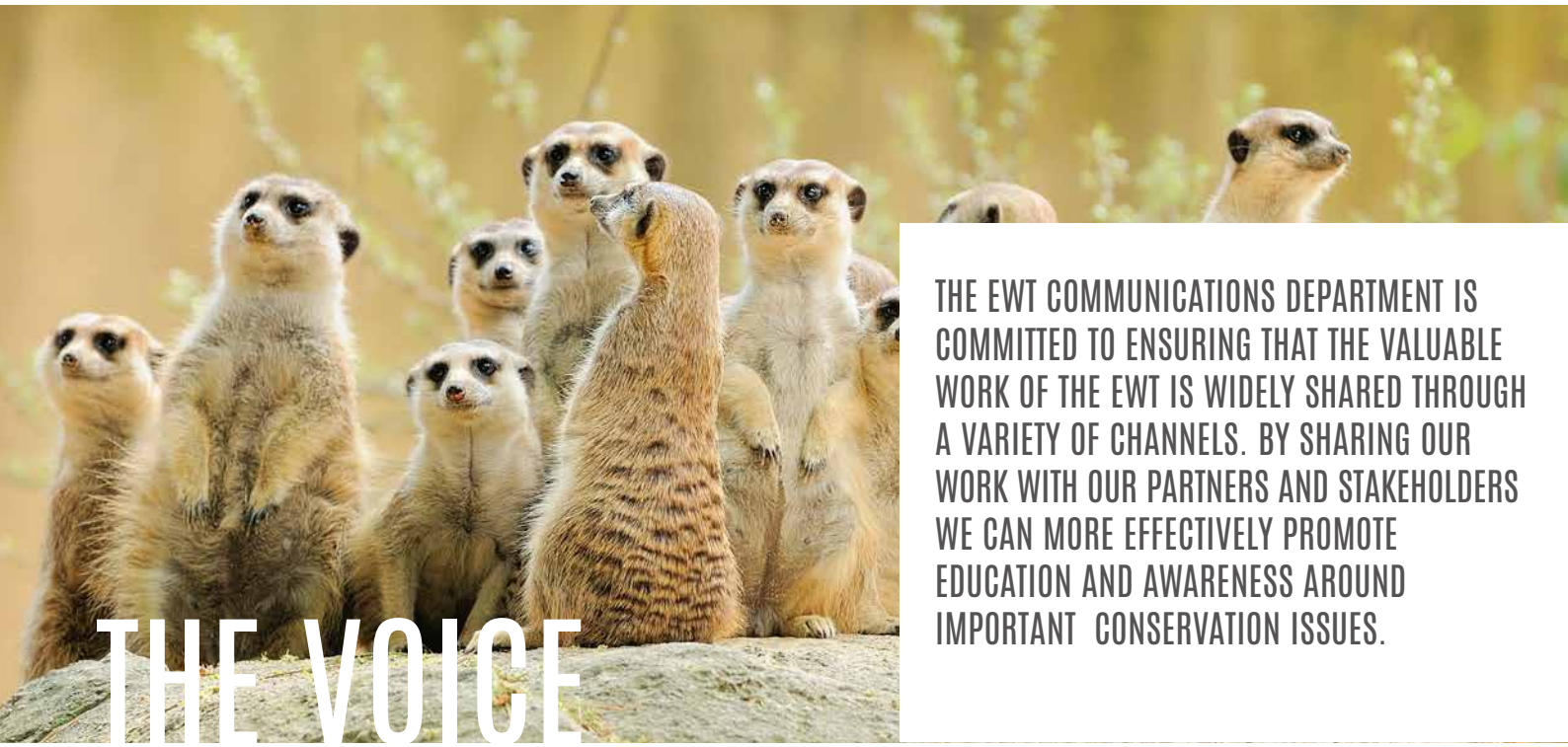
Our mission is to use drones and other sensory and visual technology to improve current conservation related practices in South Africa while making these services available at affordable rates to the ultimate benefit of the environment.

FIT FOR 50

In July 2017, the EWT management team will embark on a process of renewed strategic thinking, as we come to the end of the cycle reflected in the EWT's *Conservation Strategy 2012–2017*. This process will begin with an intensive three-day workshop to encourage senior EWT staff to really challenge the way we think about our work, why we do what we do, and what we need to embrace to take the organisation to the next level. The outcomes of this process will include renewed strategies not only at the organisational level, but for each of the programmes and departments. We will refined our Strategic Imperatives and look at integrating a number of cross-cutting themes. We will also relook at our purpose and introduce a refreshed set of values.

With our 50th birthday on the horizon, a mere seven years away, it is essential that the work done during this strategic cycle is geared towards ensuring that the EWT is an organisation that remains not only relevant and credible, but unafraid to lead the way in the world of conservation. Our revised strategy will see us becoming bolder; embracing technological advancements, while not forgetting our people-centric approach; and focusing on innovative, forward-thinking conservation solutions, ensuring that we are "fit for 50".

This process will link closely with the strategic review of our brand positioning that is currently underway, and will substantially increase the EWT's brand footprint (or pawprint).



THE VOICE OF THE EWT

THE EWT COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THE VALUABLE WORK OF THE EWT IS WIDELY SHARED THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS. BY SHARING OUR WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS AROUND IMPORTANT CONSERVATION ISSUES.

THE DIGITAL WORLD

The EWT website – www.ewt.org.za – remains our frontline portal to the world and attracted more than 50,000 visitors during the period under review. Most visitors were looking for programme-specific information, learning more about the EWT team, or checking for employment opportunities. As part of the marketing and communications strategic plan, the website will be overhauled in the next financial year and will align with social media stratigy being developed.

Facebook remains our most popular social media platform, with 26,283 fans on 30 June 2017 (a 20% increase since last year). Two highly successful Facebook campaigns included the Leap Day for Frogs campaign, and the Mammal of the Week campaign (which is ongoing). Other social media platforms, such as Instagram, remain valuable tools as we look to connect with a younger supporter base.

The EWT is also active on LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter.

Facebook - 26,283 fans

Twitter - 8,767 followers

YouTube - 145 subscribers

LinkedIn - 1,160 connections

Instagram (introduced end January 2017) - 171 followers

ENABLING OUR WORK

We are, as always, grateful to *Wild & Jag/Game & Hunt* for providing valuable pro bono monthly editorial space to the EWT. Insight Publishing also provided pro bono advertising space in two of their publications, namely *Fast Company SA* and *Who's Who,* during the period under review, as did *Footprint Limited*, an online environmental magazine, and *Khuluma*, the in-flight magazine for Kulula. The value of the space in these publications was in excess of R350,000.

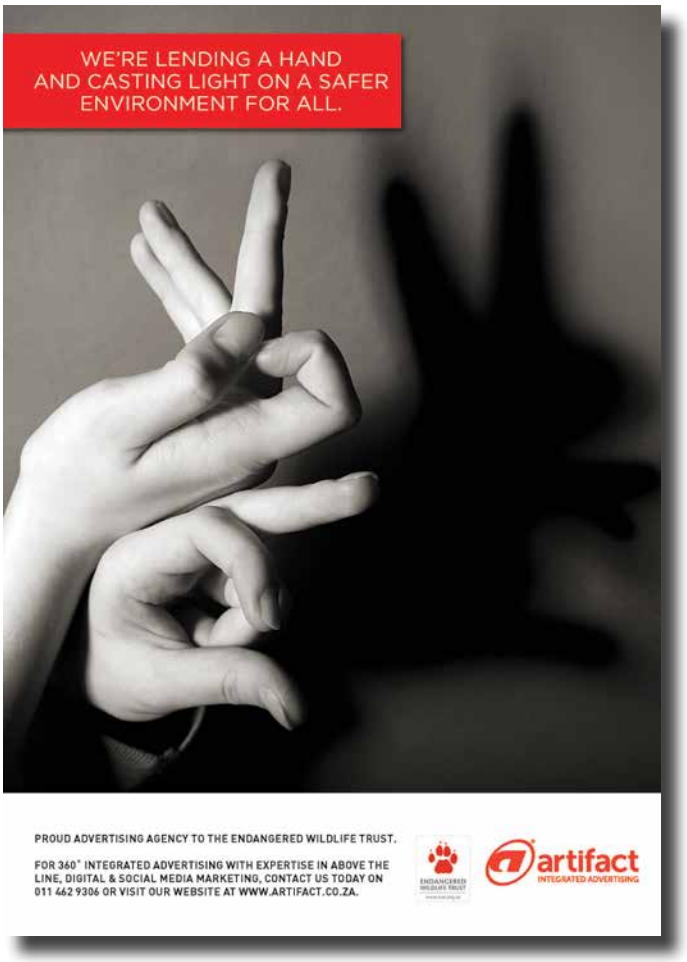
Ad Outpost continues to be an important supporter, providing the EWT with billboard space in key locations in Johannesburg and Cape Town during the financial year. The value of this support is in excess of R250,000.

