



**ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST**
Protecting forever, together.

2021 | 2022 INTEGRATED REPORT



ACCP 21



CCP 44



CPSU 51



BOPP 33



DCP 64



NBBN 71



PIC 77

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COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS



This is our **Communication on Progress** in implementing the Ten Principles of the **United Nations Global Compact** and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As a result of our technological abilities, human beings have the power to challenge and destroy nature in our relentless pursuit of what many would have us believe is improving our lives and futures. We must be conscious of this power and question how it is regulated globally.

I continue to be astonished by humans who seldom make decisions that respect the natural laws that sustain our world or consider their potential long-term impacts on the planet and its fauna and flora. Nature is always true to these laws, and she forges ahead, adapting to evolutionary pressures and the physical conditions altered irrevocably by human action.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Human beings have the necessary scientific skills and data to predict how our actions impact nature and the reactions and consequences we can expect as a result. However, we are not prepared for extreme climatic events such as the Durban Floods, the Eastern Cape drought, near-day zero in Gqeberha, and the locust outbreaks across the Karoo, illustrating the far-reaching impacts of climate change.

Yet, with the power of independent thought, we have created a set of rules and laws to live by, and these guide our socially constructed systems of governance, societies, and our economies. These systems have evolved to maximise the value we can extract from our endeavours.

Unfortunately, many of these laws legitimise a fast-tracked pathway to destroying our environment. These rules can change, and fortunately, we still have the opportunity to influence critical changes to human practices for the long-term conservation of nature.

Many of the world's leading conservation NGOs have increased their focus on influencing and encouraging an integrated approach to conservation, whereby humans respect and operate within the laws of nature, and this advocacy must be encouraged, supported, and taken seriously. The world needs to move towards a universally accepted set of parameters in which economic and political actions are regulated with appropriate penalties to rein in human greed and its destruction of nature.

Throughout the EWT's 2022 Integrated Report, you will read about our staff's dedication and hard work to promote and facilitate systemic change amongst target groups to support biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, while improving human well-being and sustainable livelihoods. The EWT has persevered in driving protected area expansion, focusing on landscapes containing priority threatened species. Our Carnivore Conservation Programme continues to coordinate translocations across the region and ensure the persistence of large carnivores across their range.



Our species-level work has expanded to include a suite of the smaller and generally overlooked species, including several additional threatened frogs in the Western Cape and targeted work to protect Critically Endangered and endemic butterflies. Our strategic partnerships with industry partners like Eskom and Anglo and newly cemented work with Sibanye-Stillwater illustrate the value of working with the private sector towards securing biodiversity and ecosystem services. Whether saving Wild Dogs, working with landowners to formally conserve their properties, or negotiating and guiding businesses to reduce their impacts on nature, our staff work to achieve three critically important cornerstones of our strategy: Saving Species, Conserving Habitats, and Benefitting People.

This report showcases the many significant achievements of our dedicated Management Team and staff, all contributing towards making the planet more hospitable for our wildlife cohabitants and, ultimately, for human well-being. We are proud of another successful year, and I offer my gratitude to our CEO, Yolán Friedmann, who has led our team to new heights, and to all EWT staff members who deserve much thanks and respect for the sacrifices made beyond the call of duty to get the job done. Since 1973, their passion and dedication have been the cornerstones of the EWT's significant contribution to conservation and society.

Our achievements are made possible by the generous contributions of our donors, partners, and many thousands of individuals, for which we are truly grateful. I trust that on reflecting on the EWT's achievements detailed in this report, you will recognise the significant role you all played in the vital conservation struggle initiatives over the past year.

I thank my fellow trustees whose wise counsel and dedication have added tremendous value to me and the organisation. It is a privilege for me to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of an organisation that embraces the highest standards of governance and operational performance.

As we approach 50 years of existence, I am pleased to report that the EWT is operationally strong and financially capable of continuing our vital conservation work into the future. We provide a platform for all concerned about our planet's future to contribute to the multitude of conservation actions our talented staff undertake. Join us in creating a sustainable future in balance with our natural laws.

We must protect forever, together.

Dirk Ackerman

Endangered Wildlife Trust Chair of the Board





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

On a recent visit to the Rietvlei Nature Reserve, a charming 4,000-ha snippet of Savannah grasslands on the outskirts of bustling Johannesburg, I was struck by the visual clarity in just one glance of the disparity across our planet. In one bifocal observation, one can see both the stark simplicity of a vibrant ecosystem in which just grasses, soils, water, and air support the lives and evolution of literally thousands of species of insect, bird, mammal, reptile, plant, fungi, bacteria, amphibian and tree; and at the same time, you see the city-framed skyline in which millions of tons of concrete, cement, pollution, tar, vehicles, waste, and an impossible-to-name list of other manufactured and mostly non-biodegradable materials, all only supporting one species. And most often, to the detriment of all the others.

Humans are a very needy species, consuming around 100 billion tonnes of natural resources annually. The Circularity Gap Report launched in Davos in 2020 found that human raw resources use had risen to 100.6 billion, an 8% rise from the 93 billion tonnes used in 2020. Worrying, this corresponds to around 12 tonnes/year for every person on Earth. Most of these resources are non-renewable, meaning that once used, they cannot regenerate, or at least not fast enough to satisfy the human need to use them again. These include soil, water, fossil fuels, minerals, plants, and animals.

Earth Overshoot Day is the day of the year when we have used up one year's supply of natural resources and in 2022, Earth Overshoot Day was 28 July, meaning that after 28 July 2022, humanity globally was beyond the ecological capacity of planet earth; put another way, we were eating into our own life-giving reserves.



For anyone who does not believe in the critical nature of conservation and the work of organisations such as the Endangered Wildlife Trust and our many partners, then believe in this: without concerted efforts to conserve, renew, regenerate, and preserve our natural resources, and without the tireless efforts of many to prevent extinctions, safeguard natural systems, and expand areas under formal protection, there cannot be a future worth living for the generations that have already been born.



For nearly fifty years, the Endangered Wildlife Trust has been dedicated to halting the decline in what has become an increasing list of threatened species and ecosystems in South Africa, and in recent years, beyond our borders. The EWT is the only conservation organisation in the region that has continually adapted its strategy to include a rapidly diversifying list of species in need of conservation action that now range from Cheetah, Wild Dogs, and lions to vultures, cranes, amphibians, reptiles, cycads, trees, and butterflies. Our work to save these species is not only at the applied research and policy level but, importantly, in the field where specialist and dedicated field staff work tirelessly to address the threats putting their futures at risk.

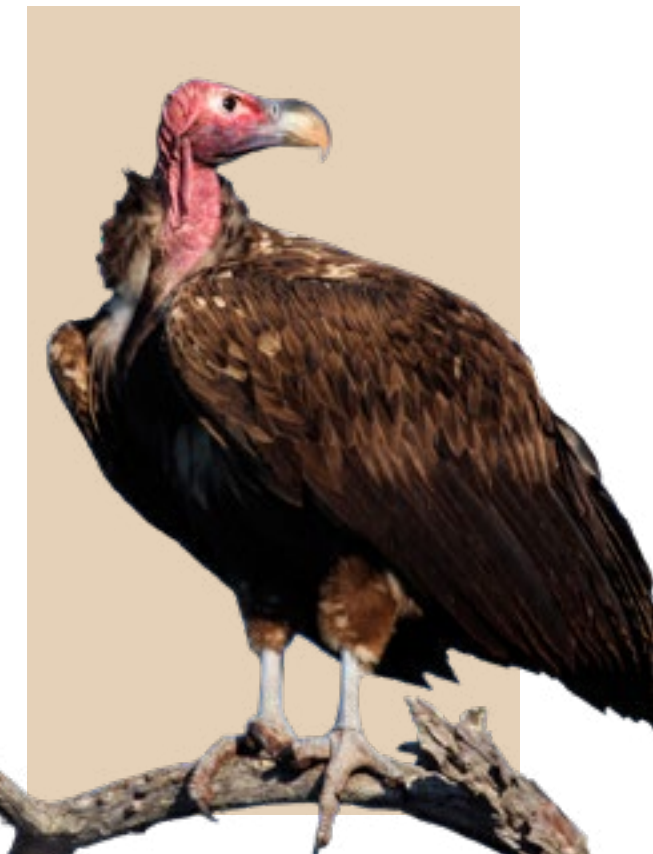


The diversity of stakeholders we engage in supporting conservation has never stopped growing, and in the pages of this report, you will see how we have focussed programmes working with big business, communities, farmers, academics, policymakers, law enforcers, learners, state institutions, and more. Our conviction that our best assets are our staff members means that we have policies, plans, and an organisational culture that continuously attract, nurture, and develop the best minds and the most energetic individuals who all share the EWT's passion and purpose of protecting together, forever, for all life.

As you scroll through the EWT's 2022 Integrated Report, you will see how we have achieved many successes on the journey to preventing extinction and building stronger communities. Despite the difficulties of the past two years, presented mostly by the pandemic-induced lockdown, the EWT has continued to record growth in metrics related to staff numbers, geographic footprint, income and expenditure on projects, and positive environmental impact. As with most organisations, in the aftermath of the pandemic, we experienced changes in our return to work, which was not a return to the old normal but a new world and a new way of working. We adopted a hybrid working model from very early on, allowing staff to work from home and operate in flexible working hours to meet the needs of their changed family and personal circumstances. In a world that shrank as a result of these working arrangements, we bade farewell to some staff who were able to work for global enterprises, and despite us being sad to see them go, we remain immensely proud of their ramped-up roles in global conservation and the desirability of our staff in global organisations as a result of their tenure in the EWT. Specifically, the EWT will remain eternally grateful for the 23-year contribution made by Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert and the 12-year contribution of Constant Hoogstad as they embark on new chapters in their conservation careers to save the rest of the world.

Conversely, we were delighted by the immense interest in our multiple new positions this year, as the Trust's employee numbers grew by 6%. This increase included returning staff members and numerous new, young conservationists eager to protect the future of our planet. Our balance sheet grew by R7,397,942 or 9%, and our reserves grew by over R3 million or 35%, ensuring that we remain a sustainable and resilient organisation that donors have confidence and can take comfort in. Importantly, we also spent R8,464,120 or 18.7% more on projects despite the lockdown having reduced our ability to work in the field, engage stakeholders, and do many planned activities. These metrics confirm our position that excellent people and investing in sound activities are the cornerstones of our success.

And what does that success look like? Across all six of our High-Level Goals, significant achievements can be noted in the report. We continue to lead in the diversity of projects we run for critical species and habitats in East and southern Africa and the creation and sharing of important data, knowledge, and best practice guidelines. I am particularly passionate about High-Level Goal number 5, which speaks to the EWT's legacy of innovation and leadership in driving change. From the onset, the EWT has been characterised by continuously exploring better ways of achieving impact, which was amplified in the past year with the expansion of our drone project to mark the first transmission lines for bird strike avoidance and monitor Southern Right Whales for climate change impacts; and our use of eDNA to identify the presence of and locate potentially extinct species such as Van Zyl's and De Winton's Golden Moles so that concerted action can be implemented to save the last of their habitats. One of the most remarkable innovations in conservation is our pioneering Eye in the Sky carcass and wildlife poisoning detection project, with its primary focus the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area linking the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, the Kruger National Park in South Africa and the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.





This project uses GPS-tracked vultures to remotely detect poisoning events and trigger an early and rapid response to these, alerting rangers on the ground and preventing further loss of wildlife to poisoning. The project has already saved thousands of animals from secondary poisoning or worse impacts as a result of its efficient and effective success and our quick response times.

In the past year, we have continued to expand the ecological range of Wild Dogs and Cheetah and the range of species in our strategy as we catalysed increased conservation action for butterflies, trees, and reptiles. We discovered new sites for the Critically Endangered Albany Adder and signed up new business partners committed to reducing their biodiversity footprint across their operations. Despite these new focus areas, we remain committed to our deeply entrenched legacy of monitoring and securing the futures of the largest range of birds and mammals than any other conservation NGO in the region.

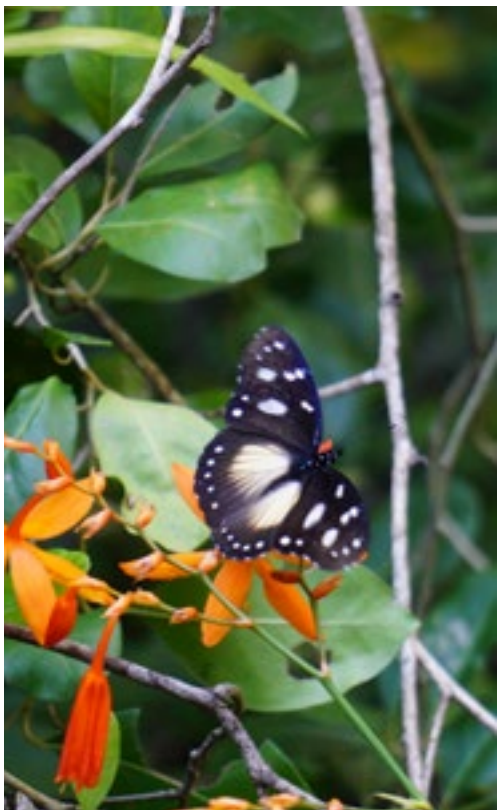
Our list of partners is impressive, and we do not walk alone. To achieve conservation outcomes, we work with the largest, the smallest, both global and local, formal and informal, and anyone who shares common goals of reversing the red and extending the green. Our stand-out partnership remains with the International Crane Foundation, and by working together, cranes, their habitats, and associated communities across Africa have hope for a better future. Our collective work to build resilient communities of both humans and cranes across Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, and, of course, South Africa, has thrived in the past year with thousands of communities being trained in climate-smart and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, thousands of hectares of crane habitat protected, and thousands of cranes monitored.

We support a large range of students and share our data with institutions and individuals alike. Our staff produce an impressive list of publications every year as part of our commitment to scientific excellence, transparency, fostering learning, and making knowledge publicly available in the pursuit of better understanding.

The EWT Board of Trustees walks every step of this conservation journey with us, and their selfless, voluntary contributions in time and expertise are among many multipliers that enhance our impact. From their contributions to ensuring excellence in corporate governance and fiscal management to their leadership, guidance, and direction, as well as their convivial support at all our events, the Trustees embody the spirit of the EWT, and for that, I thank them on behalf of the whole EWT staff. I pay tribute to each and every EWT staff member, intern, volunteer, and student for your incredible contributions to ensuring a living planet for generations to come. This past year, the last of the EWT's 40s has once again made a mark on African conservation, and it is all due to you.

We may not have pushed out Earth Overshoot Day this year, and unfortunately, humans continue to devour natural resources to the detriment of all, but we have pushed out the extinction deadline for many species, secured thousands of hectares of life-giving habitats, and galvanised conservation action among businesses, communities, and people from all walks of life. We have given hope. As you scroll through this Integrated Report, may you, too, feel the hope that rings out of every page and know that you are part of this journey towards Protecting Forever, Together.

Yolan Friedmann
Endangered Wildlife Trust CEO





WHO WE ARE

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

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

Our conservation programmes form the organisation's backbone, harnessing the talent and enthusiasm of a dynamic team of individuals whose unique expertise and motivation provide them with the tools to respond to the challenges they face in pursuit of saving our most threatened species and ecosystems. These programmes work with multiple stakeholders, using their diverse but relevant skills to catalyse inclusive actions to address environmental action. Stakeholders include national and provincial government, other NGOs, landowners, local

communities, farmworkers, conservancies, academia and industry. The EWT also acts as a public watchdog, taking government and industry to task for decision-making that does not meet sustainability criteria.

OUR VISION

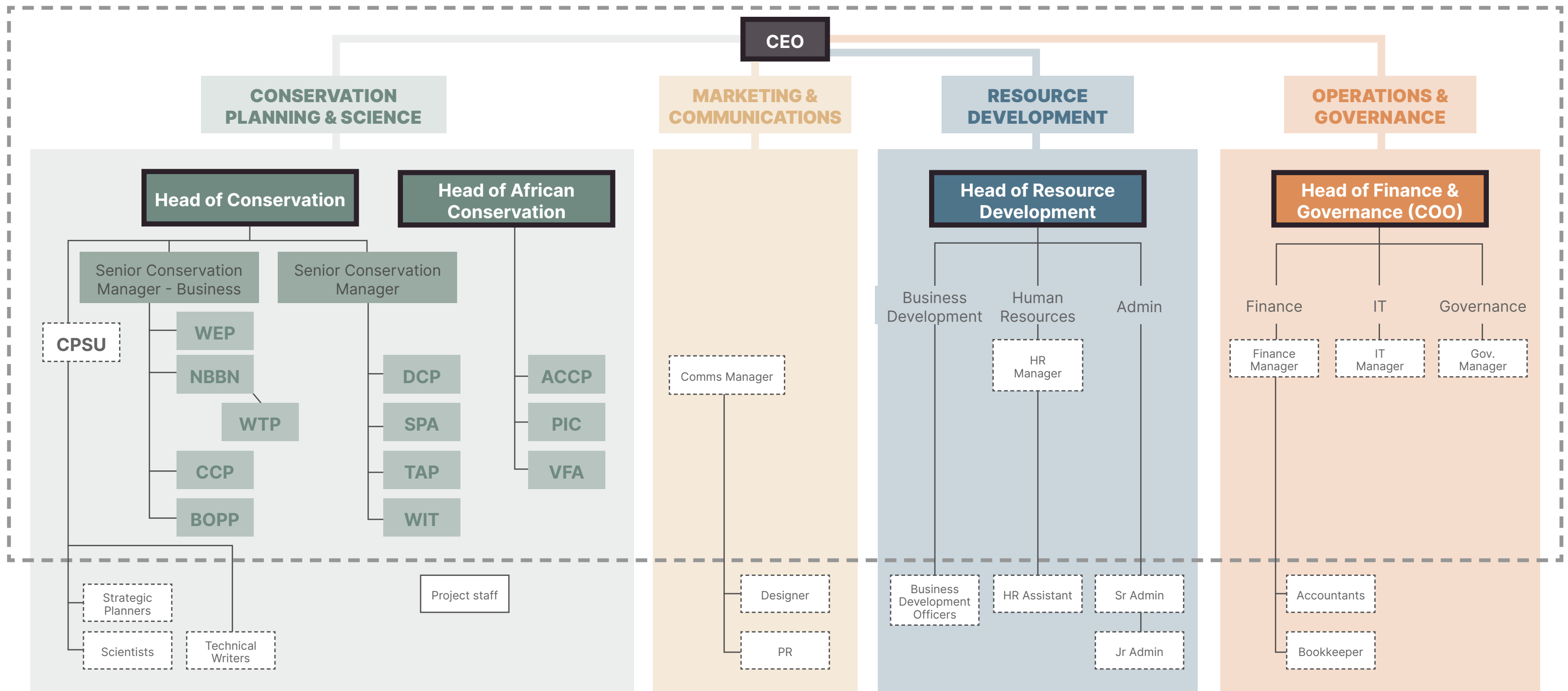
A healthy planet and an equitable world that values and sustains the diversity of all life.

OUR MISSION

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



ORGANOGRAM



LEGEND

CONSERVATION & SCIENCE

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Key to EWT Programmes

ACCP African Crane Conservation
BOPP Birds of Prey
CCP Carnivore Conservation
CPSU Conservation Planning and Science
DCP Drylands Conservation

NBBN National Biodiversity and Business Network
PIC People in Conservation
SPA Soutpansberg Protected Area
TAP Threatened Amphibian
VFA Vultures for Africa

WEP Wildlife and Energy
WIT Wildlife in Trade
WTP Wildlife and Transport

Positions

Programme position

Support services staff

Management structures

Executive Management

Management team

Line reporting

Direct line report

Line report (differs from structure)





The EWT achieves its mission by delivering on our three Strategic Imperatives: Saving Species, Conserving Habitats, and Benefitting People. These broad pillars of conservation impact are supported through six High-level Goals.

Five of the High-level Goals speak directly to our conservation impact, and we report on them this year through the high-level indicators presented on the following pages. By monitoring and reporting on our progress towards these goals, we demonstrate conservation impact and social benefit to our partners, stakeholders, funders and the public and the sixth goal focuses on creating an inclusive, nurturing, and stimulating environment to support the development of effective conservation leaders. Our support services departments report on our progress towards this goal later on in the report. These include Human Resources, Finance and Governance, Information Technology, Fundraising, and Communications and Marketing.

Goal 1. Improved knowledge of species and habitats and the threats they face.

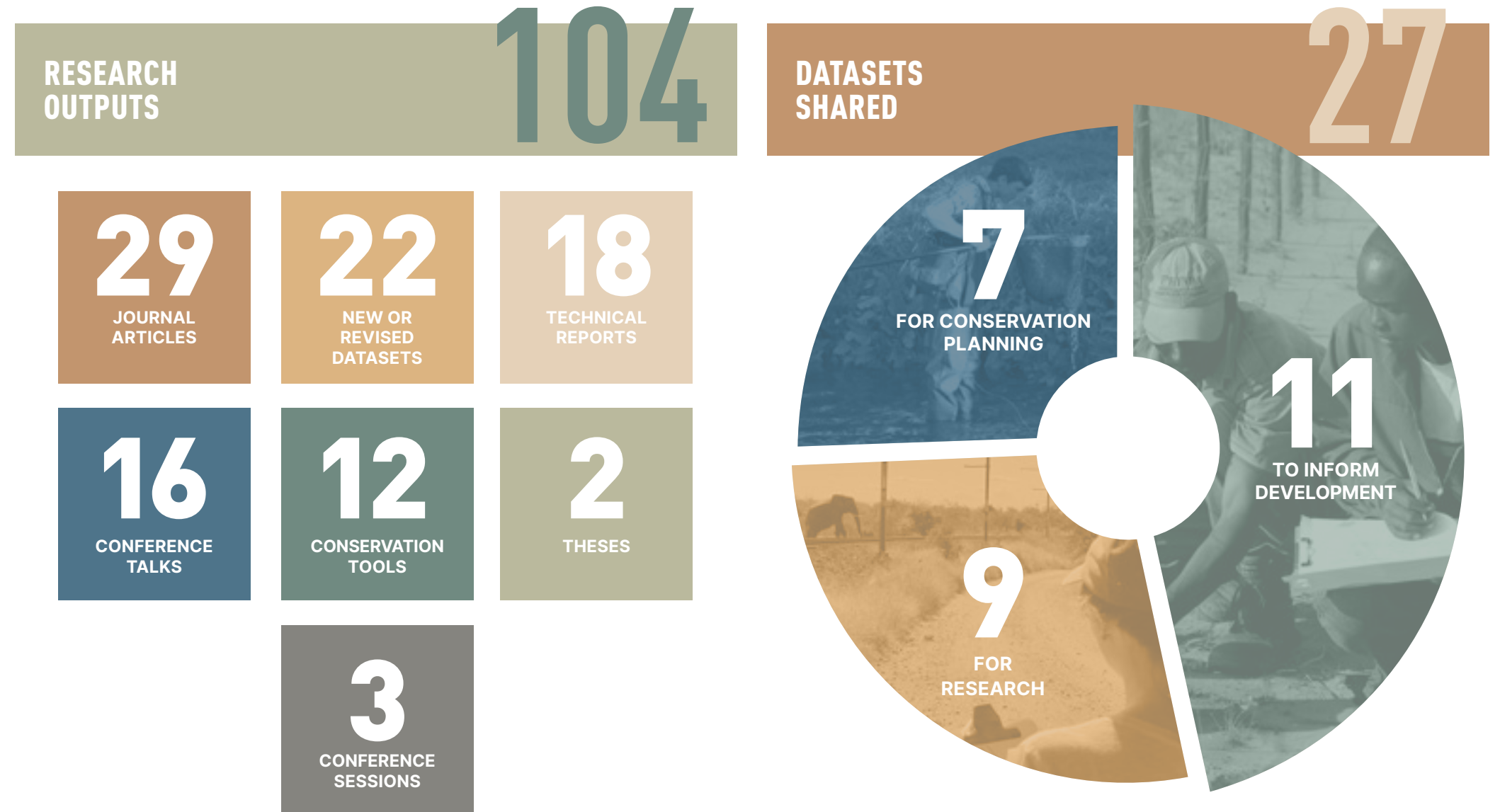
Knowledge about natural systems and their threats is critical for designing impactful conservation projects, making constructive decisions about natural resource management, and formulating effective laws and policies for biodiversity protection. The EWT tracks this goal through two indicators that capture its research outputs and the data it shares.

Indicator 1a. Number of research outputs

The EWT produces knowledge in many different formats, from peer-reviewed papers to technical reports, conservation plans, datasets, and scientific presentations. This indicator aims to capture the breadth and depth of our robust knowledge products.

Indicator 1b. Number of datasets shared

Data are critical outputs of many EWT projects, and we firmly believe that they should be used and shared to support external stakeholders in making better conservation decisions. This indicator tracks the number of datasets we shared over the reporting cycle.



Goal 2. Targeted interventions reduce the threats to species and habitats

This goal covers all our work to reduce threats to species and habitats. It is measured through a direct reduction in a threat (Indicator 2a) or the implementation of a conservation strategy known to reduce known threats (Indicator 2b). Direct improvements in the status of a species or habitat are captured under Goal 4.

Indicator 2a. The number of target populations and habitats where threats are reduced

This indicator provides a count of the number of target species populations or priority habitats where the EWT has measurably reduced key threats following a targeted intervention (strategy). We implement threat reduction strategies in many other populations and habitats, but this indicator includes only those where threats are measurably reduced in the reporting year.

Indicator 2b. Number of proven interventions that reduce broad-scale threats to focal species or habitats

This indicator accounts for broad-scale threat reduction from proven conservation interventions that cannot be attributed to specific populations.

POPULATIONS AND HABITATS WHERE THREATS WERE MEASURABLY REDUCED

20

INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE BROAD-SCALE THREATS

26

7

FROG



ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS CLEARED, UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & WATER USE REDUCED, & SOLID WASTE EFFECTIVELY MANAGED

4

CARNIVORE



PERSECUTION & POISONING REDUCED

3

VULTURE



ACCIDENTAL DROWNING & POISONING REDUCED

2

WETLAND & GRASSLAND



ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS CLEARED & GRAZING AND BURNING MANAGEMENT IMPROVED

2

CRANE



ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS CLEARED

1

GRASS OWL



DESTRUCTIVE LIVESTOCK TRAMPLING AVOIDED

4

REDUCED IMPACT OF WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT

3

PREVENTED ACCIDENTAL DROWNINGS

3

REDUCED COLLISIONS WITH POWER LINES

3

REDUCED ELECTROCUTIONS

5

REDUCED POACHING

2

REDUCED IMPACT OF POISONING

2

REDUCED ROAD COLLISIONS

1

IMPROVED LAW AND POLICY

1

PREVENTED RETALIATORY KILLINGS

1

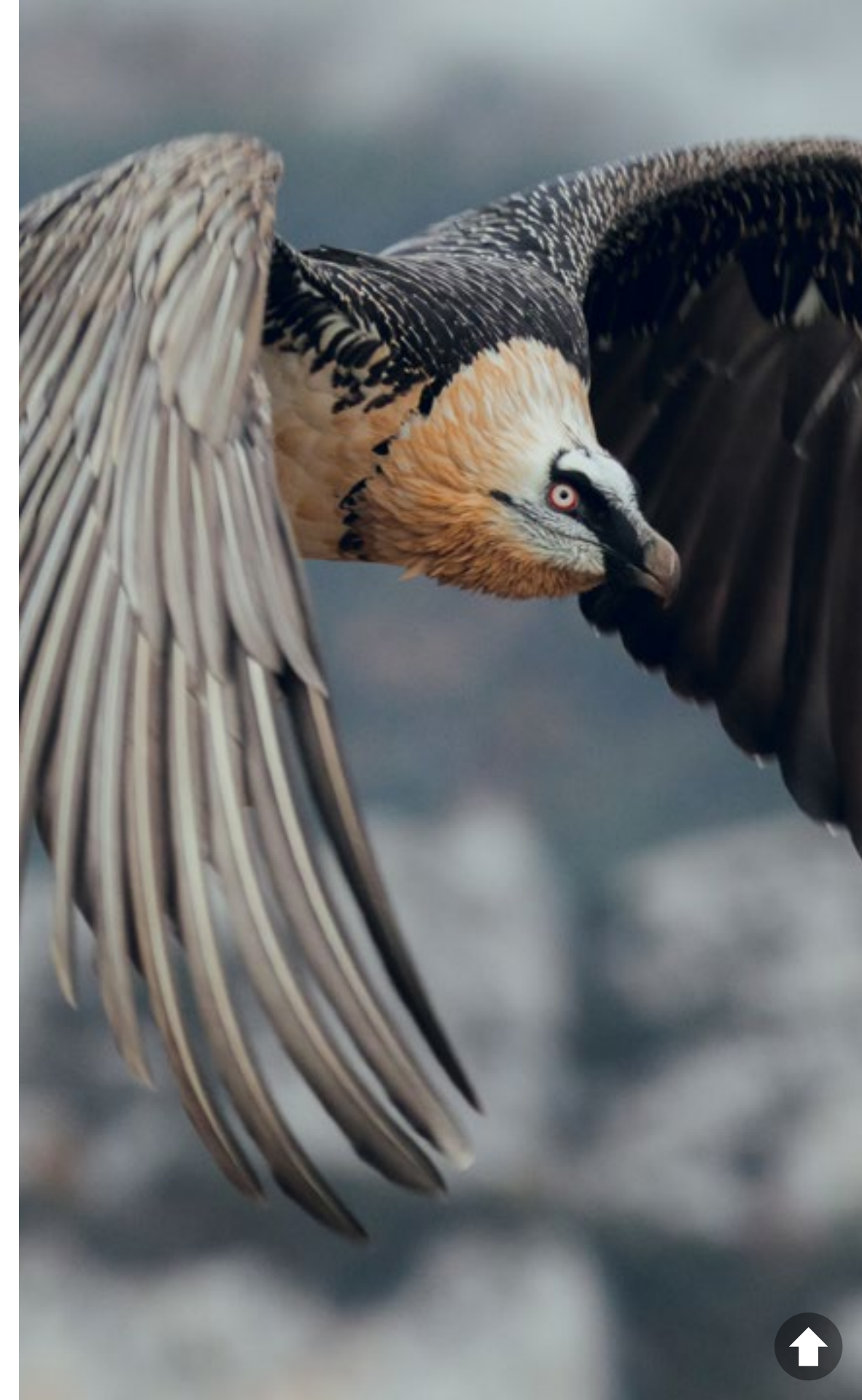
REDUCED COLLISIONS WITH WIND TURBINES

1

REDUCED IMPACT OF MINING DEVELOPMENT

1

REDUCED IMPACT OF SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT





Goal 3. Formal protection of priority habitats.

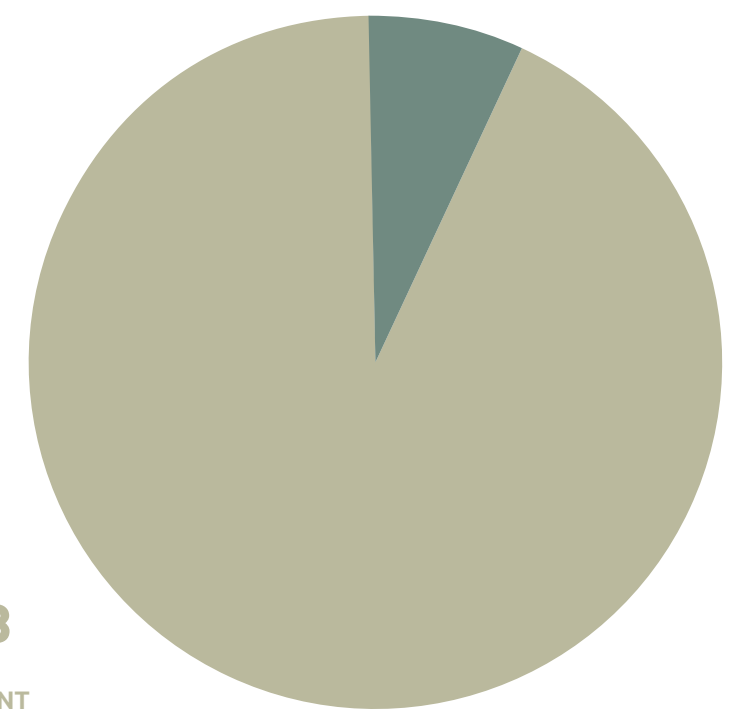
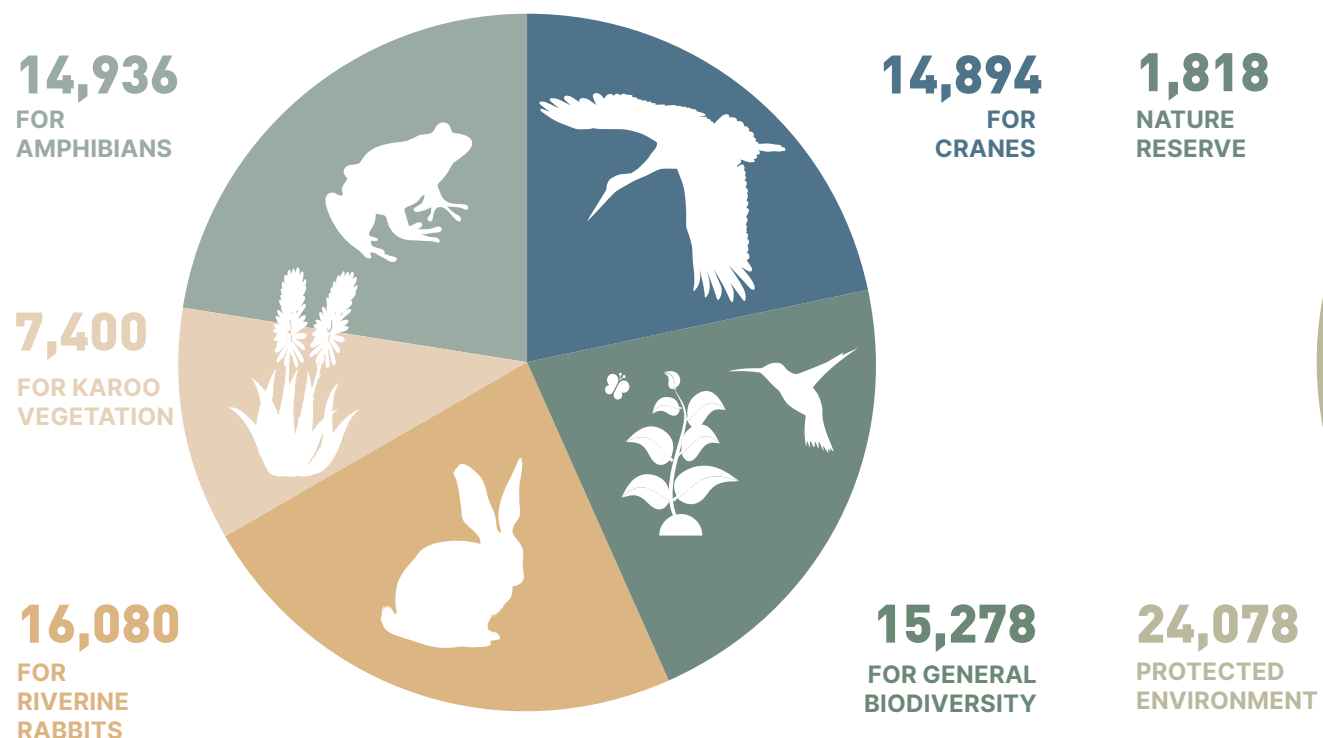
Protecting and conserving natural places is widely recognised as one of the most important strategies for combating the effects of biodiversity loss and climate change across the planet. Through this goal, the EWT contributes to national and global targets for protected area expansion and other effective area-based conservation measures.

Indicator 3a. The number of hectares with landowners consented to proceed towards formal protected area proclamation.

This indicator measures the total land area within priority habitat where landowners have provided letters declaring their consent to proceed with the proclamation of a new formally-protected area. It recognises that, as an NGO, we cannot control when a land parcel is gazetted as a protected area and acknowledges that interim milestones should also be celebrated.

Indicator 3b. Area of priority habitat with improved formal protection.

The indicator measures the total land area within priority habitat with increased formal protection and represents the final stage of securing land under protection.



Goal 4: Conservation actions lead to thriving species, resilient habitats, and improved human wellbeing.

This goal is focused on improving the status of biodiversity and unlocking the benefits it brings to people. This goal is measured through three separate indicators relating to the number of populations, habitats, or people who have benefitted from our actions. We are looking for real, observable changes in populations of species, habitats, and humans.

Indicator 4a. Number of populations with improved conservation status.

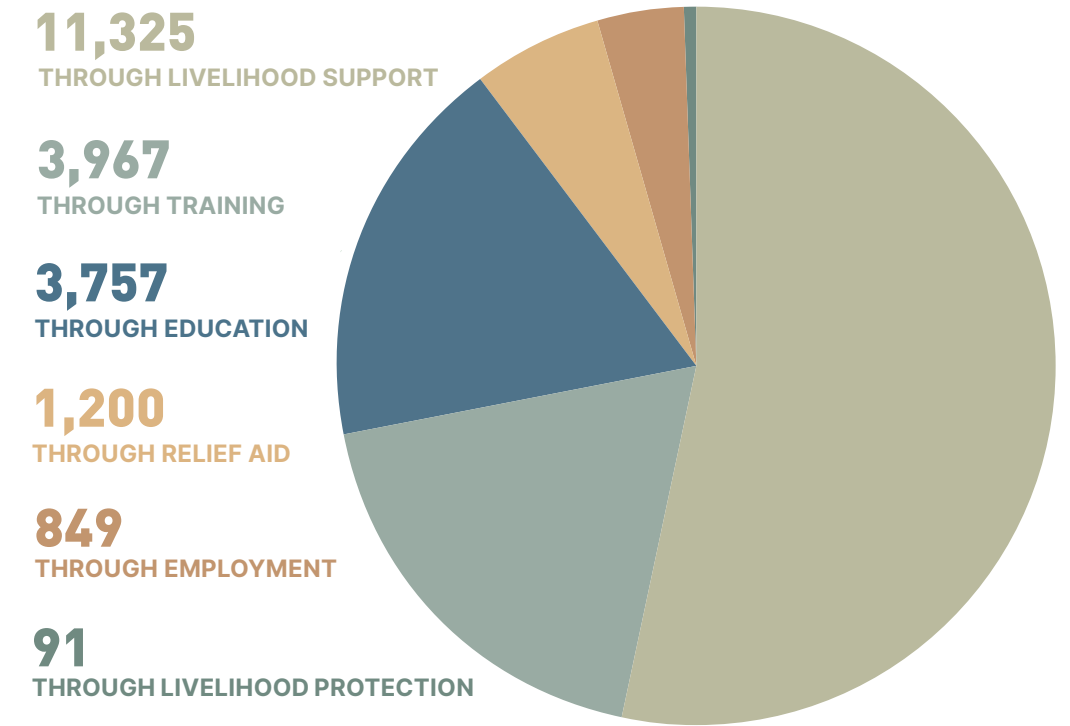
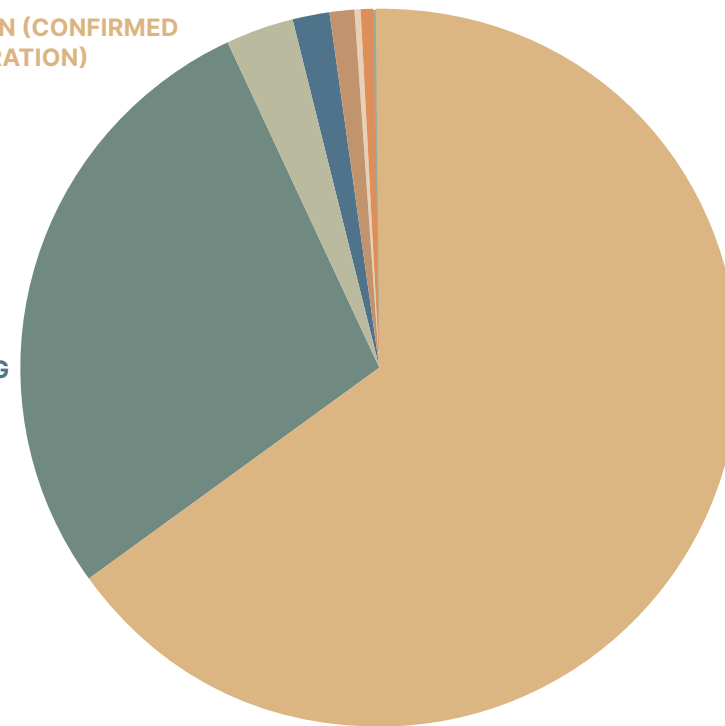
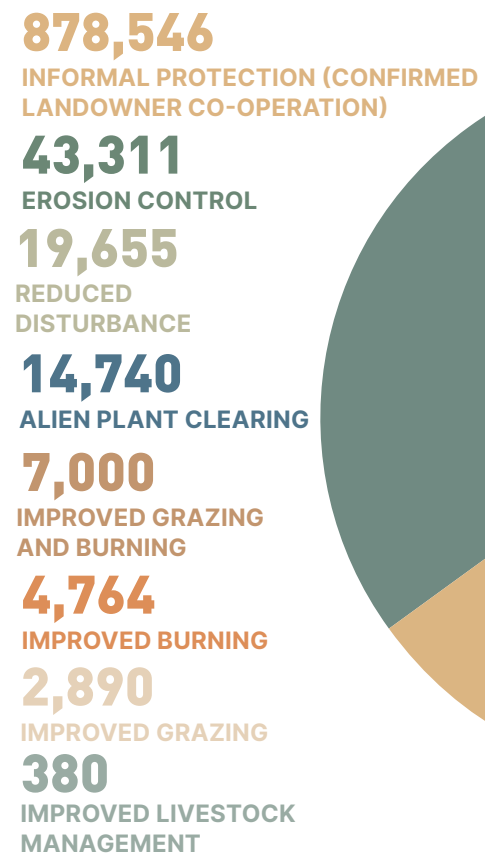
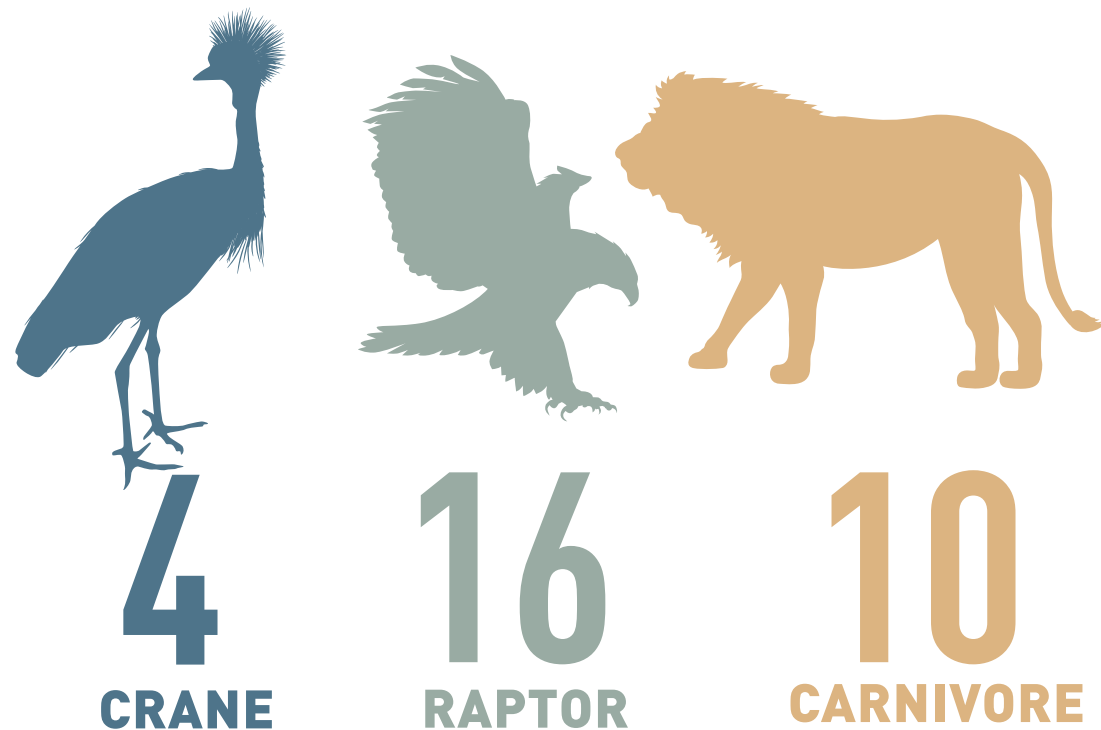
Under this indicator, we record the number of populations of species that have experienced improvements towards their long-term persistence. These are typically recorded by directly measuring population trends, including increases in population size, improvements in breeding success, and expanded area-based measures such as range expansion.

Indicator 4b. Area of land with improved management.

This indicator measures the amount of land that has undergone some form of improved land management change, rehabilitation, or restoration process, which will lead to improved ecosystem function and health.

Indicator 4c. Number of people whose wellbeing has improved.

This indicator tracks the beneficiaries of EWT activities that deliberately aim to improve the wellbeing of people. These benefits may accrue from developing biodiversity-friendly businesses or enterprises, supporting improved livelihoods, or training and upskilling. This may be supported or facilitated by a project team for community members in a priority site.



Goal 5: Innovation that drives meaningful change to the benefit of the environment, business, and people

Indicator 5. Number of target groups that have implemented effective innovations.

NBBN

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS NETWORK
BIODIVERSITY DISCLOSURE PROJECT

27

SITES WHERE THE BIODIVERSITY
PROTOCOL WAS EMPLOYED TO MEASURE
THEIR NET BIODIVERSITY FOOTPRINTS.
(15 MORE THAN LAST YEAR)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

4

ORGANISATIONS THAT INCORPORATED
THE BD PROTOCOL IN THEIR
RECOMMENDATIONS.