Go Fish Client Catchers provided the EWT with ongoing digital marketing and internet marketing advisory services and continues to run our Google Ad campaign.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

In January 2017, Artifact Advertising became the strategic communications partner of the EWT, with the provision of over R1,000,000 worth of services to the EWT, annually. The EWT is delighted to be working with Artifact due not only to their creative track record, but also to their shared passion for conservation. The early part of 2017 saw them working on a number of digital campaigns for the EWT, including our very popular Leap Day for Frogs campaign. Towards the end of the

reporting period, they began conducting qualitative market research into the EWT's brand presence and the perception thereof. This forms a building block for a strategic analysis of our brand, which will inform a five-year communications and marketing strategy to be rolled out in the early part of the next financial year.



THE EWT IN THE MEDIA

The EWT enjoyed extensive media coverage during the 2016/2017 financial year, including features and mentions in print, online and the broadcast media. During the reporting period, we were mentioned or featured in ~1,400 articles in print and online media, and we participated in more than 30 radio and television interviews. Repeat publishers for the period included, among others, *Africa Geographic, IOL, Times Live,* and *Traveller24*, which is consistent with the previous reporting period's coverage. South African publications, and those in the United Kingdom and the United States continue to provide significant coverage, while Australian, Indian and Malawian publications also featured with some regularity this year.

Meltwater provides us with media monitoring services at cost price.

A FRESH TAKE ON OUR PUBLICATIONS

In July 2016, our popular electronic newsletter *EWTalk*, received a fresh makeover and was relaunched as *ChitterChatter* to reflect the newsy, conversational nature of the publication in which you will find the EWT "chattering" about all their projects and activities. The e-newsletter is distributed to 6,624 people six times annually, and continues to receive positive feedback.

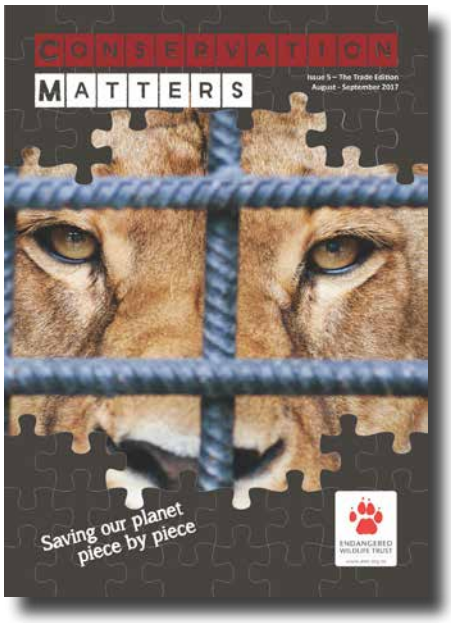
"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SUCH A DELIGHTFUL, EASY-TO-READ AND VERY INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER. YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL STYLE OF WRITING AND IT CAPTURES ONE'S ATTENTION."– ROBERT.

The EWT contributed to the final issue of *Environment*, which was published at the end of August 2016. This was a joint venture between ourselves, the Wildlands Conservation Trust, the Cape Leopard Trust, the Wilderness Foundation, the South African Association for Marine Biological Research, the Game Rangers Association of Africa, the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, and the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa.

Picking up from where *Environment* left off, the EWT launched its own magazine *Conservation Matters* as a bi-monthly magazine, which is produced in-house by our excellent communications and design team. Each issue is themed around topical conservation issues and includes a fun activity for children. We produced four issues during the period under review covering the themes of Heritage, Community, Earth, and the Youth. We currently distribute the magazine to 3,600 members, with plans to increase this number in the next financial year.

"THE NEW CONSERVATION MATTERS MAGAZINE IS TERRIFIC! WELL DONE, I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT EDITION ALREADY. I COLLECTED IT FROM MY POST BOX THIS MORNING AND HAVE READ IT FROM COVER TO COVER, INCLUDING THE PUPS PLACE, WHICH I DID JUST FOR FUN. A VERY GOOD EASY READ, I JUST WISH THAT IT WAS LONGER."– MARK.

"CONTENT INFORMATION: 5/5. A NICE SPECTRUM OF EWT NEWS, ACTIVITIES AND PEOPLE. DESIGN: 5/5. I LIKE IT - OPEN, CLEAN, COMPACT. READABILITY: 5/5. I FAR PREFER READING A MAGAZINE FOR MY LEISURE READING, THAN A COMPUTER SCREEN - I SPEND MOST OF MY DAY BEHIND A COMPUTER SCREEN, AND AT THE END OF MY DAY I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM IT!"– NIGEL.



Belinda Glenn
Marketing &
Communications Manager

Joel Thosago
Senior Marketing
Administrator

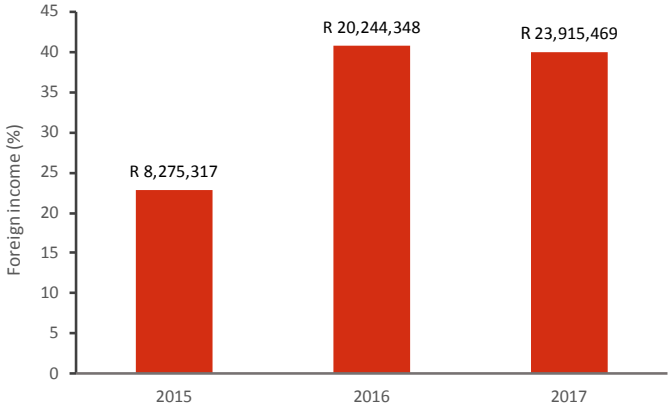
Marion Burger
Senior Graphic Designer

FUNDING THE TRUST

TO ENSURE THAT THE EWT IS ABLE TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES, ATTRACTING AND RETAINING FUNDING REMAINS A PRIORITY. THE EWT DEPENDS ON FUNDING FROM OUR INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE DONORS AND SUPPORTERS TO SUSTAIN AND EXPAND ON OUR CRITICAL CONSERVATION WORK. THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND OUR ABILITY TO DELIVER ON OUR MISSION IS THE BACKING WE RECEIVE FROM OUR SUPPORTERS. A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF SUPPORTERS IS INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

INCREASING INCOME

The EWT's income continued to increase year-on-year, rising an inflation-beating 17.3% from R51,032,088 in 2016 to R59,856,107 in 2017, and well above our 2015 income of R37,401,286. Foundational income (trusts, foundations and bilaterals) increased moderately, year-on-year, from R27,036,930 to R29,970,987, while corporate income remained stable, moving from R12,646,956 in 2016 to R12,464,033 in 2017. A renegotiation of interest rates with our bankers helped income generation from this line to almost double to R2,204,973.



The percentage of foreign income increased in 2016 and remained high in 2017 (total foreign income displayed above each year)

CORPORATE GIVING

The Business Development team continues to invest a great deal in securing and maintaining corporate donations and memberships through relationship building and mutual benefit arrangements. The team has recognised that corporates are under pressure as the economic climate becomes more challenging. For the EWT to be their corporate partner of choice, the EWT is able to offer a return on their investment, as well as offer corporates different benefits relevant to their needs.