BOPP

BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME
EYE IN THE SKY PROJECT

5

GEOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPES WHERE GPS
TRACKED VULTURES WERE DEPLOYED FOR
EARLY DETECTION OF CARCASSES AND
POISONING EVENTS. WILDLIFE POISONING
ALERTS WERE SET UP WITH RELEVANT
STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSE TEAMS.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

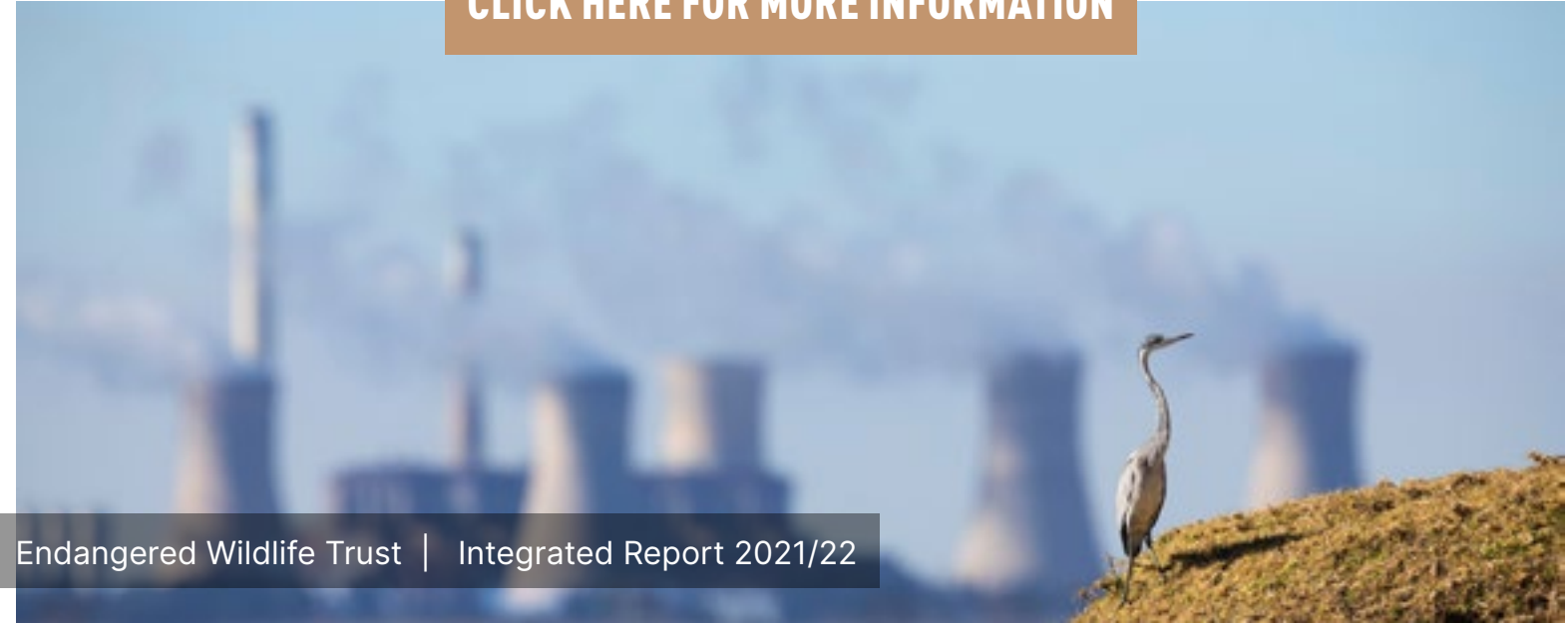
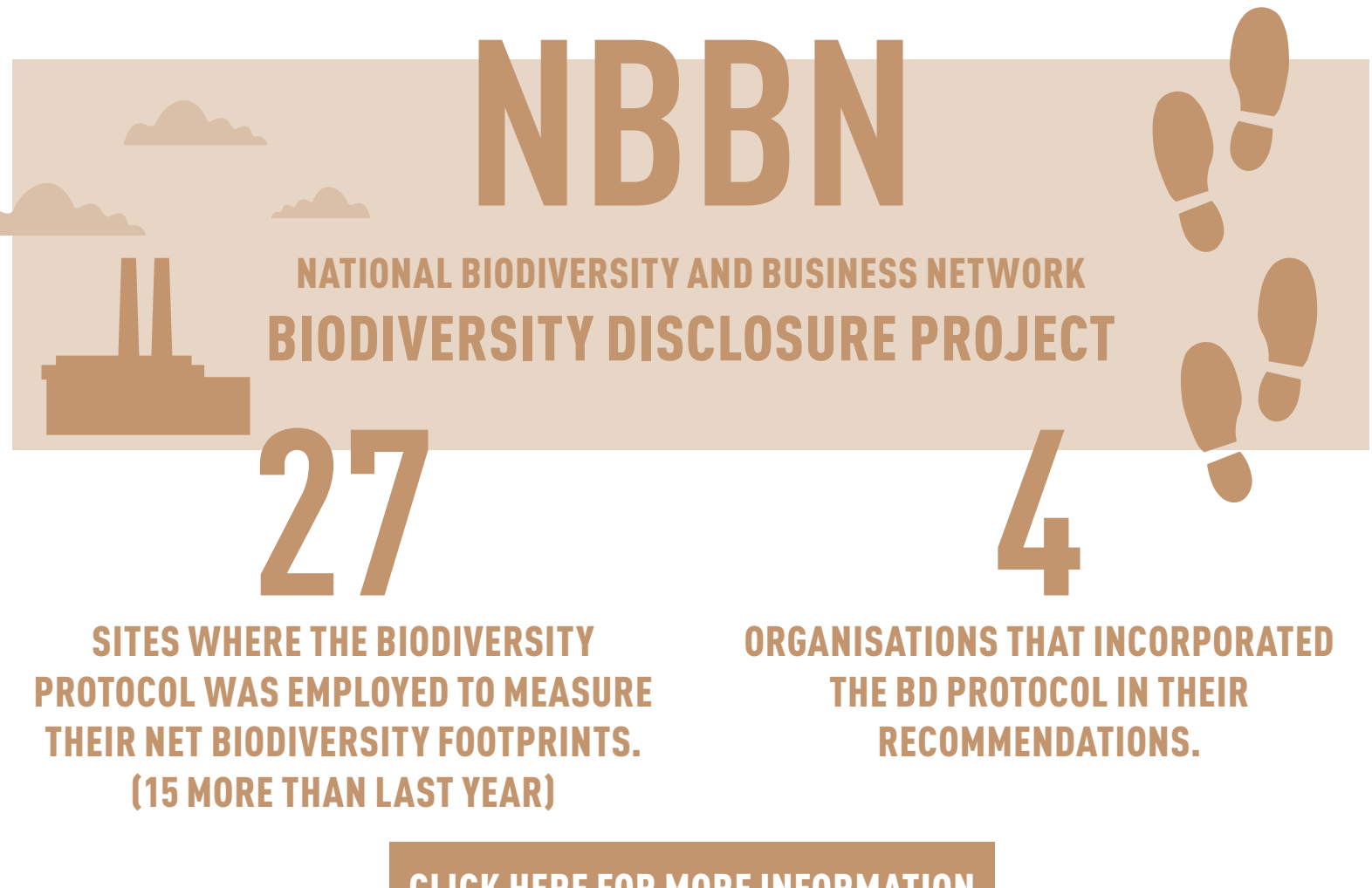
WEP

WILDLIFE AND ENERGY PROGRAMME
DRONE LINE MARKING

1

WIND FARM WHERE A 7 KM, 132 KV,
POWER LINE WAS THE FIRST PRIVATELY
OWNED LINE TO BE MARKED USING DRONE.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



THE EWT'S GLOBAL IMPACT

The EWT's targeted conservation work has national and global impacts and our achievements contribute to multiple conservation-related frameworks. These include South Africa's 2nd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2025), and the National Biodiversity Assessment that assess the status of, and identify the biodiversity and ecosystem management priorities as well as the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species**, the world's most comprehensive inventory of the status of threatened species. Our staff play key roles among several of the IUCN's Commissions towards achieving the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** and the subsequent **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**, established by the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** in a global effort to protect and conserve the biodiversity that underpins global food security, health, and clean water.

The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which is in the process of replacing the Aichi Targets, is needed to achieve the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**. Our targeted work, aligned with the UN's ambitious 30x30 goals, aims to identify and safeguard the most important sites for preventing global extinctions, especially where there are threatened species restricted to just a single site in the world. We also contribute to the **Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**, an international agreement that aims to conserve migratory species throughout their ranges, and are represented on their Technical Advisory Groups and Task Forces.

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

Arguably, the EWT's most important global impact is our work towards achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed by the United Nations as a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The United Nations General Assembly established the SDGs in 2015, intending to achieve them by 2030. The SDGs are a universal set of goals, targets, and indicators that UN member states should use to frame their agendas and political policies. Ambitious by nature, they are a government-led endeavour that serves to coordinate actions by United Nations agencies, businesses, non-governmental groups, and any other entities working on specific goals. The goals that the EWT contributes to are shown on the **next page**.

An integrated approach

The 17 SDGs were purposefully designed to be ambitious and address challenges everyone can agree are serious such as poverty, education, climate change, life in cities, and gender equality. Each SDG is broken into specific targets that provide tangible paths to reach its goal. The SDGs can be divided into three broad categories: social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Together, they represent an integrated approach to a more sustainable future, recognising that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must be balanced between different areas. Research suggests that the two biodiversity-focused SDGs (SDG 14: Life Below Water; and SDG 15: Life on Land) are particularly important for achieving progress towards sustainability.

In addition to the CBD, South Africa has ratified the following multi-lateral Environmental Agreements related to biodiversity and relevant to the work of the EWT:

- The **Nagoya Protocol** on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use (ratified by South Africa in 2014);
- The **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC, ratified by South Africa in 1997);
- **UN Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna** (CITES, ratified by South Africa in 1975);
- **The World Heritage Convention** (WHC, ratified by South Africa in 1972); and
- **The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** (ratified by South Africa in 1971).

Other relevant international agreements and programmes include:

- The UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme; and
- The International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).





SDG 15 Life on Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

This goal underpins most of the EWT's work. Through our conservation programmes we work, in a tangible way, towards achieving seven of this SDG's nine targets.

Target 15.1

Conserve terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems



Target 15.2

Manage forests



Target 15.3

Combat desertification



Target 15.4

Conserve mountain ecosystems



Target 15.5

Prevent species loss



Target 15.6

Fair use of genetic resources



Target 15.7

End poaching and trafficking



Target 15.8

Reduce the impact of alien species



Target 15.9

Integrate biodiversity into planning



2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2 Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Our work includes: biodiversity stewardship, sustainable land management, water-wise farming initiatives, supporting communities to grow products such as tea, seedlings, chickens, and fodder grass.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4 Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Our work includes: Cranes in the Classroom and Frogs in the Classroom educational programmes, annual Leap Day for Frogs, Guardians of the Future online education hub, Clever Rabbits and E-learning Centre in the Karoo.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Our work includes: targeted habitat protection and improved ecosystem management implemented by several EWT programmes within nine of the 22 Strategic Water Source Areas.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy.

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Our work includes: reviewing, commenting on, and providing targeted guidance for over 200 developments, mostly renewable energy, to ensure that the transition to renewable energy has minimal environmental and biodiversity impact.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Our work includes: Biodiversity Disclosure Project, Vulture Safe Zones, Livestock Guarding Dogs, Badger-Friendly Honey.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13 Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Our work includes: carbon trading, protected area expansion, catchment management, spring source protection, fodder production, renewable energy, improved land management, increased ecosystem resilience, improved livestock management, secured Strategic Water Source Areas.



THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE **POST 2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

TARGET	THE EWT DIRECTLY ALIGNS OUR CONSERVATION IMPACT WITH 17 OF THE 21 2030 ACTION TARGETS	RELEVANT PROGRAMMES WORKING TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE TARGET
1	Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.	ACCP, BOPP, CPSU, DCP, SPA, TAP, EIA
2	Ensure that at least 20% of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.	ACCP, BOPP, DCP, NBBN, SPA, TAP
3	Ensure that at least 30% globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	ACCP, DCP, SPA, TAP, EIA
4	Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.	ACCP, BOPP, CCP, DCP, NBBN, PIC, SPA, TAP, WEP, WIT, WTP, VFA, EIA
5	Ensure that the harvesting, trade, and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.	PIC, SPA, WIT
6	Manage pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing, or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment by at least 50 percent, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority species and priority sites.	SPA, TAP
7	Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.	SPA, TAP
8	Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO ₂ e per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.	ACCP, BOPP, DCP, NBBN, SPA, TAP, WEP, EIA



THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE **POST 2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

TARGET	THE EWT DIRECTLY ALIGNS OUR CONSERVATION IMPACT WITH 17 OF THE 21 2030 ACTION TARGETS	RELEVANT PROGRAMMES WORKING TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE TARGET
9	Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	ACCP, DCP, PIC, SPA
10	Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.	ACCP, DCP, NBBN
11	Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people.	ACCP, SPA, TAP
12	Increase the area of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces, for human health and well-being in urban areas and other densely populated areas.	TAP
13	Implement measures at global level and in all countries to facilitate access to genetic resources and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, and as relevant, of associated traditional knowledge, including through mutually agreed terms and prior and informed consent.	PIC, SPA
14	Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values.	NBBN, WIT, EIA
15	All businesses (public and private, large, medium and small) assess and report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, from local to global, and progressively reduce negative impacts, by at least half and increase positive impacts, reducing biodiversity-related risks to businesses and moving towards the full sustainability of extraction and production practices, sourcing and supply chains, and use and disposal.	NBBN
20	Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision-making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.	ACCP, PIC, WIT, EIA
21	Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.	ACCP, PIC, WIT, EIA





CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

A SPECIES, HABITAT, AND PEOPLE IMPERATIVE



The impact of climate change on African habitats and species is significant, with many areas having experienced severe social and ecological impacts in the past year. In January 2022, floods in KwaZulu-Natal devastated over 4,000 homes, leaving an estimated 40,000 people homeless and over 500 dead. On top of this, public infrastructure, including roads, health care facilities, and over 600 schools, were left in ruins. Other climate-related impacts included record-high temperatures in the Western Cape, rampant locust plagues across the Karoo, and ongoing droughts in various regions, especially in the Eastern Cape. These are not merely unusual weather phenomena but part of well-documented trends in our climatic patterns, indicating that we are already experiencing climate change impacts.



Many species that the Endangered Wildlife Trust works to conserve are range-restricted or occur in fragmented habitats. This means that their ability to adapt to the effects of climate change through mobility is limited. The EWT recognises that climate change has adverse and unpredictable impacts on species and habitats and requires a concerted response to minimise these impacts. Furthermore, much of our work takes place in southern and East Africa's Strategic Water Source Areas, where the impact of climate change will also have a profound effect on the region's water security.

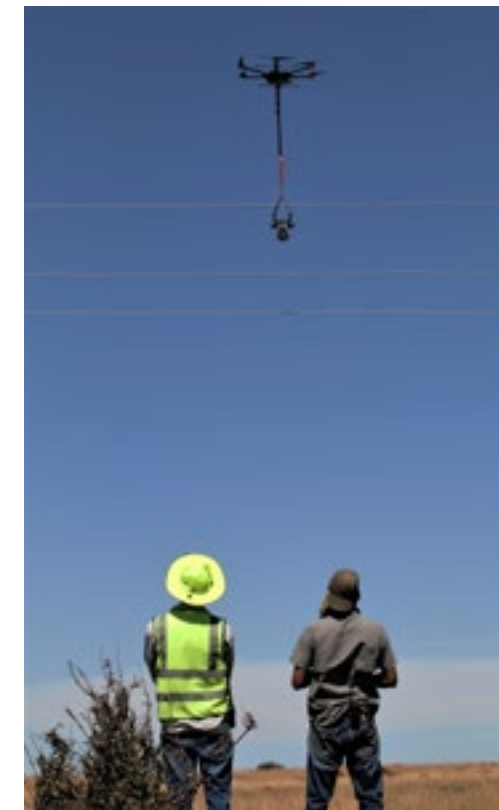


Our mitigation work

Climate change mitigation refers to activities that reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. The EWT promotes renewable energy as an essential component of the region's integrated energy generation system over the existing over-reliance on fossil fuel-generated energy. In support of South Africa's transition from a fossil fuel-dependent economy to a more integrated and climate-friendly energy mix, the EWT promotes the responsible development of renewable energy infrastructure that minimises impacts on critical biodiversity and ecosystems. We do this by:

- Providing data and maps identifying critical areas for developments to avoid through our Threatened Species No-go Mapping Tool and other platforms
- Engaging the renewable energy sector to develop innovative conservation solutions to the challenges posed by, for example, wind turbine placement and extensive solar farms. In this regard, the EWT submitted comprehensive input into over 200 renewable energy development applications over the reporting period to enhance the positive potential of this sector to benefit the environment.
- Actively discouraging the unsustainable extraction of additional fossil fuels, such as shale gas, in the form of hydraulic fracturing; or expanded coal mining that contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbates climate change impacts. The EWT achieves this by commenting on and objecting to unsustainable development applications.
- Collaborating with government and private sector stakeholders to promote the efficient and effective transition to clean energy while avoiding or at least minimising the impact of these new developments on threatened and endemic biodiversity.

- Actively contributing to meeting agreed-upon global emission-reduction targets and accessing climate adaptation and mitigation funding. The national 2030 target range of 398–440 Mt CO₂eq is consistent with South Africa's fair share and an ambitious improvement on our current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target. The upper range of the proposed 2030 target range represents a 28% reduction in GHG emissions from the 2015 NDC targets.





Our adaptation work

Climate change adaptation refers to the process of adjusting to the current or expected effects of climate change by improving the resilience of the environment or sequestering carbon. Most of the EWT's landscape conservation work contributes to adaptation outcomes. Working across these landscapes, we actively improve management systems to support habitat resilience and, as a result, benefit wild species through reduced habitat degradation. Enhancing habitat resilience and human climate change resilience is a key objective in our response to climate change. This work links very closely to Sustainable Development Goal 13 and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, especially targets 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 15.

In the reporting period:

- We secured or are in the process of securing nearly 100,000 ha of privately-owned land of conservation importance.
- Linked to this, we rehabilitated over 95,000 ha of habitat within and outside of the protected area expansion footprint. This included alien invasive plant clearing, erosion control, improved grazing, regulated burning and improved livestock management.



Carbon markets support critical ecosystem conservation

We have entered the carbon sequestration and carbon credit market and now offer our farmers and communities the option to better conserve their land and, through doing so, generate carbon-credit based income. In August 2021, the EWT signed the first South African carbon project development contract with a farmer in the Wilge Protected Environment in the eastern Free State through our African Crane Conservation Programme. This covers an area of 123,000 ha of pristine biodiversity-rich grasslands, which translates into around 240,000 Verified Carbon Units (VCU) per year. This is the culmination of ongoing work towards carbon market access since 2017, following a detailed process of establishing the feasibility of carbon trading in southern Africa's grasslands and recognising the potential benefits for farmers and the long-term funding opportunities it could unlock for improved grassland and wetland management.

Carbon is trapped in the soil through management actions such as improved grazing and fire management of grasslands and wetlands, alien invasive vegetation removal, wetland rehabilitation, and improved management of agricultural lands through reduced tillage and careful fertiliser management. This improved management of critical ecosystems results in increased soil carbon sequestration. Apart from the obvious benefits of encouraging reduced carbon emissions, the Carbon Tax Act has also created a market for those who can sequester (trap) carbon, such as those with suitable farmlands, to receive payment from polluters in the form of carbon credits. This novel biodiversity finance mechanism will bring in critical funding to not only act as an incentive for landowners to manage their land in a conservation-friendly manner but also to support extension staff to provide ongoing support to the landowners who are the custodians of our natural ecosystems.



Building social resilience

Climate change poses threats to not only ecosystems and biodiversity, but most often, poor and vulnerable communities are most severely impacted.

The EWT is building community resilience against the impacts of climate change through improved ecosystem functioning to reduce the severity of flood and drought events and to support the development of climate-smart agriculture. Our work in sustainable land management across the Karoo and grassland biomes has improved ecosystem resilience and farming practices for landowners across these important agricultural landscapes.

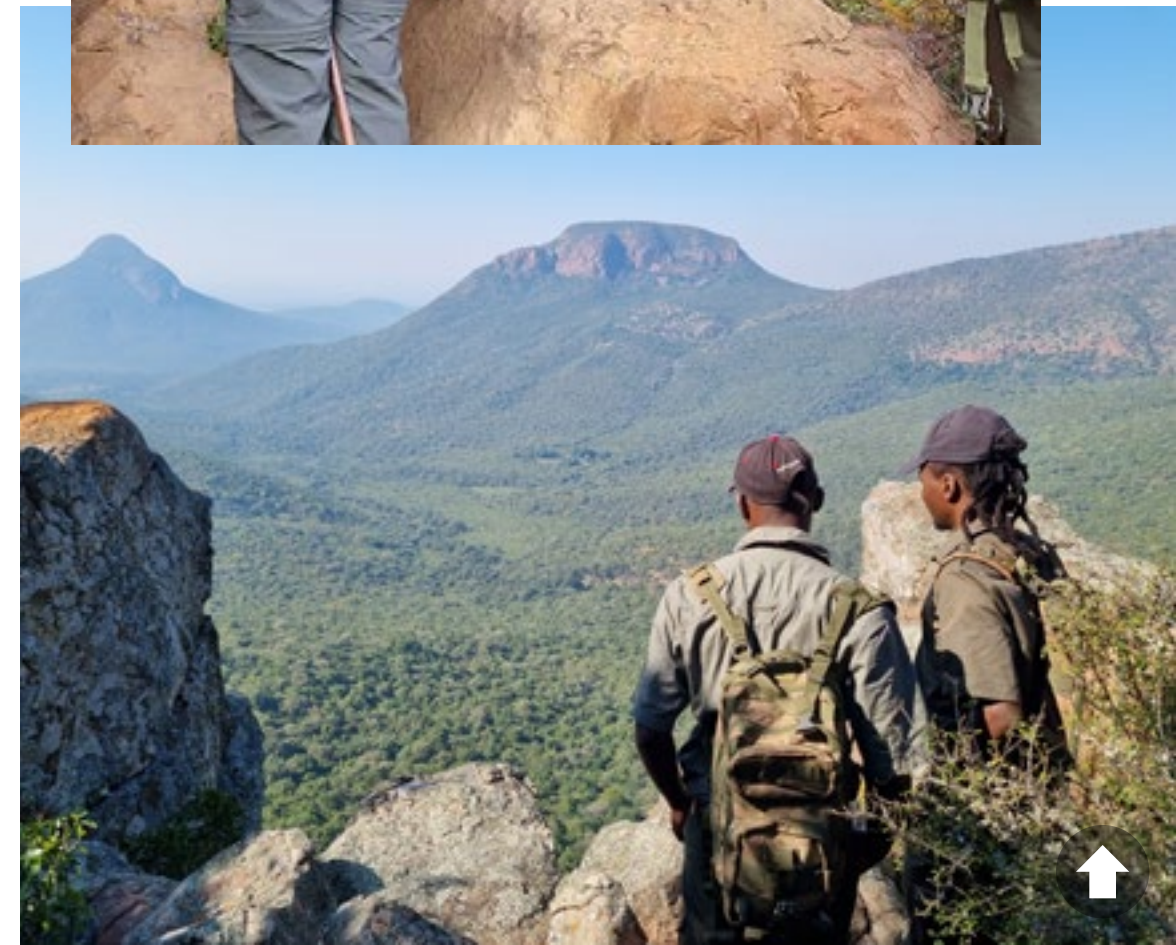
Diversifying income for farmers is also essential to improving ecosystem condition and ensuring sustainable livelihoods in a climate-insecure future. We therefore developed a range of nature-based tourism options, including establishing 100 km of hiking trails across the western Soutpansberg; installing, the first and only via ferrata (a network of cables to enable hiker access) to traverse the Oorlogskloof Gorge in the Northern Cape; and we developed just under 100 km of biking trails - one of longest mountain bike trails within a single property – in the Papkuilsfontein Protected Environment near Nieuwoudtville in South Africa.

In Ethekewini and around Middelburg, we trained and upskilled five community environmental compliance officers to identify and report unsustainable practices in their areas, and in the Soutpansberg, we work with traditional healers to strengthen social resilience and increase sustainable access to medicinal plants. All of these activities feed directly into increasing the resilience of landowners and communities to the effects of climate change.

Being carbon smarter

The EWT works to mitigate our carbon footprint by actively working to reduce our emissions by:

- Being off-grid on the EWT's Medike Nature Reserve in the Soutpansberg and investigating moving our Midrand Campus to solar-generated power.
- Promoting a hybrid workplace and virtual meeting spaces.
- Where possible, holding hybrid engagements (both local and international) on virtual platforms to minimise air and road travel for work purposes.
- Continuously pursuing climate change outcomes throughout our operations.





AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Africa's four threatened crane species, **Blue**, **Grey Crowned**, **Wattled**, and **Black Crowned**, are ambassadors for conserving wetland and grassland ecosystems that provide essential goods and services for people. Cranes' iconic and charismatic natures appeal to the public and open the door to collaborative conservation.

The **International Crane Foundation (ICF)**/Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership aims to secure and improve the conservation status of Africa's four resident crane species by reducing threats to the wetland and grassland habitats they depend on. We work closely with local communities and key national and global stakeholders to implement targeted conservation actions. We empower individuals, community groups, and organisations to manage catchments to benefit people and cranes, mainstreaming conservation into local decision-making and practices for sustainable species and habitat conservation gains. In South Africa, our programme works in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, and Mpumalanga. Across the rest of Africa, we oversee projects in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia and support work in Ethiopia, Senegal, and South Sudan.



ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST
Protecting forever, together.

In partnership with



Climate-smart in Kenya

Kenya's Western Region is a stronghold for the Grey Crowned Crane, a wetland-dependent species classified as Endangered on the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**. Wetlands, a common feature in the western Kenyan landscape, support local community livelihoods such as crop production, water provision and filtration, plant products, and livestock grazing. However, our work increasingly shows that encroachment of agriculture into wetlands – driven partly by poor agricultural practices with associated decreasing yields on existing farmland and poor crop suitability for increasingly variable climate conditions – is the most serious long-term threat to Grey Crowned Cranes in western Kenya. Other serious threats to the wetlands and cranes include drainage for agriculture, human settlement, unsustainable harvesting of plants, and the introduction of crops and exotic Eucalyptus trees that permanently alter wetland vegetation structure and hydrological function.

Our climate-smart agriculture team works with partners **Manor House Agricultural Centre**, **African Beekeepers Limited**, and **Thrive for Good Institute** to train 70 model farmers in climate-smart agriculture techniques. Together, we aim to improve community resilience to climate change impacts and reduce encroachment into wetlands. The training supports farmers in adopting conservation-friendly farming methods such as minimum tillage, bio-fertilising, and drought-resistant crops. Through the **Collaborative Crop Research Programmes Farmer Research Network**, we have connected our farmers practising these conservation-friendly and climate-smart farming methods with farmer groups implementing similar farming practices in other areas. So far, we have supported 22 of the 70 model farmers to set up climate-smart agriculture demonstration plots.

These model farmers will act as climate-smart champions and use their plots to each train at least 1,000 other farmers in their villages. The model farmers received portable bags to plant assorted vegetables to boost people's nutrition and implement minimum tillage practices for water and soil conservation. We also distributed 80,000 tree seedlings to restore wetland buffer zones degraded by the historic planting of exotic Eucalyptus trees, which are now being removed. Planting indigenous trees around the wetlands instead, intercropped with fruit trees, creates a buffer zone that discourages continued agricultural encroachment. The trees also contribute to increased soil moisture retention by providing shade and preventing soil breakdown and erosion by binding the soil with their roots. Socioeconomically, this activity creates increased buy-in for these interventions, as the intercropped trees provide fruits for the households to sell.



**WE HAVE SUPPORTED
22 OF 70 FARMERS**

**TO SET UP CLIMATE-SMART
AGRICULTURE PLOTS**

**FARMERS WILL USE THEIR PLOTS TO
TRAIN 1,000
OTHER FARMERS**



Farmers practising conservation-friendly and climate-smart farming methods.



Challenges for chicks in Kenya

We continue to fit unique colour-combination rings to Grey Crowned Crane chicks in western Kenya. These rings help us identify individual birds and track their survival rates and dispersion, enabling us to help identify the main threats we need to address. In the 2021/22 breeding season, we fitted rings to 58 chicks, of which 53 successfully fledged, and we subsequently recorded four of these fledged juveniles sighted at distances of 5–8 km from their hatching sites.

We trained 34 Kenya Wildlife Service community scouts this past year to assist with field data collection surveying Grey Crowned Cranes, doubling our coverage area in Kenya. The scouts also engage with communities to raise the profile of the cranes and increase the level of understanding of why we need to protect them. The scouts found eight cranes injured after being struck with sticks and stones by farmers who suspected the cranes were feeding on their crops. Sadly, five of these cranes died. One recovered and was released into the wild, while the remaining two are still being cared for in a wildlife rescue conservancy.

For three years, we have mapped Grey Crowned Crane distribution across western Kenya and have identified high-priority sites for the cranes. Combined with our routine detection of cranes in all western Kenyan counties, we now know Kisumu, Homabay, Bungoma and Uasin Gishu

WE FITTED RINGS TO

58 CHICKS AND RECORDED

FOUR OF THESE JUVENILES
AT 5–8 KM FROM THEIR HATCHING SITES

counties (in addition to Trans Nzoia and Nandi, where we have previously focused our work) are all important counties as they host significant crane numbers. For example, the Kenyan team recorded more than 250 Grey Crowned Cranes in Homa Bay County. We will now strategically expand our project into these additional counties, allowing us to formulate a more robust, higher-level strategy for prioritising attention and resources on crane conservation nationally.

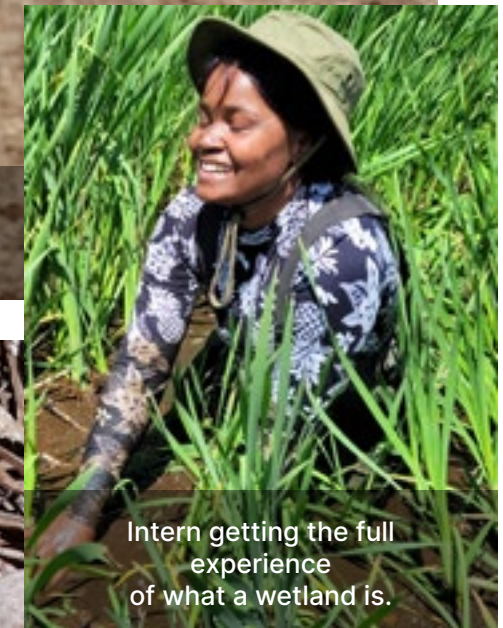
We implement our Kenya project in partnership with Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO) and the Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (KCWCG). This work is made possible by Bob Hallam, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Dohmen Family Fund, Heather Henson, International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund, the Leiden Conservation Foundation, Stiftung Feuchtgebiete (German Foundation for Wetlands), Judy Derse, Sharon Fisher, Suzanne and Steve Johnson, and Pat and Bill Mutch.



Lara Jordan releasing a ringed Grey Crowned Crane.



ICF/EWT team recording Grey Crowned Crane population numbers.



Intern getting the full experience of what a wetland is.



Grey Crowned Crane chick.



A thriving wetland for all in Zambia

The Kafue Flats is one of the most important wetlands in Africa. It is home to the world's only population of threatened Kafue Lechwe antelope and supports more than 450 bird species, including over 30% of the global population of Vulnerable Wattled Cranes and Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes. The flats also play a role in sustaining the livelihoods of thousands of impoverished people in Zambia and contribute to the national economy through fishing, livestock grazing, domestic water supply (including for the capital, Lusaka), and national electricity production (hydropower). Unfortunately, the Kafue Flats is also one of the most threatened landscapes in southern Africa due to unsustainable livestock grazing and fishing activity, alien invasive plants that compromise vital habitats, mining operations, and wildlife poaching and poisoning, particularly since the pandemic and the collapse of international tourism.

Together with ICF, we made a 20-year commitment with the Government of Zambia and WWF Zambia to restore the Kafue Flats to their former splendour. This commitment includes the co-management of Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon National Parks and the enormous Kafue Flats Game Management Area surrounding them.

A major concern is the alien invasive plant *Mimosa pigra*, which significantly compromises the flats' ecology. We successfully fought this invasion in previous years, and over the last year, we focused on follow-up work to ensure previously cleared areas remain free from regrowth.

However, the rapidly rising problem of poaching, common to many other African protected areas, has become a serious threat to wildlife on the flats.

Already a concern before the Covid-19 pandemic, the loss of income caused by the pandemic increased poaching across the flats, and the local economy is still struggling to recover. So, as well as engaging with communities and helping them develop more sustainable livelihoods, such as employing local workers to clear the Mimosa previously, a generous grant from **Fondation Segré** enabled us to recruit, train, equip, and deploy an additional 55 paid community scouts made up of men and women from around the flats, adding to the 70-plus scouts already deployed. Not only will these recruits increase capacity for wildlife protection, but they will also help improve community relations through job creation. We were proud to attend the community scouts' graduation from wildlife ranger training in early June. They were honoured with impressive graduate awards, including best overall performance, best leadership, hardest working, and best marksmanship.



Kafue Lechwe, Wattled Cranes, and Spur-winged Geese in the Kafue Flats.
Photo credit ICF/EWT.



Mimosa biological control monitoring at Lochinvar National Park.
Photo credit Kelvin Floyd Steven ICF/EWT.

THE KAFUE FLATS IS HOME TO
OVER 30% OF THE
GLOBAL POPULATION OF
VULNERABLE WATTLED CRANES
AND ENDANGERED GREY
CROWNED CRANES





Aerial view of the Kafue Flats. Photo credit ICF/EWT.

To increase local awareness about the value of the flats, we also helped form 20 conservation clubs, including 800 pupils and 82 teachers from 13 schools. Club activities, such as conservation-friendly farming and visits to national parks, raise awareness of the importance of a healthy environment that benefits wildlife and people. We have also restored a lookout tower on the Kafue Flats at Blue Lagoon National Park, which will now be used for education, law enforcement surveillance, and wildlife monitoring.

This year's main monitoring activity, the 2022 wet season aerial survey of the Kafue Flats, returned results that, relative to previous surveys, showed increases in Kafue Lechwe antelope numbers but declines in other large mammals such as Zebra and Buffalo and lower crane numbers. We attribute these figures to the high water levels during the survey period, which may have temporarily driven wildlife away from the survey areas. This consideration emphasises our need to conduct repeated surveys to gain greater insights into these wildlife populations. We also collaborated with other conservation partners to successfully fight three mining and exploration applications within Lochinvar National Park that were ultimately rejected.

Our conservation efforts received a major boost in June 2022, with the **designation of the Kafue Flats as Zambia's first UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve**, which will increase support for finding ways to improve human livelihoods on the flats while safeguarding its natural ecosystems.

This work is made possible by an anonymous donor, the Dohmen Family Fund, Elephant Charge, Fondation Segré, International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund, Jeanne Eloranta Family, WWF Zambia, and the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife.



Children learning about the Kafue Flats at the Lookout tower in Blue Lagoon National Park. Photo credit: David T Banda ICF/EWT.

WE HELPED FORM 20 CONSERVATION CLUBS

INCLUDING 800 PUPILS
AND 82 TEACHERS
FROM 13 SCHOOLS



Christina Malake engaging school children in the Kafue Flats using games. Credi David Banda ICF/WT.



Healthy cranes and communities in Uganda

The wetlands in Rukiga and Lwengo districts in southern Uganda are under increasing pressure from a growing human population in need of more farmland. The wetlands are vital for communities' food and water security, preventing floods by absorbing runoff, and for use as nesting habitat for Uganda's National Bird, the Endangered Grey Crowned Crane.

Our work in Uganda aims to empower communities to conserve both wetlands and cranes. Working with the **Margaret Pyke Trust** and Rugarama Hospital, key activities provide alternative sustainable livelihoods and healthcare services, reduce unplanned pregnancies, restore habitat, and conserve soil health and water resources. This holistic approach contributes to long-term wetland health for people and cranes. By integrating conservation and voluntary family planning actions, we have engaged more men in reproductive health awareness-raising and more women in livelihood and natural resource management activities. This approach will ultimately achieve more significant and longer-lasting conservation outcomes than would likely occur without integration. When barriers to family planning are removed, and contraceptive needs are met, women and girls can exercise their reproductive rights, leading to healthier timing and spacing of pregnancies, improved health for women and their children, and more time and energy to engage in education, conservation, and livelihood activities.



Peer farmers practicing trench making.



Human activities conducted along water sources for local beer production.

This year, we signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Rukiga and Lwengo district local governments to implement community-based approaches to safeguard wetlands that are vital for both crane breeding and the ecosystem services that support community livelihoods.

To reduce the threat of crane poisonings driven by communities' concerns over potential crop damage by cranes, our project in south-central Uganda piloted non-lethal deterrent measures, including the use of scarecrows and reflective discs to scare cranes away from crop fields. These methods have been effective in the trial regions, and we plan to scale them up to additional areas.

This work is made possible by the Aqualia International Foundation, the Darwin Initiative, the Dohmen Family Fund, Stiftung Feuchtgebiete (German Foundation for Wetlands), Fondation Ensemble, Joe and Karen Branch, Heather Henson, Sharon Fisher, and Heidi Kiesler.



Team entering the wetland to collect assessment samples.



THE ICF/EWT PROVIDED **750 HOUSEHOLDS** WITH AVOCADO SEEDLINGS, WHICH **GENERATED** **US\$25-30** PER HARVEST

A win-win for cranes and communities at Rugezi Marsh, Rwanda

Rugezi Marsh in northern Rwanda is the most important site for Grey Crowned Cranes in Rwanda, hosting 30% of its Grey Crowned Crane population and other wildlife such as 60% of the world's Grauer's Swamp Warbler, another Endangered species. However, even here, Grey Crowned Cranes had all but disappeared as a breeding species before we started our project. The challenge is that although the marsh receives some recognition under the **Ramsar Convention** as a Wetland of International Importance, over 150,000 people rely on it and its catchment for their livelihoods. They damage the marsh significantly when they graze livestock or harvest grass for fodder illegally and when they hunt, fish, gather firewood, or harvest honey by smoking out bees, which leads to devastating wildfires.

Since 2012, we have worked to address this dire situation by partnering with our in-country host partner, the **Integrated Polytechnic Regional College – Kitabi**. We have done so using the Conservation Agreements approach, through which communities are given negotiated benefits packages to develop alternative livelihoods in return for undertaking conservation actions to reduce threats to the marsh. The marsh covers 6,375 ha, and so far, we have worked with five out of seven community sectors using a range of effective approaches.

This past year, 780 households provided with avocado seedlings by the EWT in 2018 harvested their avocados for the first time. Each generated US\$25-30 per harvest, significantly improving their household incomes. Our support for alternative livelihoods increases the backing we enjoy from communities around the marsh.

At the request of the Rwandan Government, we also distributed 150,000 Napier Grass (Elephant Grass) seedlings to 132 households around the Kamiranzovu Wetland, adjacent

to Rugezi Marsh. This follows the success of our partnership with the Integrated Polytechnic Regional College, through which we embarked on a prior mission to promote the cultivation and production of Napier Grass as an alternative to harvesting grass from Rugezi Marsh for cattle fodder.

Crane monitoring at the marsh in the 2021/2022 breeding season showed that 51 chicks fledged successfully. This is the highest number of chicks fledging since we started work at Rugezi Marsh in 2012 - when no successful breeding attempts were made. Another partner organisation, the **Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association**, has also played a part in this conservation success by reducing the illegal trade in Grey Crowned Crane chicks captured for the illegal pet trade.

We implement our Rwanda project in partnership with the Integrated Polytechnic Regional College – Kitabi. This work is made possible by the Dohmen Family Fund and Jim and Yuko Brumm.



ICF staff monitoring field activities in Uganda



Napier grass used on hillslopes for soil and water conservation and trenches to reduce the speed of running water.



Uncovering the secrets of the world's least-known crane

The Black Crowned Crane occurs through the Sahel and Sudan savannah regions of Central Africa and in West Africa in disjunct subpopulations from Mauritania to Guinea on the Atlantic Coast. Further east, it occurs in Ethiopia's western Ethiopian Highlands and Rift Valley. This range makes the Black Crowned Crane the crane species we know the least about, as warfare and political instability affect many of its core population centres. Consequently, the species is difficult for us to survey or fully evaluate the threats they face across their range. In Senegal, our partners, **AfriWet Consultants (Etudes et Conseils)** and Association Nature Koussabel (a fledgling Community-Based Organisation we are helping), work with farming communities in the Casamance Delta area to improve awareness and understanding of Black Crowned Cranes amongst local communities and work to understand the sociological context of the community we work with. Here, our partners also gather critical baseline information about the ecology, threats, and status of Black Crowned Cranes. This data is used to develop a focused conservation action plan that outlines priority conservation strategies.

In South Sudan, we support field research to count Black Crowned Cranes in the Akobo Region and document incidents of conflict arising when cranes feed on farmers' crops. In Ethiopia, we surveyed the Gambella Region, an important site for Black Crowned Cranes, around Lake Tanya, Boyo Wetland, and the Rift Valley. Our team visited Boyo Wetland in July 2021 to assess its ecological condition and suitability for cranes. The survey showed rising agricultural pressures on the wetland, which will need to be actively managed to ensure habitat is maintained for the cranes.

This work is made possible by the Aqualia International Foundation, Fiona Guinness, and the Leiden Conservation Foundation.



Black Crown Crane. Photo Credit: Mike Jordan.

Carbon Commitment

In August, the EWT and **WeAct's** Carbon Credits Project reached a significant milestone when one of the farmers we work with in the Drakensberg signed the first carbon offsetting contract in South Africa. When landowners agree to conserve their land and manage it to allow for the verifiable sequestration of carbon in the soil, the carbon can be converted into carbon credits. Liable entities, usually big carbon emitters, can purchase up to 10% of their carbon emissions as carbon credits to reduce their tax liability in South Africa. These purchases create a long-term revenue stream for farmers and conservation organisations to support conservation efforts and protect important crane habitats through improved land-use management.

This work is made possible by the International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund and Paul L King.



The EWT's Bradley Gibbons and the first landowner to sign to be part of the carbon trading agreement.



A bumpy road ahead for beautiful Blue Cranes?

South Africa's National Bird, the Blue Crane, increased in population size dramatically in the Western Cape farmlands during the mid to late twentieth century. This increase was largely due to the increase in agricultural activity that provided foraging areas for the cranes, and over half of all Blue Cranes now live in this province. This population boom has been the species' saving grace as its numbers declined dramatically in its original heartlands of the Eastern Grasslands of KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State due to changing land-use patterns. There is also a population of Blue Cranes in the Karoo, which has remained largely stable – we now find 90% of all Blue Cranes in the Karoo and other areas of the Western Cape. In the Karoo, they mainly occur in their natural habitat, although they can be found in large flocks in lucerne fields in winter. It is challenging to conserve cranes in agricultural habitats (particularly in the intensively farmed Western Cape), as they are frequently affected by their proximity to infrastructure and human presence, such as power line collisions, fence entanglements, poisoning, and loss of habitat due to agricultural change.

As part of a four-year PhD, we are investigating the threats to Blue Cranes in the Western Cape and assessing their long-term viability. The data collected in the area have raised concerns about declines in the Overberg population and reduced breeding success rates. We have undertaken this research by tracking individual Blue Cranes, monitoring crane mortality from power line collisions, gathering data on breeding success, and speaking to farmers about threats to cranes. In the year ahead, we will be undertaking a thorough assessment of the entire Blue Crane population and habitat in southern Africa to develop a revised conservation plan for them.

This work is made possible by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Indwe Risk Services (Pty) Ltd, Suzanne and Steve Johnson, and the Leiden Conservation Foundation.

90%
OF ALL
**BLUE
CRANES**
ARE FOUND

IN THE KAROO



The EWT's Christie Craig surveys powerlines to record crane mortalities.



South Africa's Dragon Mountains home to cranes

Our conservation initiatives in South Africa have seen increased population numbers in all three crane species over the last two decades. The main threats to cranes in the region are habitat loss and degradation linked to land-use change, direct causes of crane mortality such as collisions with power lines, and human-crane conflict over crop damage. Our programme implements four mutually supportive strategies to respond to these threats for all South Africa's cranes. These are improved land management for crane conservation, carbon offsetting for conservation, health and environment for people and cranes, and applied crane research, monitoring, and evaluation.

Considering monitoring and evaluation, the Drakensberg team completed the first-ever Eastern Cape aerial crane survey in September. This work is important for estimating minimum population sizes and contributing to our understanding of Blue and Grey Crowned Crane distribution in the province. The resulting knowledge is valuable as it tells us that Grey Crowned Crane numbers are increasing in South Africa, the only country where this is the case. Conversely, Blue Cranes – essentially only found in South Africa – have recently started declining after a long period of increasing numbers. During the survey, we counted 9,159 Blue Cranes, 934 Grey Crowned Cranes, and 14 Wattled Cranes.

In January, our Drakensberg crane team was also instrumental in the formal proclamation of the 24,000-ha Upper Wilge Protected Environment in the Free State through the South African Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. Biodiversity Stewardship is an approach to entering into agreements with private and communal landowners to protect and manage land in biodiversity-priority areas.



Led by conservation authorities across South Africa, biodiversity stewardship recognises landowners as the custodians of biodiversity on their land. The newly proclaimed reserve contains critical habitat for Grey Crowned Cranes, Wattled Cranes, Sungazer Lizards (globally Vulnerable) and Botha's Lark (globally Endangered). The latter two species are local endemics to the eastern Free State and southern Mpumalanga provinces.

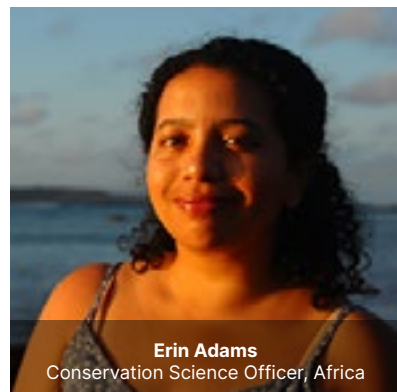
This work is made possible by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the Ford Wildlife Foundation, the HCI Foundation, Heather Henson, International Crane Foundation Conservation Impact Fund, the African Wildlife Initiative Rapid Action Grant co-funded by **IUCN Save our Species (SOS)** and the **European Union**, National Lotteries Commission, Millstream Farm, N3 Toll Concession, Paul L King, Rand Merchant Bank, and the Whitley Fund for Nature.