The EWT has a 100% Socio-Economic Development (SED) rating, with 90.8% of our work benefitting people of colour in South Africa, which offers a strong benefit for corporates who support us. Corporates can receive their full five SED points on their BBBEE scorecard, which contributes to a more favourable BBBEE level for them. The EWT is also able to offer tax relief in the form of a Section 18A certificate for corporates who give bona fide donations.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

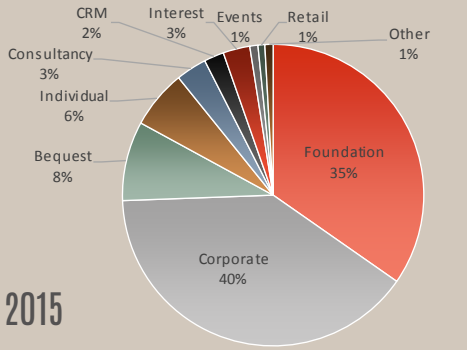
Individual donations, outside of membership, also play a valuable part in enabling the EWT to conduct its business. This includes support through important funding channels such as GivenGain (R408,503 for the financial year) and MyPlanet (R232,118 for the financial year) which offer supporters an easy and accessible way to make a donation. In addition, the EWT continues to manage and host the MyPlanet Rhino Fund income. During the financial year, R2,738,946 was raised for rhino conservation through the MyPlanet Rhino Fund.

A extremely generous donation of R4,560,230 was received from the Roberts family who are based in Australia. The Roberts family fell in love with the Soutpansberg area and wanted to give money for the specific purpose to buy land to secure and preserve its biodiversity for further generations. These funds will go a long way towards assisting the EWT to realise its dream of creating a Soutpansberg protected area.

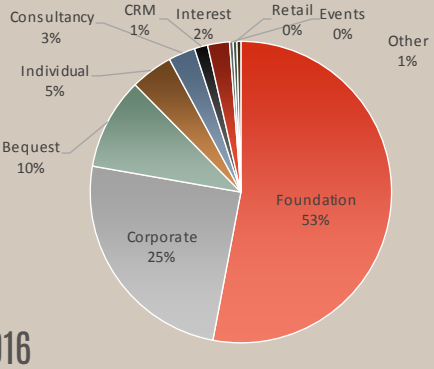
FOREIGN INCOME

Foreign income has increased substantially as a percentage of total income over the last two years. In fact, we were able to raise more almost two-and-a-half fold each year in foreign income in the last two years than in previous cycles. Year-on-year, foreign income increased from R20,244,348 in 2016 to R23,915,469 in 2017. Programmes to benefit substantially from foreign income through 2017 included our Wildlife in Trade Programme, which received R8,183,512 in foreign income.

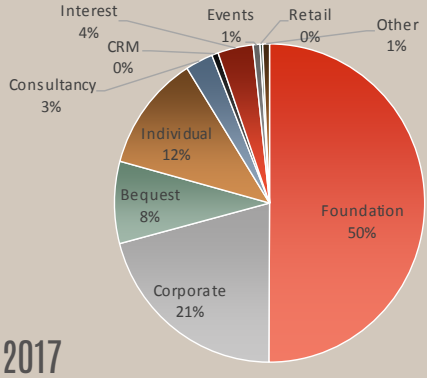
We attribute this largely to their work with the US State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In addition, our Source to Sea Programme attracted some R5,359,508 in foreign income, largely with revenue generated from the European Union and a United Nations Development Programme New World grant. A 22% increase in local (South African) income supported the EWT's foreign income through 2017. New income raised locally through 2017 increased to R35,940,638 from R29,486,915 in the 2016 financial year.



2015



2016



2017

The percentage of income generated through overseas grants increased substantially in 2016 and remained high in 2017 (total foreign income displayed above each year)

MEMBERSHIP

We receive annual support from our loyal members, with a variety of levels of support on offer, ranging from R350–1,650 per year for South African members, and R399–1,999 per year for international members. We did not increase these prices for the 2016/2017 financial year. Our target audience is passionate about the environment and our wild animals, and contributes funds towards the conservation of our natural heritage for all. At the end of this reporting period, the EWT had 4,387 members, a slight increase from the previous reporting period.

We hosted a successful function on 28 October 2016 at the Country Club Johannesburg to recognise and acknowledge members with long service of ten years and more. Over 120 of our loyal members attended, including one of our longest serving members of 42 years, Jocelyn Cuthbert.

FUNDING APPEALS

We sent out two funding appeals during the financial year, and both provided much needed funding to the relevant programmes. The first of these was regarding the targeted vaccination programme for Wild Dogs, which raised R178,740. The second appeal, relating to the recently-launched project using a scent detection dog to map Riverine Rabbit populations, raised R72,702.

CONSERVATION TALKS

We continued to host talks at the Country Club Johannesburg on a monthly basis to share our exciting work with our members and supporters. During the period under review, we held nine talks, with an average attendance of 68 people at each. Grant Beverley presented the most well-attended talk during the period, on 7 February 2017, on the topic "Saving Kruger Wild Dogs", with 194 people attending.

We hosted our first morning talk on 25 April 2017, to cater for our members who are unable to travel to the Country Club at night. We plan to hold more such talks later in 2017, and a variety of venues will be utilised to cater to people living in different areas.

RELATE BRACELETS

In partnership with Relate, we continue to raise funds through the sale of locally beaded endangered species themed bracelets. The bracelets are available at selected retail outlets and our online shop, and we are working to expand this footprint into game parks, nature reserves and other facilities where conservation enthusiasts may be tempted to make a purchase. A new bracelet, Dogs for Conservation, was
introduced during the period under review. During this period, R348,707 was raised through the sale of the various EWT Relate bracelets.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge was held on 20 November 2016, with the EWT registered as a charity bond. An amount of R97,023 was raised through the participation of 55 enthusiastic paleton members, captained by the ardent Jeremy Borg, founder of Painted Wolf Wines. Jeremy was unmistakably the leader of "Team Mwitu", sporting his Wild Dog ears helmet and tail on his Wild Dog bike.

The annual EWT Golf Day took place at Glendower Golf Course on 26 May 2017, generating a net profit of R95,000. The event attracted a number of new corporates this year, with the number of participating four balls increasing to 21, up from 11 last year.

RETAIL

In November 2016, the online shop was overhauled when we introduced a range of new EWT-branded products. These unique items include branded t-shirts, mugs, water bottles, notebooks, and so on. We also continue to sell non-branded fluffy toys, which are always popular, as well as calendars.

BEQUESTS

Bequests continue to be an invaluable contributor to supporting our conservation efforts. We remain incredibly grateful to those who remember the EWT in their will and support conservation as part of their ultimate legacy.

We received R6,855,277 from the following benefactors in the reporting period:

- Late JM Griffiths
- Late JHM Yule
- Late W Hutty
- Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust

Tammy Baker
Business Development Officer

Frank Jackson
Business Development Officer

Dr Tim Jackson
Senior Technical Writer

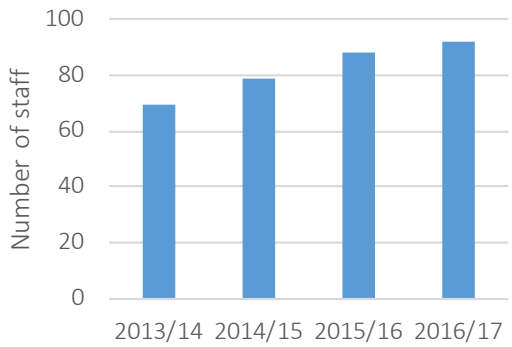
Claire Patterson-Abrolat
Special Projects Manager

OUR PASSIONATE PEOPLE

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

OPERATIONS

The size and structure of the EWT family have grown again in the past year from 88 to 92 personnel.



Trends in the total number of personnel

Description of position		Employees per category	Expatriates	
	Programme Executives Snr Manager	2		78%
Field	Programme Managers	15		
	Senior Programme Field Staff	21	4	
	Programme Field Staff	19		
	Programme Administrative Staff	2	1	
	Programme Intern	8		
TOTAL PROGRAMME STAFF		72		
	Support Services Management	2	1	22%
	Support Services	11	1	
	Interns			
	Executive Management	3	2	
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES STAFF		20		
	Total South African and Expatriate staff	83	9	
	Total Staff Numbers	92		
	% of Expatriate staff	10%		

Personnel split between support services and field operations

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

The table below compares our progress towards achieving our targeted demographic breakdown, which we aim to achieve by 2018 as reflected in our Employment Equity Plan, against our actual demographic figures as at 30 June 2017. Progress in achieving our targets has been made year-on-year with only two areas requiring attention, this being our number of African females and Indian males.