THE AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION TEAM



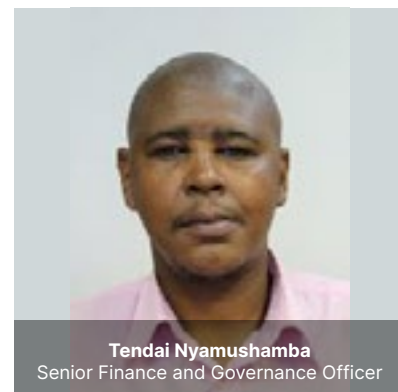
Kerryn Morrison
ICF/EWT Senior Manager: Africa



Erin Adams
Conservation Science Officer, Africa



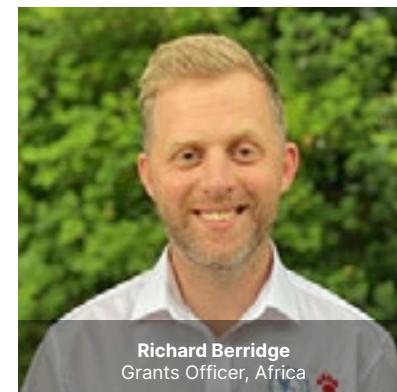
Cynthia Chigangaidze
Senior Administrator, Africa



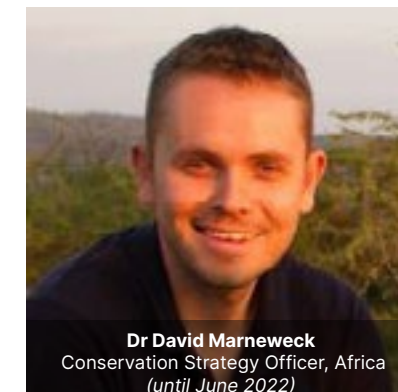
Tendai Nyamushamba
Senior Finance and Governance Officer



Tanya Smith
South African Regional Manager
(until July 2021)



Richard Berridge
Grants Officer, Africa



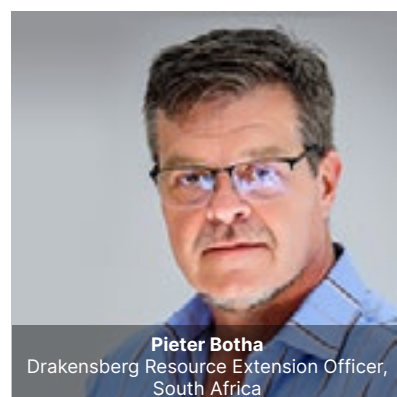
Dr David Marneweck
Conservation Strategy Officer, Africa
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Dr Damian Walters
Regional Manager, South Africa



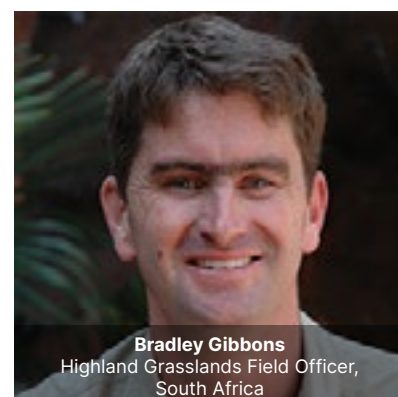
Samson Phakathi
Senior Community Project Officer,
Drakensberg, South Africa



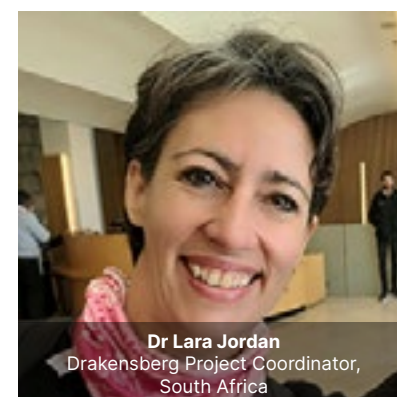
Pieter Botha
Drakensberg Resource Extension Officer,
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Christie Craig
Western Cape Field Officer,
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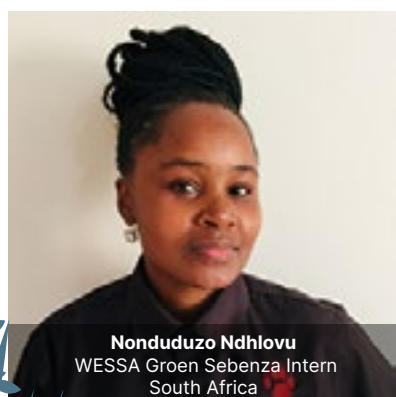
Bradley Gibbons
Highland Grasslands Field Officer,
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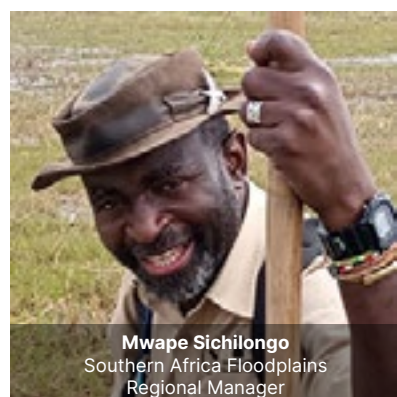
Dr Lara Jordan
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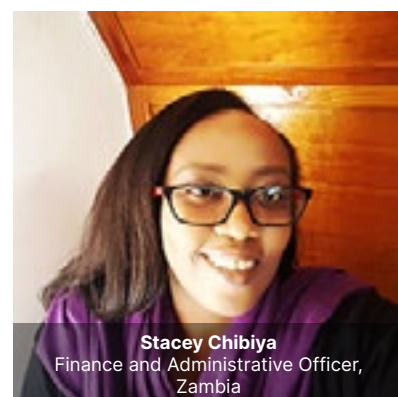
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Southern Africa Floodplains
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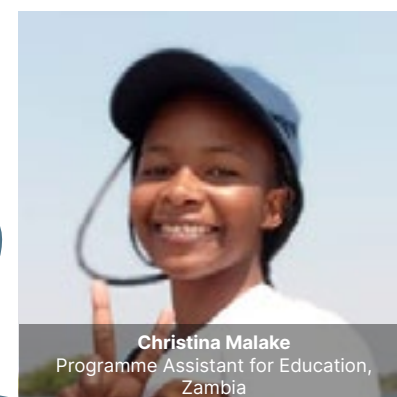
David Banda
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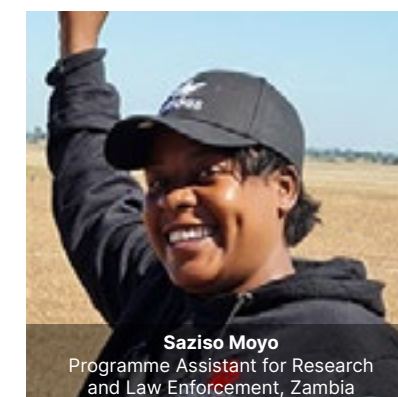
Stacey Chibiya
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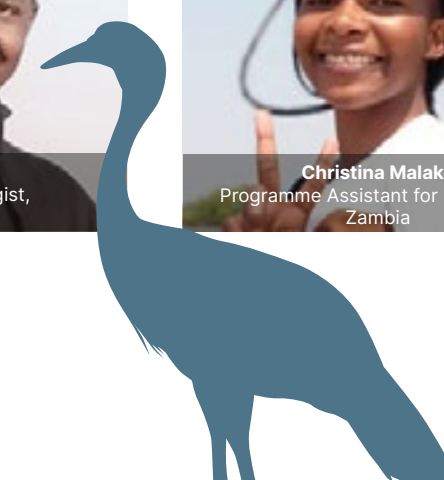
Kelvin Floyd
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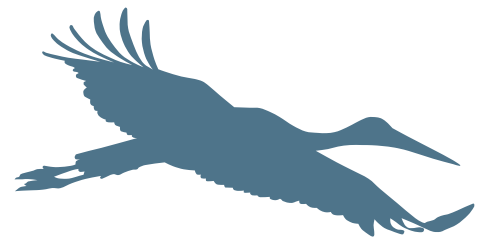


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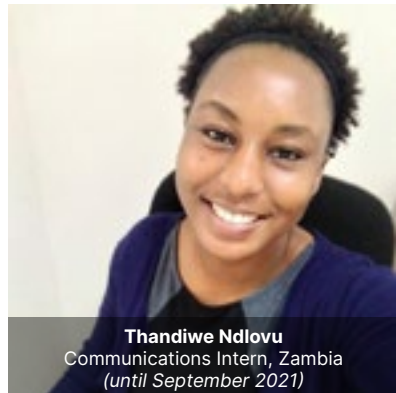


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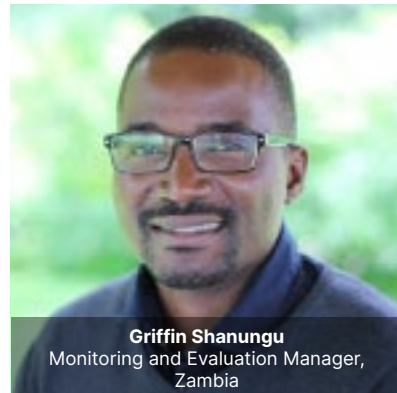




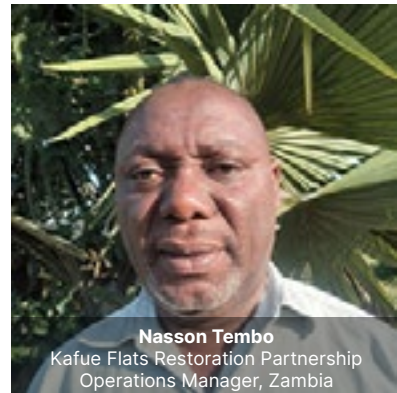
THE AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION TEAM



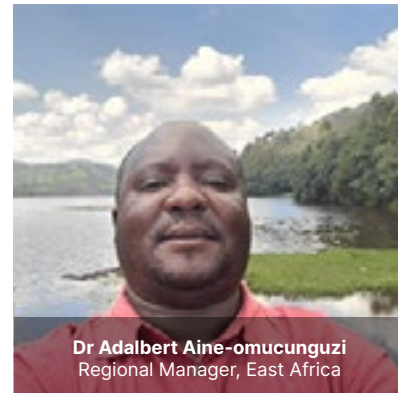
Thandiwe Ndlovu
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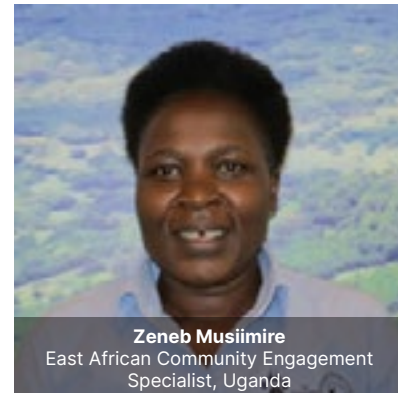
Griffin Shanungu
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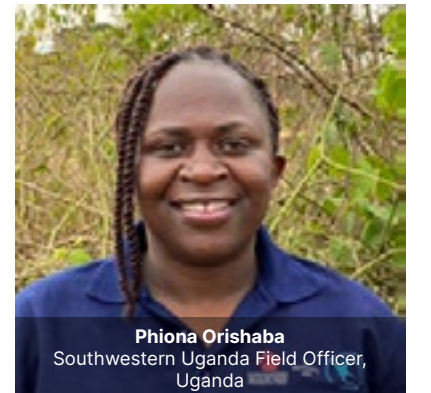
Dr Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi
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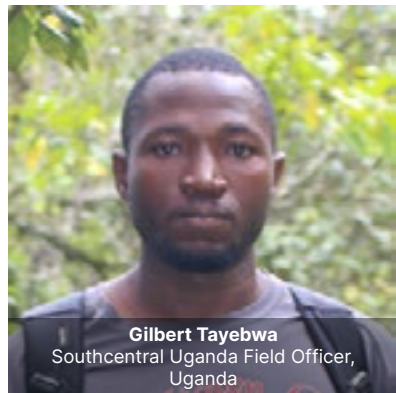
Zeneb Musiimire
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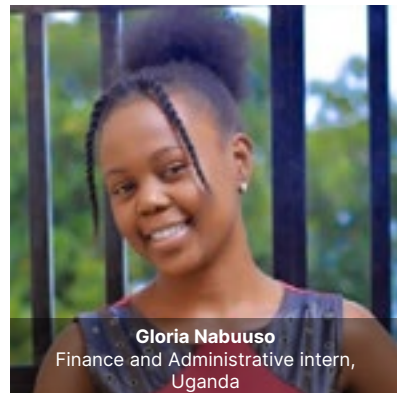
Dr Maurice Ogoma
East African Research and
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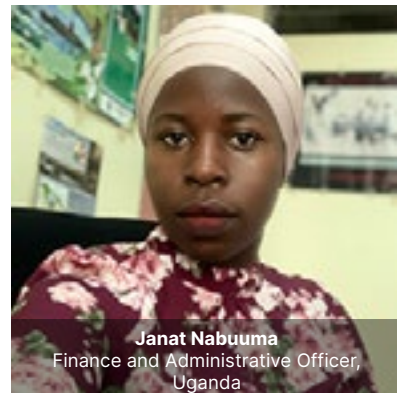
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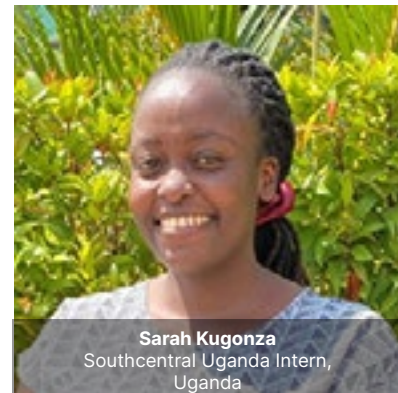
Gloria Nabuuso
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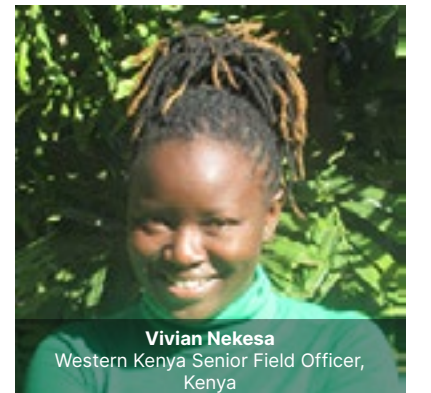
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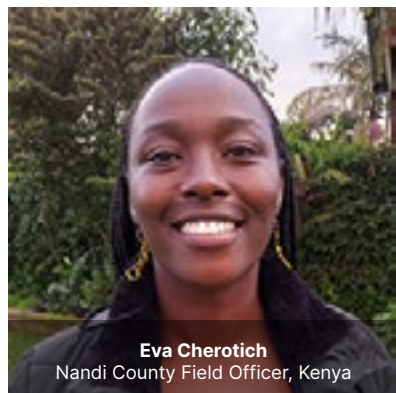
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Dr Joseph Mwangi
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Vivian Nekesa
Western Kenya Senior Field Officer,
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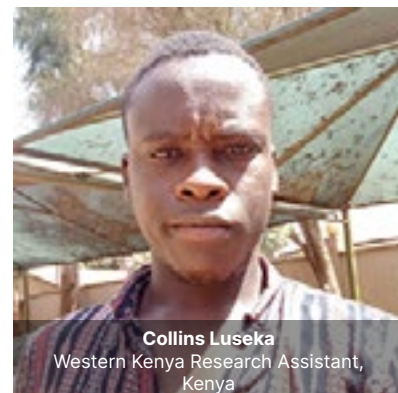
Eva Cherotich
Nandi County Field Officer, Kenya



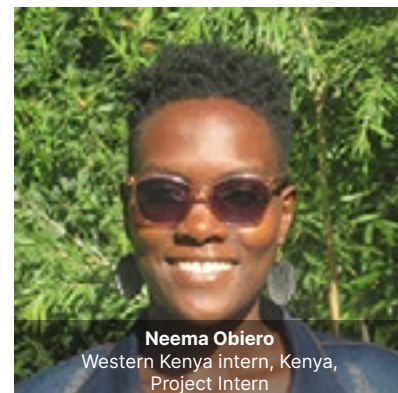
Maurice Wanjala
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Damaris Kisha
Western Kenya Research Assistant, Kenya
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Collins Luseka
Western Kenya Research Assistant,
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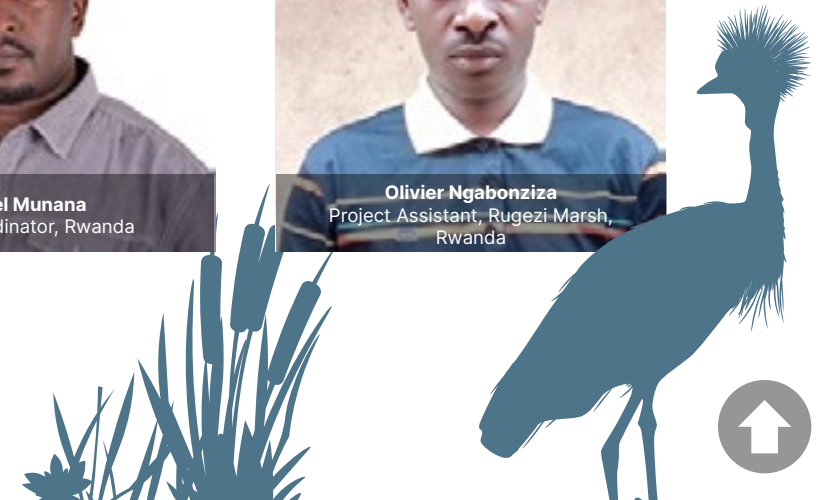
Neema Obiero
Western Kenya intern, Kenya,
Project Intern



Daniel Munana
Field Coordinator, Rwanda



Olivier Ngabonziza
Project Assistant, Rugezi Marsh,
Rwanda





BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME

Birds of prey are iconic figures of the landscapes they inhabit. They are also vital barometers of healthy habitats across Africa. From vast savannahs to rugged mountain ranges, forests, grasslands, and river systems, they provide critical ecosystem services essential for the functioning of these environments. Birds of prey are equally important to people, with social, cultural, and religious importance for many African communities.

Throughout southern Africa, birds of prey are experiencing ongoing population declines, with many species, vultures in particular, moving rapidly towards extinction. It is our responsibility to ensure that wild populations remain viable and healthy.



Our goal is to improve the conservation status of threatened birds of prey in the wild and safeguard the habitats they need to thrive, benefitting a diversity of other wildlife and people. We aim to reduce the impact of human-related threats, maintain and recover populations, and secure or create raptor-safe spaces to sustain the irreplaceable ecosystem services they provide. Our programme uses a combination of on-the-ground actions, partnerships, education and awareness, legislative support, leading-edge technology, and robust science to strengthen the regional birds of prey conservation network. We operate in important raptor spaces across eight of South Africa's provinces, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Botswana.



The EWT team found a snared Impala through the Eye in the Sky Project.

Curbing the impact of wildlife poisoning

An Eye in the Sky

In February 2022, we initiated our pioneering Eye in the Sky carcass and wildlife poisoning detection project, with its primary focus the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTCA) that links the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, the Kruger National Park in South Africa, and the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. This project uses GPS-tracked vultures to remotely detect poisoning events and trigger an early and rapid response to these, alerting rangers on the ground and preventing further loss of wildlife to poisoning. This system harnesses the natural foraging behaviour in GPS-tracked vultures to trigger alarms when they encounter carcasses and potential poisoning events, allowing for a swift response to these events. We have established an important partnership with **Contemplate Wild** (CW) to assist us with integrating the system into **EarthRanger**, a monitoring software platform used by many conservation management officials, including in the Kruger National Park. CW is also assisting us in developing alert endpoints, including Email and SMS, to disseminate vulture alerts triggered by our system to relevant officials. We are building capacity to assist with ground-truthing events to continuously improve the system's accuracy.

OUR EYE IN THE SKY PROJECT INVOLVES

55 VULTURES FITTED WITH TRACKING UNITS

TO SURVEY THE KRUGER, MOZAMBIQUE, AND ZIMBABWE



White-backed Vulture fitted with tracking device. Photo credit: Gareth Tate.

In May, we officially launched the GLTP-based component of our Eye in the Sky project, establishing a network of GPS-tracked White-backed Vultures to survey the vast areas of Kruger into Mozambique and Zimbabwe. To date, we have fitted 55 vultures with tracking units and are continually adding to and expanding the number of vultures in this network across this wildlife poisoning hotspot. This network of tracked birds has already indicated various points of interest, including a poisoned lion and several elephant carcasses – all within the first few months of deployment. Since its inception, we have located over 125 carcasses in the GLTFCA. The project is expanding rapidly. In partnership with our Vultures for Africa Programme, we are taking the system to other parts of Africa, signing agreements and setting up networks of tracked vultures in Niassa Game Reserve and Coutada 11 in Mozambique, and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. We have also held engagements with key partners and have established samples of tracked vultures across landscapes in Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, and Malawi to provide coverage for the project in wildlife poisoning hotspots across these countries.





The EWT's Birds of Prey team and Moholoholo staff fitting vultures with tracking units.

Improving response to wildlife poisoning

With the relentless surge in wildlife poisoning throughout the Greater Kruger region over the reporting period, the EWT has played an integral role in responding to poisoning events and coordinating the rescue of vultures that have survived these events. The last ten years have seen a steady increase in wildlife poisoning across the Lowveld in South Africa. The Greater Kruger, surrounding reserves, and the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) form a vulture-rich landscape in which these birds play a critical role. It is also a high-risk area for wildlife poisoning, with approximately 600 vultures from five threatened species killed in the area since January 2019.

The current rate of decline in population numbers could drive the local extinction of vultures within the next five years. EVERY. BIRD. COUNTS. The Endangered Wildlife Trust and **South African National Parks** (SANParks) are working to improve the management of and response to these devastating poisoning events by training rangers to respond to poisoning events by saving surviving birds and decontaminating the scene to prevent further poisoning of animals or people.

We also work with the **Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre**, where surviving birds are treated locally and rehabilitated until they are fit to return to the skies. Between 2020 and 2022, the EWT and Moholoholo rescued over 90 threatened vultures from poisoning incidents in the Kruger, over 50 of which have been successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild with a second chance to thrive and breed.

This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust, Alu-Cab, and USAID through their VukaNOW Programme.



The EWT's John Davies talks to the Moholoholo volunteers about vultures.



The EWT's Birds of Prey team and Moholoholo staff fitting vultures with tracking units.





Vulture Safe Zones

Throughout southern Africa, the threats driving vulture population declines are complex and dynamic, varying from one region to the next. Although habitat loss, persecution, and electrocutions on power lines are major threats, the decline of African vultures is largely due to direct and indirect poisoning. Our programme has spearheaded the establishment of Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) to address the highly dynamic threat landscape across South Africa. A VSZ is a geographic area where we use targeted conservation measures to address the key threats to the relevant vulture species. We work directly with landowners and communities in these safe zones to reduce the impacts of threats such as poisoning and collisions or electrocutions with energy infrastructure. We engage with owners of large land portions and empower them to manage their properties in wildlife-friendly ways.

Vulture safe in the Karoo

The EWT has worked with landowners and communities to achieve 736,520 ha committed to being 'vulture safe' within its Vulture Safe Zone in the Karoo's heartland. This represents the completion of 95 surveys with landowners, with more than 133 properties assessed, given that some landowners hold more than one property. With great pride, in August 2021, we were able to classify the first of these properties within the Karoo landscape as completely Vulture Safe. This means that all threats to vultures have been mitigated on this property, including remedying unsafe energy infrastructure on the property, covering reservoirs that pose a drowning risk to wildlife, especially vultures, ensuring no poisons are used on the property, and the landowners do not hunt or only use lead-free ammunition, which means that there is no chance of lead poisoning on the property. Although this is only one property, as the Karoo Vulture Safe Zone grows and more landowners commit to becoming vulture safe, the area will ultimately be a haven for not only the vulture species we work tirelessly to conserve but also for a wide variety of other wildlife across the Karoo.

Landowners play an integral role in preserving the environment for wildlife, and the general public is responsible for doing so as well. For this reason, we hosted the Battle of the Bullets lead-free drive in March 2022. The day was centred on spreading awareness of lead-free ammunition alternatives and open a discussion with hunters, outfitters, ammunition suppliers and manufacturers, conservation organisations, and others involved in the ammunition industry to showcase the availability of lead-free ammunition currently on the market and educate each other about the need for healthier options for wildlife.

The Karoo Vulture Safe Zone team prides itself on proactively mitigating threats on individual properties and across the landscape through innovative thinking and community engagement.

This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust, IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Action Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Alu-Cab, and the Rupert Nature Foundation

736,520 HA = 'VULTURE SAFE'



IN THE KAROO



The EWT's Dr Lindy Thompson releasing a tagged Lappet-faced Vulture.



Winterberg Vulture Safe Zone, Eastern Cape

We began work in earnest on the Winterberg Vulture Safe Zone in the Eastern Cape in 2022. We have now established a core network comprising over ten landowners and two reserves to support this VSZ work, and landowners are committed to managing their properties in a vulture safe manner. In addition, we initiated monitoring work on three Cape Vulture colonies and several important roosting sites in the province, which we will compare with previous surveys conducted six years ago.

This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust, IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Action Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Alu-Cab, and Rand Merchant Bank



The EWT team fitting a vulture with a tracking device.



Baviaansriver Conservancy in the Eastern Cape. Photo credit: Johan du Plessis.

Arid Vulture Safe Zone

We monitor over 500 vulture nests across the Kalahari and Karoo, keeping a finger on the pulse of vulture population trends and breeding performance. This vital work is key to maintaining our presence in the landscape and engaging continuously with landowners to address issues involving vultures and their habitat. We are gaining ground traction in the Kalahari, where we have made good progress with the landowners of STS Meletse, a large network of properties and reserves spanning over 30,000 ha in the Askham area of the Northern Cape, to commit to becoming our first Kalahari-based Vulture Safe Zone. This area is home to over 100 breeding pairs of White-backed Vultures and is a significant site for breeding birds in the Kalahari. One noteworthy success here has been the phasing out of leaded ammunition and working with landowners to ensure that the carcasses from animals shot with lead-containing ammunition are not exposed and made available to foraging vultures.

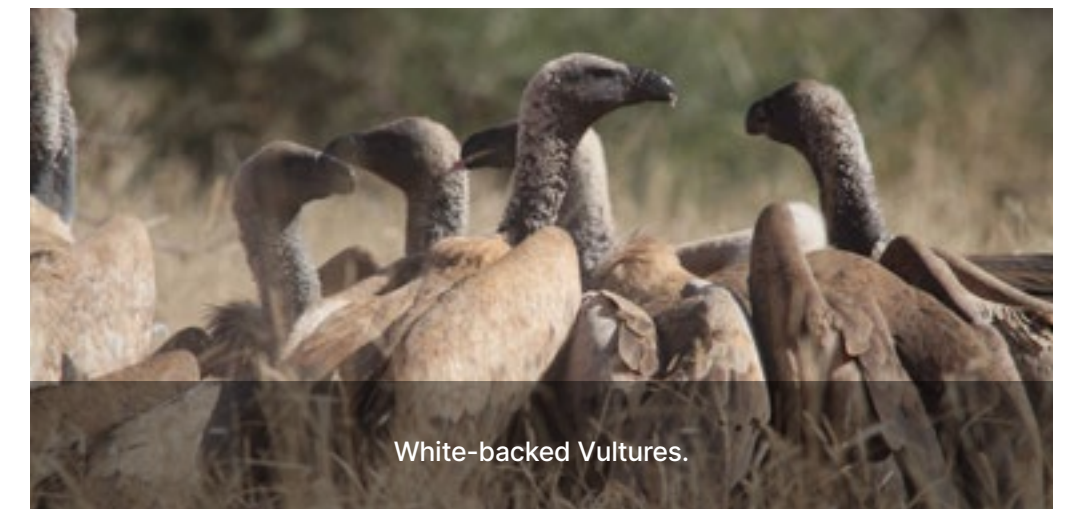
This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust, IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Action Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Alu-Cab, and Rand Merchant Bank

Trans-boundary Raptor Safe Zone

The transboundary raptor safe zone is a collaborative project between South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. In collaboration with colleagues from Raptors Botswana, the Endangered Wildlife Trust has been pioneering the protection of birds of prey in this region. At its core is the Limpopo River, the lifeblood of the area and a long ribbon of riparian habitat providing breeding places for a wide range of birds of prey, and in particular White-backed Vultures and Pel's Fishing Owls. Although only in its second year of active work, the South African component of this project has already seen the commitment from the owners of over 95,000 ha of land towards establishing this safe zone.

A great deal of work, however, will be needed to see the area reach its full potential of stretching to the East towards the Kruger National Park, as well as further South to the Soutpansberg mountains and Blouberg Nature Reserve, which holds the largest colony of Cape Vultures in the world, numbering more than 1,200 pairs.

The work is made possible by Alu-Cab, the Bio-Bridge Initiative (Convention on Biological Diversity), and the Charl van der Merwe Trust.



White-backed Vultures.





Pel's Fishing Owl chick. Photo credit: John Davies.

Lowveld Raptor Safe Zone

The Lowveld region of eastern South Africa plays a critical role in protecting five vulture species and a large selection of diurnal and nocturnal birds of prey, including Martial Eagles, Pel's Fishing Owls, and Bateleurs. A large swathe of land composed of privately owned nature reserves and farms, national parks, provincial nature reserves, and community land forms the core of the Lowveld Raptor Safe Zone.

Throughout the year, and in collaboration with the Kruger-to-Canyons Biosphere Office, we worked closely with two properties on the west of the R40 tar road to help guide their developments in a more 'raptor-friendly' way, to reduce disturbance to breeding raptors, and motivating for one of them to become formally protected.

We presented our Wildlife Poison Response Training to 52 individuals, empowering them with the knowledge to react quickly and effectively to reduce the number of mortalities at mass-poisoning scenes. We also co-convened a symposium on Raptor Health at the International Ornithological Congress, where we presented our research to an international audience. We will be taking this work forward in 2023 with the implementation of our Raptor Health Project in the Lowveld, where we continue to work closely with local wildlife rehabilitation centres, co-ordinating responses to vulture-poisoning events, for which we are on call 24/7, delivering first aid, and transporting poisoned vultures to vets and rehabilitation centres. Through our work with Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, we have educated hundreds of people about the importance of raptors, the threats they face, and our post-release raptor-monitoring efforts. We are lead on a report on vulture nest monitoring in Balule Game Reserve, alongside two other conservation organisations.

The Birds of Prey Programme aims to get commitment from landowners to create a network of properties that provide a safe haven for birds of prey.

So far, we have managed to gain commitment from landowners comprising an area of approximately 112,000 ha. The final aim of this project will be to integrate properties from the edge of the Kruger National Park through to the escarpment to allow for the long-term protection of birds of prey in the broader landscape.

The EWT's VSZ work would not be possible without our partners, including the Associated Private Nature Reserves, BirdLife South Africa, BirdLife Zimbabwe, BlyOlifant Private Nature Reserve, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Kimberley Veterinary Clinic, Raptors Botswana, Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre, SANParks, Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve, Singita Lowveld Trust, and Wildlife ACT as well as all the stakeholders, communities and landowners currently engaged in these projects.

The work is made possible by Alu-Cab, the Bio-Bridge Initiative (Convention on Biological Diversity), Cennergi, Charl van der Merwe Trust, Cleveland Zoo, Disney Conservation Fund, Puy du Fou, Rand Merchant Bank, Rupert Nature Foundation, SANParks Honorary Rangers and, BTE renewables.



The EWT's John Davies taking a group of landowners to install a Pel's Fishing Owl nest camera.



Electric eagles

Our five-year research project on the power line-nesting Martial Eagle population in the Karoo has been completed. A key finding was the dependency of this Endangered eagle on Eskom infrastructure to breed and survive. Eskom, and all the landowners of farms these eagles call home, are certainly the custodians of these birds. We now aim to translate our research into clever, applied conservation action to manage and protect this extraordinary population of eagles. Power line-nesting Martial Eagles are widely exposed to the contentious attitudes of private, small-stock farmers and are frequently persecuted due to intolerance. Therefore, education and awareness programmes tailored towards these groups are strongly driven in the future.

With critical information from our eagle monitoring and research, we address the major threats to eagles across our project sites and improve the protection status of priority eagle habitats, primarily by preventing irresponsible development (especially of wind farms). Through targeted education and awareness campaigns, we work closely with communities and farmers to reduce persecution and poisoning and resolve conflict issues, largely involving the perceived loss of livestock to eagles and other predators. We also promote a greater appreciation for eagles and their role in ecosystems. This year, the programme fitted our nineteenth Martial Eagle with a GPS tracking device in pursuit of understanding their spatial ecology, survival, and threats within the Karoo landscape. This work is vital to enhancing our conservation action for this globally Endangered species. Breeding data, nest locations, space use information, and other outputs from this project are being applied to inform local development, particularly to provide a baseline for environmental impact assessment for development in proximity to power lines and breeding eagles.

A “Martial Eagle and Wind Farm Guidelines” document will be developed from the data collected, which will link closely to Eskom and wind farm development. The future development of a Martial Eagle Risk Assessment (MERA) tool will also enable the rapid identification of high wind turbine collision risk/sensitivity areas.

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



Martial Eagle in flight. Photo credit: John Davies.



The EWT's Dr Gareth Tate with a Martial Eagle.





The EWT team teaching trainees how to fit raptors with leg rings. Photo credit: Lindy Thompson.

Raptors of the Kgalagadi

The arid parts of South Africa, including the Karoo and Kalahari, contain vital breeding and foraging habitats for Cape, White-backed, and Lappet-faced vultures and a diversity of other threatened raptors. With extensive, largely undeveloped landscapes and comparatively fewer threats, we view these areas as one of the last conservation frontiers for vultures in South Africa. The EWT has a widespread, long-term presence in this region and has developed an important network of landowners and communities across the Karoo and Kalahari.

In partnership with the Northern Cape Raptor Conservation Forum and SANParks, we undertook a five-day raptor survey in September 2021 in the Kgalagadi National Park, the first survey in the park since 2016 and an important collaboration with SANParks. This survey consisted of a 968 km road transect and recorded 1,142 individual raptors from 25 different species, as well as 193 nests from 14 different species.

This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust, Kimberley Veterinary Clinic, Puy du Fou, and Rand Merchant Bank.



Raptor leg ring. Photo credit: Lindy Thompson.



Photo credit: Lindy Thompson.

THE FIVE-DAY RAPTOR SURVEY CONSISTED OF A 968 KM ROAD TRANSECT AND RECORDED 1,142 INDIVIDUAL RAPTORS FROM 25 DIFFERENT SPECIES AND 193 NESTS FROM 14 DIFFERENT SPECIES



Guardians of the Grasslands

With over a decade of conservation and research focused on the African Grass-owl and its associated grassland and wetland habitat, our conservation work on the Highveld coal belt is at a turning point. We are using research to inform targeted conservation interventions. The project creates safe spaces for Grass-owls to forage and breed, focusing on securing active breeding habitats, improving the protection status of important Grass-owl habitats, raising conservation awareness about Grass-owls with local stakeholders, and restoring suitable grassland patches within priority sites. To restore the suitable habitat at a selected, degraded site within the Mafube Colliery on the Highveld coal belt, we trailed *Imperata cylindrica* grass rejuvenation on the edge of the degraded wetland through seedling and rhizome planting trials, the latter of which has shown significant outcomes in just three to four months. As we conserve Grass-owls, we are restoring and conserving important wetland and grassland ecosystems to benefit other wildlife. Linked to this, we spent an intensive three months clearing invasive vegetation from our active grass-owl habitat rehabilitation site near the Mafube mine in the Mpumalanga Highveld. Our camera traps stationed in three areas within the sanctuary have revealed a variety of other wildlife, such as Common Duiker, to the area. Finally, on Arbour Day (22 September 2021), we held an environmental education awareness day with three local schools on the site. This generated immense support from local communities for our Grass-owl conservation work.

We launched work to improve the protection status of Grass-owl patches by developing and drafting conservation servitude agreements with key and willing landowners to formally and legally protect core breeding and foraging habitat for Grass-owls on the Highveld grasslands. From other sites in our study area, we have managed to commit two landowners within our project sites to the conservation servitude process, protecting an area of approximately 350 ha. This achievement will contribute significantly to securing an important patch of Grass-owl habitat under continuous pressure from fires, livestock, disturbance, and development.

This work is made possible by Mafube Coal and National Geographic.



Highveld grassland breeding and foraging habitat for Grass-owls.



The EWT's Rebothile Rachuene with a Grass-owl.





The Limpopo River, critical raptor habitat.

Protecting raptors through legislation

Working under the National Vulture Task Force umbrella, the programme played a major role in finalising the draft National Vulture Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures, which has now been finalised for circulation to the rest of the Task Force and will then be distributed for public comment. This significant accomplishment by the drafting team and Task Force will hopefully pave the way for vulture conservation in the country moving forward. Similarly, the Bearded Vulture Task Force continues to play an important role in planning, directing, and implementing conservation activities for Bearded Vultures in southern Africa in line with the Bearded Vulture Biodiversity Management Plan. Furthermore, the EWT provided input on the draft White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity, which could greatly impact the protection and unsustainable use of South Africa's highly threatened vultures.

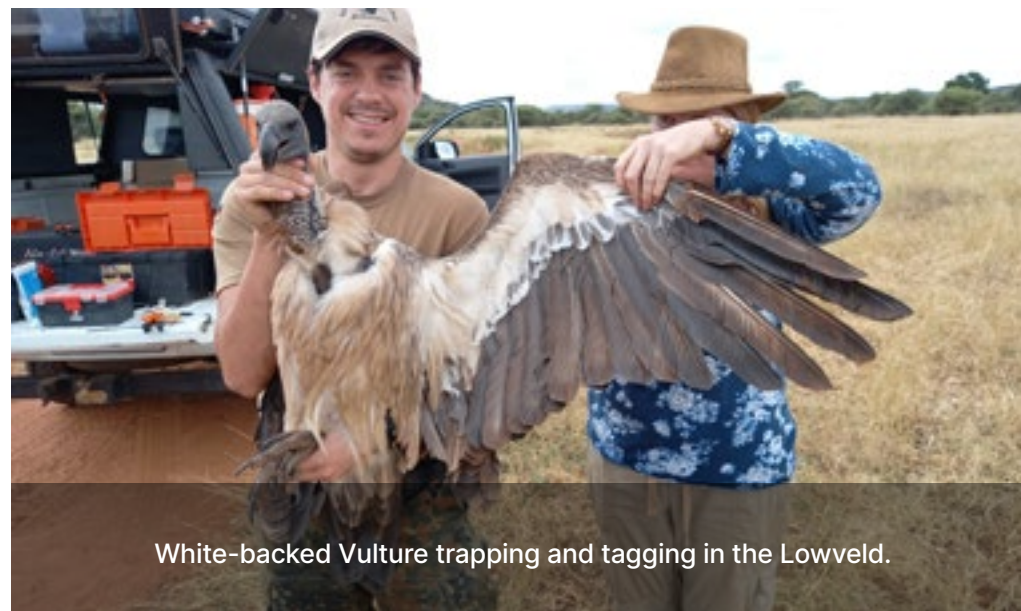
This work is made possible by the Charl van der Merwe Trust and the Disney Conservation Fund.

River raptors

This project aims to stabilise and reverse the degradation of rivers and associated riparian systems along the Limpopo and Mochlatse (Blyde) rivers, as well as the lower reaches of the Olifants River. We prioritise the preservation of ecosystem services critical to the survival of raptors and other threatened species. We target flagship species, including the Pel's Fishing Owl, White-backed Vulture and Hooded Vulture, to secure this habitat using a combination of monitoring, education, and providing constructive input to management teams on the ground. Much of this work falls within the Lowveld and Transboundary Raptor Safe Zones, providing long-term protection for threatened birds of prey that occur along these river systems.

This project links closely with our Transboundary VSZ work.

The work is made possible by Alu-Cab, the Bio-Bridge Initiative (Convention on Biological Diversity), Charl van der Merwe Trust, Cleveland Zoo, and Disney Conservation Fund.

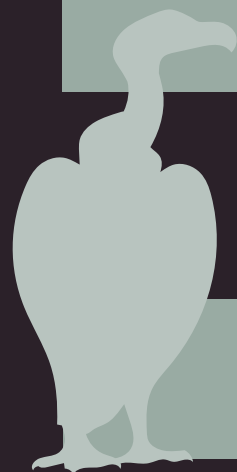


White-backed Vulture trapping and tagging in the Lowveld.



Konstantin Fey and John Davies trapping and tagging a vulture in the Lowveld. Photo credit: by Lindy Thompson





WE HAVE RESCUED OVER 90 VULTURES THIS YEAR

THAT HAVE SURVIVED WILDLIFE POISONING EVENTS IN THE GREATER KRUGER.

WE HAVE MONITORED 752 VULTURE NESTS

ACROSS THE KAROO, LOWVELD, AND KALAHARI

AND TRAINED OVER 60 INDIVIDUALS

IN WILDLIFE POISONING RESPONSE

WE FITTED GPS TAGS ON 62 VULTURES

RINGED 124 VULTURES IN THE WILD

COMMITTED OVER 985,000 HA

OF LAND TO BECOME VULTURE SAFE ZONES

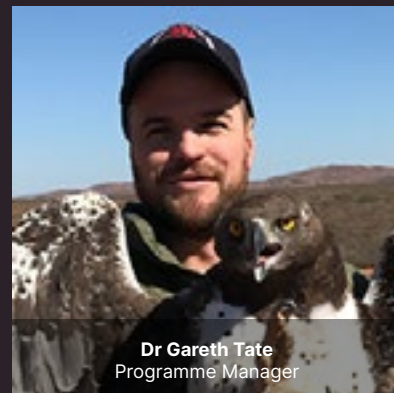
AND COMMITTED 350 HA OF GRASSLAND HABITAT TO BECOME

GRASS-OWL CONSERVATION SERVITUDES



BIRDS OF PREY

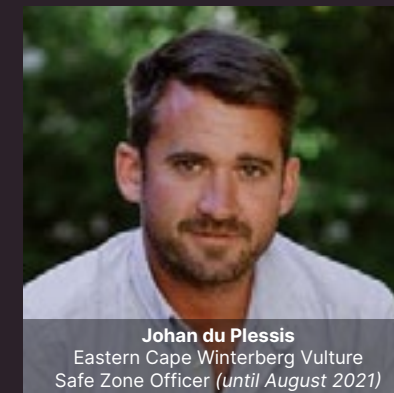
TEAM



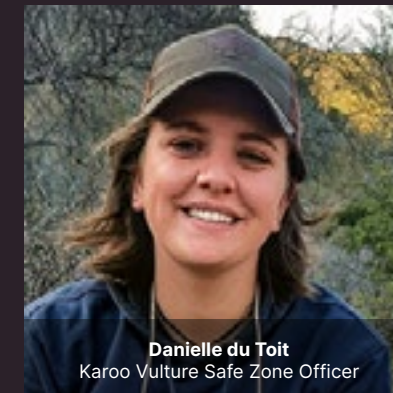
Dr Gareth Tate
Programme Manager



John Davies
Project Coordinator:
Raptor Conservation and Research



Johan du Plessis
Eastern Cape Winterberg Vulture
Safe Zone Officer (until August 2021)



Danielle du Toit
Karoo Vulture Safe Zone Officer



Tselane Rebothile Rachuene
Field Officer: African Grass-owl Project



Dr Lindy Thompson
Project Coordinator: Vulture
Conservation and Research



Ronelle Visagie
Project Coordinator: Arid Raptors Project





CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Carnivores are some of the most charismatic mammals but are also highly threatened, requiring innovative strategies and actions to ensure their survival. The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCP) aims to improve the conservation status of Africa's threatened large carnivores, including African Wild Dogs, Cheetahs, lions, and Leopards. The EWT achieves this through large-scale, collaborative projects to re-establish, expand, and manage safe spaces for carnivores, reduce threats to their survival and persistence, promote positive changes in human values and attitudes towards carnivores, and support legislation to protect them.



Returning Wild Dogs to wild spaces

Since the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project started, safe space for African Wild Dogs (hereafter Wild Dogs) in southern Africa has increased to over 1.4 million ha, and their numbers and genetic health have followed suit. In 2017, the EWT, the **Carr Foundation**, and Gorongosa scientists conducted the first international reintroduction of Wild Dogs into Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique. We introduced another pack in 2019 and Gorongosa National Park now boasts a population of 135 Wild Dogs. Similar success followed in Karingani Game Reserve, where a pack of 13 was introduced in 2019 to kickstart a healthy population making up three functional Wild Dog packs.

This year we focused our attention to Malawi. In July 2021, we **returned 14 African Wild Dogs** to **African Park's** Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve in a historic project to reintroduce this Endangered species to Malawi, where they have been **absent for 70 years**. Both packs are currently rearing pups born earlier in the year. These Wild Dogs were all products of previous successful reintroductions, demonstrating this project's widespread and long-term impact. These reintroductions were complex, involving close collaboration with 16 operational partners.

WE RETURNED 14 AFRICAN WILD DOGS

TO AFRICAN PARK'S LIWONDE
NATIONAL PARK AND
MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE

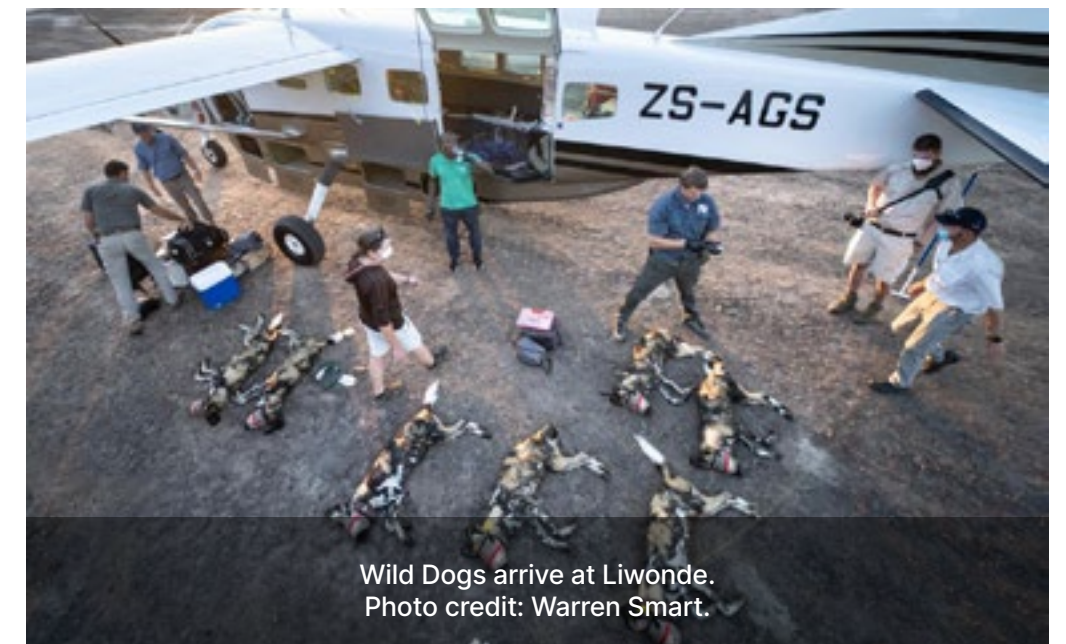


Cole checking in on the Wild Dogs en route to Malawi.
Photo credit: Warren Smart.

The predators' return showcases the team's tenacity to deal with delays due to COVID-19 border closures and the July riots in KwaZulu-Natal. Subsequently, we worked with African Parks and the Zambian Carnivore Programme to reintroduce Wild Dogs to Liuwa Plain National Park. Three females from Kafue National Park were reintroduced and bonded with eight males from South Africa. Since their release, the pack has successfully integrated into their new environment and is currently denning.

This work was made possible by Rob Hibbert, Tania Ihlenfeldt, Painted Wolf Wines, Margot Raggett and Remembering Wildlife, and Oak Foundation.

Operational Partners included African Parks, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Karingani Game Reserve, Lapalala Game Reserve, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC), Mozambique Wildlife Alliance, The Bateleurs, Somkhanda Community Game Reserve, Welgevonden Game Reserve, and Wildlife ACT.



Wild Dogs arrive at Liwonde.
Photo credit: Warren Smart.



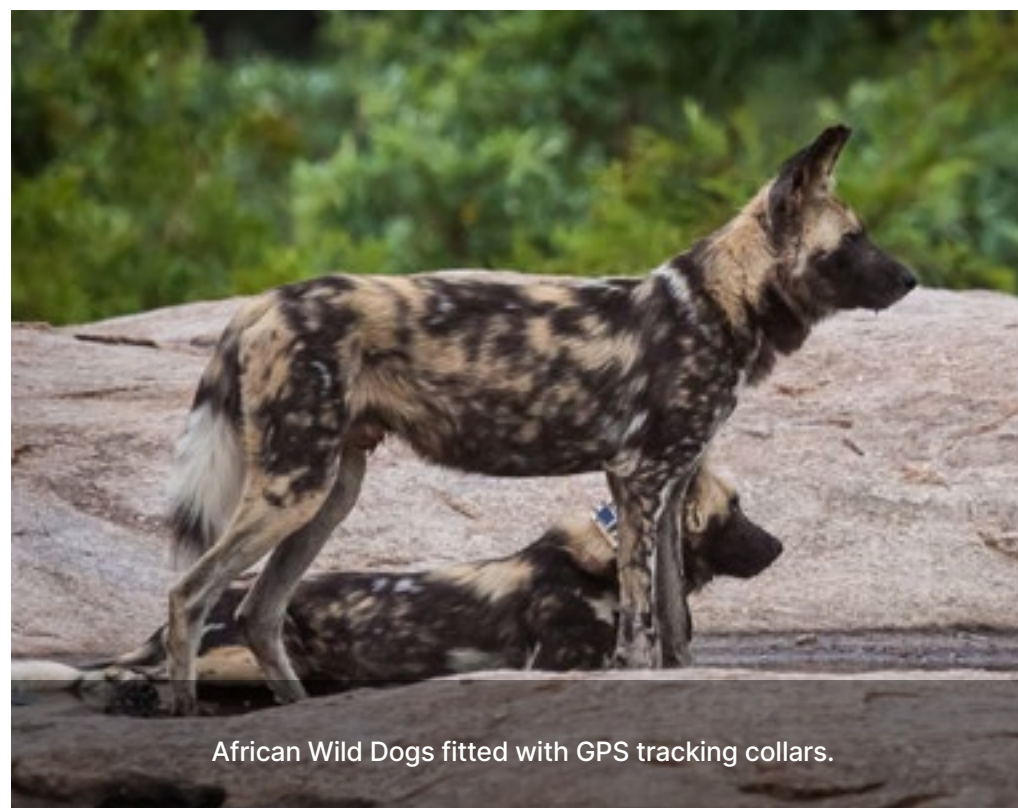
Who let the dogs out?

The Greater Kruger landscape, which includes the Kruger National Park and neighbouring private and communal nature reserves to its west, hosts the largest population of Wild Dogs in southern Africa, estimated at some 350 individuals. As they roam across this landscape, Wild Dogs sometimes leave the park and enter high-risk areas where they are at risk of being caught in snares or catching diseases such as canine distemper and rabies from domestic dogs. We monitor the Wild Dogs here using a near-real-time monitoring platform developed in collaboration with **Contemplate Wild**.