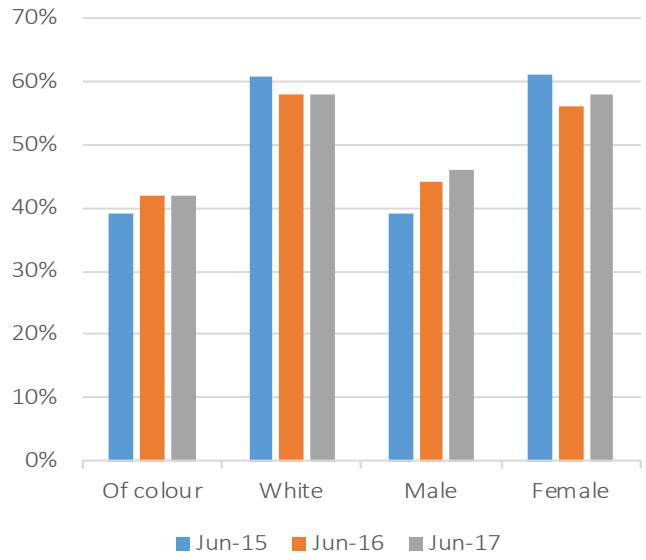
Period	Male				Female				Total	
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Male	Female
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Target figures as per EE Plan	21%	1%	1%	22%	21%	1%	1%	32%	44%	56%
Actual figures as of 30 June 2017	22%	1%	0%	23%	12%	5%	1%	35%	47%	53%
	↑	–	*	↑	↓	–	–	↑	↑	*
Above target - concerning	↑	Below target		↓	Target achieved		–	Above target no concerns		↑
				Marginally short of target	*					

Employment Equity figures: Target vs actuals

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

The EWT's personnel is made up of a diverse, multiracial, multicultural and multigenerational team of highly talented individuals. Our commitment to inclusion and diversity ensures we are on the right path to achieving both our Employment Equity and Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) goals.

We remain committed to recruiting quality people and developing their potential through our focus on creating a learning culture, thus enhancing their careers and maintaining our competitive edge.



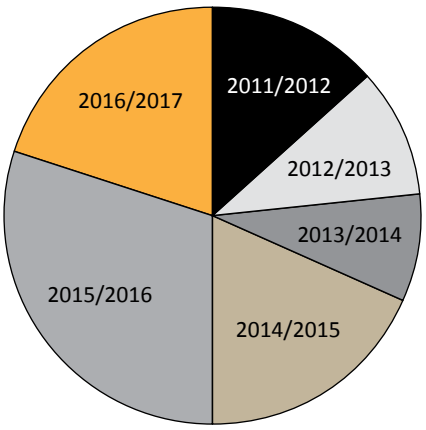
Trends in race and gender demographics of EWT staff

TRUSTEE DEMOGRAPHICS

No significant changes in our trustee demographics were realised during this reporting period.

TALENT MANAGEMENT

This reporting period saw a reduction in the number of internal promotions as a result of the high numbers of promotions during the previous reporting period now being bedded down.



Internal promotions at the EWT

LEARNING CULTURE

The EWT has ensured that its learning culture continues to play an important role; we have succeeded in embedding professional development in the heart of the EWT, ensuring that knowledge is shared through a variety of means, as listed below.

TRAINING

Training presents a prime opportunity to expand the knowledge of our personnel, and as such the EWT has spent in excess of R100,000 on training, excluding sponsored training, for our own personnel, in which all 92 of our personnel participated to a greater or lesser degree.

INTERNSHIPS

The EWT hosted a total of 25 interns in the past year, six of whom have subsequently accepted full term positions within the EWT; five have accepted positions outside the EWT; two have chosen to return to full-time studies; and 12 remain with the EWT on internship contracts.

STUDENT FACILITATION

The facilitation of student projects within the EWT programmes has been and remains beneficial for both the students and the EWT alike. Fourteen students were hosted during this reporting period.

Programme	Degree	Area of Study
ACCP	MSc	Investigating the viability of Blue Cranes in agricultural lands of the Western Cape: survival rates and the role of farmer perception
ACCP	MSc	Blue Crane Movement and landscape use in the Western Cape
ACCP	PhD	Grey Crowned Crane study in Tanzania
BoPP	BSc	Operation Oxpecker Research Project
BoPP	PhD	Operation Oxpecker Research Project
CCP	Postdoc	Reintroduction of Wild Dogs into northern Kruger Park
DCP	MSc	Riverine Rabbit demographic research – using camera trap modelling in the Western Cape
TAP	MSc	No-croaking! Saving SA's endangered Mistbelt Chirping Frog
TGSP	MSc	Assessing the extent and impact of trade on Sungazers Smaug giganteus
TGSP	Postdoc	Ecological assessment at the Eskom Majuba Game Reserve
WRP	BSc	"Roadkill Assessment of State Road 29, Florida, USA" Project
WRP	Hons	Science (Zoology)
WRP	PhD	An assessment of road verges in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve
WRP	Postdoc	Road Mortality

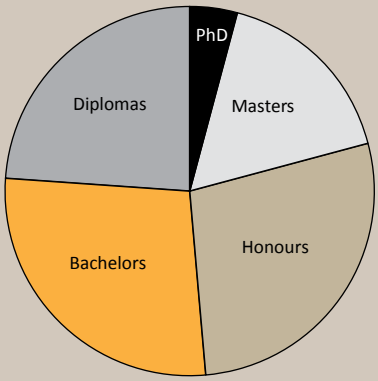
Students aided by the EWT per programme and their areas of study

MENTORSHIPS

The EWT believes human development is not only about access to new information but also about the connection with people who may assist with putting that information into context and suggesting a new way to understand and make use of information. The EWT achieves this by facilitating mentorship opportunities of which we have five formal mentorships running.

PERSONNEL FURTHER EDUCATION

Of our 92 personnel, eight hold PhDs with two more in progress, 31 have Master's degrees, 37 Honours degrees, 51 Bachelor's degrees and 44 hold Diplomas. The EWT continues to encourage personnel to further their studies, and we currently have 15 personnel who are being supported in continuing their education



Personnel futher education

DEVELOPMENT WEEK AND CONSERVATION WEEK

Our 13th annual Conservation Week and 8th annual Development Week were held in November 2016 and June 2017, respectively. The aim of these contact weeks is to reinforce our learning culture by providing our personnel with the space to ask questions, share successes and lessons learned, and to propagate and cross-fertilise ideas. It further allows individuals to reflect on the success of others and the EWT as a whole, allowing them the opportunity to share how their individual achievements have contributed to the overall success of the EWT. These learning activities which was sponsored by our loyal supports Bakwena, have facilitated an opportunity for peer-to-peer training, which further instils a sense of pride and self-worth.

CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT

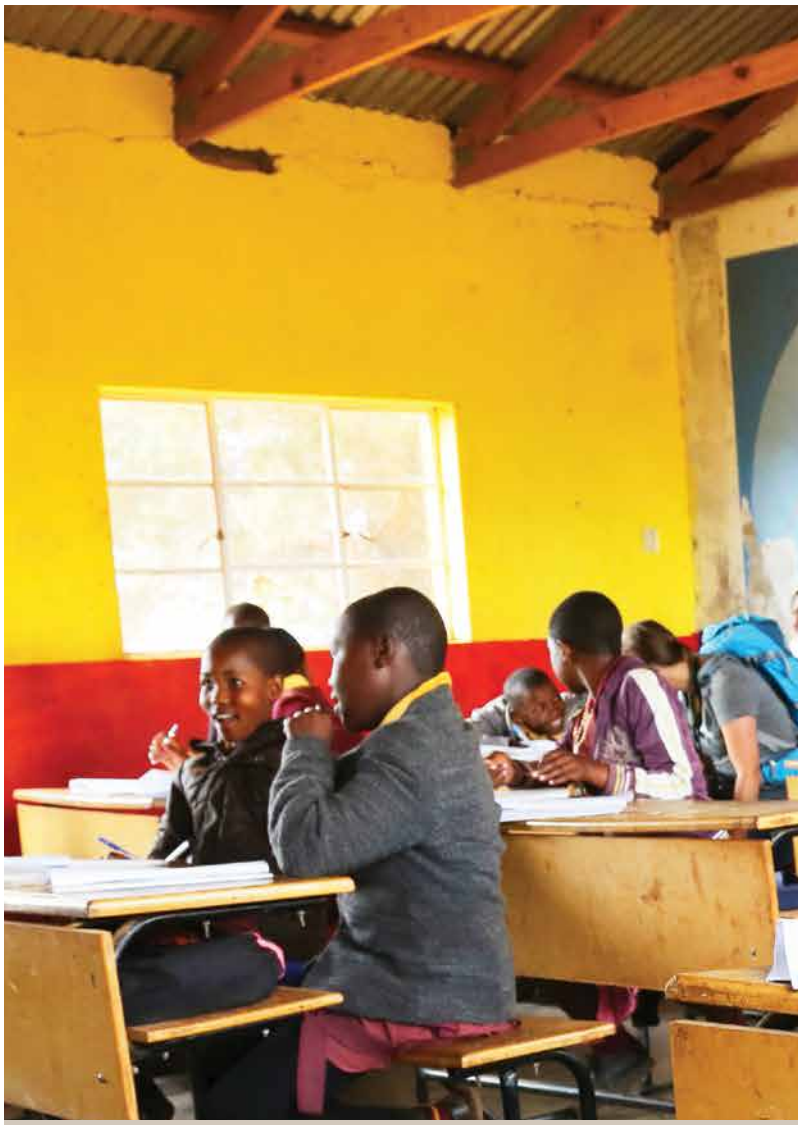
Over the last reporting cycle, we have seen an increase in our corporate social investment (CSI) activities from 148 interactions to 757, reaching 15,804 individuals last year and 37,786 individuals during this reporting period.

This is due not only to an increase in commitment to CSI causes, but also due to better reporting and recording of activities.

Our activities included the drilling of boreholes and the development of vegetable gardens, which service local schools and the surrounding communities. Our Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA) Eco-Schools activities have continued achieving amazing results, with more children being fed from the gardens than ever before. A new project focusing on assisting people with disabilities in the area of arts and crafts began and will continue into the next reporting period. The project aims to empower disabled people to enable income generation. Agriplanner training on essential skills for emerging farmers was carried out for 100 farmers, to teach farming methods which benefit both the environment and the farmer.

The table below reflects the number of EWT's CSI initiatives carried out by our flagship projects in key focus areas:

Discription	Number of interventions	Number of people reached
Community training, skills development for unemployed people - Decent work and sustainable livelihoods - community training, skills development for unemployed people and adult basic education and training	84	559
Support of education programmes resources and materials at primary, secondary and tertiary level	263	29,482
Support of health care and HIV/AIDS programmes -Health/support of healthcare programmes and HIV/AIDS programmes	140	1,109
Rural development - Development programmes for women, youth, people with disabilities and people living in rural areas	62	2,996
Support of arts, cultural or sporting development programmes	174	3,059



BROAD BASED BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The amended B-BBEE Codes saw the introduction of a new scorecard, this being the 'Specialized Qualified Small Enterprise Scorecard' (SQSE). A clause within this criterion states that those entities whose beneficiaries are 75% black, qualify for elevation to "Level One Contributor' for which the EWT qualifies. However, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has not yet given rating agencies the ability to issue certificates on these grounds. The EWT is however able to provide our supporters and partners with an affidavit in this regard.

A rating agency was employed to carry out the traditional audit under the SQSE Scorecard, which resulted in the EWT being awarded a level Four rating under the new codes for this period.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE (SED)

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

Alison Jånicke
Head of Resource Development

Emma Chisare
Human Resources Assistant

Sizakele Ntsele
Office Administrator

Precious Morgan
Receptionist

Thembi Mlimi
Housekeeper

Dorah Mncube
Housekeeper


CONTINENT OF
COUNTRY OF

GOVERNANCE

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 of Management (Board) and the committees of the Board. EWT Trustees are not remunerated for their services and serve the EWT in a voluntary capacity.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND COMMITTEES

As per the Trust Deed, the Trustees appointed the Board of Management at the AGM to administer the affairs of the Trust on their behalf. The Board of Management subsequently met four times over the course of the financial year. The Board 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 the year the Board evaluates its own performance in relation to its Work Plan for the year. The self-evaluation was carried out in November 2016, and discussed at the Board meeting held that month.

Board of Management	20-Sep-16	23-Nov-16	23-Mar-17	22-Jun-17
Mr Dirk Ackerman - Chairperson				
Mr Uwe Putlitz - Vice Chairperson				
Mr Paul Smith - Treasurer				
Mr Anthony Diepenbroek				
Mr Mike Esterhuysen				
Ms Joanna Goeller				
Ms Karin Ireton				
Mr Lot Mlati				
Mr Antony Wannell				
Ms Yolan Friedmann - CEO - *ex officio*				
In attendance - Ms Mandy Poole - COO				

Board of Management meeting attendance during the period 2016-2017. Key – Green; attended, Cream; on sabbatical, and Red; absent.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM took place on 1 November 2016, and was kindly hosted by IQ Business at their offices in Rivonia, Johannesburg. The EWT Board was re-elected in its entirety with Dirk Ackerman, Paul Smith and Uwe Putlitz continuing as the office bearers, i.e. Chair, Treasurer and Deputy Chair respectively.

The Board consists of nine Trustees and the CEO as an *ex officio* member. Ms Lesego Ramussi attends Board meetings as an observer. The resignation of Ms Bongiwe Njobe as a Trustee, which was tendered in December 2015, was ratified by the AGM. The Trustees voted to retain Deloitte as the auditors of the Trust.

OTHER TRUSTEE MATTERS

Many Trustees continue to be involved in the Trust in a variety of ways, ranging from serving on committees of the Trust, to mentoring members of staff.

	Board	Audit & Finance Comm.	Social Ethics & Remuneration Comm.	Technical Advisory Comm.	Property Management Comm.	Fundraising Comm.	Mentoring of staff
Mr Dirk Ackerman							
Mr Barry Ackers							
Mr Anthony Diepenbroek							
Mr Mike Esterhuysen							
Ms Joanna Goeller							
Ms Sharmila Govind							
Ms Karin Ireton							
Ms Anusha Lucen							
Mr Lot Mlati							
Mr AK Mohamed							
Ms Ven Pillay							
Mr Uwe Putlitz							
Ms Lesego Rammusi							
Mr Muhammad Seedat							
Mr Paul Smith							
Ms Kiyasha Thambi							
Mr Antony Wannell							

We sent the first edition of our quarterly, electronic Trustee Newsletter to all Trustees in August 2016. The purpose of the Trustee Newsletter is to ensure that Trustees are up to date on interesting EWT news and events and invited to participate in field activities where possible.

Ms Lavinia Khangala and Mr Andrew Johnston resigned as Trustees, effective from February and May 2017, respectively, and their resignations will be ratified by the Trustees at the 2017 AGM.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) is an official committee of the Board established under Clause 23.1 of the Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014. It is chaired by 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 to the Board and the Trust, in particular the approval of the annual budget for the financial year and continual monitoring of performance against this budget. Mr Quan Rees, co-opted, non-Trustee member of the AFC, resigned from the Committee in August 2016.

AFC	29-Aug-16	23-Nov-16	22-Mar-17	20-Jun-17
Mr Paul Smith – Treasurer and Chairperson – *ex officio*				
Mr Barry Ackers				
Mr A K Mohamed				
Mr Neil Morris				
Mr Quan Rees				
Mr Muhammad Seedat				
Mr Antony Wannell				
In attendance – Ms Yolan Friedmann – CEO				
In attendance – Ms Mandy Poole – COO				
In attendance – Mr Xolani Klaas – Finance Manager				

Audit and Finance Committee meeting attendance during the period 2016–2017. Key – Green; attended, Cream; on sabbatical, Grey: resigned and Red; absent.

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.

Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee

The Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee (SERC) met twice over the course of the financial year. During this reporting cycle, a SERC Work Plan was developed and put into operation and a full review of the EWT's Liberty Pension Fund was undertaken.