Together, we use cloud-based computing to track **collared packs** and compare their locations to a continuously updated risk map of the area. The team receives an alert when a pack enters a high-risk area, and we know to check the pack for **snares** or to vaccinate the dogs. The system helps us to make the most of our limited time and resources.

To this end, we have now collared 37 packs of Wild Dogs in the Greater Kruger landscape. The near-real-time monitoring of Wild Dogs on this platform has progressed beyond the proof-of-concept phase and continues to outperform expectations. The species is highly susceptible to snaring, and we have removed 18 snares from Wild Dogs since April 2021. Without intervention, many of these individuals would likely have died.

We are now expanding our monitoring activities to incorporate other species, such as vultures, lions, and Spotted Hyaenas. This multi-species monitoring platform will revolutionise conservation planning and interventions in the Greater Kruger landscape and beyond.



African Wild Dogs fitted with GPS tracking collars.



The EWT's Grant Beverley collaring a Wild Dog

WE COLLARED

**37 PACKS OF
WILD DOGS**

**AND REMOVED
18 SNARES
FROM WILD DOGS**

**IN THE
GREATER KRUGER
LANDSCAPE**

Spotting cats in Mozambique

The EWT focused its early Cheetah conservation work on human-carnivore conflict and the illegal trade of Cheetahs as pets and for their skins. In 2011, we launched our Cheetah Range Expansion Project to increase Cheetah numbers by **addressing the impacts of historic habitat loss** and human conflict on Cheetah populations. In 2017, we expanded the project's focus to include other countries in southern Africa, working with African Parks to return Cheetahs to Liwonde National Park, Malawi. Since then, we have worked with our partners to successfully **reintroduce Cheetahs** to parks and reserves in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia. When we established the project in 2011, there were 217 Cheetahs on 41 reserves in South Africa. By June 2022, the project had expanded dramatically and now includes 470 Cheetahs on 65 reserves, covering over two million has of Cheetah safe space across southern Africa. We are exploring future reintroductions into Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe (with African Parks) and Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda (with the Uganda Conservation Foundation).

Besides Cheetahs, our scope in Mozambique is expanding, and we are working with **Peace Parks** and the Mozambique Wildlife Alliance in an advisory capacity on further carnivore reintroductions into the country. This included the reintroduction of Leopards to Zinave National Park, which we are helping to monitor.

This work was made possible by Ashia Cheetah Conservation, Charlie Amm, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Gaie Ferguson, Ivan Carter Foundation, Milkywire, National Geographic, Oak Foundation, Paul King, PWC, Sere-med, and the Tandy Grant Foundation.



Livestock Guarding Dog Project

The persecution of predators by humans, particularly retaliation killings by farmers who may have lost livestock to predators, places large carnivores, mainly Leopards, in grave danger. We work closely with livestock farmers through our Livestock Guardian Dog Project to place guarding dogs with livestock to protect them from carnivores that try to kill them. The dogs are placed with livestock herds as puppies and grow up with their herd, bonding with and becoming protective of the livestock. Once livestock guarding dogs reach adulthood and can defend the herd from predators, losses to predation drop to nearly zero, making this one of the most effective non-lethal mitigation methods available. Since 2008, we have placed 241 LGDs with over 200 farmers across various commercial and rural communities in the Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Northern Cape, Free State, and KwaZulu-Natal provinces.

Our Livestock Guarding Dog Project has successfully reduced losses from protected herds from an average of 6.7 livestock per year to almost zero. We currently have 120 dogs protecting livestock and an extensive waiting list of farmers who see the value and savings they bring. Since these farmers are no longer losing livestock, they no longer kill carnivores in retaliation and alert us to predators that are snared or killed. This year, we worked with fourteen farmers experiencing unsustainable livestock losses to carnivores. Over the year before placing Livestock Guarding Dogs on their farms, they lost 68 livestock, significantly impacting their livelihoods. After placing Livestock Guarding Dogs with these farmers, only one calf and two goats were lost between them over the reporting period, demonstrating how effective the dogs are and how beneficial the project is for farmers and predators alike and has generated increasing interest in the use of Livestock Guarding Dogs among other local farmers.

Regrettably, the two reputable breeding facilities we work with were not breeding during lockdown due to concerns and general COVID-19 restrictions. The difficulty we experienced in sourcing puppies for this project highlights the critical need for another breeding facility, and the EWT's Livestock Guarding Dog Breeding Facility has been completed. Kenneling and breeding of the dogs will be undertaken by Mokgadi Guardian Dogs, overseen by the EWT. We expect the facility to contribute 10–20 LGD puppies to the farming community each year.

This work was made possible by **Bakwena**, **Bravecto**, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, **Eukanuba**, Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme implemented by the UNDP, and **Milkywire**.

Operational Partners: **Boavida Kennels**, **Cheetah Outreach**, and **Green Dogs Conservation**.

WE HAVE PLACED
**241 LIVESTOCK
GUARDING DOGS**
WITH OVER 200 FARMERS

ACROSS VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN LIMPOPO,
MPUMALANGA, NORTH WEST, NORTHERN CAPE,
FREE STATE, AND KWAZULU-NATAL



Livestock Guarding Dog puppies in training.



Lion project

In 2020, the EWT, SANParks, Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (Mozambique), Mozambique Wildlife Alliance, and Peace Parks Foundation initiated a project to monitor lion prides across the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA), using individuals fitted with GPS satellite collars. The project was established in response to an increase in the targeted poisoning of lions and harvesting of lion parts for the illegal wildlife trade. Monitoring lion prides allows us to identify priority areas for lion protection in the GLTFCA. Consequently, we can predict where lions are likely to be and when and how we can protect them. Poachers use similar information to target lions, and this system helps anti-poaching teams stay ahead of them.

Locating lions in Limpopo National Park has proved difficult because direct persecution makes them nervous of people, and they only exist in small groups of one to three adults.



This year we deployed 34 camera traps along the South Africa-Mozambique border area to help locate and monitor this threatened population.

To date, we have only detected six lion images at the 34 stations, a very low lion density that may reflect the high anthropogenic pressure on the lions and low prey density. The death of two lions in Limpopo National Park in May 2022 highlighted the gravity of their persecution in the GLTFCA. One was killed because of human-wildlife conflict. The other was poisoned by poachers who removed his paws and face, presumably destined for the local or international traditional medicine markets. We continue to work with the park security team to address these issues.

This work was made possible by the Lion Recovery Fund and UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge.



Team searching for lions from a helicopter in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area.



The EWT team setting up camera traps to collect records of lion sightings in the GLTFCA.



Kruger Wild Dog and Cheetah Census

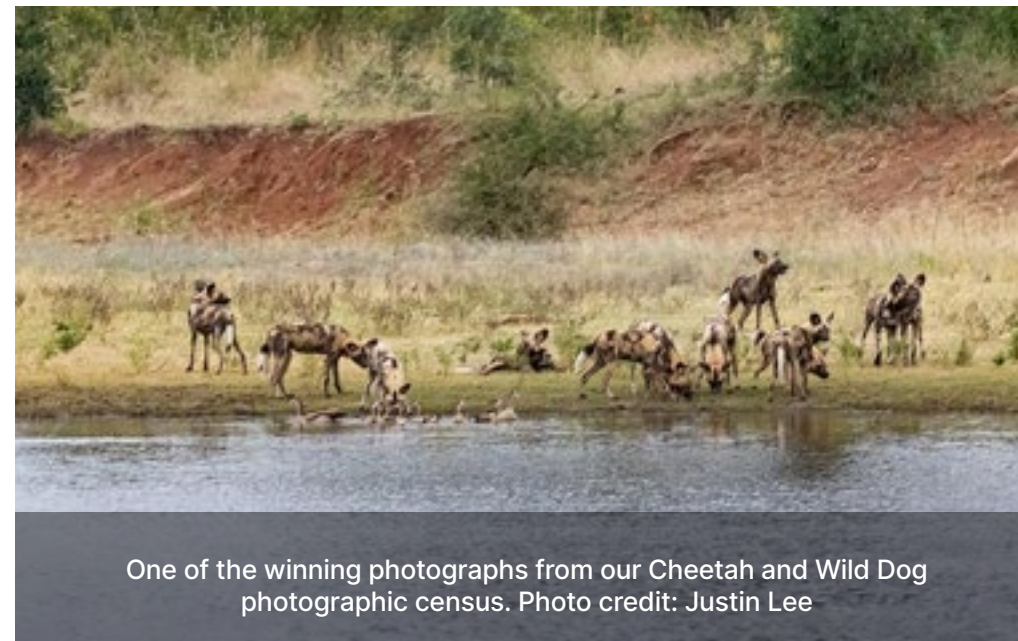
In 1989, in collaboration with SANParks, the EWT initiated the first Wild Dog photographic census in the Kruger National Park (KNP). We have repeated this census every four to five years since then. Through the census, we call on visitors to the KNP to help count the park's Wild Dogs and Cheetahs by submitting photographs of individuals they see in the park. Each animal has different coat markings, like our fingerprints, and we use these markings to tell individuals apart, enabling us to count them. Repeated population estimates allow us to track trends and population health over time. We can use these trends to recommend and implement conservation interventions. We have monitored the Wild Dog population fluctuating from a high of 400 individuals in 1995 to only 120 in 2009, with the Cheetah population fluctuating between 102 in 2005 and 412 in 2015.



One of the winning photographs from our Cheetah and Wild Dog photographic census. Photo credit: Bianca Oberholzer.

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions, the 7th Wild Dog and 5th Cheetah Kruger Census got underway in September 2021 for the data collection to be finalised by August 2022. We have partnered with the **African Carnivore WildBook** to facilitate the identification of individual animals. Artificial intelligence algorithms will save hours sifting through pictures to match up individual coat and spot patterns. This solution will help us to determine accurate, updated population statistics for both large carnivore species in the park. Visitors have been very responsive to the census, sending in more than 2,790 pictures to date. Encouragingly, preliminary data suggests that Wild Dog numbers are increasing from their 2009 low. It is too early to comment on Cheetah trends till these data are rigorously analysed.

This work was made possible by SANParks Aha Hotels and Lodges, Canon, Echo Africa, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Investec, Meter Man, Outliers Coffee Roasters, Painted Wolf Wines, Relate, Tech for Conservation, The Park Shop, Trappers, and WildBook.



One of the winning photographs from our Cheetah and Wild Dog photographic census. Photo credit: Justin Lee

In the dog box

The Endangered Wildlife Trust and Welgevonden Game Reserve have proudly established the world's first dedicated Wild Dog holding facility, which will temporarily hold Wild Dogs safely while they await relocation to their new homes as part of the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project.

The Waterberg Wild Dog Holding Facility has already been used to hold Wild Dogs destined for reintroduction into the Liwonde National Park in Malawi and Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia.

This work was made possible by Alastair Stalker, Colette Carty, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Lizzie Hide, Lucia van Dyk, Oak Foundation, Painted Dog Conservation Inc., Painted Wolf Wines, Richard Bosman, SSU Plant Quarry, Tania Ilenfeldt and Rob Hibbert, and TNH Fencing.

Operational Partners: Kaingo Game Reserve, Kololo Game Reserve Lapalala Wilderness, Marataba, and Welgevonden Game Reserve.



An aerial view of the Waterberg Wild Dog Holding Facility on Welgevonden Game Reserve.



Wild and free

Not all Wild Dogs are confined to fenced reserves in South Africa. Over this reporting period, we know of four packs that have denned outside of protected areas. We are working with partners in the Waterberg in northern Limpopo and along the western boundary of the Kruger National Park to minimise the impact of these packs on game farms and resulting conflict with farmers, thereby increasing their chances of survival. Over the last five years, the numbers and distribution of these free-roaming Wild Dogs have increased due to awareness-raising campaigns and improved monitoring. The Waterberg, located in the heart of a Biosphere Reserve and close to potential visitors from Johannesburg and Pretoria, has significant eco-tourism potential. We are helping to protect one of the last free-roaming Wild Dog packs by promoting eco-tourism initiatives that raise funds for protecting this pack. In turn, the proceeds from the tourism are returned to local farmers, helping ease the financial burden they suffer from losing game on their properties. This win-win solution provides tangible benefits to landowners who have the pack moving through their farms and protects the Wild Dogs.

This work was made possible by Africa's Wild Dog Survival Fund, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, Gaie Fergusson, Milkywire, Painted Wolf Wines, Princess Charlene of Monaco, and Relate.

Operational Partners: Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION

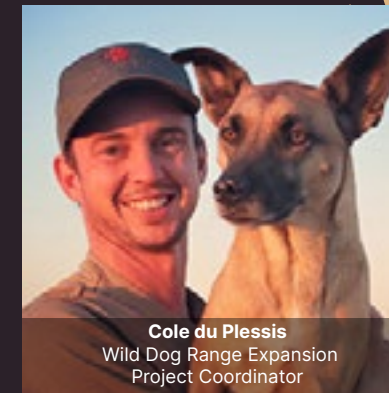
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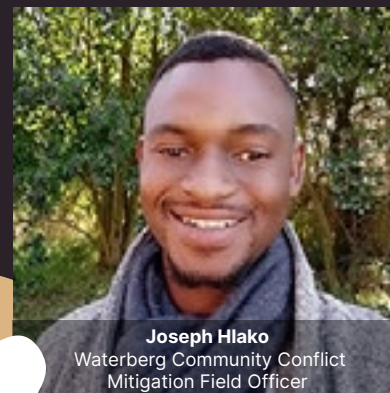
Dr David Mills
Programme Manager



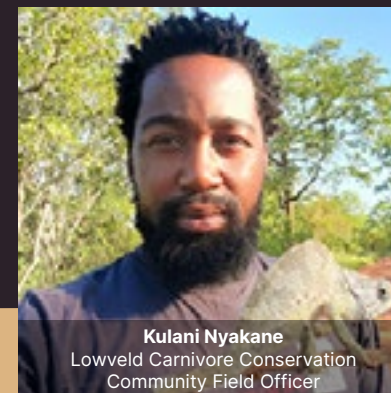
Grant Beverley
Lowveld Regional Coordinator



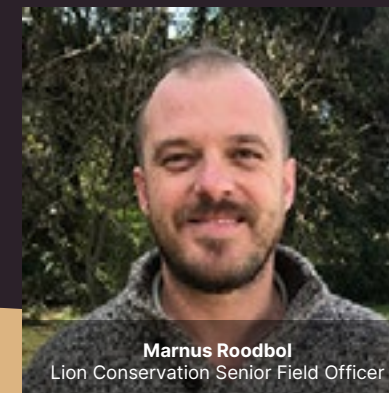
Cole du Plessis
Wild Dog Range Expansion
Project Coordinator



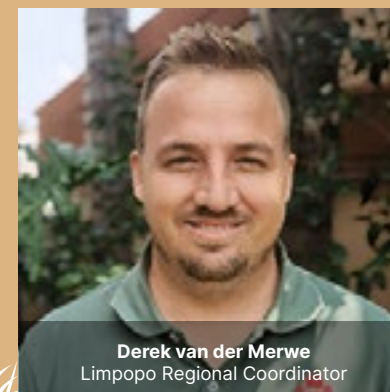
Joseph Hlako
Waterberg Community Conflict
Mitigation Field Officer



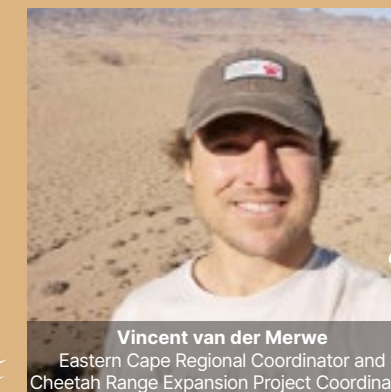
Kulani Nyakane
Lowveld Carnivore Conservation
Community Field Officer



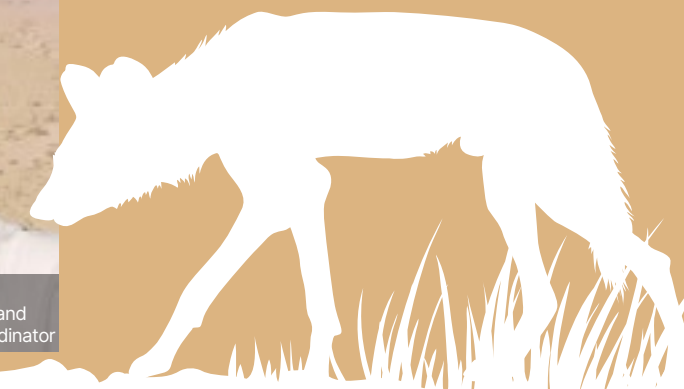
Marnus Roodbol
Lion Conservation Senior Field Officer



Derek van der Merwe
Limpopo Regional Coordinator



Vincent van der Merwe
Eastern Cape Regional Coordinator and
Cheetah Range Expansion Project Coordinator





CONSERVATION PLANNING AND SCIENCE UNIT

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Conservation Planning and Science Unit (CPSU) provides planning and scientific support across the organisation's programmes and projects to ensure our work is robustly designed, scientifically sound, evidence-based, and impactful. We manage the organisation's central biodiversity database and build capacity among our staff and partners to plan our work and to analyse, interpret, and publish the results of our conservation research, making it accessible and meaningful to diverse audiences. We also run special projects to fill critical knowledge gaps, such as the Species Distribution Modelling and African Lion Database projects.

As a support service function of the EWT, the Conservation Planning and Science Unit's work is made possible by our framework donors Artifact Advertising, Barloworld, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Deloitte, Esri South Africa, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, and Speedspace.



Setting the standards

As a partner in the **Conservation Measures Partnership** (CMP), the EWT works collectively with other global conservation NGOs, private businesses, government agencies, and funders to achieve greater conservation impact. As stewards of the **Conservation Standards** (our conservation planning and management framework), the CMP seeks better ways to design, manage, and measure the impacts of conservation work. The EWT uses and contributes to the improvement of **Miradi** (a conservation project planning and management software). Miradi allows teams to design, report on, and track conservation outcomes and impact at the project, programme, and organisational levels. Using the Conservation Standards and Miradi, we are better equipped to develop and manage robust, evidence-based strategic plans. We have created coded templates that enable staff to extract their strategic plans into Microsoft Word documents that are accessible to project teams, partners, and donors.

Several staff members attended **Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust's** week-long introductory training course to enhance EWT staff capacity in using the Conservation Standards. We further engaged all the EWT's programmes through a series of initial strategy sessions completed by the end of 2021. Subsequently, all programmes have developed situation models (visual diagrams of the socio-ecological context at the project site) and result chains (diagrams of the projects' Theory of Change) to support the implementation of their projects.



Unit expansion

In September, the Conservation Science Unit expanded into the Conservation Planning and Science Unit to recognise and capitalise on the important links between strategic planning, impact monitoring, and resource mobilisation. An exciting addition within the revised unit, the EWT now hosts the Regional Resource Centre (RRC) of the **IUCN's Conservation Planning Specialist Group** (CPSG) for southern and East Africa. This centre will position us as a leading planning resource in the region. The new unit will enable us to leverage strategic partnerships and develop strategic landscape-level projects.

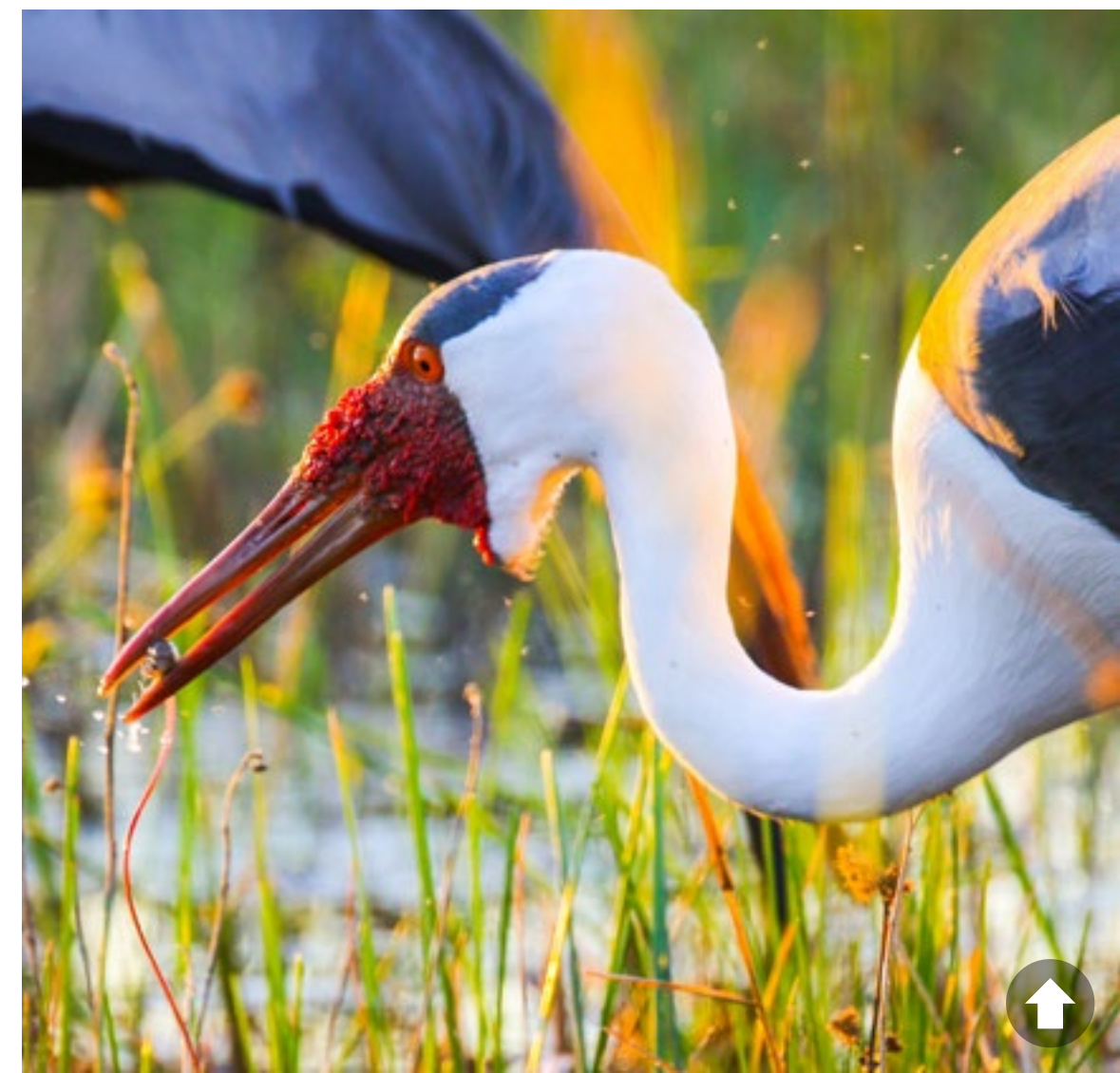
The RRC will act as a link to the CPSG, actively interrogating planning needs in the region, establishing a network of partners to support this work, and developing a sustainable funding pipeline. Initial species plans include those for the Bearded Vulture, Humpback Dolphin, Wattled Crane, and possibly the Secretarybird.

This work is made possible by the Leiden Conservation Foundation.

Behaviour change

Staff from the African Crane Conservation Programme attended **RARE's** training on **human behaviour-centred** design to develop strategies, activities, and indicators for the EWT's community-based work. This increased capacity will provide a local hub of expertise in behaviour-centred design that can assist all programmes with solutions to address human behaviours that degrade the environment.

We hosted a workshop for programmes working with communities to brainstorm which indicators are needed to measure social change, aligning with our community of practice approach to ensure that we have a meaningful impact on the communities we work with.



Ethical conservation

The EWT Ethics Committee (EWTEC) is the EWT's formal, independent ethics committee. The committee evaluates and approves any project's animal and social welfare procedures before work begins. The EWTEC follows national legislation and standards. The EWTEC met five times over the reporting period to review our conservation projects, and in doing so, we grew the total number of EWT projects with ethics approval from 36 to a total of 62, including 46 wildlife projects, 16 social projects, as well as six Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), since the committee formed in October 2018.



EWT Ethics Committee attendance during the period 2021-2022.

Committee Member and expertise (affiliation)	06 Jul 21	22 Sept 21	17 Nov 21	08 Feb 22	05 Apr 22	14 Jun 22
Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert (EWT) – Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NA
Dr Ian Little (EWT) - Chair	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Dr Richard Burroughs – Wildlife veterinarian (University of Pretoria)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Dr Jacklyn Cock – Social scientist (University of the Witwatersrand)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Adam Gunn – Public representative (Gunn Attorneys)	✗	✗	✗	NA	NA	NA
Dr Kelly Marnewick – Scientist (Tshwane University of Technology)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Dr Leith Meyer – Wildlife veterinarian (University of Pretoria)	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Samantha Nicholson – EWTEC Coordinator (EWT)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cynthia Schoeman – Public representative (Ethics Monitoring & Management Services (Pty) Ltd)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Lebo Sentle – Animal welfare (NSPCA)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Prof Michael Somers – Scientist (University of Pretoria)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Number of projects approved						
Animal projects	2	3	1	2	2	1
Social projects	1	2	2	1	1	3
Standard Operating Procedures	0	0	1	0	3	0



African Lion Database

The **African Lion Database** (ALD) is a first-of-its-kind platform that collects and consolidates population, distribution, and human-related mortality data across the African Lion's range. The database allows us to improve our understanding of the status and trends of this threatened species, guide conservation action, and direct funding to conserve African Lion populations that need it most.

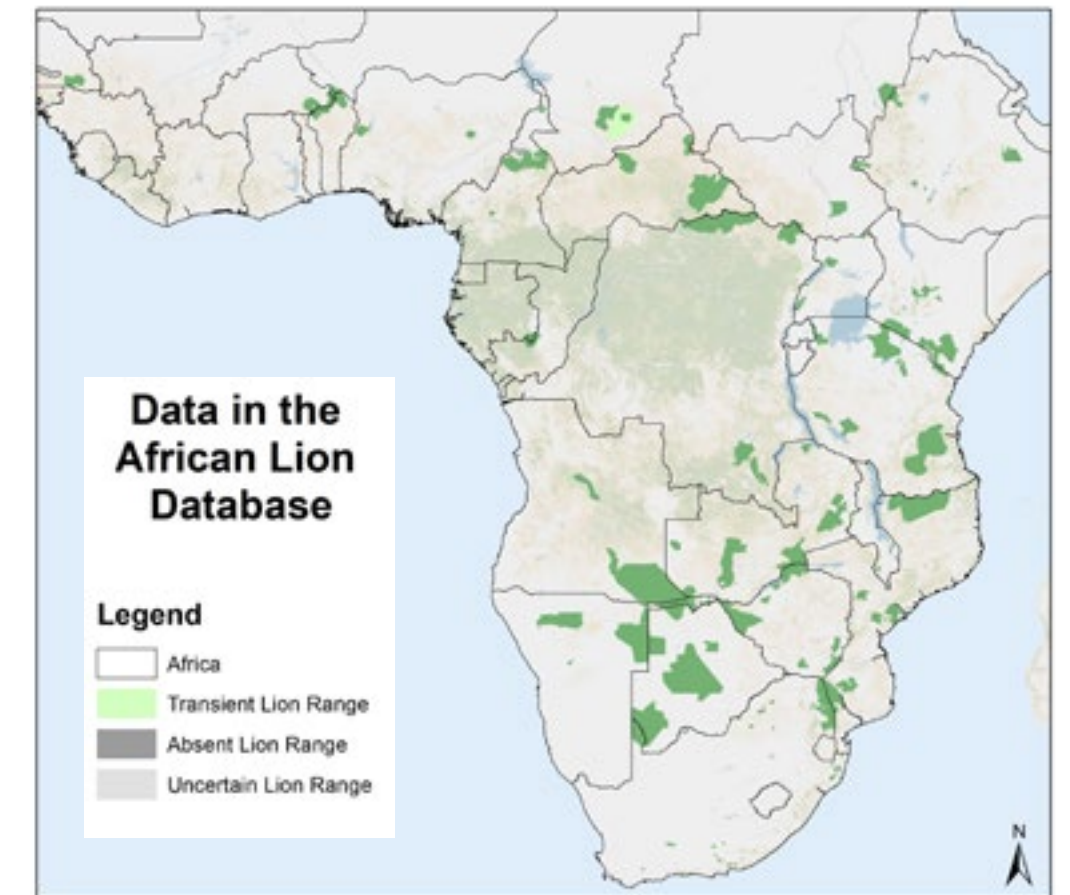
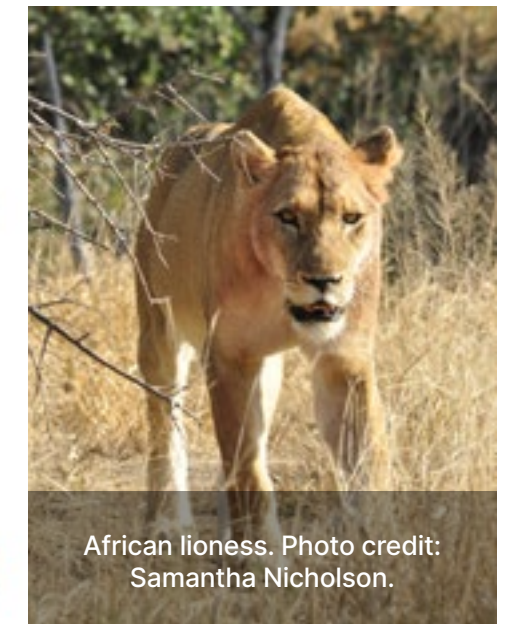
This year we continued to collect extensive data on lion populations throughout Africa, increasing our records as detailed in the table above. However, filling the remaining data gaps has become more challenging as we assume that some of the data we aim to collect either does not exist or has not been curated. At the end of 2021, we created an online threat survey to bolster data collection to gather qualitative data from protected area managers on threats to lions across their range. This survey focussed on the threats to lions within an area, how these are mitigated, and the species' status. We sent the survey to 187 individuals and received 142 responses (a response rate of 76%).

We are currently analysing the results of this survey. We also expanded the project to collect information on the threats to Lions across their range, how they differ across regions, where there is a demand for body parts, and what mitigation measures are being implemented to protect Lions.

In April, with additional funding from the **Lion Recovery Fund**, we hosted and organised a workshop with 30 experts in surveying Lions and their prey. Through the workshop, we aimed to develop a standardised set of survey methodologies to promote the collection of scientifically robust and comparable data across geographic and temporal scales. Subsequently, we are writing a detailed manual with these methodologies, scheduled for completion in April 2023.

This work is made possible by the Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund and the **US Fish and Wildlife Service**.

Metric	Countries' lion data in the ALD	Lion areas represented in the ALD	Records of lion population sizes	Areas providing data on lion population sizes	Ad hoc lion distribution records	Lion mortality records	Individuals contacted for lion data	Individuals providing lion data
Number	22	45%	795	377	17,812	1,607	470	189
Change (year on year)	0	▲ 11%	▲ 64	▲ 82	▲ 779	▲ 480	▲ 42	▲ 23



Current areas (n = 393) included in the African Lion Database. Of these, 377 areas have associated population data.



Species distribution modelling

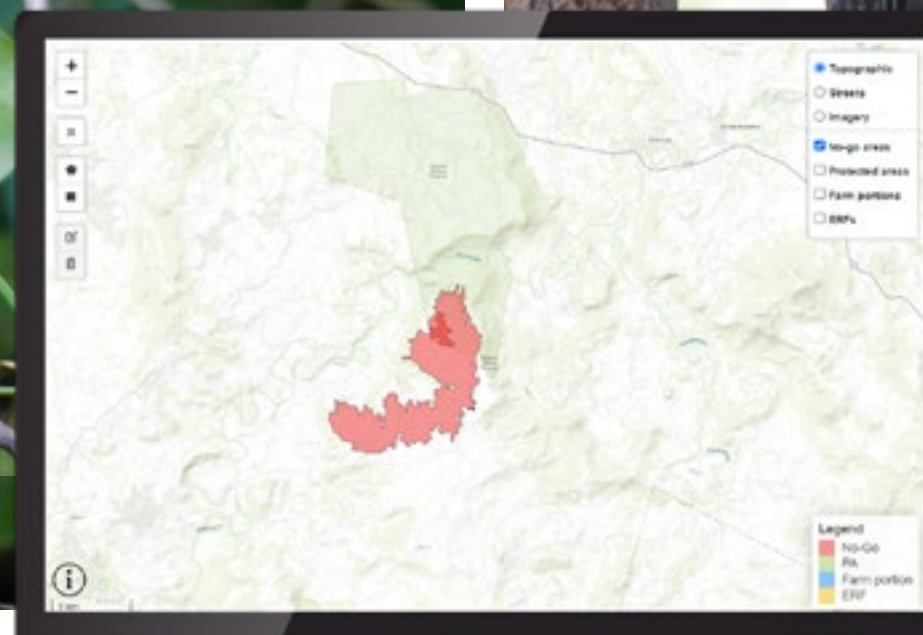
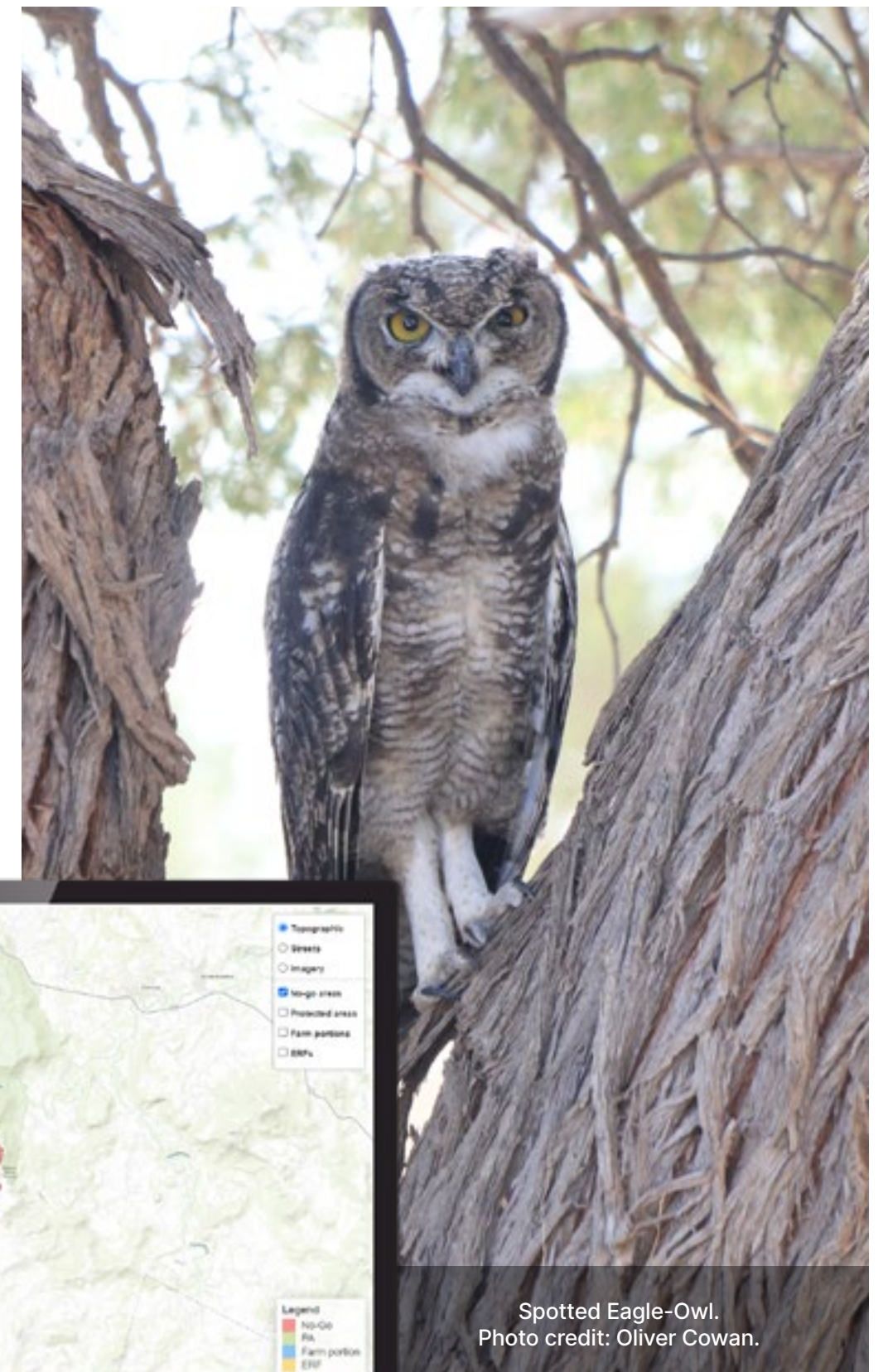
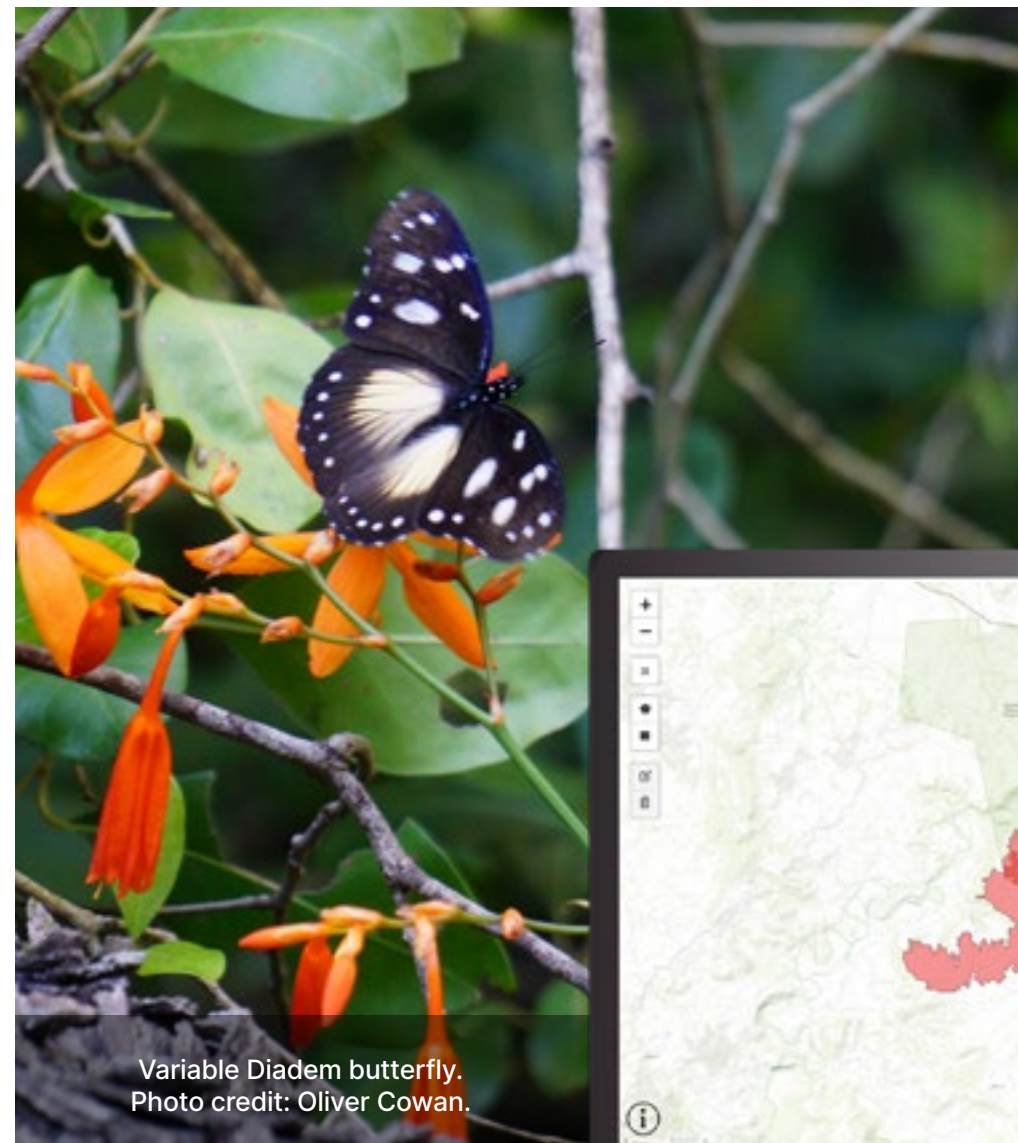
A fundamental aspect of conserving species is knowing where in the landscape they occur. However, this knowledge is often incomplete, especially for rare, secretive, and cryptic species. This challenge calls for innovative tools to fill these information gaps. In this respect, species distribution models are an essential conservation tool that the EWT uses in various projects. They serve several functions, most notably to predict where we can expect to find a particular species based on a measure of habitat suitability. Over the past three years, we have developed species distribution models incorporated into the Environmental Screening Tool – the **Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's** (DFFE) online platform that identifies areas of high environmental sensitivity at the site of a proposed development.

After several months of preparing additional species distribution data for the Environmental Screening Tool, we reached another important milestone with the tool, submitting a new layer to DFFE, which has subsequently gone live on the screening tool website. Improvements we made to the animal layer include data for all threatened bird species, new butterfly and reptile localities, and the inclusion of data for 12 highly range-restricted and globally threatened Cape Stag Beetles.

This project, which is a component of a larger project on improving Environmental Impact Assessments, has been completed. To wrap up the project, the team finalised the **Threatened Species No-Go Mapping Tool**, focusing on the documentation accompanying the map. The online map identifies and recommends no-go zones for developments based on the presence of threatened and highly range-restricted species of conservation concern, flagging them against development.

The No-Go map includes 112 threatened animal species and 400 threatened plant species. Aside from guiding development more broadly, we plan to use the No-Go data to guide our conservation focus as an organisation and identify potential areas suitable for protected area expansion.

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



Species of conservation concern

This new project started in September 2021 as a follow-on to the Species Distribution Modelling project. We aim to provide public access to the species distribution models developed for the DFFE's **Environmental Screening Tool** and additional distribution data on species that are Near Threatened according to the national Red List by developing a Land Use Decision Support (LUDS) Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) tool. This aspect of the project is a collaboration with the **South African National Biodiversity Institute** (SANBI), which will host the tool on its website. Our initial focus has been updating and adding new species distribution models and the development of the complex workflow to load the thousands of plant and animal spatial layers onto the website. This interactive map works well and will be rolled out for public use in early 2023. **Compass Informatics**, the software developer we contracted to assist with the project, has built the more complex functionality of the LUDS SCC tool. This functionality includes the option for users to generate biodiversity reports for their areas of interest and the ability to map and visualise the distribution of species of interest.

To bolster the information available for the tool, planning for field trips to survey for IUCN listed Data Deficient species is well underway, with agreements in place with SANBI and CapeNature. We have also initiated the process to produce revised IUCN Red List assessments for Cape Stag Beetles, a poorly understood but highly threatened group of insects at risk from the illegal collection by beetle collectors and are likely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. These updated Red List Assessments will allow these species to be formally protected if needed.

This work is made possible by the **Anglo-American Foundation**



Cape Stag Beetles. Photo credit: Alex Rebelo.



Ground Agama. Photo credit: Oliver Cowan.



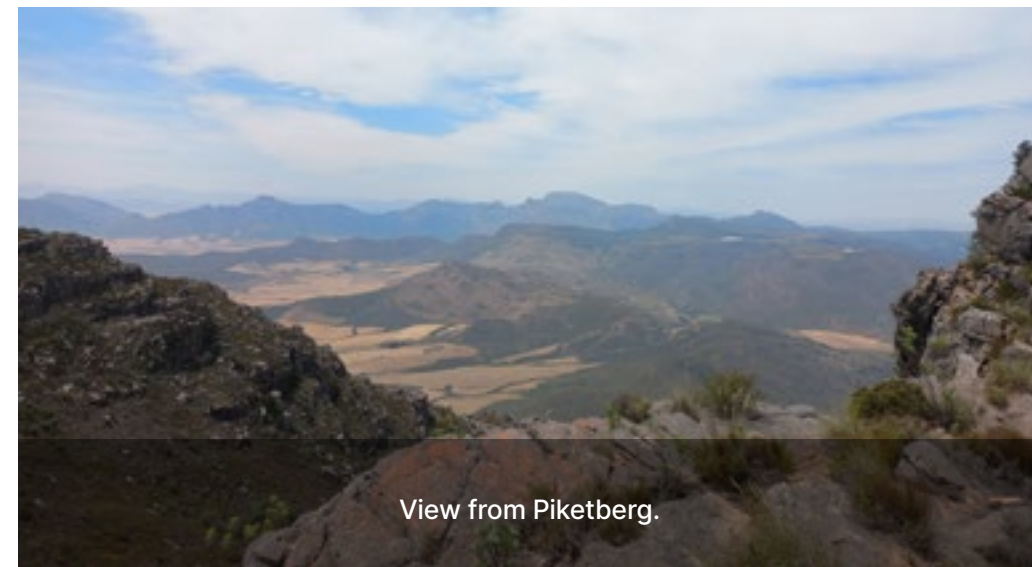
Electrical storm in Tulbagh, Western Cape. Photo credit: Oliver Cowan.



Critically Endangered butterfly assessment

South Africa's butterflies receive comparatively little conservation attention even though 21 species are currently considered Critically Endangered in South Africa. In collaboration with the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa (**LepSoc Africa**), this short-term project assessed these 21 species to consolidate and compile up-to-date information on each one. Following meetings with species experts, we conducted a desktop analysis to identify potential localities where butterflies may have gone unrecorded. This included conducting surveys with LepSoc members in the Piketberg (Western Cape), where we confirmed the presence of the Critically Endangered Schlosz's Opal. Our final report included detailed assessments of each species with the recommended actions to boost their protection. We have subsequently started work in the Western Cape, in collaboration with LepSoc Africa and the **Bionerds**, to formally conserve habitat for the province's Critically Endangered butterflies.

This work is made possible by the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the Rainforest Trust.



View from Piketberg.



Greenband Swallowtail butterfly. Photo credit: Oliver Cowan.



Sulphur Orange Tip butterfly. Photo credit: Oliver Cowan.

State of provincial reserves

In mid-2020, the EWT was asked to undertake a report on the state of provincial reserves in South Africa. The aim was to gather evidence on the deteriorating state of provincial reserves that can be put before decision-makers to galvanise concrete government action and leverage public-private partnerships to enable improved management and impact. Over several months we analysed data provided to us by SANBI on the protection status of species to determine which provincial reserves are more important for protecting threatened species. We then identified and assessed major management challenges for the provincial reserves to understand where management improvements might have the most positive impacts. We are currently undertaking targeted surveys and interviews with protected area experts and will then consolidate the results into a revised report. This report will help inform protected area management interventions within provincial reserves that are currently poorly managed.

This work was cofunded by the **Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa** (WESSA).



Spotted Eagle-Owl. Photo credit: Oliver Cowan.



Banking our data

The EWT's **Biodiversity DataBank** is a centralised repository of all the biodiversity data that the EWT collects. A centralised database ensures that we do not lose data stored on individual computers and allows for more efficient data use and sharing. The DataBank includes the bulk of our GPS wildlife tracking data, the Mammal Red List Database, the **African Wildlife Poisoning Database**, and the Ecological Goods and Services Database. It houses 25 data tables from eight of the EWT's programmes.

We continue to maintain and expand the DataBank, which included uploading all the lion tracking data from our lion project in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, setting up our Cheetah Metapopulation Database, uploading our substantial crane and Riverine Rabbit databases, and further developing ways to automatically upload data into the database from our mobile data collection forms to build in the ArcGIS's Survey123 app. Our next steps are to develop automated ways to summarise and analyse the data, allowing us to develop data dashboards for programmes and track our conservation effort and impact more accurately.



Sharing our data and knowledge

This year we received 44 requests from stakeholders for data, and we shared 25 datasets externally. Datasets were used most frequently for EIA or pre-screening reports (ten datasets) and research projects (nine datasets), as well as for conservation planning (six datasets). We received ten data requests for the **African Wildlife Poisoning Database**, our most requested data. We also shared datasets through the **Global Biodiversity Information Facility** (GBIF) and currently have three freely available datasets for downloading on **African cranes** and Cheetahs (**two datasets**). Collectively, academic researchers and conservation planners have downloaded these datasets 16,839 times to date and cited them 95 times.