SERC	23-Nov-16	14-Jun-17
Mr Mike Esterhuysen		
Ms Sharmila Govind		
Ms Karin Ireton		
Mr Paul Smith		
Mr Antony Diepenbroek (guest)		n/a
In attendance – Ms Yolan Friedmann – CEO		
In attendance – Ms Mandy Poole – COO		
In attendance – Ms Alison Jänicke – Head of Resource Development		

Social Ethics and Remuneration Committee meeting attendance during the period 2016–2017. Key: Green – attended; Red – absent.

INTERNAL STRUCTURES

The EWT Executive Management Team consisted of Yolan Friedmann, (CEO and Chairperson), Mandy Poole (Chief Operations Officer), Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert (Head of Conservation), Alison Jänicke (Head of Resource Development), Kerryn Morrison (Senior Programme Manager: Africa), Dr Ian Little (Senior Programme Manager: Habitats) and Xolani Klaas (Finance Manager). Rugare Nyamhunga (Information & Compliance Officer) attends the first part of the meetings, in order to provide contractual updates.

The team met approximately every three weeks – 15 times during the financial year – and discussed strategic matters, focusing on issues such as governance and compliance; financial performance; resource development – both human and financial; physical infrastructure – building, equipment and operations including IT; communications and branding; partnerships; and new ventures.

The table below records the number and type of the various Agreements entered into by the EWT over this financial year, with the comparatives for the previous financial year.

AGREEMENT TYPE	Agreements signed 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	Agreements signed 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016
South African sourced grant Agreements	8	5
International sourced grant Agreements	18	24
Contractor's Agreements – where the EWT is hired as an Independent Contractor	12	14
Contractor's Agreements – where the EWT hires Independent Contractor(s)	24	25
Sub-grant agreements (where the EWT sub-grants)	9	6
Collaborative Agreements (funding to the EWT)	1	n/a
Collaborative Agreements (funding from the EWT)	5	1
Collaborative Agreements (no funding)	19	10
Cause-related Marketing (CRM) Agreements	6	2
Logo Use Undertakings	20	4
Temporary Custodianship Agreements	4	8
Other	14	12
Total number of Agreements signed:	**140**	**111**

The EWT Conservation Management Team (CMT) met ten times during the financial year. Support Services and Programme/Project 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. Financial wellbeing and sustainability were also discussed from a programme/project perspective.

Ethics Committee: The CMT plays a vital role in the EWT's commitment to carrying out its science-based, conservation activities on a sound ethical basis. It functions as the EWT's Ethics Committee and ethical issues are a standing item on the monthly agenda for the CMT meetings. Proposed new projects are introduced in this forum and discussed in detail, with particular attention being paid to ethical considerations, before a final decision as to whether or not to proceed is taken. Four ethical evaluations were conducted during the financial year, concerning conservation activities around:

- Ecology and movements of Pel's Fishing-owls on the Olifants and Blyde Rivers.

- Use of African Pouched Rats in the detection of illegal wildlife in trade.
- Placement of monitoring equipment on Flamingos to obtain information on their movements.
- Use of a sniffer dog in the location of Riverine Rabbits.

The EWT Conservation Forum (CF) also met ten times in the course of the financial year. These meetings are for all staff, and field-based personnel are encouraged to attend as often as field activities and budgets allow. Where field-based personnel are unable to attend the CF, or indeed the CMT, the EWT uses the Zoom™ software platform to provide staff with the ability to participate remotely in these crucial meetings by audio and/or video conferencing. The CF provides a forum for information sharing between field and Head Office-based staff and seeks to promote a greater understanding of other's portfolios of work. Guest speakers often attend to raise awareness of issues not necessarily in the EWT's fields of expertise. A new addition to the agenda this year was the "Diversity Slot", during which staff share insights into their backgrounds, cultures, religions – all of which has highlighted the rich diversity within the EWT.

REGISTRATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

The EWT was finally registered as a foreign NGO operating in Mozambique in August 2016. This registration is valid for two years and will allow us to fulfil our contractual obligations to donors in respect of the Dugong Emergency Protection Project (under the Source to Sea Programme) in the Inhambane Province of Mozambique. The EWT will conduct a horizon-scanning exercise in the first half of calendar year 2018, to determine whether the EWT wishes to renew its registration in Mozambique.

POLICIES

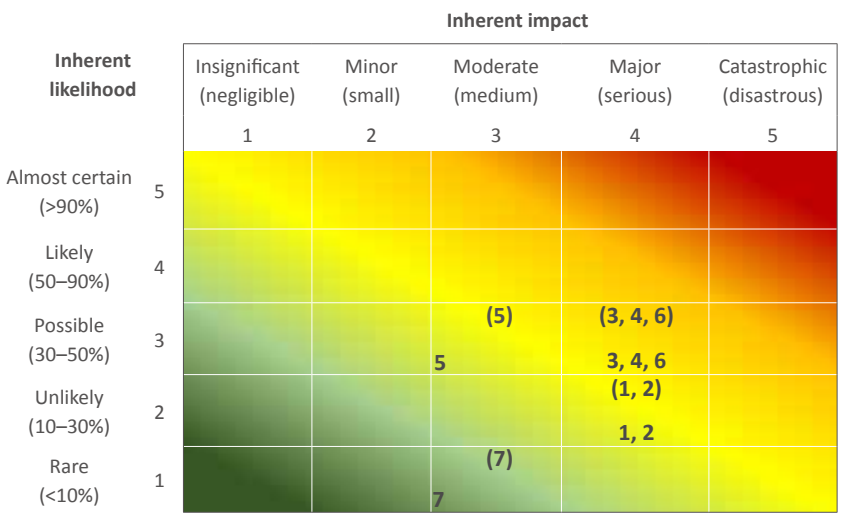
The EWT continually reviews its internal policies and procedures to ensure that the Trust is compliant with all external and statutory requirements. Going further, the EWT strives to achieve excellent corporate governance and best practices in all our endeavours. At its June 2016 meeting, the Board passed a resolution to strive to commit to the sixteen principles expounded upon in the "King IV Report on Corporate Governance for South Africa 2016" (King IV Report), and expanded upon in the Sector Supplement 6.3 "Supplement for non-profit organisations".

The EWT is well supported by Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr in all matters of governance, policy development and compliance.

RISK MITIGATION AND ASSESSMENT: KEY 2016/17 ACTIONS

	Risk Area (alphabetical order)	Risk Description	Key actions in 2016–2017
1	Compliance – Statutory & Non-statutory	Non-compliance with laws, best practices and/or internal policies	Comprehensive review of the Compliance and Delegation of Authority Matrix was conducted, and finalised towards the end of the financial year.
2	External Relationships and Environment	Poor stakeholder relations and/or adverse economic, political and social factors	EWT signed with Meltwater (a media-monitoring house) to obtain data regarding how often and where the EWT features on web-based social media platforms and in the print media, which facilitates the ongoing assessment of whether or not we are "getting our message across".
3	Financial Management	Inadequate management of budgets, assets and key financial recording systems	A system of donor-tagging all incoming funds and associated expenses was introduced in July 2016 in order to accurately track individual donor balances within projects. Operationally this functions as an early warning system around financial health and sustainability.
4	Marketing (Fundraising) Effectiveness	Inadequate funding pipeline for projects and support services	The Head of Resource Development has introduced new monitoring tools to assess the effectiveness of both individual staff members marketing efforts and the type of approaches EWT makes to corporates.
5	Human Resources Management	EWT organisational structure and/or work environment is not conducive to achieving strategic objectives	The Executive PA was promoted to the position of Human Resource Assistant – under her revised ToRs 95% of her time is spent assisting the Head of Resource Development, thereby increasing capacity within the EWT HR function.
6	ICT Management	ICT services and hardware are not managed optimally to meet EWT business requirements	ITC has led several initiatives to improve EWT effectiveness and efficiency, including; • the move to a modern, cloud-based VOIP phone system which ultimately will serve EWT offices country-wide under one common dial-in number; and, • enhanced use of the Microsoft suite of integrated software products, provided at discounted rates to NGOs, to replace costly third-party, stand-alone software.
7	Programme Effectiveness	Non-achievement of the EWT's Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives	• Ongoing revision of project plans to ensure alignment with Strategic Imperatives; • Refinement of the EWT proposal budget tool, to ensure consistency across EWT proposals to external donors; and lastly, • Planning for, and designing of, the workshop to review the EWT Strategy (scheduled for July 2017), which will assess continued "fitness of" and "fitness for" purpose.

Risk assessment on 30 June 2017 after 2016/17 mitigating measures
Numbers in parentheses reflect the risk position on 30 June 2016



AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

EXTERNAL AWARDS

The following prestigious awards were awarded to the EWT, for our outstanding work carried out in various fields:

WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE

Dr Ian Little won the prestigious international Whitley Fund for Nature award. Ian was presented with the award at a ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society, London, in honour of his work to protect South Africa's threatened grasslands. Working with farmers and tribal leaders, Ian is building capacity for sustainable farming and introducing improved management practices, such as less intensive grazing and burning regimes to decrease pressure on grasslands and boost productivity. He has already secured 60,000 hectares of grassland for conservation purposes; a figure Ian plans to increase with his Whitley Award by creating a corridor of legally protected areas linking with others along the escarpment. In doing so he will safeguard these grasslands and the important source of freshwater they provide.

WESSA'S 90 LIFETIME CONSERVATION ACHIEVERS

These awards, exclusive to the 2016 WESSA Awards process in celebration of the organisation's 90th birthday, were made to 90 living individuals who have dedicated their lives to conservation in South Africa. Yolan Friedmann (CEO) and Samson Phakathi (Threatened Grassland Species Programme Senior Field Officer) were recognised with these awards for their years of outstanding contribution to conservation work.

ECOLOGIC AWARDS

The EWT's African Crane Conservation Programme was awarded a Silver Award for their work carried out on 'Water and Conservation' and a Bronze for their work on 'Biodiversity'. The Wildlife and Roads Programme received a Bronze award for their work in the 'Transportation' category.

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION PROSPERITY FUND AWARDS

The EWT's Rhino Project was acknowledged for excellence in the category of 'Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade', for the project 'Fighting Wildlife Crime through Zero-Tolerance Community Education'. This project was undertaken in partnership with Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme.

INTERNAL AWARDS

Our personnel 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 2016 are:

- Programme Manager of the Year: Bridget Jonker (Source to Sea Programme)
- Programme of the Year Award: Threatened Amphibian Programme
- Conservation Achiever of the Year Award: Lourens Leeuwner (Wildlife and Energy Programme)
- Conservation Supporter of the Year: Yves Manana (Information Technology Unit)
- Anatolian Award (conflict resolution): Nicholas Armstrong (Source to Sea Programme)
- Maluti Award (conflict resolution): Cherise Acker-Cooper (Threatened Amphibian Programme)
- Honey Badger Award (fiercest field officer): Cobus Theron (Drylands Conservation Programme)
- Media Exposure Award: Carnivore Conservation Programme
- Self-Improvement Award: Dora Mncube (Support Services)
- Newcomer of the Year: Belinda Glenn (Marketing and Communications Manager)

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 South Africa
- Conservation International
- Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- Fauna and Flora International
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (International)
- International Crane Foundation (USA)
- Kitabi College for Conservation and Environmental Management (Rwanda)
- National Department of Parks and Wildlife (Zambia)
- National Red List Alliance (International)
- National Zoological Gardens
- Nature Uganda
- Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation
- Pathfinder International
- Population Sustainability Network (International)
- Rainforest Trust
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African National Parks
- 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 provincial conservation bodies.
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:

- Liverpool John Moores University
- North-West 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 Pretoria
- University of Utah
- 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 ~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 was appointed as the Regional Chair for Southern and East 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. We are particularly active in the Species Survival Commission, with staff currently contributing to the following specialist groups and bodies under this commission:

- Afrotheria Specialist Group (Red List Coordinator)
- Amphibian Specialist Group (Facilitator, Habitat Protection Working Group)
- Canid Specialist Group
- Cat Specialist Group (and its subsidiary, the African Lion Working Group)
- Conservation Planning Specialist Group
- Crane Specialist Group (co-Chair)
- National Red List Alliance (member of the Coordinating Body)
- Vulture Specialist Group (co-Chair).

IUCN SSC Species Survival Commission

OUR SUPPORTERS

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
International Crane Foundation

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Deloitte Southern Africa
Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr

PATRON SUPPORTERS (R250 000 +)

African Parks
Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concession
Barloworld Trust
BirdLife International
Bridgestone South Africa
Charles van der Merwe Trust
Department of Environmental Affairs, Natural Resource Management Programme
Disney Conservation Fund
Dohmen Family Foundation
Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
European Union
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Foundation
Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challnege Fund
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Leisure Charitable Trust
MacArthur Foundation
Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
MyPlanet Rhino Fund
N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited
National Geographic Big Cats Initiative
National Lottery Commission
Rainforest Trust
Rand Merchant Bank/Tshikululu
Relate Trust
Segre Foundation
South 32
The Anglo American: Inyosi Coal, Kriel Colliery
The Department of Environmental Affairs
US Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
UNDP New World
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Whitley Fund for Nature
WWF Nedbank Green Trust
WWF Zambia

GROUNDBREAKER SUPPORTERS (R100 000 TO R249 999)

Africa Raptor Trust
First Rand Foundation
Foundation for Human Rights
Gaie Fergusson
GCCL2
Global Environment Facility – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
Global Environment Facility – United Nations Development Programme
Hawk Conservancy Trust
HCI Foundation
Headley Trust
Investec
Jim and Yuko Brumm
MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet

Nedbank
Pangolin Photo Safaris
People's Trust for Endangered Species
SBV Services Pty (Ltd)
Seacology
Stiftung Feuchebiete
Tom and Kathy Leiden
Triton-Leo Group (Pty) Ltd
Woolworths

CUSTODIAN SUPPORTERS (R50 000 TO R99 999)

Accelerate and the SA Senior Tour
African Mining
Afrisam
Assore Ltd
AVI Trust
Badger Holdings
Bob Hallum
De Beers
Farmers AgriCare
Felix Schneier Foundation
G Adventures/Highline
Goldwagen
International Wilderness
Marsha & Emmett Duemke
Mones Michaels Trust
Painted Wolf Wines
Pam Golding Properties
Pat Price
Pick n Pay
Raptors Botswana
Rufford Foundation
SAB Miller
Symrise (Diana Pet Foods)
Tara Lal
The Table Mountain Fund
TRAC N4
Transnet
ZGAP - Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten- und Populationsschutz

EXPLORER SUPPORTERS (R2 500 TO R49 999)

Admoscan Pty (Ltd)
Adriana Weilbach
Afrimage photography
Agape Trust
Alastair and Laura Anne Lamont
Alastair and Sheena Lamont
Ann Swan Personnel
Applus Steel
Arizona Center for Nature Conservation
Arrow Bulk Logistics
Arthur & Theresa
Avian Leisure
Bee Tee Project CC
BirdLife North Gauteng
Bruce Chelius
Buchanan & Payne Publishing
Bush Whisper
Cancri Tropicus 151 cc t/a Oilflow
Cango Wildlife Ranch
Canopy Tours
Carter Foundation Trust
Chalmar Beef
Chaplin's Grill
Chill Beverages
Chris Brown
Claudia Berndt
Clicks Foundation
Collegians Harriers
Construction Projects & Developments
CSIR Running Club
D Graaf Foundation

Danie Malan
Davies Foundation
Dick Kerslake Family Trust
Digby Wells
Doppio Zero
Douglas and Mary-Lynn Kydd
Darren Campbell
Econorisk
Felix Scneier Foundation
Flexilube
Flynn - Smart Noel
Frontier Beer Co
Fruits & Roots
Funda Nenja
Goode Collected
Helen Reynolds
Hlatikulu Conservancy
Hollard
Imtoy
Indwe Risk Services
IQ Business
IV Motor Investment t/a Bedfordview BMW
Jennifer Speers
Jeremy Horne
JH & Co
Jetline Action Photo
Johannesburg Expo Centre
Karen Van Rensberg
Kelvin Legge
Kintetsu World Express South Africa (KWE)
KLB Engineering
Lakeside Nitro
Landrover Centurion
Levego
Lifeform Taxidermy
Livingstone Supply Co.
Mega Growth Marketing
Metal Art
Millstream
Mones Michaels Trust
Multiply Packaging
Natalie Sanders
Munich RE
Mutches
N&G Rentals
NB Productions
NCT Forestry
Nell and Kevin Harris
Netflorist (Pty) Ltd
NTE Company
Nwanda
Oh-Lief
Outdoor Africa
Pain and Buchanun
Palladian House
Parnis Manufacturing
Penryn College
Petclaims
Phumelela Gaming and Leisure
Project Plus
Platinum Life
R25 Properties
Reichmanns
RMA
Robmeg Steel
Roger and Vanessa Cockram
Rogge Cloof
Ronelle Sauls
Running Man Adventures
Sawbutech
Sean Williams
Shell lakeside service station
Sere Med
Signature Lux Hotels
Standard Bank
St. Louis Zoo
Syrex Pty (Ltd)
Tenova
Thaba Thola
Thamesbridge
Thomas Hancock
Toine Knipping
TransAfrican Safari
Tubular Track
Ucomms
Union International
Undberg Bron Flemington
Van Der Linde-Barker HR Consulting
Vaughan de la Harpe
Via Media
William Kok
Worldwide Automotive Group Enterprises