**WE RECEIVED 44
DATA REQUESTS**

AND SHARED 25 DATASETS

ONLINE DATASETS WERE

**DOWNLOADED 16,839 TIMES
AND CITED 95 TIMES**



Data collection apps

The Conservation Planning and Science Unit continuously receives requests to develop data collection apps for the EWT's programmes to use in South Africa and across the continent. This year we developed several new data collection apps and updated several more.

NEW/UPDATED DATA APPS FOR:

THE STATE OF RIVERS THAT

TABLE MOUNTAIN
GHOST FROGS

INHABIT AND
THEIR POPULATION SIZE



THE RINGING
OF CRANES

TO BE CAPTURED ACROSS AFRICA



HOURS OF WORK
BY FIELD STAFF

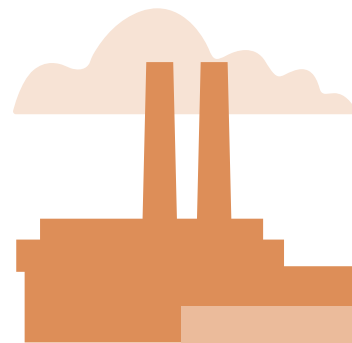
INTERVIEWS RELATING

TO NAPPY WASTE
IN COMMUNITIES

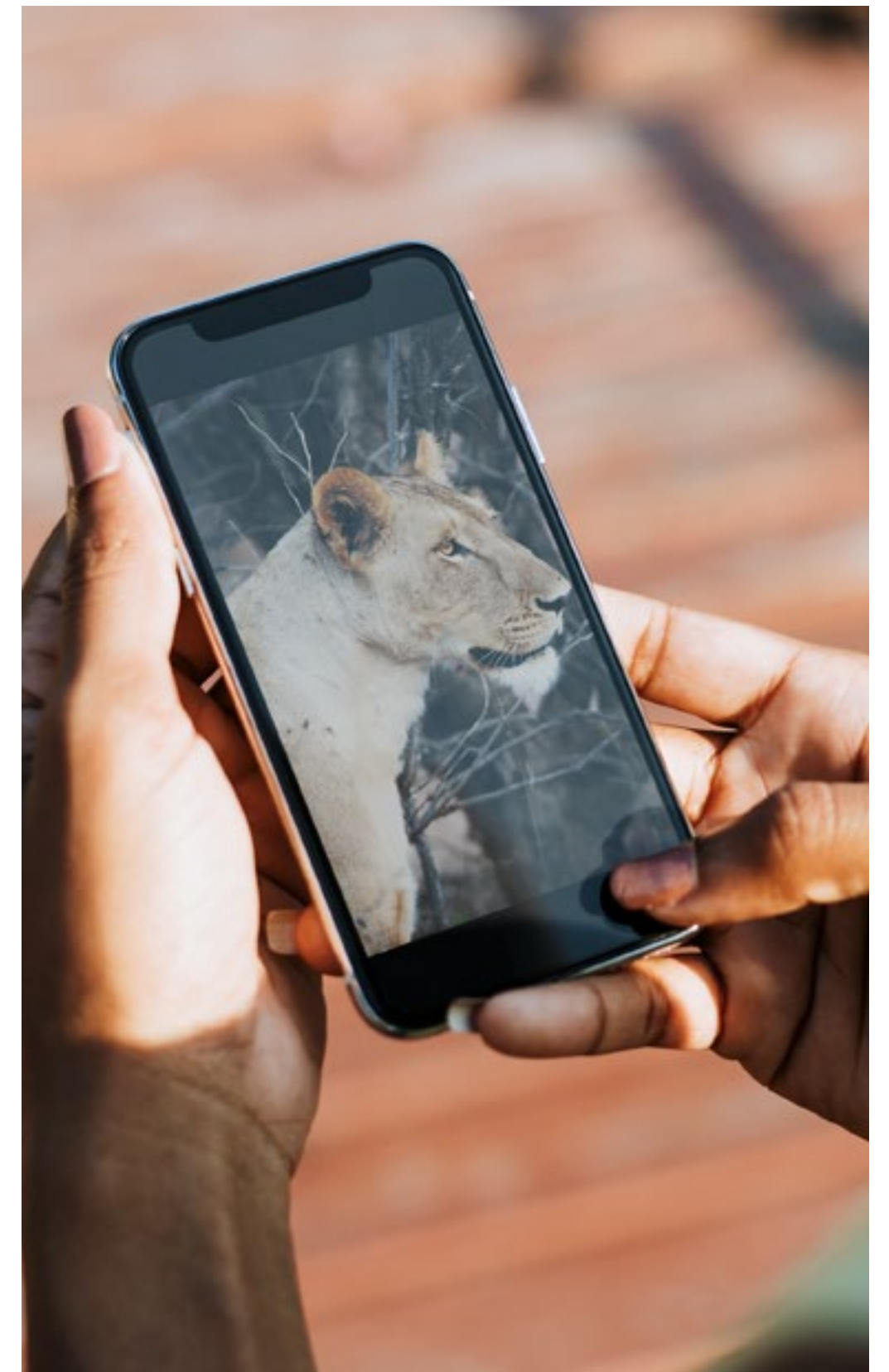
CAMERA TRAP
PLACEMENTS FOR LIONS
IN LIMPOPO



LION MORTALITY DATA
FOR THE AFRICAN
LION DATABASE



AIR QUALITY
FOR OUR ECOLOGICAL GOODS
AND SERVICES MONITORING



Other programme and partner support

The CPSU provided the usual scientific support to the EWT's programmes and partners. One of the ways that we assist programmes is with project design – well-designed projects ensure that their impact can be measured, research questions can be answered, and suitable types and amounts of data are collected. A rigorous, empirical approach also allows good feedback to ensure adaptive management. Programme support this year included:

- Establishing a partially automated data workflow to manage entries to the 2022 Kruger Wild Dog and Cheetah census. For the first time, we are managing the entire data flow process, from receiving the competition entries to submitting the data to **WildBook** (a web-based resource that uses advanced computer vision software to identify individual African Wild Dogs, Cheetahs, and other carnivores) for processing and identification of individual animals from the submitted photographs. We have automated aspects of the workflow to reduce human error and processing time.

- Research into conservation network design through a systematic conservation prioritisation analysis using over 120 species across multiple vertebrate groups. An analysis on this scale (in terms of spatial coverage and number of animal taxa) has not been attempted before. Preliminary results indicate that there are large areas of habitat incredibly important for the conservation of threatened species that are not protected.
- Completing the online data dashboard for the **African Wildlife Poisoning Database**.
- Building an app interface for the Birds of Prey Programme's Eye in the Sky platform.
- Developing an occupancy model for the Riverine Rabbit to identify potentially important areas for habitat protection and additional surveys. We will use this map for decision-making around new species sampling and potential protected area sites.



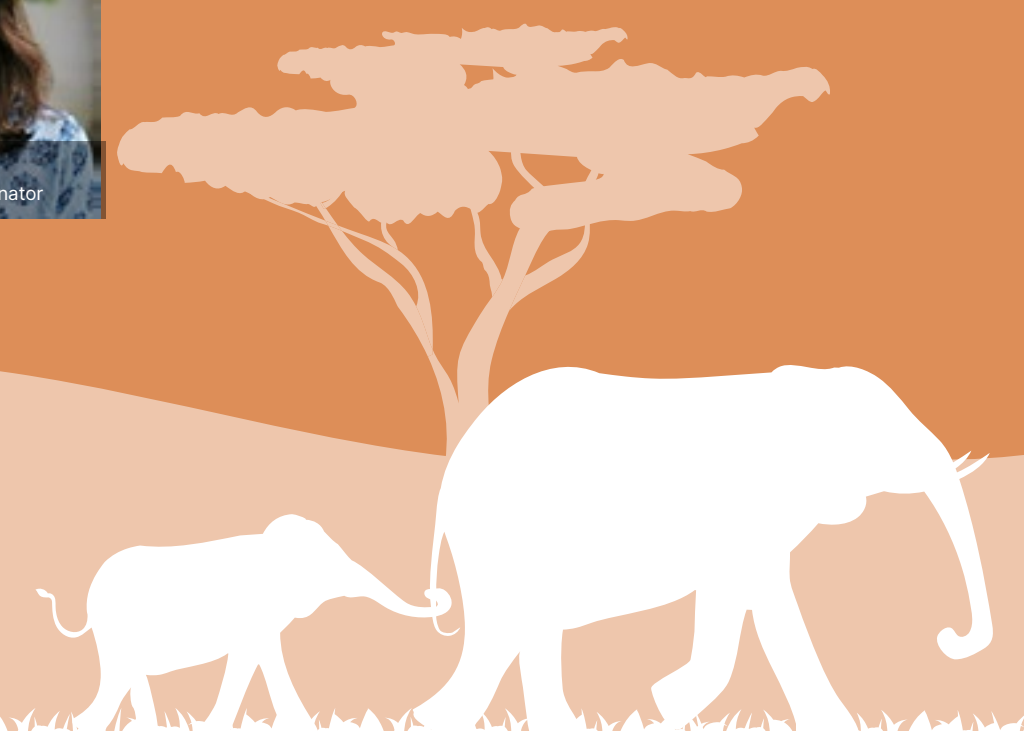
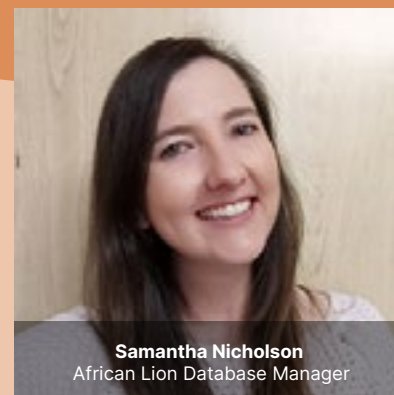
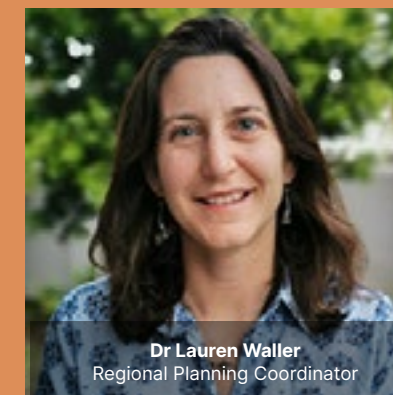
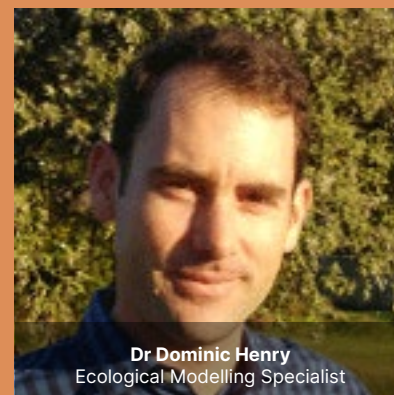
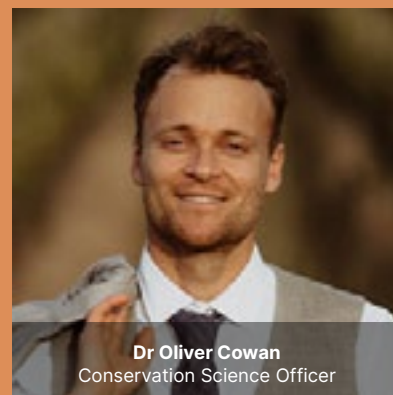
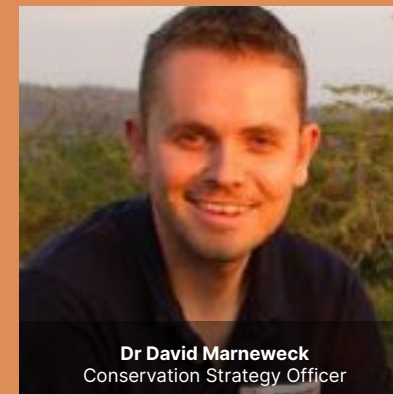
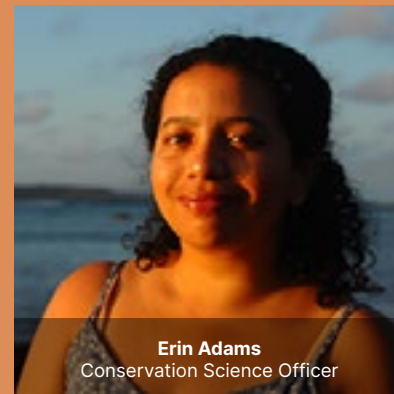
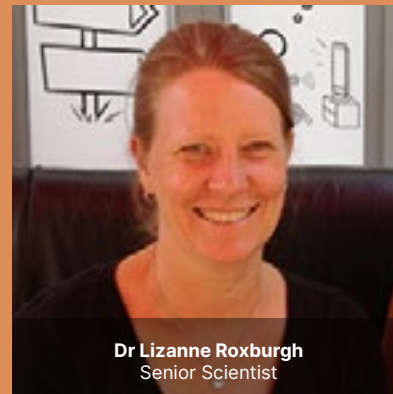
Riverine Rabbit. Photo credit: Tony Camacho.



Fitting a Cape Vulture with a tracking unit as part of our Eye in the Sky Project.



CONSERVATION PLANNING AND SCIENCE TEAM



The EWT's scientific publications in 2021/22

- Bellón B, **Henry DA**, Renaud PC, Roque FDO, Santos CC, Melo I, Arvor D & de Vos A. 2022. Landscape drivers of mammal habitat use and richness in a protected area and its surrounding agricultural lands. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment* 334: 107989. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2022.107989>
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- Cowan OS, Henry DA & Little IT**. 2021. A big leap forward for Afrotheria conservation in South Africa: A new environmental screening tool ensures cryptic species of conservation concern are not overlooked during the environmental impact assessment process. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 63: 126044. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2021.126044>
- Crossey B, Chimimba, C, **Du Plessis C**, Ganswindt A & Hall G. 2021. African Wild Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) show differences in diet composition across landscape types in Kruger National Park, South Africa. *Journal of Mammalogy* 102: 1211–1221. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmammal/gyab087>
- Cumming GS, **Henry DAW** & Reynolds C. 2022. Translocation experiment gives new insights into the navigation capacity of an African duck. *Diversity and Distributions* 28: 1034–1049. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13510>
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- Galloway-Griesel T, Roxburgh L, Smith T**, McCann K, Coverdale B, Craigie J, **Pretorius M, Nicholson S**, Michael M, Durgapersad K & Chetty K. 2022. Evidence of the effectiveness of conservation interventions from long-term aerial monitoring of three crane species in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *Bird Conservation International*: 1–16. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0959270921000496>
- Grace MK, Akçakaya HR, Bennett EL, Brooks TM, Heath A, Hedges S, ..., **Craig CA**, ..., **Waller LJ**, et al. 2021. Testing a global standard for quantifying species recovery and assessing conservation impact. *Conservation Biology* 35: 1833–1849. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13756>
- Gula J, Mungole A, Martin C & **Botha A**. 2021. Emerging insights into a Saddle-billed Stork population in Zambia: age structure and reproduction in two years of environmental extremes. *SIS Conservation* 3: 25–36. LINK: https://storkibisspoonbill.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2021Gula_Final.pdf
- Hübschle A, **Dore A & Davies-Mostert H**. 2021. Focus on victims and the community: applying restorative justice principles to wildlife crime offences in South Africa. *The International Journal of Restorative Justice* 4: 141–150. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5553/TIJRJ.000068>
- Kane A, Monadjem A, Aschenborn HO, Bildstein K, **Botha A**, Bracebridge C, Buechley ER, Buij R, **Davies JP**, Diekmann M, Downs CT, Farwig N, Galligan T, Kaltenecker G, Kelly C, Kemp R, Kolberg H, MacKenzie ML, Mendelsohn J, Mgumba M, Nathan R, Nicholas A, Ogada D, Pfeiffer MB, Phipps WL, **Pretorius MD**, Rösner S, Schabo DG, Shatumbu GL, Spiegel O, **Thompson LJ**, Venter JA, Virani M, Wolter K & Kendall CJ. 2022. Understanding continent-wide variation in vulture ranging behavior to assess feasibility of Vulture Safe Zones in Africa: Challenges and possibilities. *Biological Conservation* 268: 109516. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2022.109516>
- Krüger SC, **Botha A**, Bowerman W, Coverdale B, Gore ML, van den Heever L, Shaffer LJ, Smit-Robinson H, **Thompson LJ** & Ottinger MA. 2022. Old World Vultures reflect effects of environmental pollutants through human encroachment. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 41:1586–1603. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/etc.5358>
- Linden B, Cuozzo FP, Sauther ML & **Collinson Jonker W**. 2022. Impact of linear infrastructure on South Africa's primate fauna: the need for mitigation. *Folia Primatologica* 1: 1–19. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1163/14219980-20211112>



- Mashele N, **Thompson LJ** & Downs CT. 2021. Traditional health practitioners' and other community members' perceptions of vultures in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region, South Africa. *Journal of Raptor Research* 55: 340–358. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3356/JRR-20-34>
- Mashele NM, **Thompson LJ** & Downs CT. 2022. Trends in the admission of raptors to the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Limpopo province, South Africa. *African Zoology* 57: 56–63. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15627020.2021.2016073>
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- Ottinger MA, **Botha A**, Buij R, Coverdale B, Gore ML, Harrell RM, Hassell J, Krüger S, McClure CJ, Mullinax JM, Shaffer LJ, Smit-Robinson H, **Thompson LJ**, van den Heever L & Bowerman WW. 2021. A strategy for conserving Old World vulture populations in the framework of One Health. *Journal of Raptor Research* 55: 374–387. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3356/JRR-20-98>
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- Taylor WA**, Child MF, Lindsey PA, **Nicholson SK**, Relton C & Davies-Mostert HT. 2021. South Africa's private wildlife ranches protect globally significant populations of wild ungulates. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 30: 4111–4135. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-021-02294-5>
- Thompson LJ**, Krüger SC, Coverdale BM, Shaffer LJ, Ottinger MA, **Davies JP**, Daboné C, Kibuule M, Cherkaoui SI, Garbett RA, Phipps WL, Buechley ER, Ruiz AG, Lecoq M, Carneiro C, Harrell RM, Gore ML & Bowerman WW. 2021. Assessing African vultures as avian biomonitors and umbrella species. *Frontiers in Conservation Science* 2: 729025. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcosc.2021.729025>
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DRYLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The Karoo is an iconic, timeless landscape encompassing over 400,000 km² across four provinces in the central and western regions of South Africa. This ancient landscape is as well known for its fossils as its biodiversity. The Karoo is largely intact, with natural rangeland forming the foundation for its world-class small-stock meat and wool production systems. However, agricultural practices unsuited to this harsh but sensitive landscape have had lasting impacts, such as loss of species diversity and widespread soil erosion.

This sensitive landscape is also under increasing pressure from both sustainable and unsustainable developments, and the effects of climate change compound this. The Endangered Wildlife Trust's **Drylands Conservation Programme (DCP)** is the only initiative dedicated to conserving the Karoo's unique habitats and species. Our interventions aim to promote **Sustainable Land Management (SLM)** to ensure a healthy environment that can sustain biodiversity and livelihoods for current and future generations.



Gold diggers

Golden moles are amongst South Africa's most threatened mammals. **Two species**, the Endangered Van Zyl's Golden Mole and the Critically Endangered De Winton's Golden Mole, occur in the coastal dunes along South Africa's West Coast. However, De Winton's Golden Mole has not been seen for over 80 years and may be extinct. Van Zyl's Golden Mole is also highly elusive and, until recently, was known from only one location. The dune and coastal ecosystems inhabited by both species are under immense pressure from mining, residential development, and agriculture. The EWT aims to rediscover these long-lost species, map their distribution, and ultimately protect their habitat. However, golden moles are almost impossible to catch and identify in their sandy habitat, where they burrow beneath the surface and "swim" through the fine, soft sand. To overcome this challenge, our researchers are developing novel approaches to detect and study them, such as using a scent detection dog to assist with surveys. We also collaborate closely with the **University of Pretoria** to collect and analyse **environmental DNA (eDNA)** from golden moles **along the West Coast**.

This year, the EWT and **Re:wild** discovered a population of golden moles in Port Nolloth, a remote town in the far north of South Africa's West Coast. The genetic data from eDNA samples taken onsite confirm the presence of one or both of these elusive golden mole species in this and other sites along the coast. The work demonstrated the efficacy of using eDNA to identify or confirm species' presence. The findings are under peer review and will only be formalised when the research is published. Rediscovering De Winton's Golden Mole would open up new conservation opportunities to protect this highly threatened species. The project has also uncovered novel golden mole genetic material along the West Coast, which may lead researchers to describe new golden mole species in this forgotten landscape, an extraordinary opportunity that opens up exciting conservation prospects.



Hot on the trail of golden moles in the dunes of Port Nolloth.
Photo credit Esther Matthew.



Grant's Golden Mole. Photo credit: JP le Roux.

Our research will contribute to refining golden mole species distributions and identifying conservation opportunities. This work was bolstered by four Multi-Species Action Plan Workshops for golden moles that the EWT hosted across South Africa as part of an IUCN EDGE project. We also hosted an environmental education event in the Eastern Cape and received a call to collect a dead golden mole the next morning – a direct result of the workshop – from which we could obtain a valuable DNA sample, which was subsequently identified as a Hottentot Golden Mole.

This work is made possible by **Re:wild**, IUCN EDGE, and **IUCN Save Our Species** Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the **European Union**.



Jessie the Border Collie, the EWT's scent detection dog trained in golden mole and Riverine Rabbit detection for species research.
Photo credit Esther Matthew.



Farming the Karoo forever

During the reporting period, the DCP concluded a five-year Sustainable Land Management (SLM) project in partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). Sustainable land management and farming efficiency – including the diversification of income streams – are key to ensuring the resilience of karoo ecosystems. Several landowners championed SLM and were awarded small grants to implement projects they could not do before. We developed a project-specific **Karoo Forever website** to make this information accessible to the broader farming community and anyone else interested in managing natural resources in the Karoo. The website houses SLM resources, including several instructional webinars by provincial agricultural advisers and other experts. An **Integrated Farm Planning and Management (IFP)** training course developed in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development was adapted in 2022 to include a grasslands component and is also freely available online through the **Karoo Forever website**. The project outcomes included capturing lessons learned, sharing knowledge, and sparking ideas for future farming innovations. This work was an integral step towards establishing long-term conservation mechanisms for the Karoo landscape. Farmers, landowners, and other interested parties can access these resources to improve the overall management of their properties and overall veld resilience and ecosystem health.

*This work is made possible by the **Global Environment Facility Sustainable Land Management (GEF5 SLM)** Project managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the **National Lotteries Commission**. Our fieldwork and farm visits are also made possible by the Ford Wildlife Foundation.*

Expanding the boundaries of conservation in the Anysberg

Declared in 1990, the spectacular Anysberg Nature Reserve, also a World Heritage Site, formally protects the threatened biodiversity of the Succulent Karoo, an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot. Riverine Rabbits were first recorded in the reserve in 2013, making it the first declared protected area host to a Riverine Rabbit population. Landowners bordering the reserve share a conservation vision, and several individuals have purchased properties in this area to conserve the land and wildlife. The EWT, CapeNature, and six forward-thinking landowners are collaborating to declare a cluster of adjoining properties as nature reserves, effectively expanding the existing protected area to just over 100,000 ha and buffering the Anysberg Nature Reserve. In addition, this land supports unique and endemic plant and animal species not present in the Anysberg Nature Reserve, which will now be conserved. This initiative is testimony to what can be achieved when stakeholders combine forces to achieve a shared vision. Species that face severe persecution outside protected areas, including Leopards,

Brown Hyaenas, and Honey Badgers, will be able to roam safely over an increasingly vast landscape. Furthermore, as the largest formally protected area for Riverine Rabbits, the greater Anysberg now represents their single most important stronghold.

Ecotourism, including adventure tourism and, in some cases, limited agricultural activities, provide a diversified income for the landowners around the Anysberg Nature Reserve. This is an extremely marginal area for extensive livestock production and facilitating the shift towards a nature-based economy can revive a region where poverty and unemployment are rife. Ecotourism will provide jobs, support livelihoods, and can help fund the restoration work needed in degraded areas.

This project is made possible with support from the Anglo-American Species Conservation Fund, Ford Wildlife Foundation, UNDP-GEF5 Sustainable Land Management Project, and **IUCN Save Our Species** Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the **European Union**.



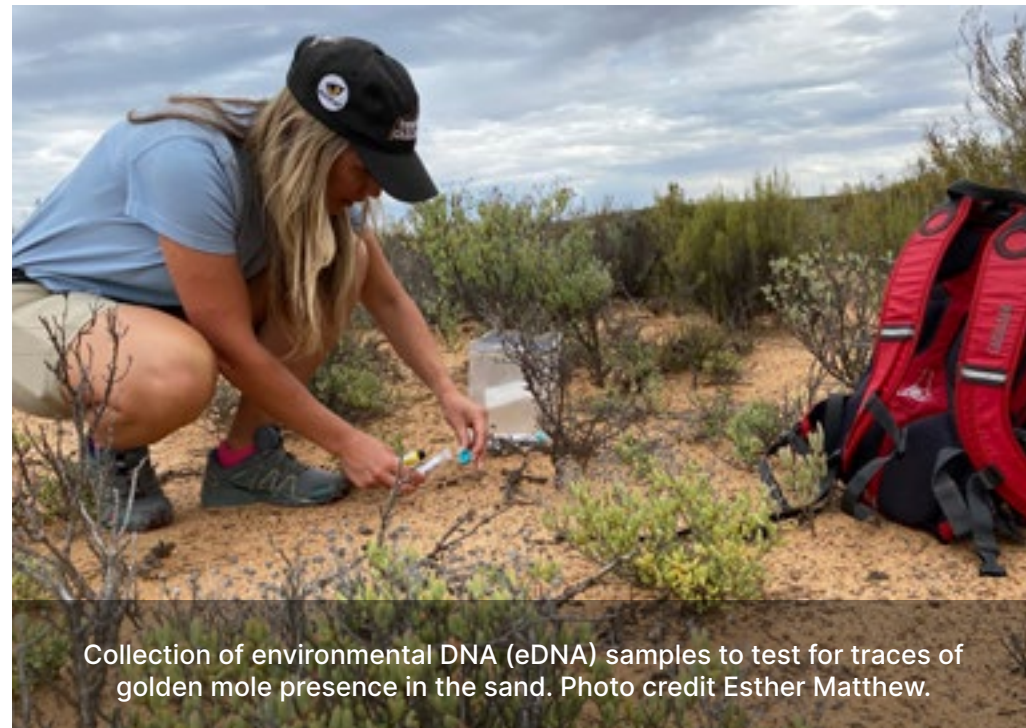
In search of rabbits

The Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit has eluded researchers for over a century. The discovery of a new population in the Uniondale area as recently as 2018 shows their ability to remain undetected. However, with the help of camera traps, we can **detect rabbits and study their activity** patterns and habitat use. These camera trap surveys were conducted on five properties bordering the **Anysberg Nature Reserve** and recorded the presence and behaviour of Riverine Rabbits on four of the five properties. In addition, we teamed up with the staff from the Anysberg Nature Reserve to survey the Doornkloof Nature Reserve. We are still processing the results of this survey.

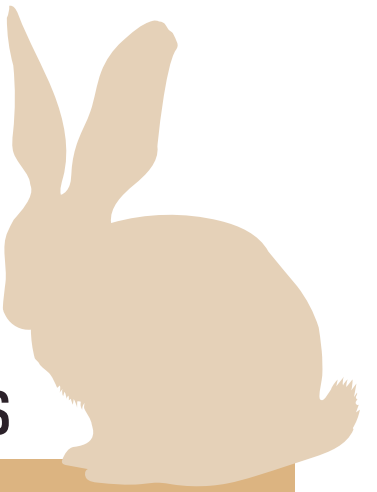
We used the data from 14 camera trap surveys and multiple sighting records to develop a species distribution model for Riverine Rabbits. This tool helps to identify novel areas where rabbits could potentially occur over the vast landscapes of the Nama and Succulent Karoo based on suitable habitat features. The distribution model for rabbits can signal

where developments must avoid Riverine Rabbit presence, particularly given the rapid expansion of developments, including for renewable energy and mining across this landscape. In addition, we plan to focus our conservation efforts on areas close to protected areas and expand the protected area network, prioritising areas with viable Riverine Rabbit populations. In collaboration with the universities of Pretoria and Stellenbosch, we studied eDNA and DNA from rabbit scats to answer questions on population relatedness and viability. CapeNature staff have further been trained to identify Riverine Rabbit scats, and they will now play a role in assisting us in collecting samples for analysis.

This Riverine Rabbit fieldwork and research are made possible by **Rand Merchant Bank**, the **Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP)**, Ford Wildlife Foundation, and **IUCN Save Our Species** Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the **European Union**.



WE USED **DATA** FROM
14 CAMERA TRAP SURVEYS
AND MULTIPLE SIGHTING RECORDS



TO DEVELOP A SPECIES DISTRIBUTION MODEL FOR RIVERINE RABBITS



Images above show a collection of camera trap image surveys conducted by the EWT in the Loxton and Baviaanskloof areas.



Mountain Zebra Camdeboo Protected Environment

We launched a project across the vast Mountain Zebra Camdeboo Protected Environment (MZCPE) in November 2021, which showcased SLM and regenerative agriculture and provided post-proclamation support to landowners within the Protected Environment. The project was launched at a farmers' open day with the **Herding Academy** (a holistic learning centre where the ancient skill of herding animals is taught and applied within a decision-making framework to regenerate the landscape). The EWT has subsequently hosted various events, from evaluating lead-free ammunition to exploring carbon trading opportunities for landowners.

A novel SLM challenge took place at the Samara Private Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape in February 2022, whereby teams of four soil conservation engineers and technicians from four provinces pitted their skills against one another to develop the most practical and cost-effective restoration plans for degraded areas on the reserve. The outcomes of this event will serve as case studies for other reserves. Going digital, well-known Ecologist Bruce Taplin presented a webinar on alien-invasive plant control within the MZCPE. In addition, we participated in a farmers' association meeting focused on SLM within the framework of the National Wool Growers Association's Responsible Wool Standards.

Working with other EWT programmes, we held a **lead-free ammunition awareness day** to promote the Vulture Safe Zone project in the MZCPE. The event focused on reducing lead ammunition in the environment and its negative impact on wildlife, the environment, and human health. The event promoted the use of lead-free ammunition and

responsible carcass management to minimise the threat of lead poisoning among vultures. The EWT, the **Western Cape Government's Department of Agriculture**, and the **Cape Leopard Trust** co-hosted a Predation Management Awareness Day in Prince Albert. The event focussed on developing a solution-based approach to address the conflict between predators and farmers in the Karoo, thereby reducing the killing of predators by farmers who consider them a threat to their livestock.

In addition to the knowledge-sharing interventions, the EWT and partners made several small grants available to landowners as part of our post-proclamation support incentives. Post-proclamation support is key to integrating conservation and agricultural priorities, including combating degradation and promoting income diversification. This approach supports landowners, designated as Pathfinders, to implement SLM projects on their properties. Support includes technical assistance to implement various mitigation measures, including soil erosion control and alien vegetation clearing. These activities will be used as case studies to showcase the effectiveness of these sustainable approaches.

This project, addressing sustainable land management in this landscape, was funded by the Global Environment Facility Sustainable Land Management (GEF5 SLM) Project managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), and the **Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL)**.



A Predation Management Awareness Day hosted by the EWT and partners in Prince Albert. Photo credit Esther Matthew.



The result of mulching and herd impact in badlands. Photo credit: Danielle du Toit.



Soil erosion in a wetland. Photo credit: Danielle du Toit.



Small towns, big achievements

Four students from farming families from Loxton and two from Nieuwoudtville completed their Agricultural Sector Education Training Authority (AgriSETA) National Qualifications Framework (NQF) 5 National Diploma: Animal Production and graduated in Bloemfontein in July 2022. The International Agricultural Academy for Africa (i3A) hosted their graduation ceremony.

The students persevered through many challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, juggling family time with holding down full-time or casual labour jobs and completing the gruelling curriculum. The students were mentored by a learning support specialist near Loxton throughout their studies. The **I am Living Trust** contributed to the student's expenses, and i3A continued to support all six students during the second year of their NQF 5 studies. These qualifications will enable the students to become active members of the surrounding agricultural landscape. With improved knowledge and skills, the graduates can now gain valuable experience and pass this knowledge on to their peers and greater community. During the reporting period, they aided the DCP in pursuit of its sustainable land management objectives by working with local farmers to implement grazing and conservation measures.

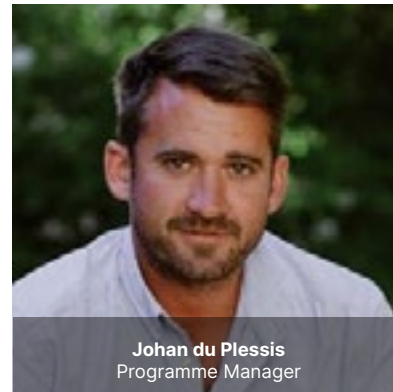
This initiative was made possible with support from i3A, Rand Merchant Bank, and the UNDP-GEF5 Sustainable Land Management Project.



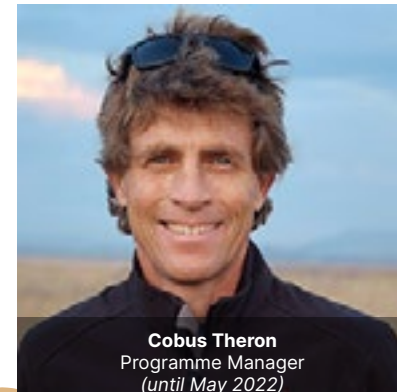
Proud graduates whose studies were supported by the EWT-RMB e-learning facilities in Loxton.



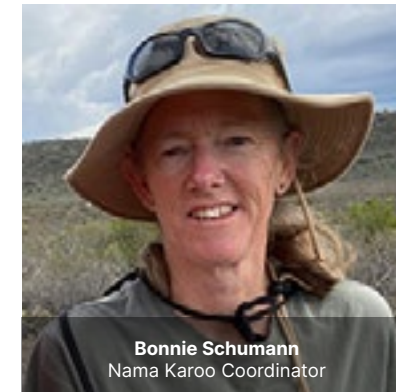
DRYLANDS CONSERVATION TEAM



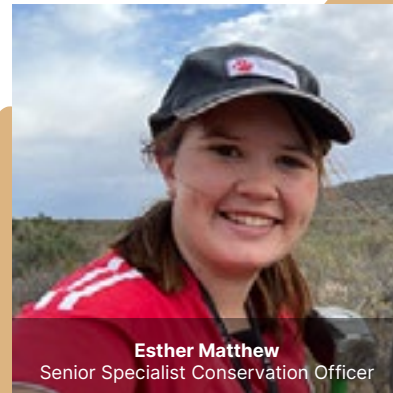
Johan du Plessis
Programme Manager



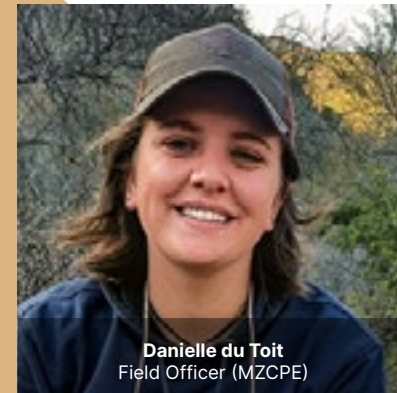
Cobus Theron
Programme Manager
(until May 2022)



Bonnie Schumann
Nama Karoo Coordinator



Esther Matthew
Senior Specialist Conservation Officer



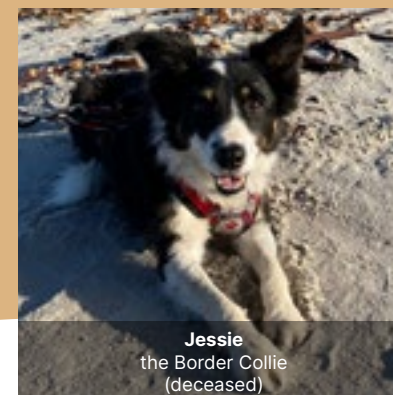
Danielle du Toit
Field Officer (MZCPE)



Dr Samantha Mynhardt
Research Associate

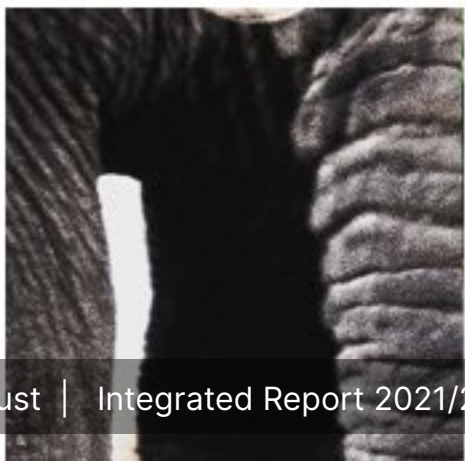
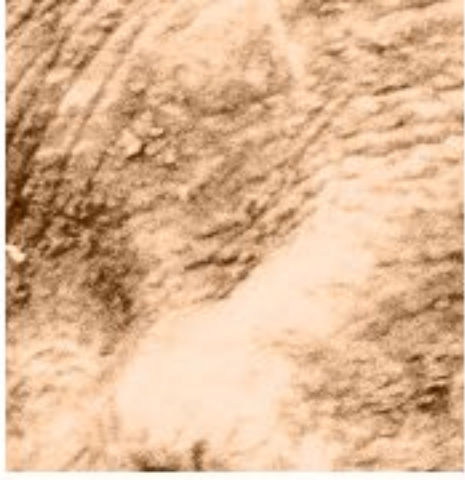


Insauf de Vries
Administration and Field Support Officer



Jessie
the Border Collie
(deceased)





NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS NETWORK

With a significant stake in biodiversity sustainability, businesses have the power and responsibility to act as powerful levers for change. Recognising the importance of biodiversity to business, the EWT established the National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) in 2013 to build the capacity of businesses to act as positive forces for conserving biodiversity in South Africa and beyond.



Companies would not be able to operate without biodiversity or ecosystem that provide a wide variety of products and services on which businesses depend. Examples include raw materials, crop pollination, genetic resources, water filtration, flood attenuation, erosion control, and many others. Biodiversity is, however, under severe threat globally, including in South Africa, and the private sector is one of the primary drivers of its degradation and loss. The NBBN works with innovative businesses to identify and manage the risks and opportunities resulting from their interactions with nature. We provide a platform for businesses to proactively collaborate to discover solutions that lead to sustainable business growth and develop exciting business opportunities. The NBBN is a member of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is also a Natural Capital Regional Platform of the Natural Capital Coalition, a partner of Business for Nature, and a member of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD). These international movements place the NBBN at the forefront of best practice and policy ambition which spans the global economy.

The NBBN's founding partners are Anglo American, the **De Beers Group**, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, **Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd**, Nedbank, Pick n Pay, Transnet, and Woolworths.

Measuring biodiversity footprints with our Biological Diversity Protocol

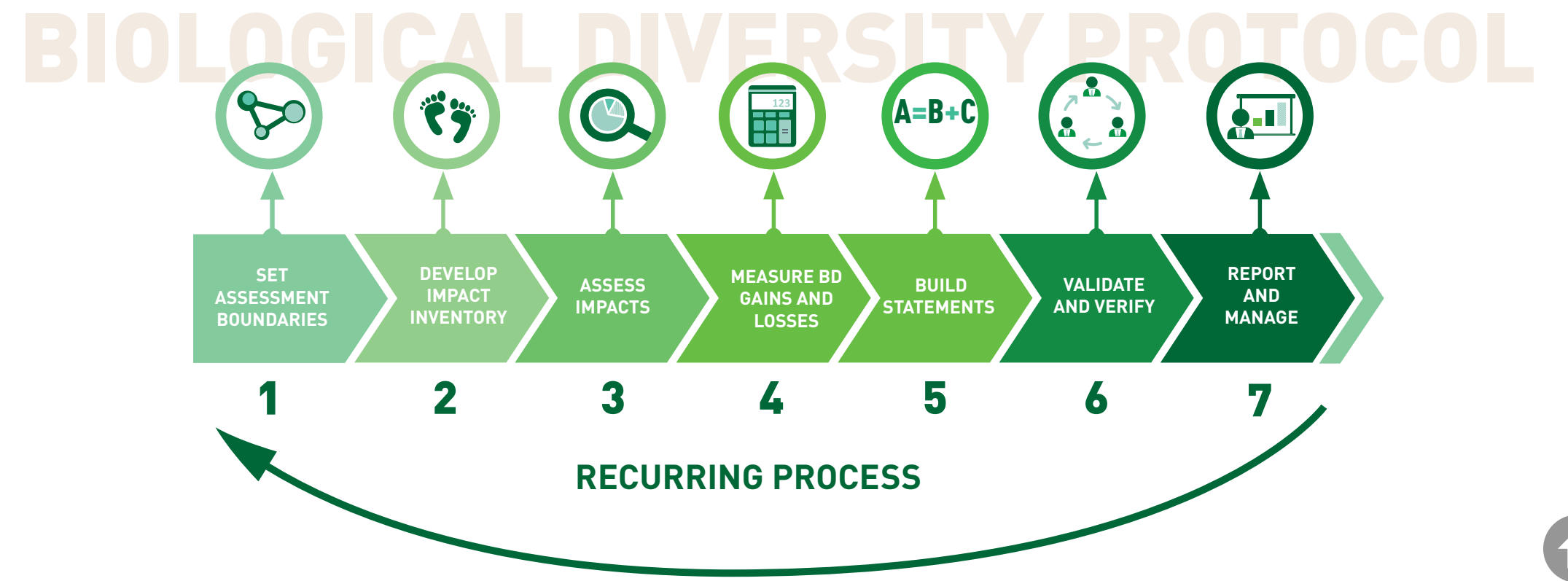
The NBBN's main focus this year has been helping companies to measure, track, and report on their net impacts on biodiversity, known as their corporate biodiversity footprints. Establishing the extent of a company's footprint allows them to set meaningful science-based targets, reduce its negative impacts, and increase market share.

What on earth is a corporate biodiversity footprint? **Watch our video to find out.**

The Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol) is a global best-practice footprinting accounting tool that we launched **online** in 2021. It allows all companies, big or small, and from any industry, to establish a baseline footprint to determine their impact on biodiversity and identify areas of improvement over time. This represents the first standardised accounting framework for biodiversity impacts based on adaptations of double-entry bookkeeping.

The system enables any organisation to show both accumulated impacts over time – a balance sheet – and impacts over a specific period – a profit and loss statement. Every company has both negative impacts (like transforming habitats) and positive impacts (like restoring a wetland). The accounting process allows companies to track these impacts over time, relative to a baseline and cumulatively. This is critical in helping companies develop meaningful biodiversity targets and track their biodiversity management in a transparent, credible, and realistic way. The protocol also allows companies to report against the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to regional or national conservation targets by measuring the share of total biodiversity they manage.

Interest in the BD Protocol continues to grow rapidly, and it is featured prominently in the **Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB)** Framework Application Guidance for biodiversity-related disclosures and is listed on the **EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform**.



The first measurement and disclosure of a total operational biodiversity footprint

Through our partnership with global minerals company **Sibanye-Stillwater**, we used the BD Protocol to measure their total biodiversity footprint. This included all their direct operational mining sites, whose consolidated biodiversity footprint covers 50,000 ha of land and 37 ecosystem types in both South Africa and the United States, over which we could measure both positive and negative impacts on ecosystems. This is a major step forward in corporate biodiversity accounting, generating baseline Key Performance Indicators at the group level in under a year. Subsequently, we published **our Sibanye-Stillwater report**, one of the NBBN's highlights for the year.

The report presents the first time a company has used site-based data to measure and disclose all of its consolidated impacts from direct operations globally. It means Sibanye-Stillwater can adopt meaningful targets and policies to measure and improve their positive impacts. We launched the report with a webinar attended by nearly 100 people and have produced explainer videos on **how we measure footprints** and "How to measure one" to help companies adopt the tool. The tool has subsequently been used by companies in the retail, mining, and energy sectors.





STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Building win-win partnerships for improved biodiversity footprints

The NBBN strives to form long-term partnerships with companies to understand, integrate, and improve biodiversity impacts in all aspects of their business. We are proud to partner with Mondli to help them benchmark their biodiversity performance and have embarked on a long-term plan to improve their footprints. We welcomed Anglo-American, one of the NBBN's founding members, back as a partner this year. Anglo represented the NBBN at the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD) Working Group meeting in Geneva in preparation for COP15 to provide input into corporate biodiversity disclosure. We also used the BD Protocol to complete footprint assessments to develop biodiversity targets for Glencore ferro-alloys, and we have launched the Mining and Biodiversity Working Group with five global mining companies. We completed the footprints for Shoprite's biggest distribution centres, a first for the retail sector, which we hope will catalyse further action.



NBBN is working with Mondli to manage their agroforestry landscapes for biodiversity. Photo credit Dr Gabi Teren.



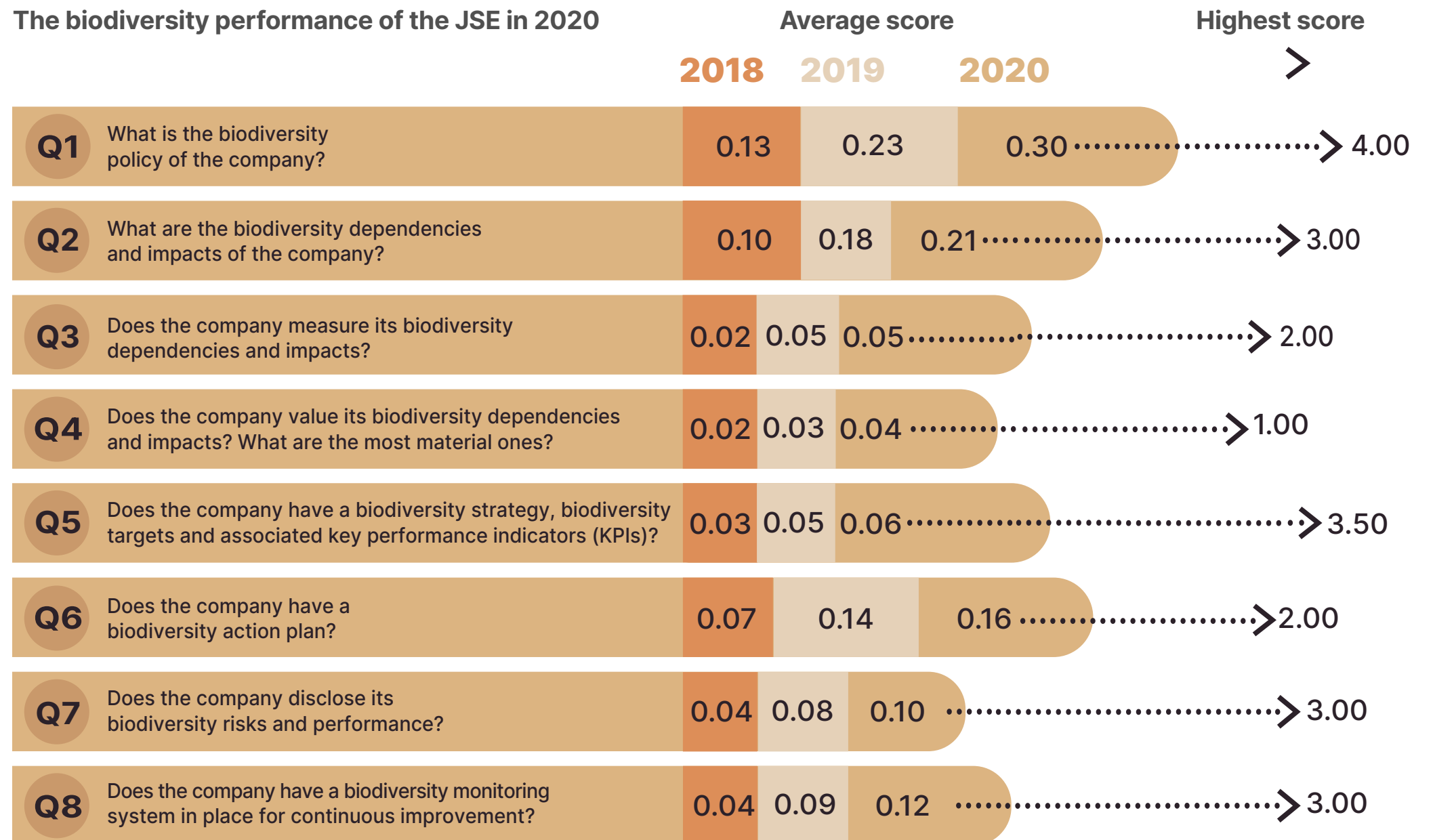
The Biodiversity Disclosure Project

As part of the Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP), which encourages companies to mainstream biodiversity into their business strategies and activities, the NBBN conducts an annual corporate biodiversity performance assessment of all companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and several State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). We assess how well each organisation integrates biodiversity policies and actions directly into its business strategies, investments, and production processes. The assessment helps companies to understand, measure, and disclose their biodiversity impacts and policies.