IN KIND PATRON SUPPORTERS (R250 000 +)

Artifact Advertising
Ad Outpost
Esri South Africa
Ford Wildlife Foundation
Land Rover South Africa
Zendai Property Development

IN KIND GROUNDBREAKER SUPPORTERS (R100 000 TO R249 999)

ABI
eThekwini Municipality
Insight Publishing
Wild en Jag/Game and Hunt
CIB Insurance
Country Club Johanneburg (Aukland Park)
Land Rover Centurion
Lesoba Difference
Microsoft Corporation
The Bateleurs
Wildlife Computers

IN KIND CUSTODIAN SUPPORTERS (R50 000 TO R99 999)

Albert and Tersia Hoffman
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversitie
Footprint Limited
French Embassy
Go Fish Client Catchers
Hatch
Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE)
Integrated Sustainability Services (Dr Joel Houdet)
Land Rover Centurion
Meltwater Media Monitoring
NB Productions

IN KIND EXPLORER SUPPORTERS (R2 500 TO R49 999)

Antony Wannell
Bianca Ferreira
Bush Whisper Expeditions
Cathedral Peak Hotel
Champion Petfoods SA
Copenhagen Zoo
Cranefield Aviation
Dinonyane Lodge
Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism
Elizabeth van Straaten
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
Este Pretorius
Eukaneba
Ezemvelo Honorary Officers – Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve
Greenfinch Lodge
Harry Pretorius
Information Security Architects (ISA)
IQ Business Group
IUCN (Dr Marie Parramon-Gurney)
Jeremy Woods
K9 Dispatch
Kloof Senior Primary School
Marianna Koekemoer
Mongena Lodge
National Zoological Gardens
Neels van Jaarveld
North West Parks Tourism Board (Pilanesberg National Park)
North-West University
Picasso Publishing
Pinted Wolf Wines
Protea Hotels by Marriott® & African Pride Hotels
SANParks
Servest Office Plants
Sharon Banner
South African Association for Marine Biological Research
Thomas More College
Trappers
University of KwaZulu-Natal
VERIMARK
WESSA Eco-Schools

BEQUESTS

Late JM Griffiths
Late JHM Yule
Late W Hutty

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

Dirk Ackerman (Chairman – 2010 to date)	2008 – current
Paul Smith (Treasurer – 2011 to date)	2011 – current
Uwe Putlitz (Vice Chair- designate for Chair)	1987 – current
Antony Wannell	2005 – current
Anthony Diepenbroek	2015 – current
Joanna Goeller	2006 – current
Karin Ireton	2004 – current
Lot Mlati	2007 – current
Mike Esterhuysen	2001 – current
Yolan Friedmann (*ex-officio* member)	2005 – current

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AFC):

Paul Smith (Treasurer: *ex- officio* member)	2011 – current
Antony Wannell	2008 – current
Barry Ackers	2010 – current
Neil Morris *non-Trustee*	2014 – current
Muhammad Seedat	2016 – current
Abdul Kader Mohamed	2016 – current
Quan Rees	2014 – November 2016

SOCIAL, ETHICS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE (SERC):

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

TRUSTEES:

Abdul Kader Mohamed	2015 – current
Angela Cherrington (Ooisthuzen)	2015 – current
Antony Wannell	2005 – current
Anthony Diepenbroek	2014 – current
Anusha Lucen	2015 – current
Barry Ackers	2015 – current
Brian Courtenay	1996 – current
Charlotte Lesego Rammusi	2015 – current
Christo Reeders	2014 – current
Crispian Olver	2014 – current
Daniel van der Merwe	2010 – current
Dirk Ackerman	1998 – current
Joanna Goeller	2006 – current
Karin Ireton	2004 – current
Kiyasha Thambi	2015 – current
Lot Mlati	2006 – current
Marilyn Dougall-Thomas	1993 – current
Mike Esterhuysen	2001 – current
Muhammad Seedat	2015 – current
Paul Smith	2010 – current
Robyn Stein	2001 – current
Rest Kanju	2008 – current
Sthembiso Dlamini	2015 – current
Sharmila Govind	2015 – current
Veniela Pillay	2015 – current
Uwe Putlitz	1980 – current
Lavinia Khangala	2015 – February 2017
Andrew Johnston	2015 – May 2017

HONORARY LIFE 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

CONTACT US

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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

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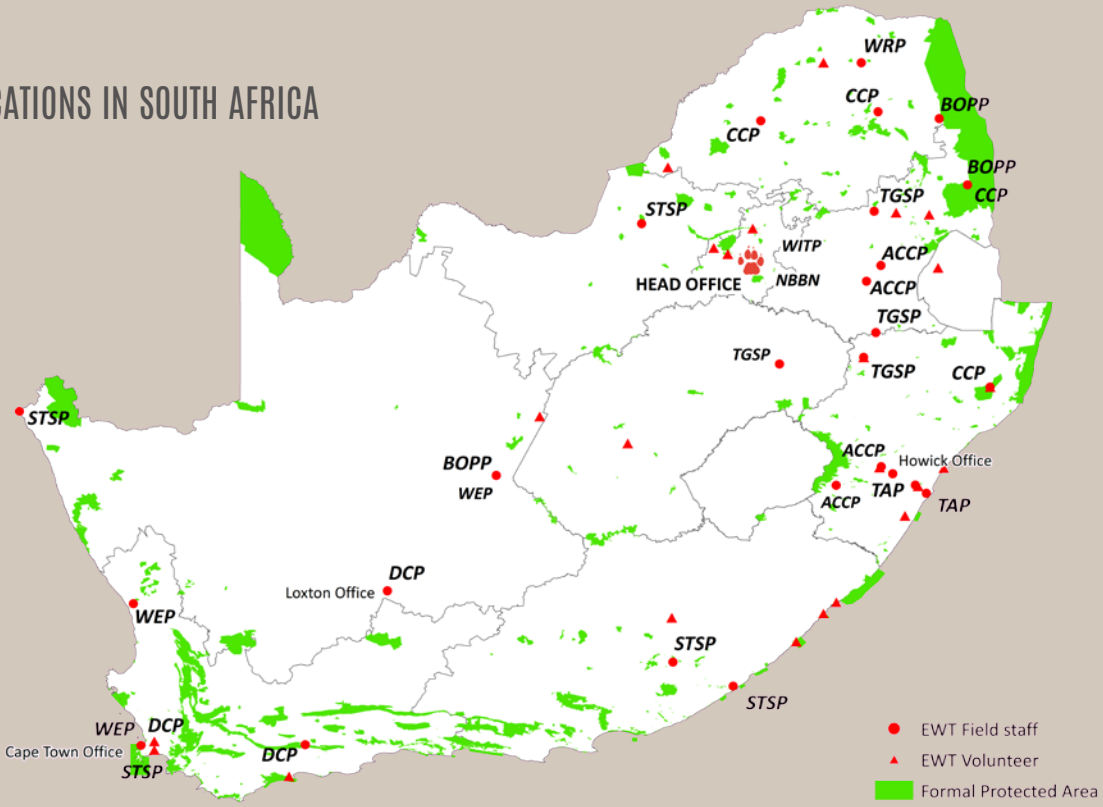
WHERE WE WORK

LOCATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA



LOCATIONS ACROSS AFRICA

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

www.ewt.org.za

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