In 2021, we rated the biodiversity performance of 327 JSE-listed companies and 27 State Owned Enterprises and found that less than a quarter recognised biodiversity as a material issue. Companies scored poorly for questions requiring science-based data or evidence, and we spent much of our year campaigning to show how companies can successfully integrate science-based targets into their policies. We commented on the **JSE's sustainability and climate disclosure guidance** to guide companies to disclose more confidently and meaningfully. Our comments were incorporated to strengthen the biodiversity metrics, thereby minimising greenwashing and showcasing relevant examples. We also commented on the new **National Biodiversity Offset Guideline** policy.

We spoke on the importance of biodiversity considerations for companies at the Banking Association of South Africa's Sustainable Finance Conference held on 24 November, were invited to meet the Director General of the IUCN in Pretoria on 22 February, and hosted the South African chapter of the African Green Economy Conference on 28 June.

Change in average scores per question over the past three years for JSE-listed companies



African business and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

In December 2022, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**, after an international co-construction process, as a stepping-stone towards the 2050 Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”. In December, we presented a global webinar on how the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework can engage African businesses in support of a nature-positive economy. We were privileged to have EWT Trustee and independent sustainability consultant Karin Ireton chair the session. Francis Ogwal, a co-chair of the CBD, opened the webinar, which included talks from business leaders such as FirstRand, Holcim, SafariCom, and Anglo-American to amplify the voice of business in shaping the African perspective in global policies.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY & BUSINESS NETWORK TEAM



Dr Gabi Teren
Programme Manager



Dr Joël Houdet
BD Protocol Lead





PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's People in Conservation Programme collaborates with many partners to address critical conservation challenges and foster human resilience so that people from all walks of life benefit from conservation. By implementing innovative strategies that incorporate the needs of both people and the environment, we believe that people can coexist within nature, despite mounting pressures on the environment and our natural resources. In collaboration with local stakeholders, we co-design solutions that improve the management of species and habitats and enhance human well-being. Our projects include engaging with communal landowners on Biodiversity Stewardship, implementing regenerative agriculture with smallholder farmers, and developing micro-enterprises in the green economy. We also initiate education programmes and adventure activities to ensure that future generations are well-positioned to continue these conservation efforts. We implement projects in Gauteng, Limpopo, North West, and KwaZulu-Natal and support other EWT programmes across southern and East Africa and Senegal.



Transport across all our projects, and community-related support to other programmes, is made possible by the Ford Wildlife Foundation.



Community stewardship in the Soutpansberg

In collaboration with the proposed Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve and the EWT's Soutpansberg Protected Area Programme, we are introducing Communal Property Associations (CPAs) and other landowners to Biodiversity Stewardship so that they can potentially join the area's Biodiversity Stewardship programme in the future. This exciting project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of landowners to conserve the rich biodiversity of the Soutpansberg, and the ecosystem services these mountains provide, through networking and sharing experiences and opportunities.

We have held strategic meetings with three CPA leaders and the Buysdorp community. Two of these CPAs expressed interest in Biodiversity Stewardship and building relations with the other Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve landowners. The third previously indicated support for potential collaboration on land use options with the EWT.

This work is made possible by the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Fund.



Introducing community members to Biodiversity Stewardship processes



Preparing soil for a tower garden in Kutama.

Supporting smallholder farmers

The EWT is developing training courses to support smallholder vegetable farmers living in the western Soutpansberg to improve long-term sustainability and climate resilience. We will introduce these farmers to regenerative agriculture. This farming method aims to foster the health of all the vital ecosystem services that agriculture depends on, starting with soil health, and incorporating improved water management and climate-smart approaches, seed conservation, and other sustainable practices. Using regenerative agriculture, we aim to enhance the capacity of farmers to survive the harsh conditions they operate in and thrive in the long term, both socially and economically. The EWT is collaborating with the **Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development** (LDARD) to support local vegetable farmers to market their products through the diversification of crops and produce while growing their business viability and risk management capacity. Working with LDARD, the **Limpopo Economic Development Agency** (LEDA), local leadership, cattle owners, and other community members, we are exploring options to address challenges relating to water scarcity in Kutama, which is a harsh, semi-arid area where drought is frequently experienced, and few people have access to boreholes

This work is made possible by the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation and the UNDP Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Fund.



Education for sustainability – The Guardians of the Future

In collaboration with the Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve (MBR) and the University of Johannesburg (UJ), we implemented an exciting Education for Sustainability project for schools and eco-clubs within the Biosphere under the MBR's Be the Change initiative. Under our guidance, third-year Environmental Management students from UJ designed interactive lessons and teaching aids on topics in Life Skills, Natural Science and Technology, and Social Sciences curricula for primary school learners. When the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, we piloted these resources in the Magaliesberg Biosphere, working alongside educators from Mjakaneng Primary School. The resources were rolled out to around 600 learners. The project also enabled us to develop community stakeholder engagement skills with the UJ students and provide them with real-life opportunities to practice their communication skills by developing educational materials. These valuable insights should sensitise these students to the value of authentic stakeholder engagement in their future careers.

This work is made possible by the Ford Wildlife Foundation.



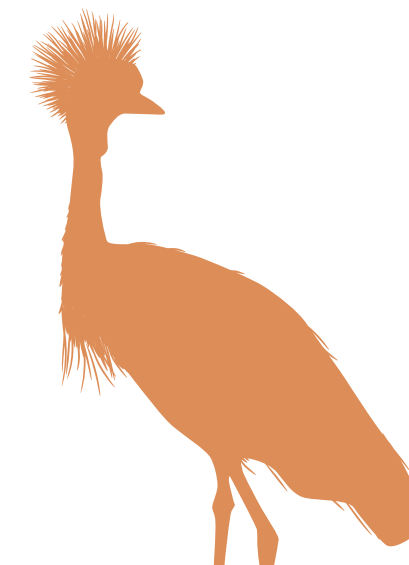
Mjakaneng Primary School education initiative.

Working with EWT programmes

We work closely with many EWT programmes, including the Wildlife in Trade Programme, with whom we produced five English awareness materials on Restorative Justice for community leaders, victims of wildlife offences, and prosecutors. The pamphlet produced for the community leaders was translated into XiTsonga and SeSwati. This work included visiting the Kruger National Park in March 2022 to provide support during Restorative Justice Awareness Sessions.

We also developed a database for the ICF/EWT team in the Kafue Flats, Zambia, to analyse data on local livelihoods and resource use that they collected during a pilot study. Working with the African Crane Conservation Programme, we helped plan community-related components in the next phase of their existing projects and helped evaluate potential approaches in new project areas they are considering. Given the sensitive nature of working with communities, we are developing training courses for EWT staff and partners on engagement processes and facilitation techniques, conflict management, and negotiation.

This work is made possible by the International Crane Foundation/ Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership and USAID through the WWF South Africa Khetha Programme.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene underpinning health in the Soutpansberg

The Soutpansberg is a Strategic Water Source Area and forms part of the Limpopo River Water Management Area. The EWT has established the Medike Nature Reserve here and is working with partners – primarily other landowners on the mountain – to develop an integrated conservation management strategy for the region. To ensure that local communities benefit from conservation, we work with people from nine villages in Kutama, implementing various projects, including **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene** (WASH) education and awareness initiatives in schools. More than 800 primary school learners received lessons on germ transmission and water saving, reinforcing and expanding COVID-19 safety protocols. We also provided lesson plans and teaching aids to the schools and training on their use in 32 educator workshops. Together with educators, we held women’s health and hygiene awareness sessions with 440 secondary school girls from grades 8–11 at two secondary schools and provided the educators with teaching aids to assist them in future years. Each of the learners and some school personnel received reusable sanitary pads and two brochures on women’s health. Mmilige Secondary School reported that the women’s health and hygiene focus group sessions were invaluable in opening conversations with the girls about menstrual health. The initiative has also contributed to alleviating period poverty and is helping to reduce waste management challenges at the schools. We further installed tower gardens and **tippy taps** at three primary schools to demonstrate valuable water-saving techniques.

This work is made possible by the Coca-Cola Foundation’s Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN).

800+ SCHOOL LEARNERS

RECEIVED LESSONS ON GERM TRANSMISSION AND WATER SAVING

WE ALSO PROVIDED LESSON PLANS, TEACHING AIDS, AND TRAINING ON THEIR USE IN 32 EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS



Conducting Coca-Cola WASH initiative educational activities in schools in Kutama.



Nurturing Pepper-bark trees

Pepper-bark tree populations are under severe pressure in the wild due to high harvesting levels to meet the demand for traditional medicines. Loss and degradation of the trees' habitat exacerbate this pressure. Despite its wide range across southern Africa, the Pepper-bark's distribution is fragmented, and similar human-induced pressures are experienced across its range. Consequently, the species is now considered Endangered. In collaboration with the EWT's Soutpansberg Protected Area team, we developed a strategic conservation management initiative to safeguard Pepper-bark trees in northern Limpopo. This year we distributed over 500 Pepper-bark saplings to more than 50 traditional health practitioners and three traders from Thohoyandou and Sibasa to reduce pressure on wild populations. We also worked with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) to develop permitting arrangements to ensure compliance with South Africa's Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations in Limpopo to ensure that traded Pepper-bark parts are compliant with legislation. The willingness of traders to cultivate these much-prized medicinal plants is a significant step towards alleviating harvesting pressures on wild populations, as it is often believed that this sector is unwilling to contribute to improved natural resource management. On the contrary, the six traders from Thohoyandou and Sibasa have planted between ten and 30 Pepper-bark Trees each and have already requested saplings for other species.

This work is made possible by the Fondation Franklinia.



Informal market for the sale of plant products for medicinal purposes.

WE DISTRIBUTED OVER

500 PEPPER-BARK SAPLINGS

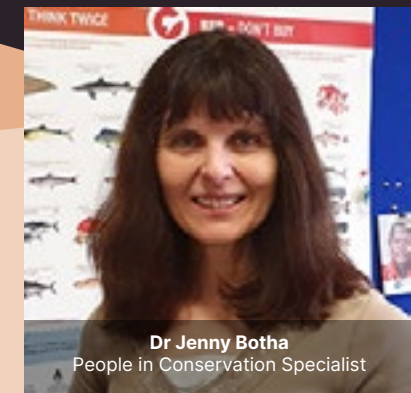
**TO 50+ TRADITIONAL
HEALTH PRACTITIONERS
AND THREE TRADERS
FROM THOHOYANDOU
AND SIBASA**



Donation of Pepper-bark trees to traditional healers in Limpopo Province.



PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION

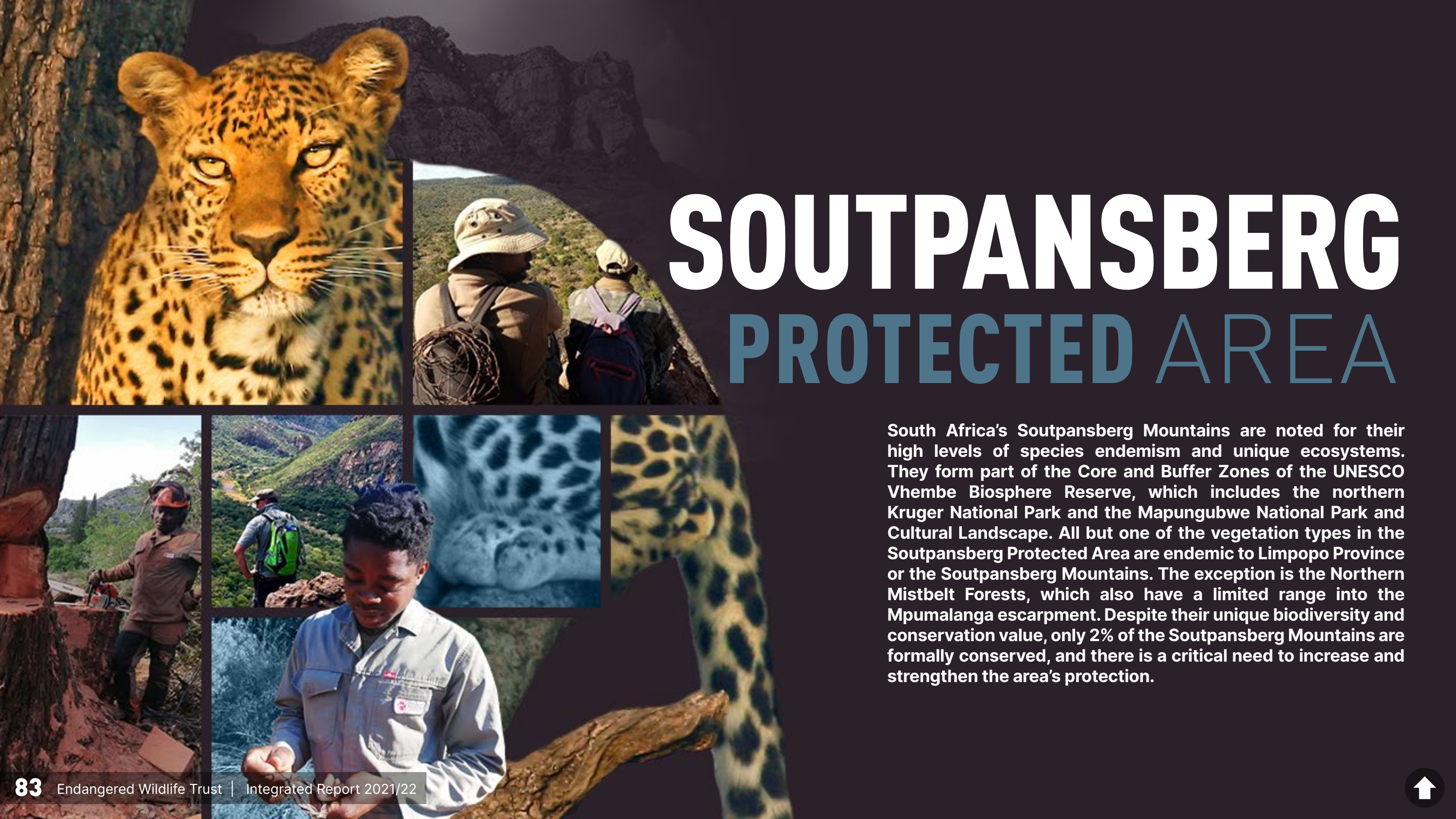


Building a Community of Practice

The EWT is building a Community of Practice through which we can share our experiences and lessons learned to facilitate ongoing collaborative learning and support for our People in Conservation initiatives across our programmes and with our partners. The platform enables us to share the many and varied resources being developed across our programmes so that we can align our efforts. We are striving to create a safe space in which we can share and pilot prospective innovations whilst ensuring that we understand and implement sound development practices that help manage risk and navigate the challenges associated with any development. To contribute, we presented an introductory training course on monitoring and evaluating socioecological projects to EWT colleagues in November 2021.

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





SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA

South Africa's Soutpansberg Mountains are noted for their high levels of species endemism and unique ecosystems. They form part of the Core and Buffer Zones of the UNESCO Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, which includes the northern Kruger National Park and the Mapungubwe National Park and Cultural Landscape. All but one of the vegetation types in the Soutpansberg Protected Area are endemic to Limpopo Province or the Soutpansberg Mountains. The exception is the Northern Mistbelt Forests, which also have a limited range into the Mpumalanga escarpment. Despite their unique biodiversity and conservation value, only 2% of the Soutpansberg Mountains are formally conserved, and there is a critical need to increase and strengthen the area's protection.



In 2018, the EWT purchased land in the Soutpansberg with the support of the Roberts family from Australia. This initial purchase leveraged the purchase of an additional neighbouring property in 2019 with support from the Rainforest Trust and Douglas Wilson to make up the 2,733-ha Medike Nature Reserve. When the EWT purchased the Medike Nature Reserve, we developed the concept of working with neighbouring landowners to create an expansive Soutpansberg Protected Area (SPA), formally protected through the national Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.

The EWT secured further funding to launch the programme from the **Rainforest Trust**, the **Coca-Cola Foundation's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN)**, **Fondation Franklinia**, and Douglas Wilson. This ambitious project will establish a continuous 33,515-ha protected landscape between two existing nature reserves. The project team collaborates closely with several landowners who are including their properties in the newly formed protected area. The SPA will afford protection to many threatened and locally endemic species and will protect critical water catchments and culturally significant sites. In doing so, we will improve the mountains' resilience to climate change. In addition, the project contributes towards local job creation and enables access to properties through the development of nature-based tourism opportunities.

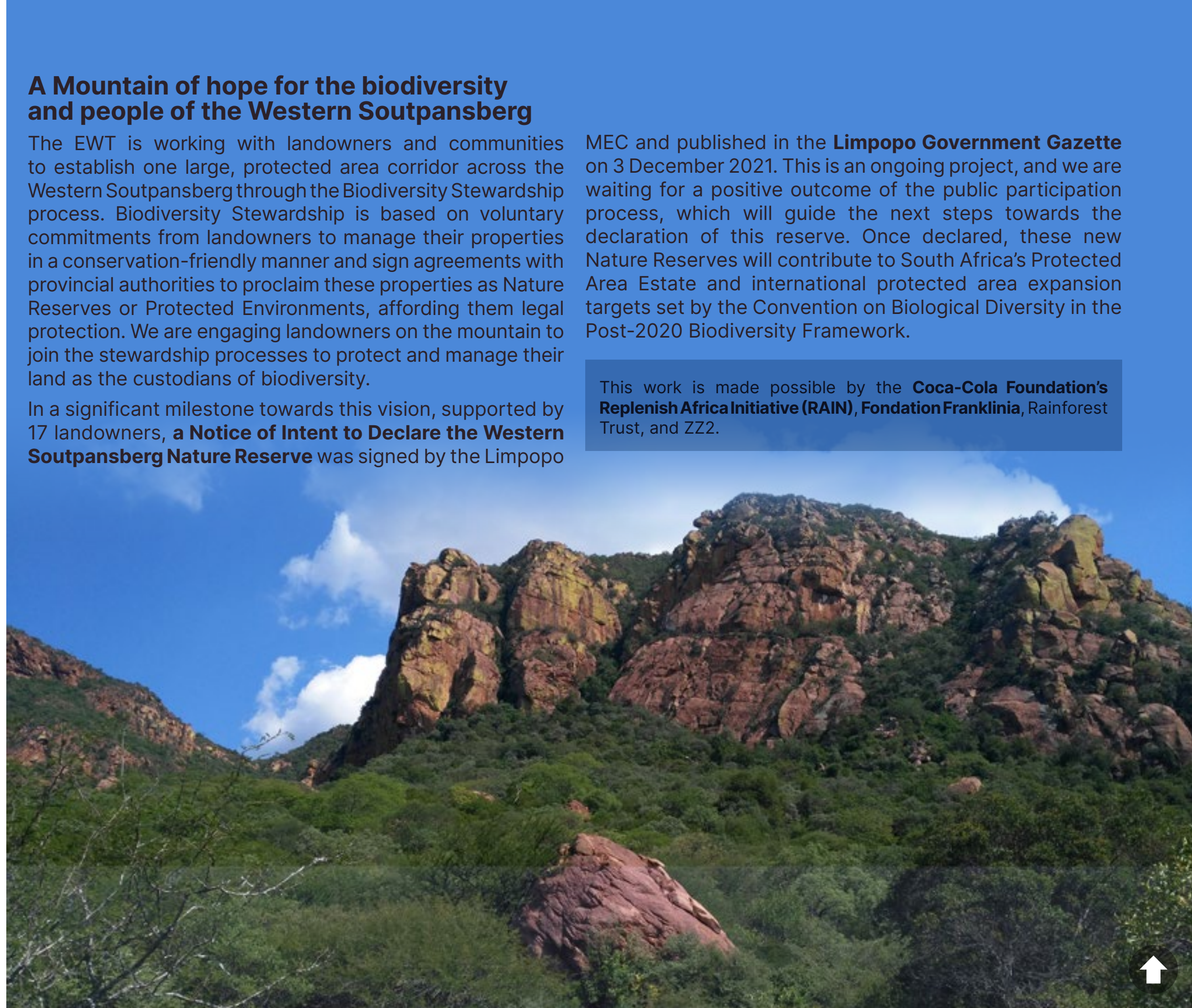
A Mountain of hope for the biodiversity and people of the Western Soutpansberg

The EWT is working with landowners and communities to establish one large, protected area corridor across the Western Soutpansberg through the Biodiversity Stewardship process. Biodiversity Stewardship is based on voluntary commitments from landowners to manage their properties in a conservation-friendly manner and sign agreements with provincial authorities to proclaim these properties as Nature Reserves or Protected Environments, affording them legal protection. We are engaging landowners on the mountain to join the stewardship processes to protect and manage their land as the custodians of biodiversity.

In a significant milestone towards this vision, supported by 17 landowners, a **Notice of Intent to Declare the Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve** was signed by the Limpopo

MEC and published in the **Limpopo Government Gazette** on 3 December 2021. This is an ongoing project, and we are waiting for a positive outcome of the public participation process, which will guide the next steps towards the declaration of this reserve. Once declared, these new Nature Reserves will contribute to South Africa's Protected Area Estate and international protected area expansion targets set by the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

This work is made possible by the **Coca-Cola Foundation's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN)**, **Fondation Franklinia**, Rainforest Trust, and ZZ2.



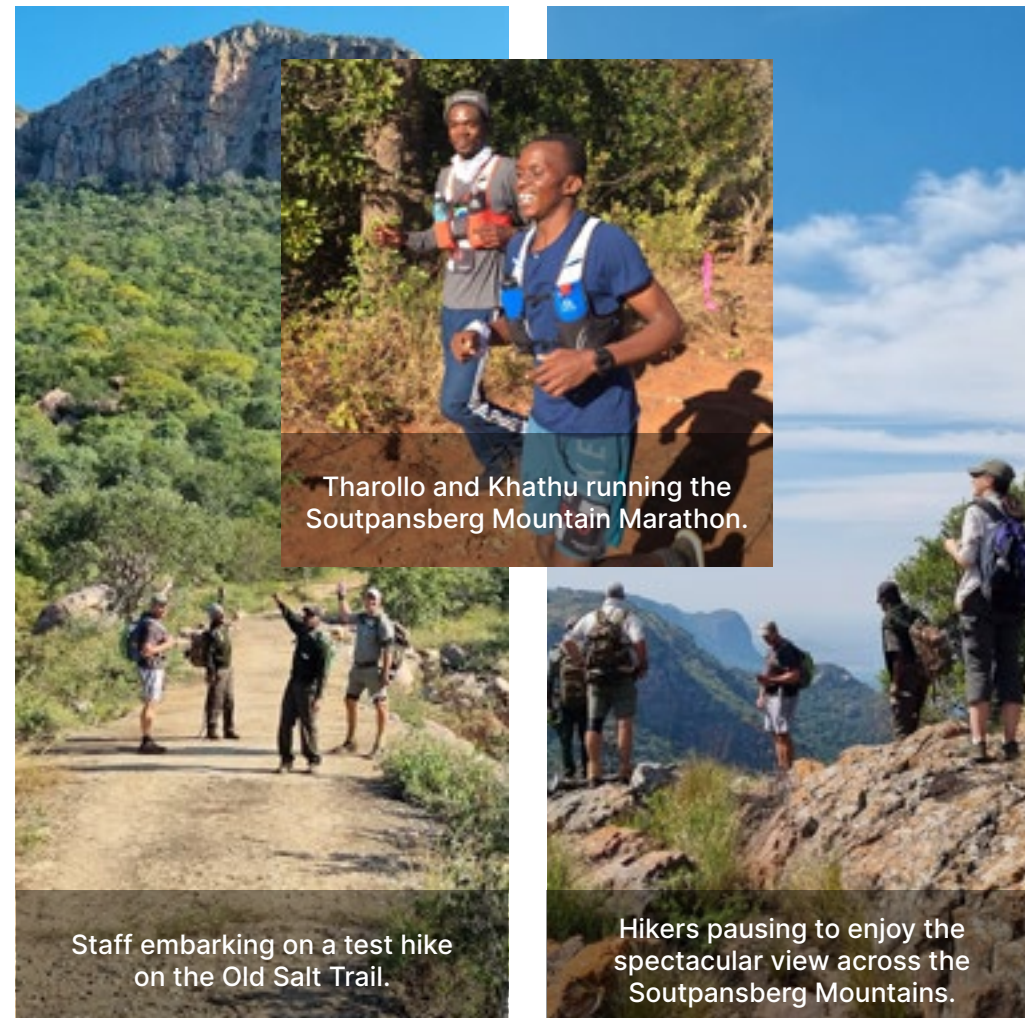
Trailblazers and trail-runners

The Soutpansberg Mountain, with its unquestionable scenic beauty, cultural heritage, and diversity of habitats, offers unique experiences to any visitor. Our long-term vision is to catalyse a thriving ecotourism initiative, bringing visitors to enjoy the mountain in an ecologically sensitive way. To this end, the EWT is working with neighbouring landowners to develop a network of hiking trails through their properties called The Old Salt Trail, which will double up as anti-poaching patrol routes. Some EWT Rangers have now been trained as guides through the **Field Guide Association of South Africa (FGASA)** and will lead hikers on the trail. The hiking network also presents opportunities for trail running events such as **Soutpansberg Mountain Marathon** and traversing expeditions using 4x4 tracks.

The Old Salt Trail consists of two loops of hiking trails, traversing 100 km, across stewardship properties. Established between Schoemansdal and Mount Lajuma on the western Soutpansberg, we hiked the first full test run of the slackpacking option (the Eastern Loop) on the trail with our funder, Laetitia Steynberg, in August 2021. This five-day trail is a spectacular and challenging experience for any hiking enthusiast, and the hospitality at the hosting establishments was excellent. These test hikers provided valuable feedback for enhancing the already spectacular trail. The EWT's communications team visited the area in February to meet with the SPA Rangers and participating landowners to develop a marketing strategy for the trail. The trail has a dedicated **website** and social media profiles on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. Subsequently, landowners and managers completed a final test hike in May, with the first group of guest hikers completing the trail in June 2022 and providing positive feedback. The trail is now being assessed to be awarded its **Green Flag Trails status**, an international standard for trail accreditation, to enhance public awareness of and confidence in trails.

The area is a fantastic trail-running venue, and the inaugural Soutpansberg Mountain Marathon, organised and coordinated by **KZN Trail Running**, took place in August 2021. The race received 53 entries in three categories: 10 km, 20 km, and 42 km. This test event went very well, and many participants committed to returning next year. We envisage that both trail-running events and hiking trails will bring many more visitors to the Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve, contributing to the sustainability of the mountain.

This work is made possible by FE van Pletzen/L Steynberg Trust



Tharollo and Khathu running the Soutpansberg Mountain Marathon.

Staff embarking on a test hike on the Old Salt Trail.

Hikers pausing to enjoy the spectacular view across the Soutpansberg Mountains.

THE OLD SALT TRAIL CONSISTS OF TWO LOOPS OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAVERSING 100 KM



One of the trail guides showing hikers one of the many rock art sites along the Old Salt Trail.



Securing the ecological infrastructure of the Western Soutpansberg

The **Kruger 2 Canyons Biosphere Reserve**, in collaboration with SANParks, awarded the EWT a one-year contract to develop a business case for ecological infrastructure in the Greater Kruger northern region under the **Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme**. This strategically important work will strengthen the EWT's footprint in the area and our partnership with SANParks and the Biosphere Reserves. After producing our baseline report, which highlights the Soutpansberg as a critical area for securing ecological infrastructure, the western Soutpansberg and the EWT's SPA project, in particular, was chosen as a case study to develop a business model for securing ecological infrastructure. The EWT reviewed the ecological infrastructure of the Soutpansberg, identifying key projects and actions required to secure it, possible partners, and potential sustainable income-generating revenue streams. We combined this in a stacked approach to inform a business plan for the Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve. An example of recommended actions is the implementation of a carbon credit project for carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation, and enhancing sustainable financing of the protected area.

This work was made possible by the **Global Environment Facility** Protected Area Programme, Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region, and SANParks.

Boosting connections within and for the Medike Nature Reserve

We kicked off a series of infrastructure upgrades on the EWT's Medike Nature Reserve, installing new thatching at the Stone Cottage, solar installations, and new internet and WiFi infrastructure at all the houses in the eastern section of the reserve to improve external communications. In line with environmental legislation, we also arranged for a Basic Assessment for Environmental Authorisation for a planned gravel road that will allow direct access between the western and eastern properties. These infrastructure upgrades will ensure a safer housing environment and a more connected experience for staff and guests. Critically, the new solar installations also reduce our reliance on diesel to run generators, reducing our carbon emissions and running costs.

This work is made possible by Douglas Wilson.



Water pipeline repair.



Infrastructure maintenance.

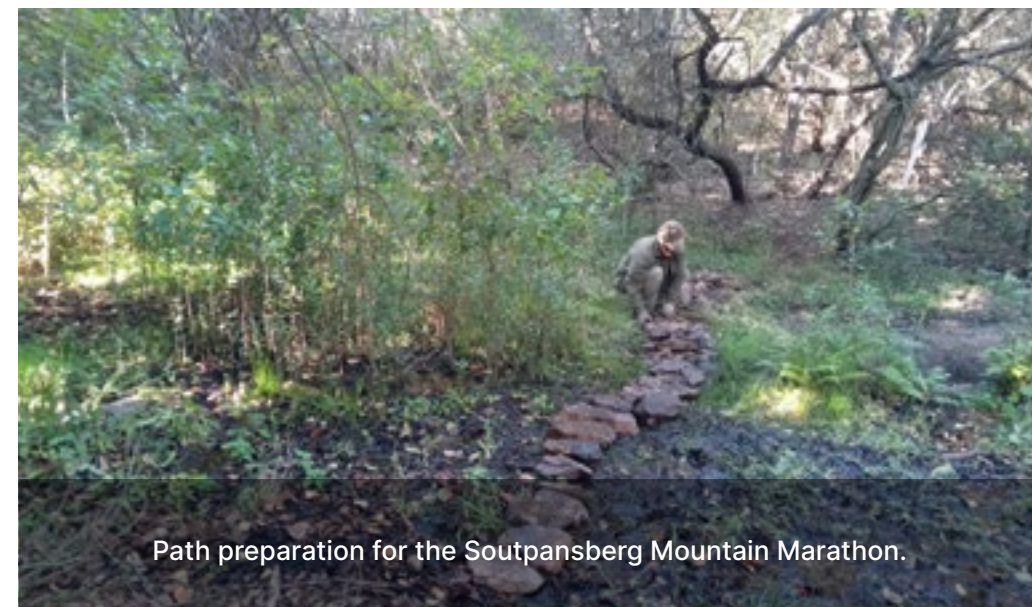


Rethatching of Medike East bathroom.



The Sustainable Ranger Programme complements lasting conservation in the Soutpansberg

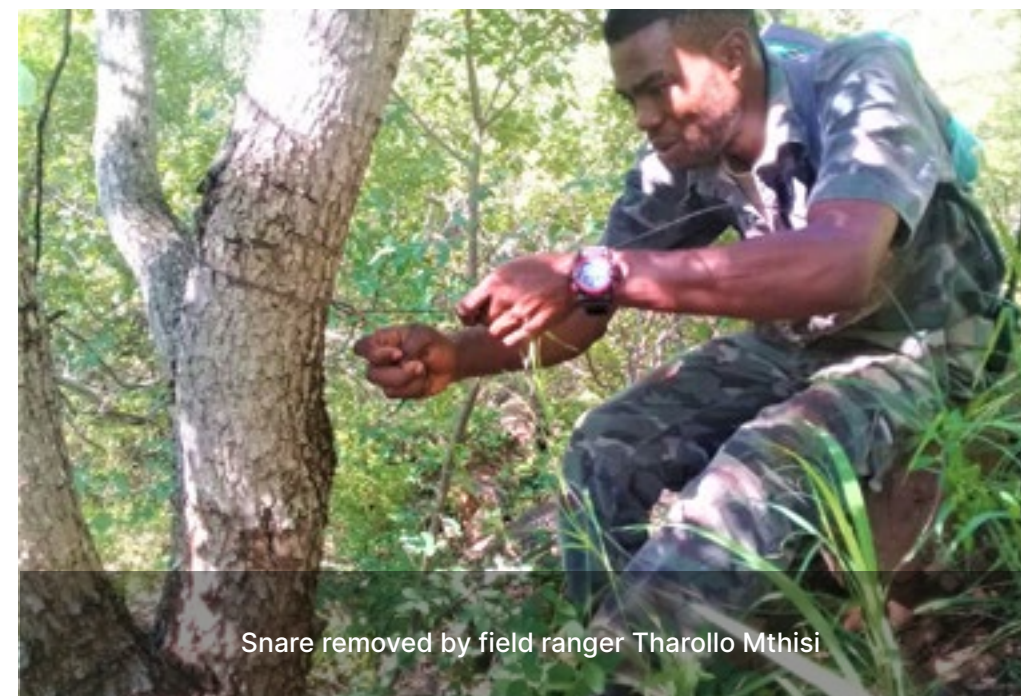
The ecological infrastructure business case identified establishing a sustainable ranger programme as a key activity to pursue. The Soutpansberg (SPA) rangers in the Soutpansberg are crucial to conservation action on the ground. They are dedicated to protecting species through anti-poaching patrols and restoring habitats by eradicating invasive alien plants, controlling soil erosion, and reducing bush encroachment. Regular anti-poaching patrols and site monitoring by the rangers help to identify critical snaring hotspots, which allows us to address priority poaching issues in the western Soutpansberg. Supporting rangers and providing local jobs also contributes to the area's socio-economic development and supports local communities. In many cases, the rangers are the breadwinners in their households and support extended families. The objective of the ranger programme is to provide the rangers with the relevant skills, training, and experience to one day take their expertise to other areas of the mountain in need of conservation action.



Path preparation for the Soutpansberg Mountain Marathon.

The Sustainable Ranger Programme aims to address this challenge and maintain long-term positions, and fundraising for ranger salaries is ongoing. In this initial phase, we are examining mechanisms to generate income, such as subcontracting rangers to provide conservation services to other landowners within the stewardship Programme to assist them with conservation services on their properties. This year, our rangers were stationed on the Bahiti and Kremetart properties from April 2022, where they conducted various conservation jobs, from anti-poaching patrols to bush encroachment work and invasive alien tree control. We also received donations from the Baker family for our rangers working on stewardship properties.

This work is made possible by the Baker Family, **Quiver Tree Lodgings**, and Wild Estate.



Snare removed by field ranger Tharollo Mthisi



The Soutpansberg Rangers, received a Conservation Achiever Award from the EWT in June 2022.



Herbicide application and alien clearing.





Alien vegetation clearing in the Soutpansberg.

Water conservation and alien and invasive species control

South Africa is one of the world's 30 most arid countries. In this context, the relatively pristine western Soutpansberg Mountain is a Strategic Groundwater Source Area containing an upper catchment with wetlands and streams feeding into the Sand and Nzhelele Rivers within the Limpopo Basin. The mountains are also home to multiple rare, threatened, and endemic species, especially plants. Invasive alien trees such as Eucalyptus and Black Wattle negatively impact water resources, especially near watercourses. They also impact and transform critical habitats for Endangered species, impacting local biodiversity. Our dedicated rangers are addressing this threat by removing thirsty invasive species to replenish groundwater sources and restoring habitat for threatened species. This year, the team cleared 19 ha of invasive species, adding to the 72.8 ha of alien trees we have cleared since our project began in 2018.

**THE TEAM CLEARED
19 HA OF INVASIVE
SPECIES**

**ADDING TO THE 72.8 HA
WE HAVE CLEARED SINCE 2018**



Chain sawing on Thomas Wilson pass.

This work is made possible by the Coca-Cola Foundation's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) and Fondation Franklinia.



Brush cutting on Thomas Wilson pass.



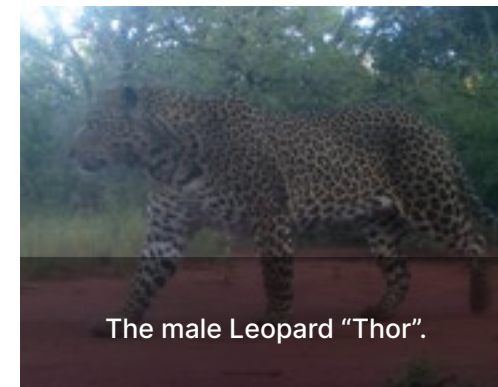
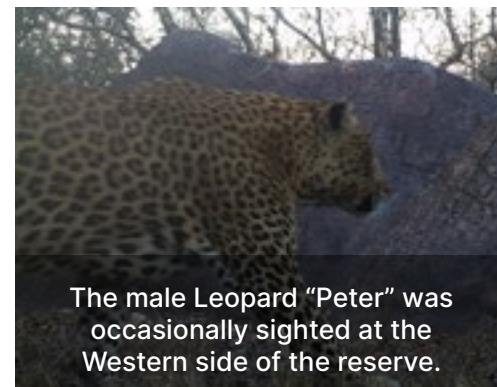
Rangers hard at work removing and treating alien invasive plant species in the Soutpansberg.



Monitoring Medike's mammals

The EWT established a camera trap grid across Medike Nature Reserve in February 2020 under our Mammal Monitoring Project. Through this project, we study the distribution and abundance of predators with a specific focus on the Leopards that occur on the mountain. This grid expands on a pre-existing, long-term monitoring grid used across numerous properties on the western Soutpansberg by Durham University's **Primate and Predator Project**. The grid provides a long-term monitoring database for research and assessing ecosystem health.

This year we collected 242,418 pictures from the camera grid, including 228 images of Leopards. We have recorded a total of 637,424 pictures since this monitoring began, and in addition to regular sightings of Medike's Leopards, we also logged Brown Hyaenas, Caracals, African Civets, Large Spotted Genets, and one sighting of an African Wild Cat, a new record for Medike Nature Reserve. We have captured 637,424 pictures since this monitoring began.



THIS YEAR WE COLLECTED
242,418
PICTURES
FROM THE CAMERA GRID

INCLUDING **228**
IMAGES OF **LEOPARDS**





Snares removed by field ranger, Tharollo Mthisi.

Rangers increasing safety in the Soutpansberg

Besides invasive alien plants, poaching is one of the biggest threats to the Soutpansberg's biodiversity. This poaching can take the form of illegal harvesting of threatened medicinal plant species, illegal fishing in rivers, and snaring wildlife for commercial trade and household consumption. This threat is present in Medike Nature Reserve, and we also have reports of poaching on several other properties. The Medike rangers conduct regular anti-poaching patrols throughout Medike Nature Reserve to remove snares and fishing nets and escort intruders off the property. This year, the field rangers removed 57 snares from Medike and the neighbouring Community Property Association – a reduction from the 94 snares we removed three years ago – indicating that our anti-poaching work is paying dividends in protecting wildlife on and around the reserve. Our ranger programme now conducts regular patrols in the broader Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve. The team has removed 93 snares from neighbouring properties, where snaring is also an issue.

This work is made possible by the Baker family, Fondation Franklinia, and Rainforest Trust.



Snares found on Wallacedale.



Snare removed by field ranger, Khathu Mukhumani.

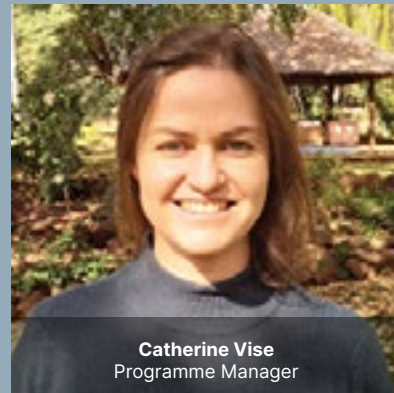
FIELD RANGERS REMOVED 57 SNARES FROM MEDIKE



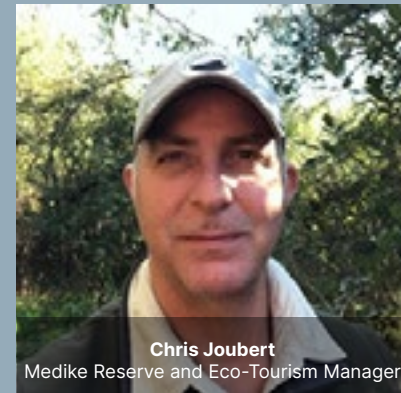
Snare removal on Wallacedale.



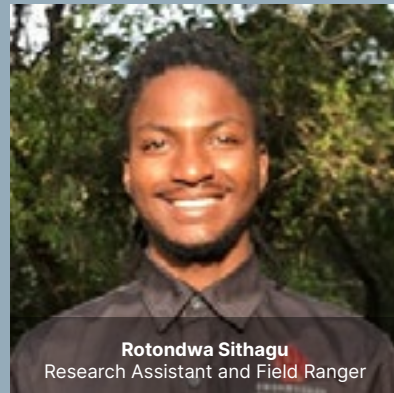
SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA TEAM



Catherine Vise
Programme Manager



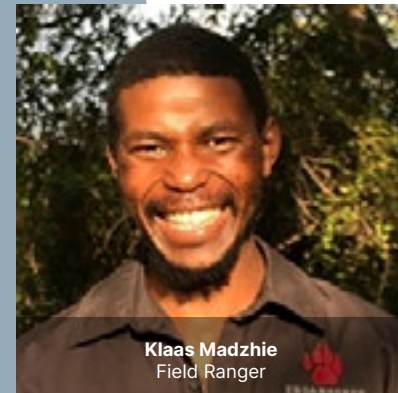
Chris Joubert
Medike Reserve and Eco-Tourism Manager



Rotondwa Sithagu
Research Assistant and Field Ranger



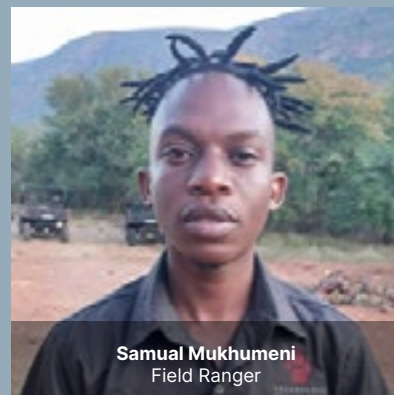
Khathutshelo Mukhumeni
Senior Field Ranger



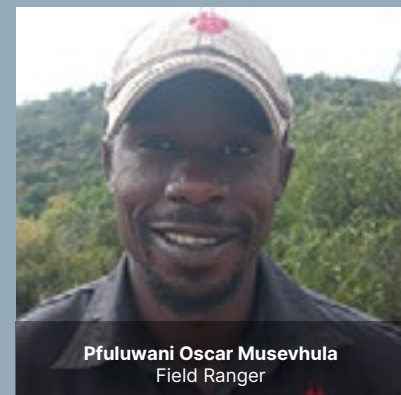
Klaas Madzhe
Field Ranger



Tharollo Mthisi
Field Ranger



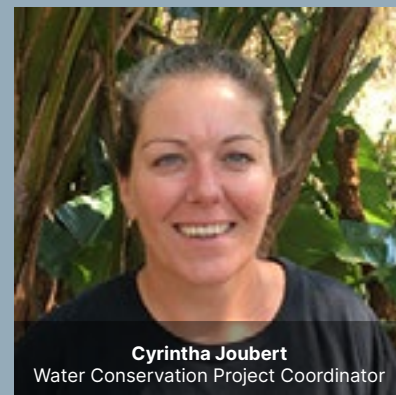
Samual Mukhumeni
Field Ranger



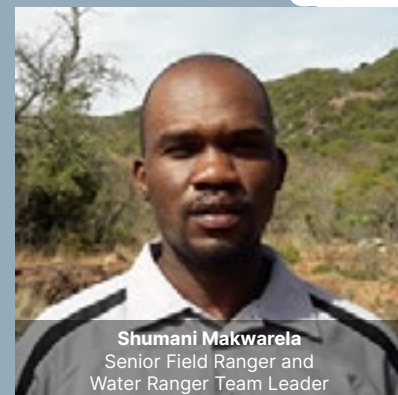
Pfuluwani Oscar Musevhula
Field Ranger



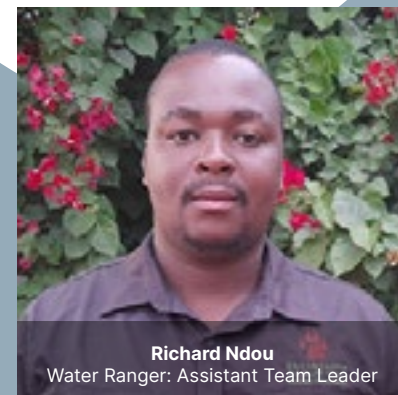
Luvhengo Ramabulana
Field Ranger



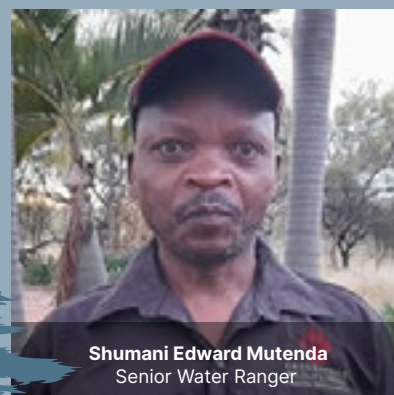
Cyrintha Joubert
Water Conservation Project Coordinator



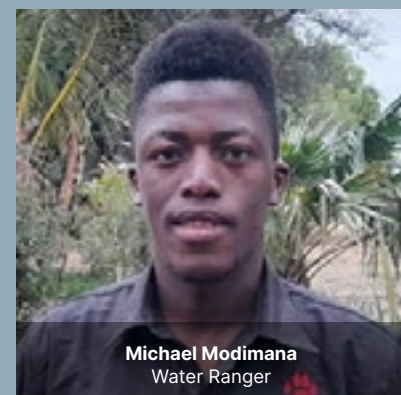
Shumani Makwarela
Senior Field Ranger and
Water Ranger Team Leader



Richard Ndou
Water Ranger: Assistant Team Leader



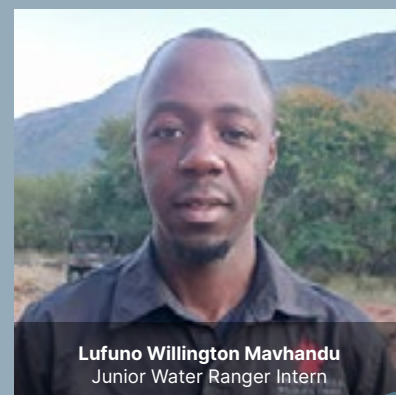
Shumani Edward Mutenda
Senior Water Ranger



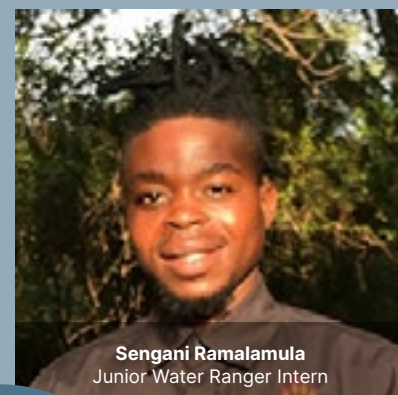
Michael Modimana
Water Ranger



Vumbhoni Clyde Kubayi
Junior Water Ranger Intern



Lufuno Willington Mavhandu
Junior Water Ranger Intern



Sengani Ramalamula
Junior Water Ranger Intern



Michael Sithagathagha
Junior Water Ranger Intern



THREATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME

Amphibians are the most threatened vertebrates on Earth, with 41% of species assessed by the IUCN at risk of extinction. Furthermore, amphibian populations are declining on every continent where they occur. The scope and severity of these declines make urgent amphibian conservation a high priority worldwide. In line with global trends, almost 30% of South Africa's 134 frog species are threatened.

For the last decade, the EWT has been the only NGO in South Africa with a programme dedicated to implementing frog conservation action, focussing on threatened species as flagships for broader conservation issues. We work to improve the management of and protect the critical freshwater and terrestrial habitats on which these species (and humans) depend on. We use targeted research to monitor species and habitats to support conservation action, and promote human behavioural change that reflects increased knowledge and recognition of the importance of frogs and their habitats in South Africa and beyond.



While focusing on enhancing species and habitat protection, ecosystem integrity and driving innovative research to understand these systems better, we also collaborate extensively with the communities in each of the landscapes in which we work. We currently run five projects across three provinces (the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal), focusing on eight threatened flagship species. Since 2018, we have also worked on one of Africa's most threatened snake species, the Albany Adder. We are currently running a project to secure habitat for this dwarf viper known only from a very restricted range in the Eastern Cape. "Herps" are the collective term for amphibian and reptile species, as studying both groups is called Herpetology.



Albany Adder. Photo credit: Bionerds PTY Ltd.

Ghosts of Table Mountain

The Table Mountain Ghost Frog is a unique and elusive species found in only eight streams in Cape Town's Table Mountain National Park and nowhere else in the world. The species has already disappeared from at least one historical site due to altered water flow and alien plant infestation. This year, our research on the Table Mountain Ghost Frog's lifecycle, especially its tadpole phase, which takes up to two years, has helped us understand its precise habitat niche and, therefore, its conservation requirements. This research confirmed that the siltation of streams is a significant threat to these tadpoles. To counter this issue, we commissioned a geological report and a restoration plan to inform conservation actions to address sediment accumulation above Skeleton Gorge on Table Mountain. These outputs will help prevent future threats to freshwater ecosystem function, benefitting Table Mountain's freshwater streams and aquatic life and ultimately ensuring the survival of the Table Mountain Ghost Frog. Watch [this video](#) to learn more about this fascinating frog.

This work is made possible by the [Ford Wildlife Foundation](#), Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Table Mountain Fund, and [Whitley Fund for Nature](#).

Partners involved in the project include [CapeNature](#), [the City of Cape Town](#), [Freshwater Research Centre](#), [SANBI](#), [SANParks](#), and the [University of Cape Town](#).

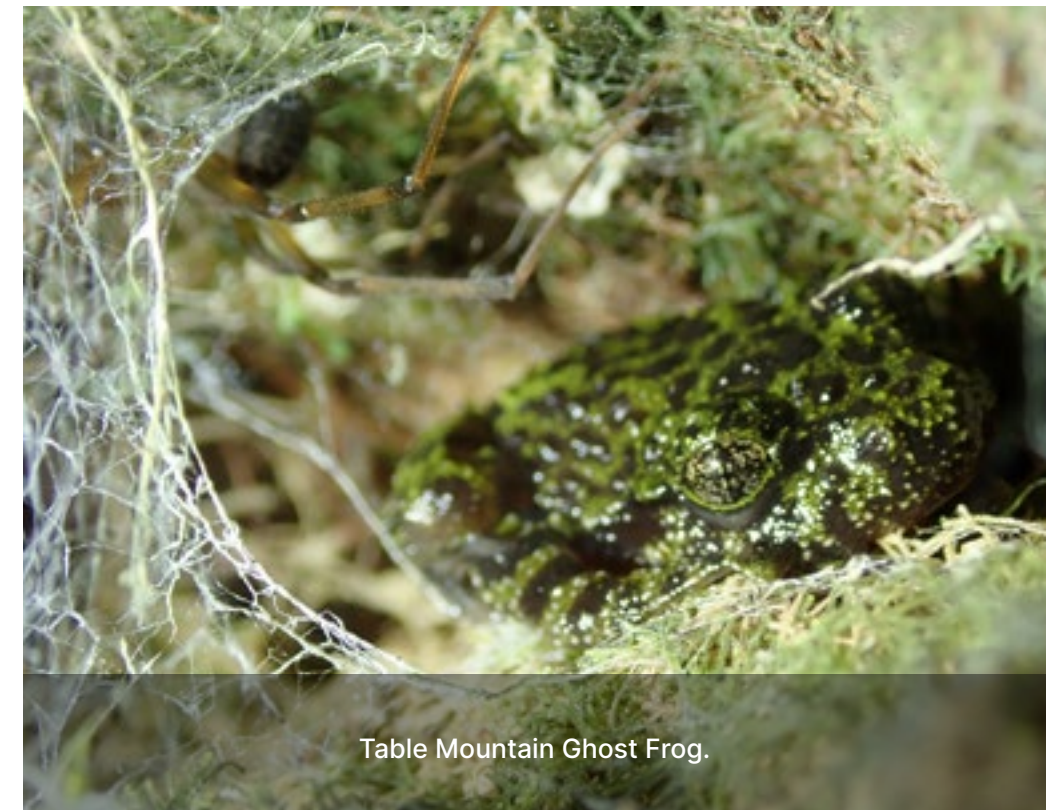


Table Mountain Ghost Frog.



Habitat of the Table Mountain Ghost Frog.



Fire for a fynbos frog

The tiny, Critically Endangered Rough Moss Frog was, as of June 2020, known from just one locality on one mountain on the Klein Swartberg. Over the last two years, we discovered three new localities on the mountain and, importantly, engaged with the landowners of these sites to earmark 2,650 ha for habitat protection for this threatened amphibian that otherwise does not occur in any protected area. We embarked on a challenging project to address a significant threat to the frogs' habitat from a pine infestation by demarcating firebreaks to direct an ecological burn to eradicate these pines. In March 2022, the planned burn was implemented on Klein Swartberg and covered over 4,000 ha. This intervention was crucial in combatting a very dense pine infestation on the southern slopes of the mountain, where the original population of the Rough Moss Frog has dramatically declined due to a reduction of its natural seepage habitat. Our action was the first step towards recovering this ecosystem, and we are encouraged by records of Rough Moss Frogs breeding following the burn.

This work is made possible by **Amphibian Survival Alliance**, **IUCN Save Our Species** Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the **European Union**, Stiftung Artenschutz, and **Whitley Fund for Nature** and is in partnership with **Bionerds**, **CapeNature**, **Enviro Wildfire**, **Fynbos Trust**, and Klein Swartberg Conservancy.



Rough Moss Frog. Photo credit: Bionerds PTY Ltd.

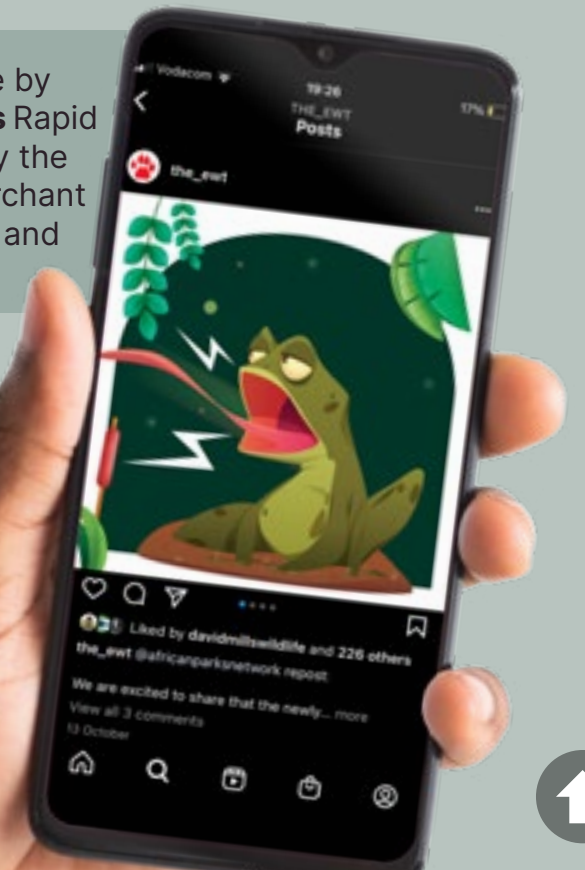


Sandile Mthethwa, the Widenham Biodiversity Protection Officer, with Hloniphile Mabaso, the Water Graduate Intern, identifying plants at the Widenham Wetland Protected Environment.

Making a splash

We continued our trend as one of the EWT's more prominent media contributors. The Oriante Society, a US-based reptile and amphibian conservation organisation, interviewed programme manager Jeanne Tarrant and James Lewis from our partner, Rainforest Trust, for a podcast (**#43 Conserving Rainforests and Maintaining Reptile and Amphibian Biodiversity**) featured in January 2022. In February, we developed the #FrogLore social media campaign for Leap Day for Frogs 2022. Our annual South African frog awareness campaign, which we celebrate on the last Saturday of February, reached 34,637 people, with 1,647 engagements. We also held several events over weekends in February, with over 400 people attending, while several of our partners organised their own events and outreach, directly reaching over 2,000 people. Our online educational resources and videos were used by over 140,000, including abroad, including our **Frogs in the Classroom** and **Frogs and their calls videos**.

This work is made possible by the **IUCN Save Our Species** Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the **European Union**, Rand Merchant Bank, Synchronicity Earth, and **Whitley Fund for Nature**.



Art for amphibians

In September 2021, the EWT launched the Frog Art Project with Robyn Ansell Art. Passionate about wildlife and painting, KwaZulu-Natal-based artist Robyn Ansell creates exquisite artworks celebrating Africa's rich biodiversity while promoting conservation awareness. "I love representing the smaller, 'lesser-known' animals; the more secretive yet exceedingly charming and often overlooked creatures, which, to me, are the heart and soul of nature," she says. Her delightful paintings of the five common frogs of KwaZulu-Natal have been added to her collection. "These five species were my first introduction to painting amphibians. They were painted in acrylic on paper and have been made into a range of A4 prints, greeting cards, and gift tags in support of the EWT's Threatened Amphibian Programme and to raise awareness of the vital role of frogs in our various ecosystems."

The **Ford Wildlife Foundation** requested painted boards for their Johannesburg head office. We supplied them with one featuring children's handprints from an Early Development Centre in Isipingo, where we work, and a beautiful Pickersgill's Reed Frog painted by Robyn Ansell.

This work is made possible by **Ford Wildlife Foundation**, Robyn Ansell Art.

“ I LOVE REPRESENTING THE SMALLER, 'LESSER-KNOWN' ANIMALS; THE MORE SECRETIVE YET EXCEEDINGLY CHARMING AND OFTEN OVERLOOKED CREATURES, WHICH, TO ME, ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF NATURE

Robyn Ansell



Robyn Ansell
NATALREE FROG



Robyn Ansell
WATERLILY FROG



Artist Robyn Ansell.



Protecting herp habitat

Through surveys carried out in the Amathole region in October, we confirmed several new breeding sites for the Critically Endangered Amathole Toad, an obscure species restricted to the montane grassland around Hogsback. Subsequently, we successfully engaged with seven landowners to secure over 12,000 ha of habitat for the toad, which otherwise does not occur in any protected areas, using the Biodiversity Stewardship model. Importantly, these sites occur within one of South Africa's Strategic Water Source Areas, supplying 92% of the region with water, yet only 0.9% of this is protected.

It was a productive year for habitat protection. We completed seven property site assessments, six for the Western Cape and one for the Eastern Cape, all qualifying as Nature Reserves and bringing our protected area estate contribution to over 25,000 ha (initiated) for threatened reptiles and amphibians in South Africa.

In KwaZulu-Natal, our Intention to Declare the Umgavusa Protected Environment, in which the Endangered Picker's Reed Frog occurs, was approved by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for the Environment in December 2021, with a record turnaround of just a few weeks for approval. The declaration will go to the MEC for final approval following the public participation process.

This work is made possible by the **IUCN Save Our Species** Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the **European Union**, Rainforest Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, Synchronicity Earth, and **Whitley Fund for Nature** and conducted in partnership with **Bionerds**, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.



Amathole Toad breeding habitat identified in AFC land.



Amathole Toad breeding activity, used to identify new sites to protect.

**WE COMPLETED
7 PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS**

**BRINGING OUR PROTECTED AREA
ESTATE CONTRIBUTION TO OVER
25,000 HA**

**FOR THREATENED REPTILES AND
AMPHIBIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA**



Onsite meeting Wilde Honde Ness. Photo credit: Bionerds PTY Ltd.



Snakes alive!

The Albany Adder is one of nine South African Dwarf Adder species, occurring through a very small range in the Eastern Cape and arguably Africa's most threatened viper. This feisty dwarf adder species (adults only measure up to 35 cm long) was known from just 12 confirmed records in the wild as of 2015 (since its description in 1937). Since then, through concerted surveys involving over 260 hours of searching, our team has added 40 more records. Most of these are from a single site, where transformative processes, including mining, alien plant infestation, and agriculture, threaten the snake's specialised thicket and grassland habitat. Severe drought over the last nine years has stressed these areas even further. Since 2020, we have pursued formal habitat protection, which is critical in securing this Endangered snake's survival. The area protected will be the first known Protected Area dedicated to protecting a snake species. In 2021, a Master's study, in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, focused on survey techniques and occupancy modelling, including road cruising on a bicycle as a novel survey method, given that being run over and killed by vehicles is another significant threat to the species. Our project also aims to create awareness and interest in the species through training field rangers, wind farm monitors, and landowners. With several sightings reported to us, awareness-raising has certainly proved successful.

This work is made possible by the **Rainforest Trust** and in partnership with **Bionerds**, **Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency**, **SANParks**, and the **University of Edinburgh**.



Albany Adder. Photo Credit: Bionerds PTY Ltd.

THROUGH SURVEYS INVOLVING
OVER **260 HOURS**
OF **SEARCHING**
OUR TEAM HAS ADDED
40 RECORDS
OF ALBANY ADDER SIGHTINGS
TO THE 12 EXISTING RECORDS



Albany Adder bicycle surveys.



A tale of two leopards

In November, in partnership with the **Cape Leopard Trust**, we publicly launched the Tale of Two Leopards project. The project aims to improve knowledge about the occurrence of two iconic species in the Western Cape's Overberg region, the Leopard and its amphibian namesake, the Western Leopard Toad. We and support their conservation by creating a green corridor through landowner agreements and improving management where the two species co-occur. The EWT and Cape Leopard Trust co-hosted an event in Hermanus, with a joint presentation given to about 45 people, together with the launch of two wines especially created in support of the project by Lost Boy – **Wines for the Wild**. Subsequently, we designed and displayed project information boards at five project sites.

Unlike other large carnivores, Leopards continue to survive in the Cape, where they traverse a wide range of lands. Similarly, Western Leopard Toads must navigate highly modified landscapes during their annual migrations between summer breeding and over-wintering sites. Named after its skin's striking resemblance to a Leopard, the species exists only in a tiny area of the Western Cape, with one population on the Cape Peninsula and another in and around Agulhas National Park. Familiar to many Capetonians, general development and habitat degradation severely threaten this species. At the same time, road traffic results in the death of hundreds of toads each year during their annual migration. Our work will help reduce these threats for both of the Cape's leopards.

This work is made possible by **Ford Wildlife Foundation**, Synchronicity Earth, and **Whitley Fund for Nature** and conducted in partnership with **Bionerds**, **Cape Leopard Trust**, and **CapeNature**.

WE HAVE TRAINED
FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

PROVIDED WORKSHOPS TO

98 TRADITIONAL
LEADERS

REPORTED OVER 10 TRANSGRESSIONS
AND STOPPED THREE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES



Western Leopard Toad. Photo credit: Steve Benjamin.

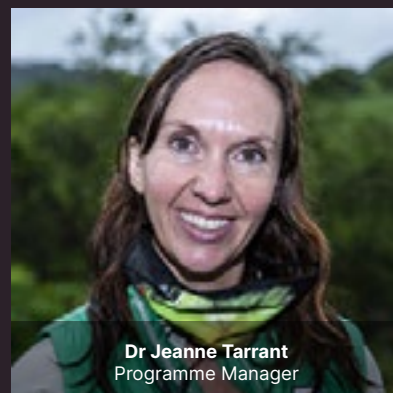
Capacitating environmental compliance

Despite South Africa's sound environmental legislation, the underlying legal framework is extremely complex, which makes a general understanding and enforcement of these laws challenging, particularly for rural communities. Recognising the importance of a healthy environment to support social well-being is lacking, and subsequently, national priorities for social development often leave environmental concerns and the protection of nature by the wayside, leading, in some cases, to environmental mismanagement. Infringements at our project sites include illegal developments, dumping waste in freshwater systems, and clearing indigenous forests. All of these exacerbate the effects of flooding, a major and increasingly frequent issue in KwaZulu-Natal, and contaminate water sources, posing a health risk to both people and wildlife. In response to these challenges, we have developed an educational environmental legislation course outlining the relevant Acts relating to environmental laws. This course serves to capacitate community representatives as Environmental Compliance Officers (ECO), allowing them to identify environmental compliance issues, relate them to specific legislation and build the local capacity to implement solutions. We have trained five ECOs in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, provided workshops to 98 traditional leaders in October, reported over ten transgressions to provincial authorities and stopped three illegal activities. Through this project, we aim to empower communities to identify, solve, and comply with environmental issues which are having devastating impacts not just on local biodiversity but on human health and safety.

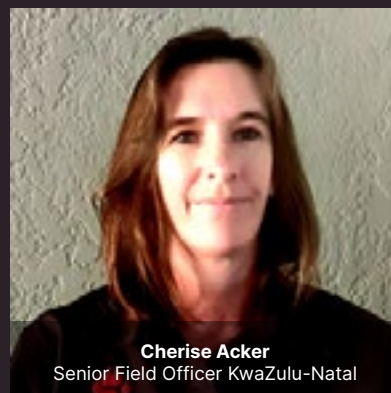
This work is made possible by Rand Merchant Bank.



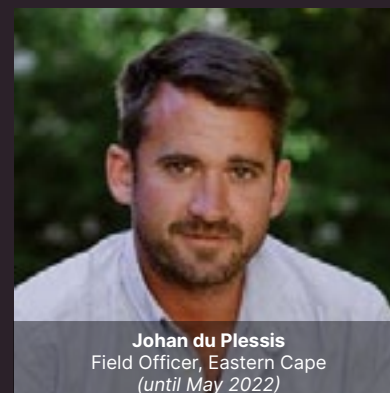
THREATENED AMPHIBIAN TEAM



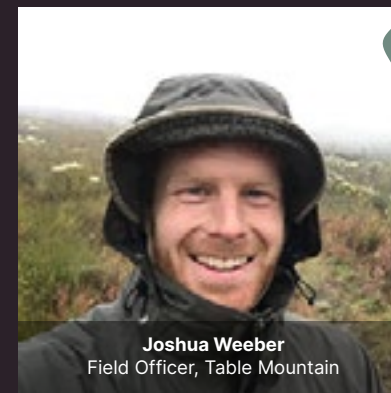
Dr Jeanne Tarrant
Programme Manager



Cherise Acker
Senior Field Officer KwaZulu-Natal



Johan du Plessis
Field Officer, Eastern Cape
(until May 2022)



Joshua Weeber
Field Officer, Table Mountain



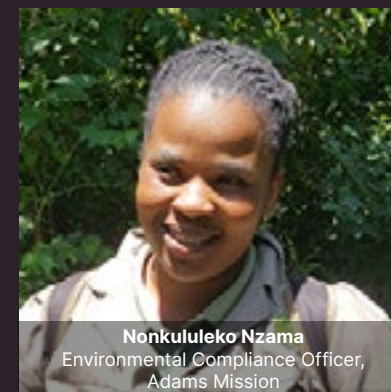
Arlene Mkhize
Biodiversity Protection Officer,
Adams Mission



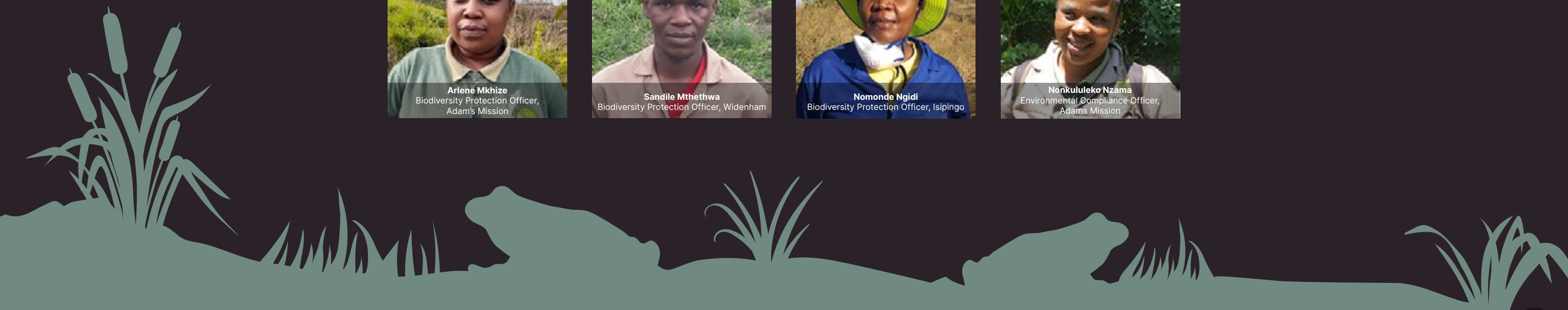
Sandile Mthethwa
Biodiversity Protection Officer, Widenham



Nomonde Ngidi
Biodiversity Protection Officer, Isipingo



Nonkululeko Nzama
Environmental Compliance Officer,
Adams Mission



VULTURES FOR AFRICA



African vulture numbers have declined drastically over the last 30 years, with four out of 11 species now Critically Endangered. This decline catalysed the drafting of an international **Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP)** in 2017, identifying several strategies to stop and reverse this trend.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Vultures for Africa Programme (VFA) reduces the imminent risk of extinction of African vultures by focusing on the most significant threat these birds currently face – wildlife poisoning in its various forms. We implement targeted actions to reduce the impact of wildlife poisoning and work with partners to collect quantitative data on vulture populations in identified priority areas across Africa. Our work also contributes towards achieving the objectives of the Pan-African Vulture Conservation Strategy and the IUCN Species Survival Commission **Vulture Specialist Group**.



Vultures for Africa operates in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and all Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, except for the Democratic Republic of Congo. This year, we added Senegal, The Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau to the list of African countries we have worked in. Our primary focus is outside South Africa, although we contribute to the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme's work within national borders.

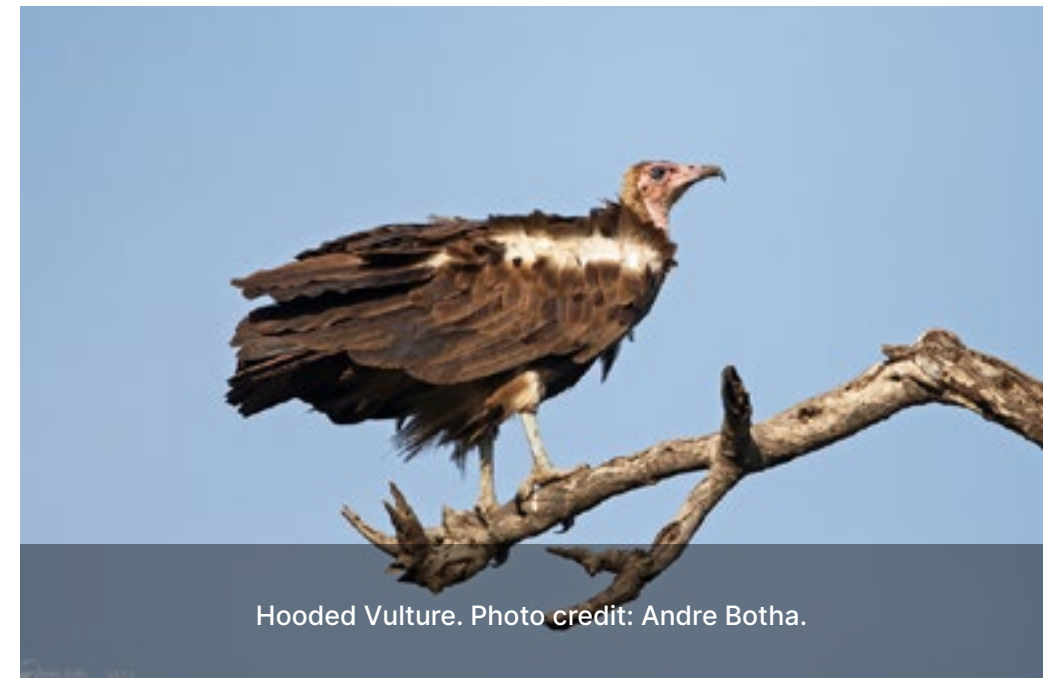
We achieve a critical component of our work through collaborations with the **Hawk Conservancy Trust** and other partners in the countries where we work. These partners include **BirdWatch Zambia, Caring for Conservation, the Zambia Carnivore Programme (Zambia), Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (Malawi), Raptors Botswana, The Peregrine Fund (Kenya), Wildlife Conservation Society, Niassa Carnivore Project and Chulexi Concession (Mozambique), Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (Zimbabwe)** and the **Uganda Conservation Foundation**. Our partners help provide funding for poisoning response training, issuing equipment to trainees for effective deployment in the field during incidents, supporting the initiation of sustained vulture monitoring and research, and developing relevant local capacity.



Addressing critical gaps across Africa

A significant achievement for the programme was the successful completion of wildlife poisoning response training in Senegal, The Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau in West Africa in May 2022. This work was prioritised after the mass poisoning of more than 2,500 Hooded Vultures for the belief-use trade in Guinea-Bissau in March 2020. This was the largest known poisoning event affecting vultures in Africa and was preceded by several similar incidents in Senegal and The Gambia. We carried out this work in partnership with four global conservation organisations, expanding our continental training footprint to 16 countries.

This work is made possible by the **Convention on Migratory Species, the Vulture Conservation Foundation**, and the **BirdLife International Africa Secretariat**.



Hooded Vulture. Photo credit: Andre Botha.



Gareth Tate assists to fit a GPS tracking unit to a young Bateleur in Niassa Special Reserve, Mozambique.



The Mariri team from the Niassa Special Reserve, Mozambique, stand proud as they assist to fit a GPS tracking unit to a White-backed Vulture.





The EWT's Kulani Nyakane leading a Wildlife Poisoning Response Training workshop.

Wildlife Poisoning Response

We completed six Wildlife Poisoning Response Training workshops in early July 2021, including a virtual workshop with crane conservation staff from the ICF/EWT partnership. Workshop attendees included field rangers, community engagement officers, and other law enforcement and veterinary staff. In total, we trained 147 learners in Uganda and Zambia.

In October 2021, we worked with the EWT's Carnivore Conservation and Wildlife and Energy programmes to provide refresher training to 270 field rangers in two regions of the northern Kruger National Park and 20 rangers in the Zinave National Park in Mozambique.

Four one-day awareness workshops were held with 111 Environmental Monitors (EMs) that work along the western boundary of the Kruger National Park as part of the VukaNow Project. Using community input received at these workshops, we developed an awareness infographic to warn the public about the risks associated with the use of poisoned wildlife products. This tool can be adapted for formats and has been made available to various stakeholder organisations working with communities in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area.

We conducted our first Wildlife Poisoning Response Training in Zimbabwe with two groups of rangers and human-wildlife conflict officers at sites in the Gonarezhou National Park as part of the USAID VukaNow Project.

In addition, we trained 117 learners during seven training interventions in South Africa (Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal), Botswana, and Lesotho. Working with **Wildlife ACT**, we trained a further 26 individuals from various organisations in Zululand at the Kube Yini Lodge between September 2021 and March 2022.

This work is made possible by Investec, **the US Fish and Wildlife Service**, and the USAID **VukaNow Project**.

FOUR ONE-DAY AWARENESS WORKSHOPS WERE HELD WITH 111 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS

USING COMMUNITY INPUT RECEIVED AT THESE WORKSHOPS, WE DEVELOPED AN AWARENESS INFOGRAPHIC TO WARN THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF POISONED WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

POISONED WILDLIFE CAN KILL YOU TOO

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN GET ILL OR DIE FROM ANIMALS THAT HAVE BEEN POISONED

POISONING HAPPENS IN THREE WAYS:

- 1 Skin contact**
Certain chemicals are easily absorbed through skin.
- 2 Swallowing**
Eating animals that have been poisoned.
- 3 Breathing**
Inhaling chemical fumes.

DO NOT TOUCH OR EAT ANY BUSHMEAT OR ANIMAL PARTS THAT HAVE BEEN HUNTED USING PESTICIDES OR POISONS.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY? KNOW WHERE YOUR MEAT COMES FROM

Don't eat animals if you don't know how they died. Beware of informal meat markets. Buy from a butcher you trust.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR
Poisoning symptoms

- Headache
- Blurred vision
- Dizziness
- Salivation
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Tremors in eyelids and tongue
- Cramps
- Sweating
- Anxiety
- Muscle weakness
- Twitching

FIRST AID MANAGEMENT

- If poison touches skin, wash it off with soap and water
- Use dry cloths to wipe the skin if you don't have water
- Take off clothing that has poison on it
- Cover the person with a blanket to keep them warm
- Store all clothes with poison on in a plastic bag
- Do not offer anything else by mouth at the location of the poisoning

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE HAS BEEN POISONED

- Have emergency numbers ready on your phone
- Take them to the nearest medical center

POISON INFORMATION HOTLINE 0861 555 777



IN TOTAL WE TRAINED
147 LEARNERS
IN UGANDA AND ZAMBIA





Fitting tracking devices to vultures.

Crime response

We are currently expanding our tracking sample of vultures through Africa. This fieldwork created opportunities to train local capacity in Zambia and Malawi to monitor, handle, and track vultures. Monitoring these birds using tracking devices assists in the swifter location and response to wildlife poisoning events and other wildlife crimes. We assisted with fitting GSM tracking units to six African White-backed and three Hooded Vultures in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia.

In the Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Kidepo National Park, Uganda, we worked with the Uganda Conservation Foundation and Uganda Wildlife Authority to fit 13 satellite trackers on three species of vultures (three Rüppell's, nine African White-backed, and one White-headed Vulture) during late March 2022. We further expanded our tracking sample in Malawi by another two African White-backed Vultures caught in the Nyika Plateau National Park in April 2022. In addition, the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme and the Wildlife Conservation Society assisted us in establishing a satellite tracking sample of 23 birds in the Niassa Special Reserve in northern Mozambique in June 2022. Tracking these birds helps us understand their movements and learn more about specific populations.

This work is made possible by funding from our partners, the **Uganda Conservation Foundation**, **Caring for Conservation**, **BirdWatch Zambia**, **the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust**, Wildlife Conservation Society, Niassa Carnivore Project and the Chuillexi Concession/Fauna and Flora

WE WORKED WITH THE **UGANDA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION** AND **UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY** TO FIT

13 SATELLITE TRACKERS TO 3 SPECIES OF VULTURES



Fitting tracking devices to vultures.

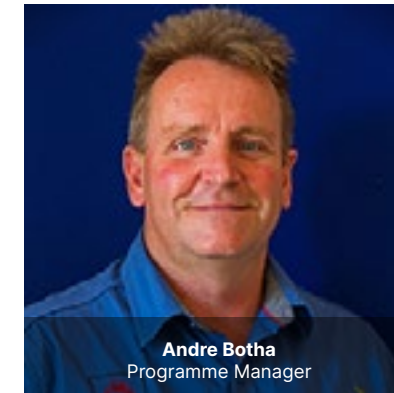


Speaking the language

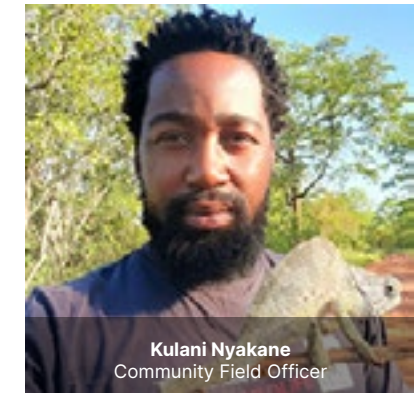
We translated our Wildlife Poisoning Response Protocol manual into Portuguese and French, enabling us to expand our training to African countries where these languages are spoken. We will translate the document into Swahili to use in East Africa and Arabic to enable us to expand our training into North Africa and the Middle East.

This work is made possible by the **US Fish and Wildlife Service** and **USAID**.

VULTURES FOR AFRICA TEAM



Andre Botha
Programme Manager



Kulani Nyakane
Community Field Officer



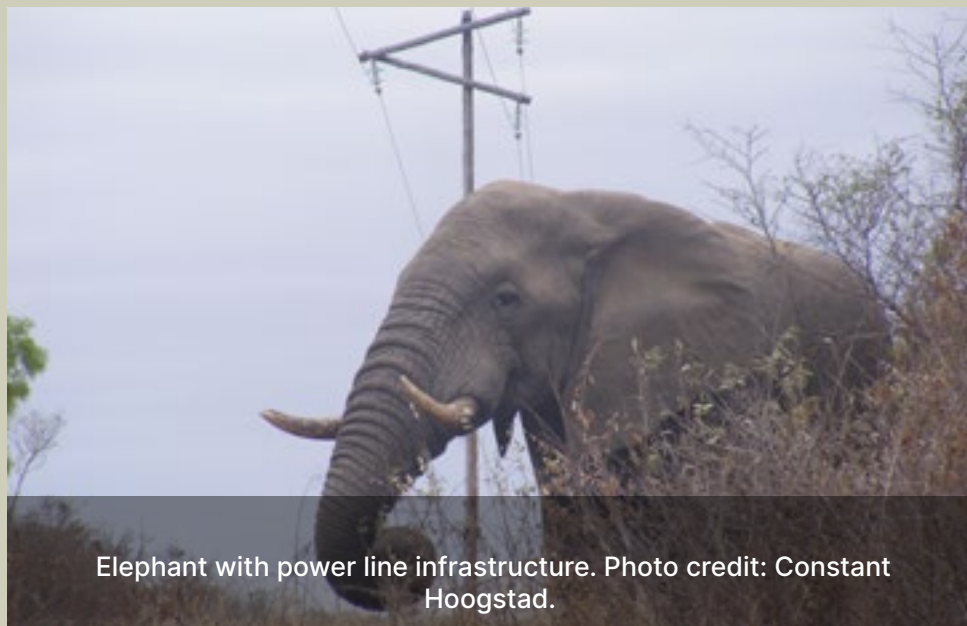


WILDLIFE AND **ENERGY** PROGRAMME

A long-standing programme within the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the Wildlife and Energy Programme, aims to significantly reduce the impacts of energy infrastructure on wildlife. The programme was established when we signed a strategic partnership with **Eskom** in 1996, and together, we have endeavoured to address some of the most pressing issues related to wildlife interactions with electrical infrastructure. The programme is the longest running of its kind in Africa, and we now work with Eskom as a member of their Envirotech Steering Committee and National Regulatory Services (NRS) working group, an interface between engineers and environmental managers.



Energy infrastructure can have devastating effects on wildlife, particularly through collisions with power lines and electrocution, and the EWT continues to positively influence the wildlife management policies of energy utilities. We help reduce impacts on wildlife, improve the quality of supply to customers, and ultimately phase out problematic processes and hardware to substantially minimise negative wildlife interactions with electricity infrastructure across Africa. These positive impacts include building a database to quantify the risk of wildlife mortalities related to the energy sector in South Africa; improving the efficiency of power line marking by working with Eskom Distribution and Transmission to install bird flappers using drones and implementing interventions such as proactively retrofitting existing electrical infrastructure to prevent negative wildlife interactions. The programme operates across all of South Africa's provinces. Based on our extensive experience and the lessons we have learned in South Africa, we now engage and advise electrical utilities in Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, and even Australia.



Elephant with power line infrastructure. Photo credit: Constant Hoogstad.

Fleet operations

Drones or RPAS (remotely piloted aircraft systems) are a relatively new technology that the EWT recognises to have many potential conservation applications. However, operating drones legally in South Africa requires a ROC (RPAS Operating Certificate), which the EWT received from the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) in 2021 and renewed in January 2022, following a successful SACAA audit. The “aircraft” themselves also need to be registered with the SACAA. The EWT has since acquired several drones, each suited to different flying missions. This year we received approval for our Mavic 2 drone, a compact 4K camera drone that will expand our service offering significantly. The SACAA has also approved a third drone, a Matrice 210 RTK, through its Aircraft Registration Department.

In September 2021, we aided the **University of Pretoria Mammal Research Institute (MRI)**: Whale Unit with drone support. This involved targeted aerial photography of

Southern Right Whales during the annual whale census in Hermanus, close to Cape Town. These aerial images assist the MRI in identifying individual whales and contribute to the body condition study currently in progress at the university. We had to illustrate the complicated procedure of landing on and taking off from a boat – a moving platform – to the SACAA before specific approval for this activity was granted. We did so, illustrating countermeasures, and this resulted in a new rating for our operating licence. The Dynamic Visual Line of Sight (D V-LOS), as this rating is known, allows the EWT pilots to launch a drone from any vehicle or watercraft, follow the drone during the flight, and land in a completely different location provided the pilot maintains a visual line of sight at all times. This has opened new doors for the project, as the distances we can now cover in a single flight are only limited by flight duration and not by the previous restriction of a 500 m maximum flight distance from the ground station.



The EWT is assisting the University of Pretoria Mammal Research Institute to conduct surveys of Southern Right Whales in Hermanus by taking aerial images of the whales using a drone.



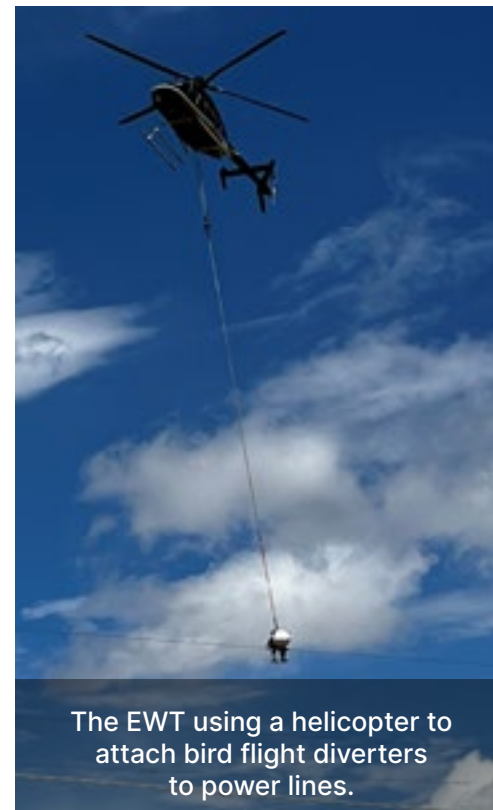
Live at Copperton Wind Farm

As overhead systems are the most common form of electricity distribution and transmission, linesmen must often work at great heights with inherent safety risks. Historically, specialised equipment and vehicles were needed to access power line cables and structures, resulting in high operational costs, especially when live line work is required. Drones can perform complex operations typically carried out by a team of technicians and are now commonly used as an efficient, safe, and cost-effective alternative to accessing overhead infrastructures.

We completed our first contract for a private power line client at the Copperton Wind Farm in March. We attached 427 bird flight diverters to nearly seven kilometres of power lines over five days. This is the first time that a 132 kV line has been marked by drones in South Africa and the first privately-owned power line to be marked using this method. This method was much more cost-effective and productive for Eskom than previous operations using helicopters. The diverters will help prevent birds from colliding with the line, particularly Kori Bustards and Abdim's Storks prevalent in the area.



WE ATTACHED **427** BIRD FLIGHT DIVERTERS TO NEARLY 7 KM OF POWER LINES OVER 5 DAYS

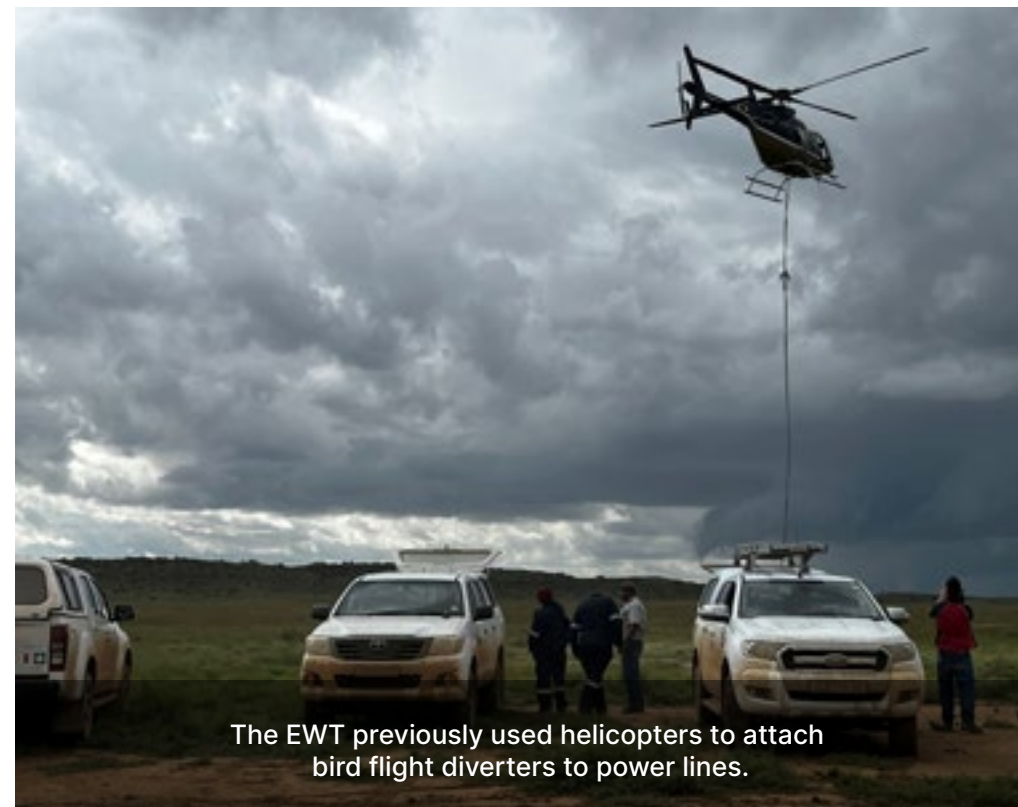


The EWT using a helicopter to attach bird flight diverters to power lines.

THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME

THAT A 132 KV LINE
HAS BEEN MARKED
BY DRONES

WHICH WAS MORE
COST-EFFECTIVE THAN
USING HELICOPTERS



The EWT previously used helicopters to attach bird flight diverters to power lines.



The EWT uses drones to attach bird flight diverters to power lines.



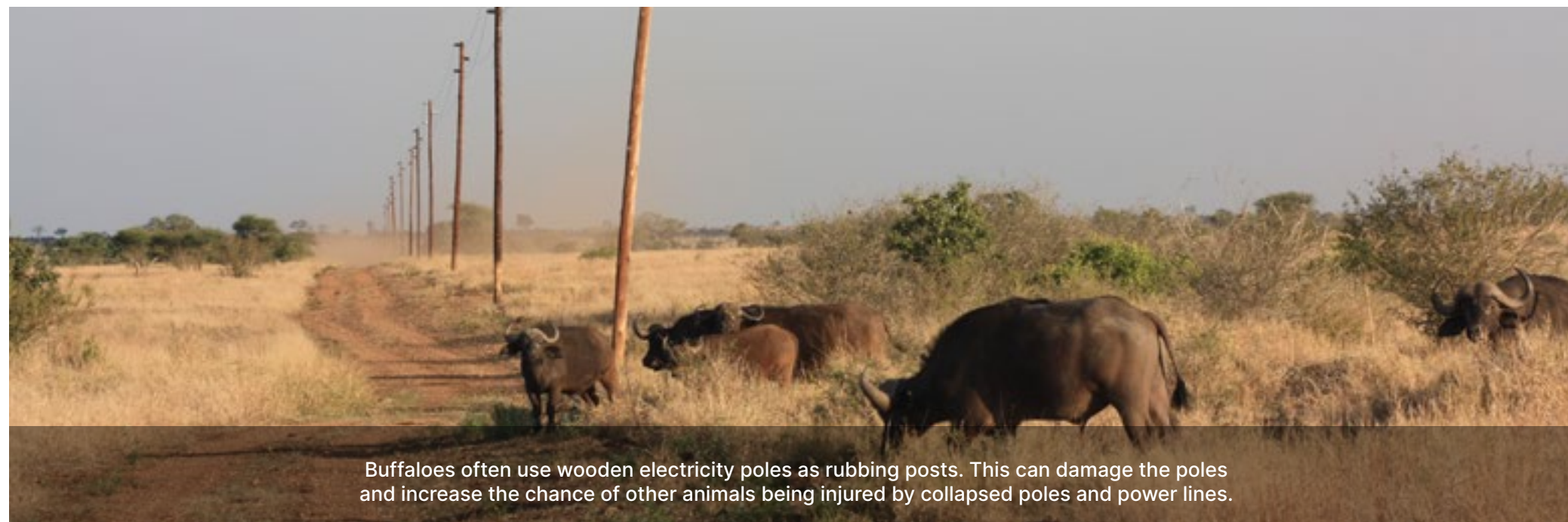
Charged up in Mozambique

Identifying and eliminating wildlife-related power line trips can be a real headache for power companies. Developing countries, such as Mozambique, are particularly susceptible as infrastructure developments are often rolled out before thorough consultation or environmental considerations are concluded. We partnered with **Deloitte's Southern Africa Energy Programme (SAEP)** to assess how these incidents are managed in Mozambique. We spent several days in the field with staff from **Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM)**, the state-owned power company responsible for electricity generation and distribution in Mozambique.

We presented our findings from the field visit to the board of EDM in October. The board members were impressed with these initial engagements. We were mandated to develop a Wildlife Management System for EDM to ensure that wildlife interactions with electrical infrastructure are integrated into the utility staff's daily operations. The design of future infrastructure was also covered in this document, along with instructions on proactively managing

wildlife interactions. Over the same period, considering our findings in Mozambique, we also produced a 116-page colour manual, **Mainstreaming Wildlife Management into Utilities in Southern Africa**, as part of the project deliverables. By detailing the variety and severity of wildlife interactions with electrical infrastructures, we aim to spotlight this understated problem power utilities face in southern Africa. The manual classifies and explains numerous examples of wildlife interactions, and solutions to these incidents are provided in a clear, practical manner. By providing a strategy to address these challenges, the goal is to minimise negative interactions between wildlife and electrical infrastructure in southern Africa, thereby reducing operational costs to utilities, improving the quality of electricity supply to economies, and minimising the impact on wildlife in the region.

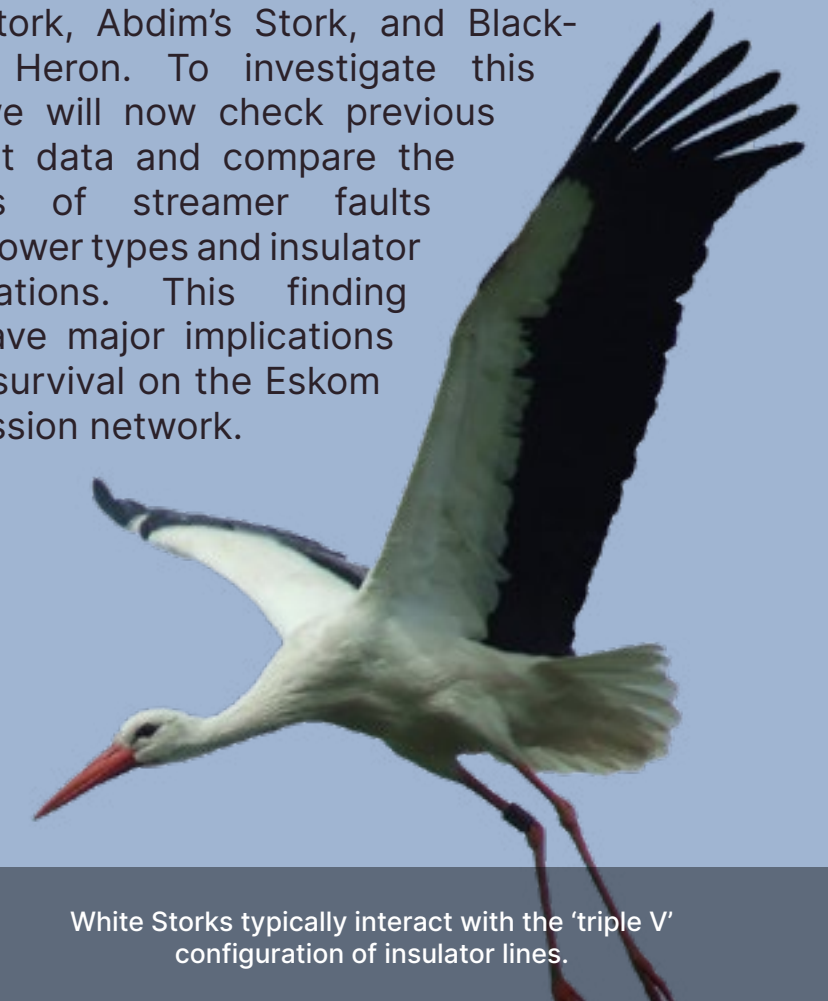
This work is made possible by Deloitte through the Southern Africa Energy Programme.



Buffaloes often use wooden electricity poles as rubbing posts. This can damage the poles and increase the chance of other animals being injured by collapsed poles and power lines.

Broken lines

As part of our Line Faults Project with Eskom Transmission, we investigate reports of bird-related faults to determine the species involved and the nature of the fault. Unexpectedly, our latest winter survey suggests that a significant proportion of towers (42%), where bird-related faults occurred, have a so-called 'triple V' configuration of insulator lines. The number of recorded faults on these lines is over eight times higher than on other towers in the system, specifically on 400 kV lines. We suspect the configuration of the insulators on these lines may provide an air gap more prone to flashovers when birds defecate. Their stream of excrement causes the lines to short as they complete the electrical circuit. These incidents usually kill the bird and render the line inoperative. Species that have died on these lines include Verreaux's Eagle, White Stork, Abdim's Stork, and Black-headed Heron. To investigate this trend, we will now check previous bird fault data and compare the locations of streamer faults against tower types and insulator configurations. This finding could have major implications for bird survival on the Eskom Transmission network.



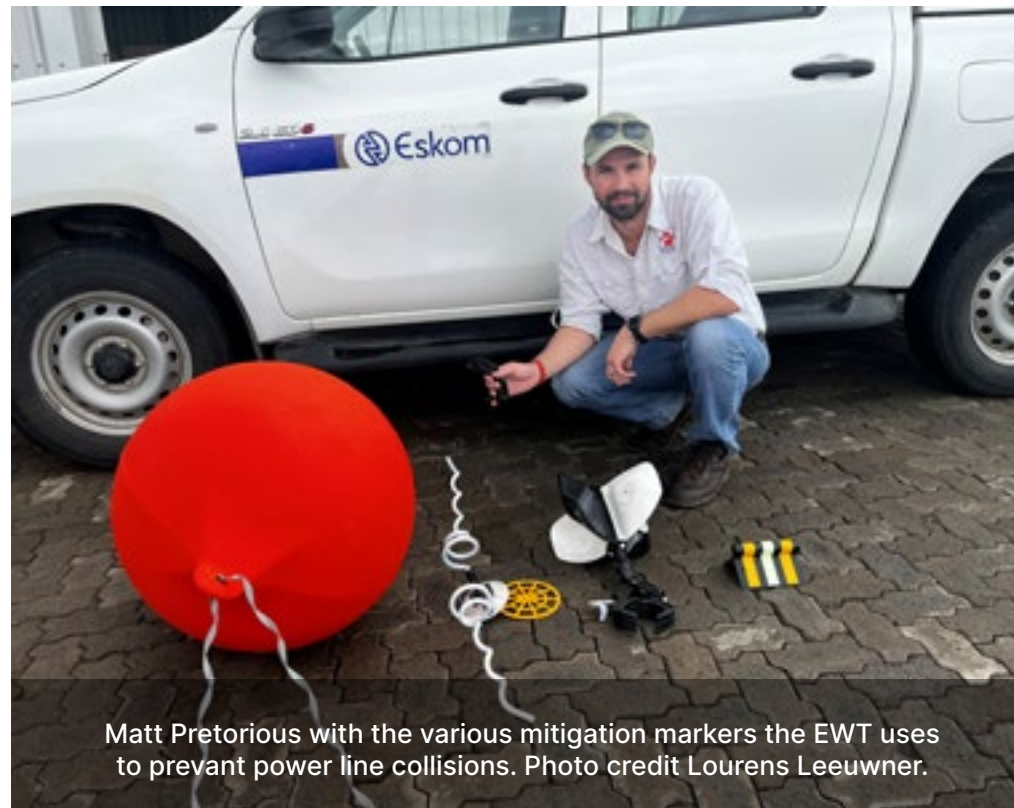
White Storks typically interact with the 'triple V' configuration of insulator lines.



A new diversion

Bustards include some of the heaviest bird species on the planet. One southern African species most affected by power line collisions is the Endangered Ludwig's Bustard. The impact of these collisions on the survival of local populations may be significant. In South Africa, Ludwig's Bustard has a large geographic distribution that covers much of the Karoo. Unfortunately, many high-voltage transmission lines are routed across the same landscape, and as a result, high collision mortality rates have been recorded for Ludwig's Bustards and other bustard species in the Karoo. It is assumed that, in the case of high voltage lines, they collide with the thinner shield wires above power line conductor cables, as the latter are strung in highly visible bundles.

The most practical mitigation measure to prevent power line collisions is to attach markers – generally referred to as bird flight diverters – to shield wires.

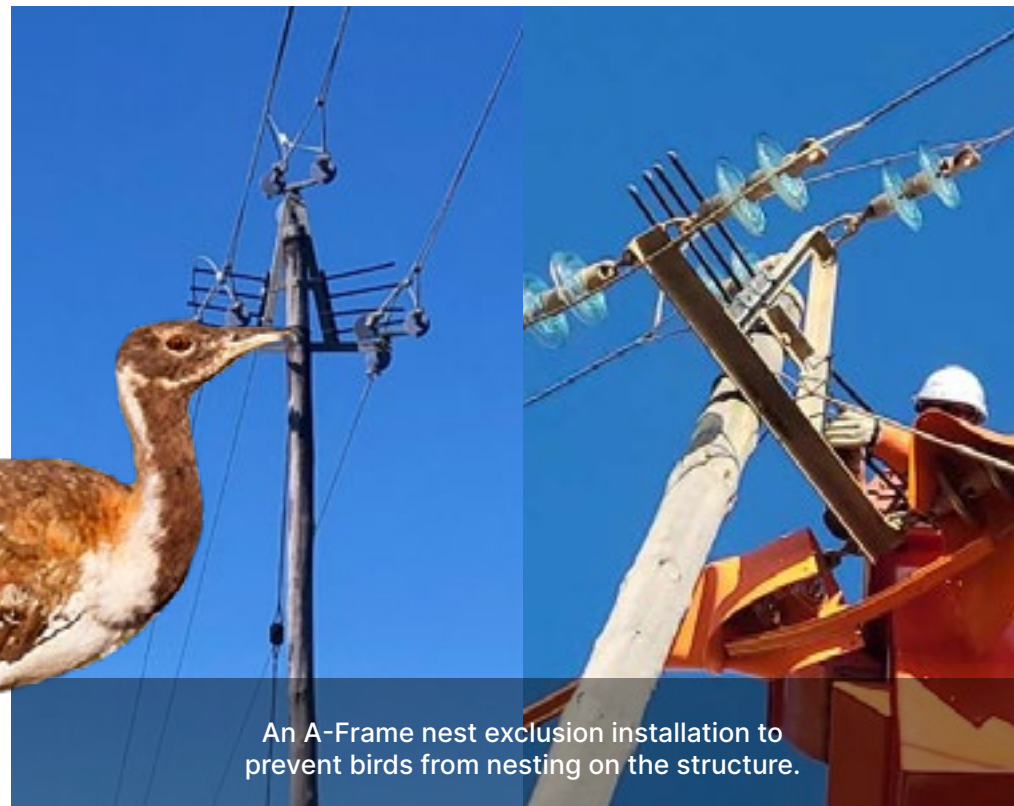


Matt Pretorius with the various mitigation markers the EWT uses to prevent power line collisions. Photo credit Lourens Leeuwner.

Previous research has found that bird flight diverters effectively reduce collisions in the Karoo for many species, except those involving Ludwig's Bustards. Working with Eskom, the Karoo Line Marking Experiment took a positive step forward in October with funding from Eskom Research. We used these funds to test four new bird flight diverter types on the line and to expand the scope of our existing long-term bird flight diverter experiment in the Karoo. We chose to test several devices through this project, including a new UV LED device (an ultraviolet light-emitting device), the Rotamarka (a large, high contrast dynamic device), aviation warning spheres, and the BFD-050 (a phospho-luminescent and reflective marker). Eskom attached the diverters in February to 30 power line spans of the Droërivier-Hydra 400 kV transmission line near de Aar in the Northern Cape. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these new devices in preventing Ludwig's Bustard collisions.



A distribution pole that has been fitted with conductor covers, making the structure safe for perching birds.



An A-Frame nest exclusion installation to prevent birds from nesting on the structure.



A large bird's nest on a lattice.



A platform installed on a distribution tower for birds to nest on safely, reducing mortalities and preventing damage to the infrastructure.



Sere story

The Sere Wind Farm – Eskom’s first operational wind facility – is situated along the West Coast of South Africa and was commissioned in 2015. The EWT and Eskom Strategic Partnership is currently in the seventh year of post-construction biodiversity impact monitoring of the wind farm. This programme is unique as all wildlife impacts associated with the wind farm infrastructure are monitored on an ongoing basis to determine the need for additional mitigation measures to reduce wildlife impacts. The EWT Sere team consists of four Field Officers whose main objective is to search for bird and bat carcasses found under the turbines and associated infrastructure, including roads and power lines. Designed to locate any birds or bats killed by the turbine blades, detailed grid surveys are corrected for observer accuracy and scavenger bias. Surveys record bird and bat impacts, wildlife carcass/mortality estimates, roadkill incidents, and vegetation assessments.

Bat and avifaunal carcass search results and mortality estimate

Turbine pad and road searches were completed for all turbines every two days. A total of 3,545 carcass searches were carried out during the reporting period, and the search team found and recorded 24 bird and seven bat fatalities associated with wind turbines.


Associated infrastructure survey

Six bird fatalities were recorded along the Skaapvlei-Juno line, a line that links Sere Wind Energy Facility (WEF) to Eskom’s Juno sub-station. All fatalities were of Endangered Ludwig’s Bustards. Hotspots were identified throughout the monitoring programme to inform future mitigation measures to replace bird diverters that have not been effective in preventing collisions with all species, such as the Ludwig’s Bustard.

3,545
CARCASS
SEARCHES REVEALED

24 AND **7**
BIRD **BAT**
FATALITIES
ASSOCIATED WITH
WIND TURBINES



 **62%**
MAMMALS
14% **24%**
REPTILES **BIRDS**
RECORDED IN
THE ROADKILL DATA

Roadkill data

Mammals (62%) were the most common taxonomic group recorded in the roadkill data, whereas reptiles and birds comprise 14% and 24%, respectively. The Bat-eared Fox was the most impacted mammal species and the most detected roadkill overall.

The data collected at Sere will feed into the best practice guidelines for bird and bat surveys to improve pre-and post-construction surveys. These guidelines are invaluable for scientists to identify the species most affected, as there are few existing robust post-construction studies. Given the push towards renewable energy, this holistic approach to quantifying the impact of wind farms will help reduce our human footprint on the environment under future energy production scenarios.





Eskom power lines.

Eskom goes through the full incident management cycle

The EWT works with Eskom to monitor all reported wildlife incidents as they happen on the Eskom network. The incidents negatively affect threatened species, mainly through collisions and electrocutions, and present financial and reputational risks for Eskom. Various stakeholders, including Eskom, report wildlife incidents to a Central Incident Register (CIR). Should an incident warrant further investigation, all stakeholders, including the reporter and landowner, are invited to the investigation to provide valuable information about the power line, such as historic mortality incidents recorded at the location.

Over the reporting period, 190 incidents were reported to the CIR this year, half of which were submitted by Eskom staff. The incidents involved 287 individual animals (198 of these belonging to Red-Listed species). The most common species reported were Cape Vulture and Blue Crane, with 74 and 58 individuals, respectively. The EWT rigorously assesses each incident to determine if a follow-up field investigation is required, but most incidents involving Red-Listed or priority species are referred for investigation, whereafter, the EWT recommends mitigation measures for Eskom to implement. Only a small proportion (15 incidents) of this year's records occurred in previously mitigated areas. In these cases, incidents are referred to the Envirotech Care Group, comprising engineers and Environmental experts and EWT/Eskom Research, Testing, and Development, to test new and innovative devices to prevent further collisions and electrocutions. There were 18 incidents reported in areas where similar incidents have been reported in previous years, and these areas were prioritised as high-risk areas requiring intervention to prevent further incidents.

Of the 190 incidents, 69 were prioritised for investigation using an incident decision tool, while further investigation for the others was not deemed necessary. The EWT recommended and helped Eskom to design mitigation actions for 53 of the 190 incidents.

THE **EWT** RECOMMENDED AND **HELPED ESKOM** TO **DESIGN MITIGATION ACTIONS** FOR **53** OF THE **90** **INCIDENTS**

198 RED LISTED SPECIES WERE **INVOLVED** IN ESKOM **POWERLINE INCIDENTS**
THE MOST COMMON SPECIES REPORTED WERE



WILDLIFE AND ENERGY TEAM



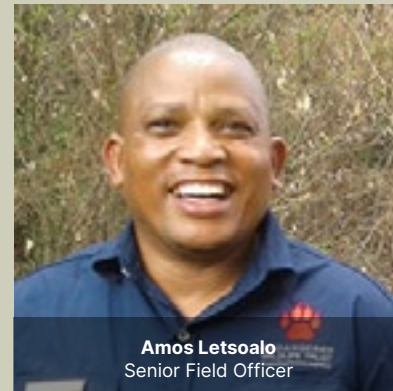
Oscar Mohale
Programme Manager



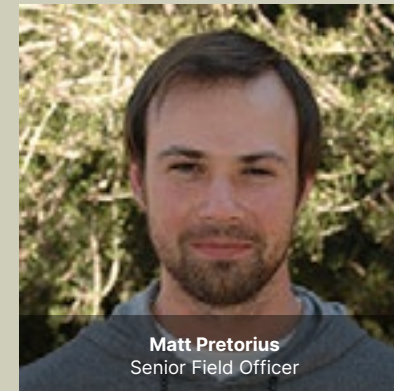
Lourens Leeuwner
Programme Manager
(until May 2022)



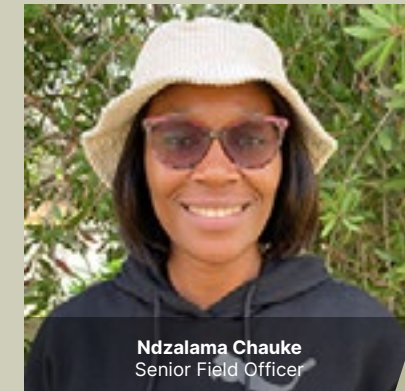
Tamsyn Galloway-Griesel
Senior Field Officer



Amos Letsoalo
Senior Field Officer



Matt Pretorius
Senior Field Officer



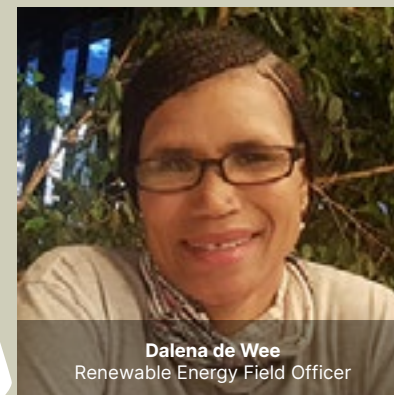
Ndzalama Chauke
Senior Field Officer



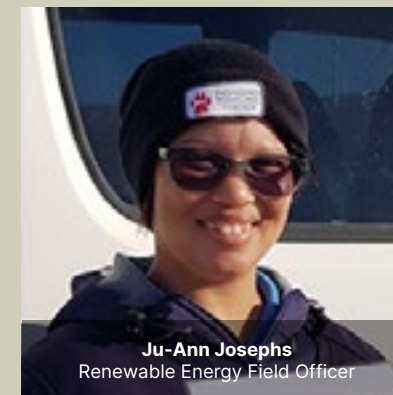
Ronelle Visagie
Field Officer



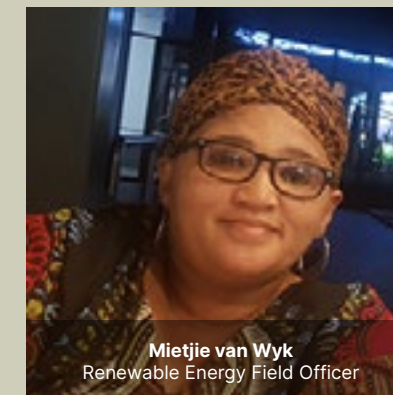
Lizel Tolken
Renewable Energy Team Leader



Dalena de Wee
Renewable Energy Field Officer



Ju-Ann Josephs
Renewable Energy Field Officer

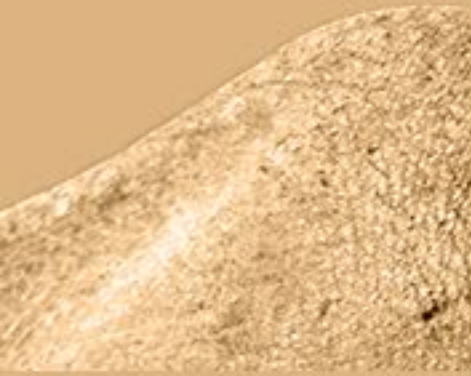


Mietjie van Wyk
Renewable Energy Field Officer



WILDLIFE IN **TRADE** PROGRAMME

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and unregulated legal trade are significant threats to biodiversity at both local and global scales. Southern Africa is disproportionately targeted for illegal wildlife trade because of the region's megadiverse flora and fauna. The purpose of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife in Trade Programme is to reduce the impacts of these illegal and unsustainable practices through a broad range of approaches, including: 1) increasing knowledge of the scale and impacts of illegal or unsustainable legal trade on wild animals and plants; 2) identifying and implementing actions to reduce threats arising from illegal or unregulated legal wildlife trade; and 3) enhancing positive outcomes of wildlife trade that are beneficial to conservation. The programme operates mainly within South Africa but also does project work in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, and Tanzania.



Man's best friend is on the case

One of the EWT's contributions to preventing wildlife crime in South Africa is the deployment of Conservation K9s to detect wildlife contraband and track poachers. Our well-established Conservation K9 Unit, which increased in number to four handlers this past year, currently fulfils two critical roles: first, we support anti-poaching initiatives on key game reserves, and second, we detect wildlife contraband before it is smuggled out of the country.

One of our main Conservation K9 projects, running from June 2021 to August 2022, is to provide dogs and related support to six priority reserves. During the reporting period, four dogs were deployed to the Eastern Cape and the Lowveld region of Limpopo. These four were a mix of tracking and detection dogs. The two dogs yet to be deployed are in training at the EWT Conservation Campus and will be deployed later in 2022. Under this project, we also supported the training of three reserve dog handlers, two of whom went through the full training programme at **Genesis K9**.

THE EWT PROVIDES DOGS AND RELATED SUPPORT TO 6 PRIORITY RESERVES



The EWT's Conservation K9 Ruger with his handler Precious.

We have continued to work with **Global Conservation Force (GCF)**, who supplied four young Belgian Malinois for training in early 2021. After completing their training at the EWT Conservation Campus, we deployed three of these dogs to reserves as tracking dogs, and one is working with our EWT handlers to screen cargo at OR Tambo International Airport. Screening has been done daily over the last year, with our EWT K9 handlers taking turns to work with the **Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environment's (DFFE)** Environmental Management Inspectorate at the airport to prevent the smuggling of wildlife contraband.

This work is made possible by Boehringer Ingelheim, Genesis K9, Global Conservation Force, **MSD Health, IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Action Grant and the European Union, MyPlanet Rhino Fund, Platinum Life, Relate Trust, Rogz, Royal Canin, Scent Imprint, Tomlin family, Tourvest, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.**



The EWT's Conservation K9s and their handlers.



Wildlife and Law Project

South Africa has a comprehensive but complex legal framework for wildlife that creates challenges in implementation, as laws are actioned at both national and provincial levels, whilst the mandates of national departments differ. In addition, there is little transparency in wildlife-related decisions. To address these challenges, the Wildlife and Law Project aims to catalyse change in South Africa's legal and governance frameworks relating to wildlife.

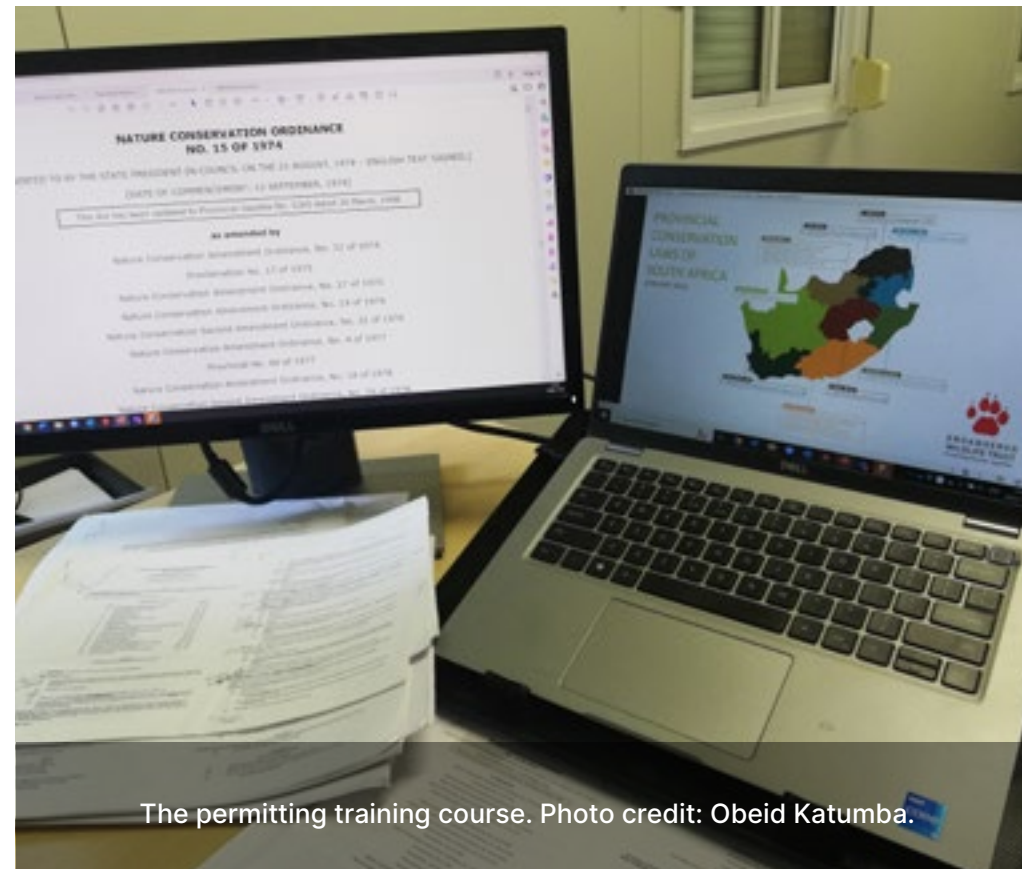
Through our Policy and Permitting Training Course Task Team, including members from each of the nine provinces and the national DFFE, we are addressing a key challenge in strengthening wildlife governance, the absence of wildlife-related policy to guide decision-makers. We coordinated and hosted a two-day workshop with the Task Team to identify environmental policy development opportunities. From this, we have developed a shortlist of policies to draft over the next year and, where applicable, by our team as a first draft.

The Task Team was also established to guide the development of a permitting training course, the first of its kind in South Africa. Upon completing the permitting training course, permitting officials will have the skills necessary to make more robust permitting decisions. The course is currently divided into three sections: 1) Introduction to permitting, 2) Environmental law, and 3) Wider legal framework relevant to permits. Following an internal trial, we will launch the course in November 2022.

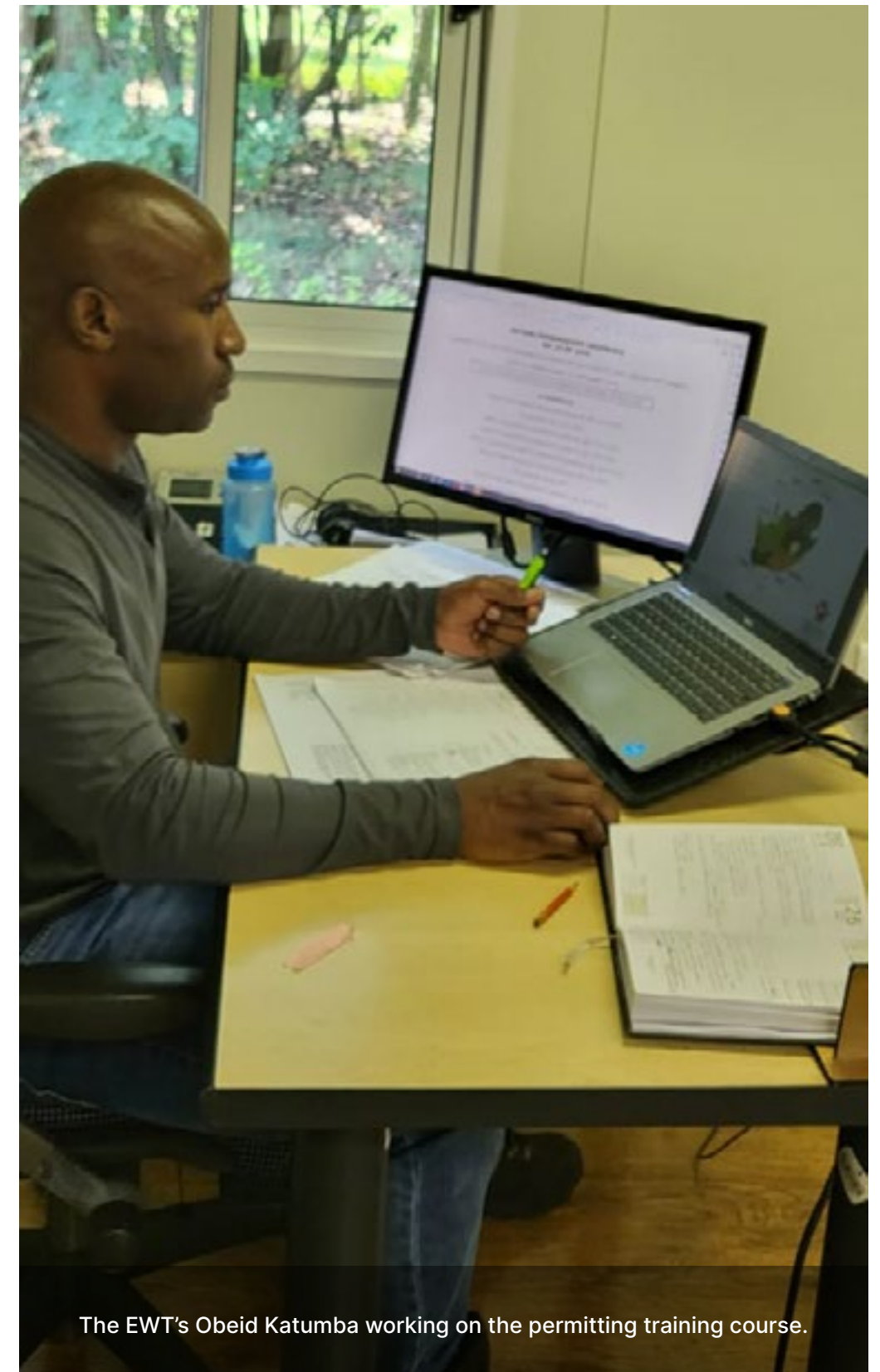
We have completed a comprehensive review of all legislation in South Africa that relates to or impacts wildlife. Our review considered both the national and provincial legislative frameworks, given that national and provincial regulations, as they relate to conservation, run concurrently. The review identified opportunities to strengthen the legal framework

as it relates to wildlife. In the next year, we will be reporting our findings to the government. In addition to our review, we participated in public participation processes relating to law and policy, submitting comprehensive comments to the government to strengthen draft laws in five instances. In addition, at the DFFE's request, we drafted and submitted a perspective on international trade in rhino horn. In our capacity as an environmental watchdog, we logged seven appeals relating to environmental authorisations that would negatively impact critical biodiversity areas or species threatened with extinction. All appeals are still ongoing.

This work is made possible by **Christo Reeders Attorneys, Lewis Foundation**, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.



The permitting training course. Photo credit: Obeid Katumba.



The EWT's Obeid Katumba working on the permitting training course.



Restorative justice

Wildlife offences include the illegal killing or harvesting of wildlife (known as poaching) and the illegal possession, transport, and trade of wildlife. Over the reporting period, we unpacked the full extent of harm experienced due to wildlife offences, confirming that harm occurs in three broad contexts: 1) harm to people, 2) harm to the environment, and 3) harm to South Africa as a whole. We are writing this up as a chapter for the first-ever environmental restorative justice book to be published next year.

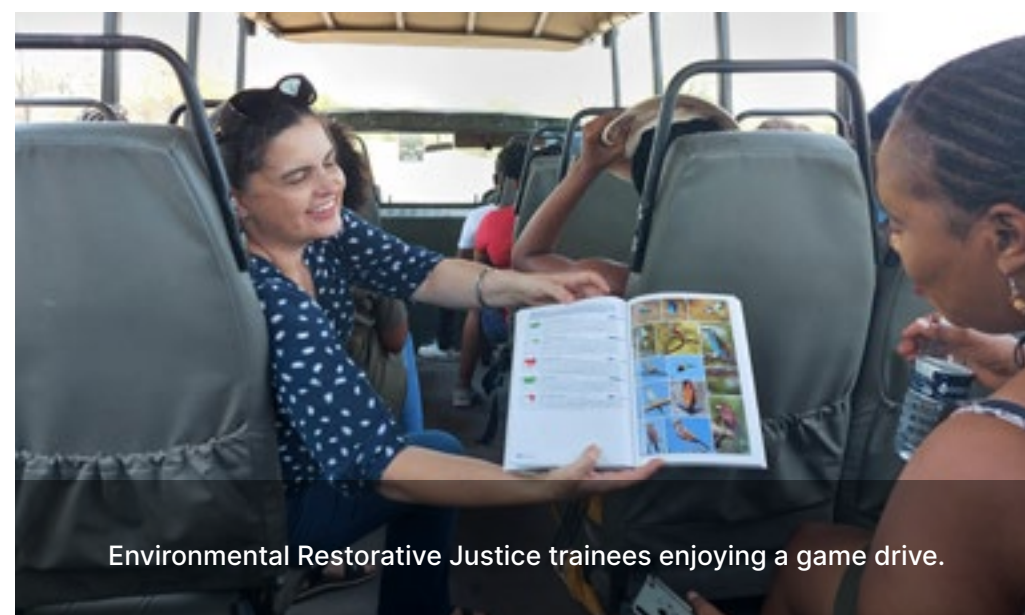
The conventional approach to justice is not generally focused on harm, with victims of offences, their needs and requirements very much at the periphery of proceedings. Another limitation of the conventional approach to justice is that it does not seek to understand or address the underlying reasons for committing an offence. South Africa has one of the highest rates of reoffence globally (between 60 and 90%), which needs to be addressed urgently. Restorative justice, defined by the United Nations as a flexible, participatory, and problem-solving response to criminal behaviour, considers the harm that occurs when an offence takes place and addresses the limitations of conventional approaches to justice.

Putting restorative justice into action, our Environmental Restorative Justice Pilot Project, implemented in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) **South Africa Khetha Programme**, operates in the central Kruger National Park and Bushbuckridge areas. Here we aim to enhance the criminal justice system for wildlife-related offences through facilitated restorative justice processes and, where applicable, referrals of offenders to restorative justice programmes. By taking a restorative justice approach to wildlife-related offences, we seek to make the criminal justice system more inclusive and responsive to

the needs of the victims while also addressing harms that result from the wildlife offence and preventing reoffence.

This year we completed all deliverables under the foundation phase of the project, including:

- Developing and launching the first-ever Environmental Restorative Justice Training Course in South Africa. Trained participants from this group will be among the first environmental restorative justice facilitators in South Africa. A total of 16 people received training (including from the EWT). We identified champions from this group to work together through the project's next phase, where we start implementing restorative justice processes.
- Developing a comprehensive awareness-raising resource bundle with relevant information on restorative justice processes and specific information for victims of offences, communities, law enforcement officials and prosecutors
- Hosting a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign engaging with over 100 individuals, in person, in the project area.



Environmental Restorative Justice trainees enjoying a game drive.

We have been lobbying for restorative justice approaches, engaging on this project at several international fora. These included presenting the project to the US Government's Combating Conservation Crimes (CCC) Initiative. The CCC Initiative represents an interagency group of experts working to identify areas of crime convergence and target approaches and policy responses to conservation-related crimes. We participated in a lecture series on Restorative Justice and Environmental Harms with the **Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR)**, where we discussed key learnings under the Environmental Restorative Justice Pilot Project.

This work is made possible by USAID through the WWF South Africa Khetha Programme and **VLIR-UOS** through the Multi-Stakeholders Grants for Young Researchers.



The first-ever Environmental Restorative Justice training course in South Africa.



IWT online training

As part of a larger project to address the illegal trade in lion parts in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA), we collaborate with the EWT's Carnivore Conservation Programme and the Mozambican Revenue Authority to strengthen law enforcement capacity at Mozambican ports of entry. The original plan was to conduct in-person training with Mozambican customs officials to increase their knowledge and understanding of wildlife trafficking, but travel and meeting restrictions arising during the COVID-19 pandemic prevented this. Subsequently, we adapted our strategy to develop an online training course, presented in Portuguese, for customs officials to participate. This online course will include pre-recorded presentations by species and illegal trade experts that provide background information on illegal wildlife trade and detailed information about threatened species that are likely to be trafficked through Mozambican ports. The course will also include professionally produced videos in which species experts describe how to identify threatened species and products derived from these species that customs officials are likely to encounter. By June 2022, most of the training materials had been produced, and we anticipate the course starting in November 2022.

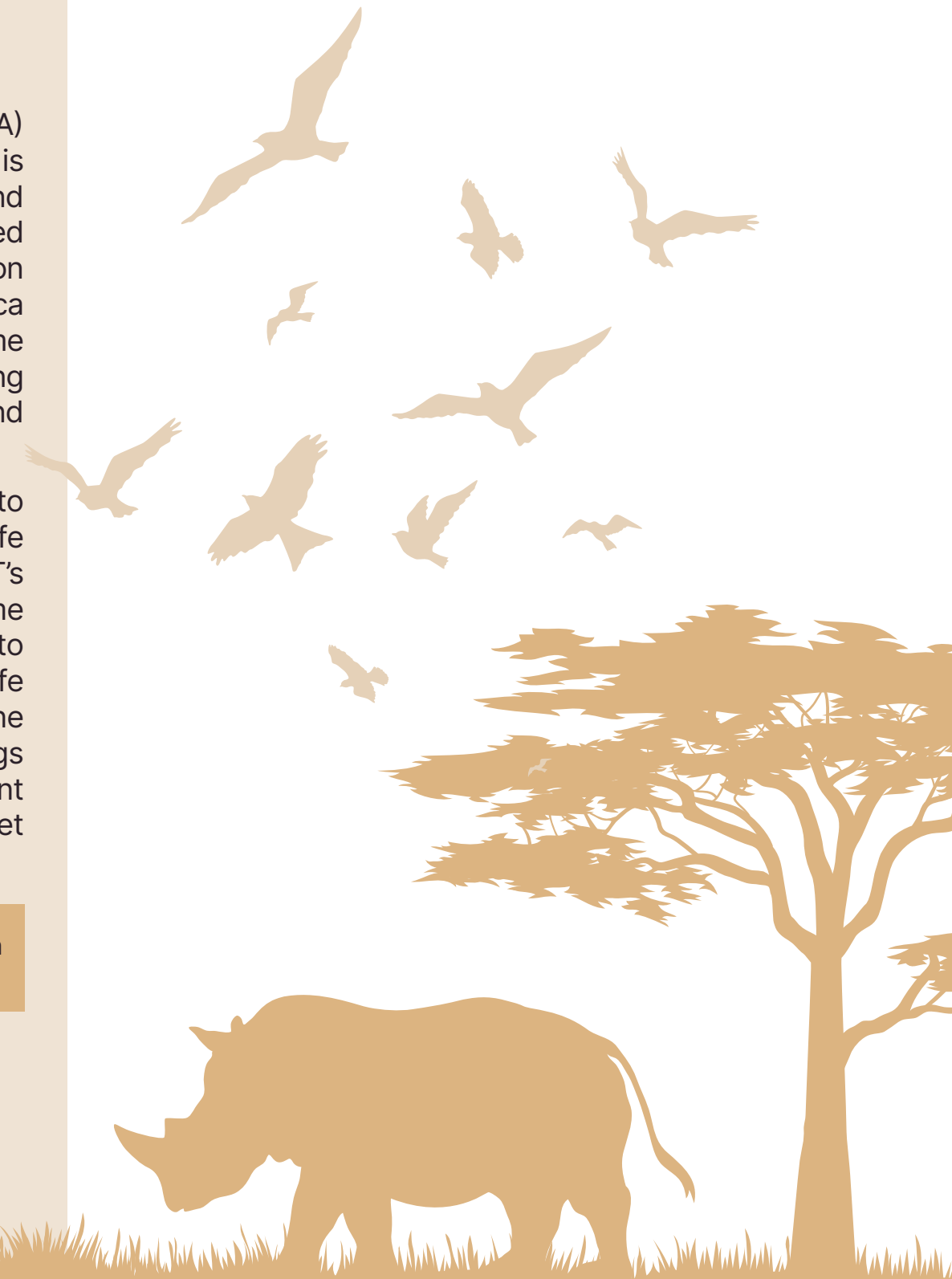
This work is made possible by the **UK Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund**.

Unpacking wildlife trade dynamics

The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) has South Africa's largest rhino and elephant populations but is facing an ongoing rhino poaching crisis. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa Khetha Programme, funded by USAID, was initiated to reduce the impacts of poaching on rhinos and elephants in the GLTFCA landscape in South Africa and Mozambique. One focus area of the Khetha Programme is to support the implementation of critical wildlife trafficking policy frameworks through increased crime detection and prevention.

A key requirement in wildlife crime prevention is access to information to accurately predict where and how wildlife crimes are likely to be committed. As part of the EWT's contribution to the Khetha Programme, our programme analysed wildlife crime dynamics around the GLTFCA to identify the most effective methods for targeting wildlife crime. The EWT submitted a series of five reports in June 2022. These reports are under final review, and the findings will be reported next year. We anticipate that law enforcement agencies will use the findings of this research to target crimes against rhinos and elephants more effectively.

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



Ratted out

Wildlife trafficking through seaports is a global problem, and detecting wildlife contraband smuggled in shipping containers is a significant challenge. In partnership with **APOPO**, based out of Tanzania, we are developing an innovative approach to detecting wildlife products hidden in shipping containers using African Giant Pouched Rats. APOPO uses these rats as scent detectors and has already used them to remove landmines and identify tuberculosis carriers worldwide. Working from their laboratory in Tanzania, APOPO is developing innovative techniques to detect pangolin scales, hardwoods and other wildlife products – the target scents – smuggled in shipping containers.

Our detection rat project made steady progress after a hiatus during the COVID-19 lockdowns. In February 2022, the EWT and APOPO held a workshop in Dar es Salaam with officials from the Tanzanian Port Authority, Tanzania Revenue Authority, and Joint Port Control Unit to plan the logistics around accessing shipping containers in a Tanzanian port for the rats. During the workshop, we determined that advanced rat training and detection system development must continue, resolved to compile a standard operating procedure for detection rats, and identified the administrative requirements for future rat deployment to conduct port trials. The next step is to trial the use of the rats in the Dar es Salaam seaport, which may determine whether African Giant Pouched Rats can be used effectively to screen shipping containers in large seaports across the globe.

This work is made possible by **GIZ**, the **Pangolin Crisis Fund** (Wildlife Conservation Network), UK Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge.



African Pouched Rat trained in scent detection and to alert officials to wildlife products in shipping containers in Tanzania.

Backing Black Rhino in the North West

The North West Province is home to important Black Rhino populations, and this year, we initiated a project with the North West Parks Board to strengthen the protection of their rhinos. We will do this by 1) using cutting-edge technology to track rhinos remotely, which will provide information to inform the deployment of anti-poaching field rangers and provide valuable ecological information for the management of rhinos; 2) using real-time camera technology to strengthen surveillance of fence lines and roads to aid in the detection of poacher incursions; 3) deploying an EWT K9 and handler team to track poachers or detect wildlife contraband; and 4) improving ranger morale by upgrading accommodation.

This work is made possible by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Black Rhinoceros in Zululand Rhino Reserve. Photo credit: Andre Botha.





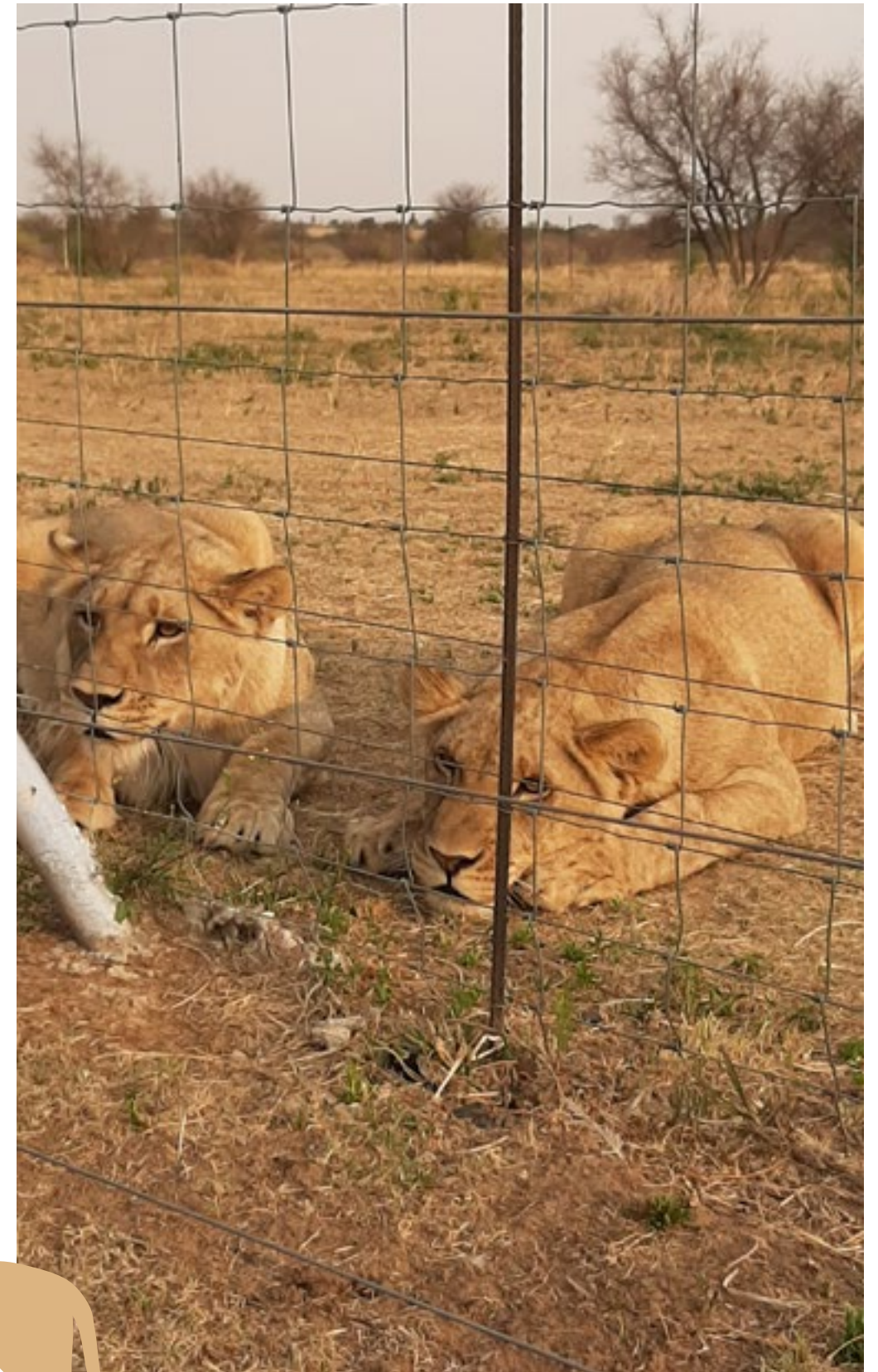
Lions in captivity.

Captivating cats

African Lion populations are declining, with illegal trade in lion products being a potential driver of illegal killing. We researched South Africa's captive Lion sector, which includes at least 8,000 lions (compared to less than 3,000 in the wild). This sector is controversial because it is associated with other activities such as cub petting, hunting captive-bred lions, and selling lion bones. In addition to ethical considerations, there are concerns that the sector might stimulate illegal wildlife trade and lead to increased poaching of wild lions, while any proposed contribution of captive lions to the conservation of wild lions remains unproven. Within this context, we investigated the structures and functioning of the captive lion industry and the supply chains for captive lions and their products. In June, we completed the study and presented a summary of the findings to the National Wildlife Forum, the South African CITES Scientific Authority (**SANBI**), and the governmental Working Group 1 (a consortium of national and provincial government conservation agencies that make key conservation decisions relating to the wildlife industry, including the captive lion sector). The findings were presented at the annual Conservation Symposium, a forum attended by many key conservation stakeholders in South Africa, and to 33 staff of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (the project funder) with positive feedback.

The study has been released and is available [here](#).

This work is made possible by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Wildlife victims holding court

In court cases, both the accused and the victims have the right to be heard. When humans are victims of a crime, their voices may be heard through victim impact statements detailing the crimes' effects on them and their families. But this is impossible when the victim is a pangolin or a rhino that cannot speak for itself. In such cases, people must speak up on behalf of the wildlife victim. The EWT developed a series of victim impact statements for threatened wildlife species to address this challenge and give wildlife victims a voice.

Our first step was to develop wildlife crime impact statements, which involved coordinating with species experts for 25 widely traded species in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Mozambique. Through a series of 20 virtual workshops involving more than 100 species experts, we developed impact statements for all these species. Additionally, the project coordinated the formation of a regional network of experts willing to provide evidence in wildlife crime prosecutions, with 50 experts in total available to testify in any of the four countries.

WE PRESENTED THESE
IMPACT STATEMENTS
TO **116** PROSECUTORS
WHO PROSECUTE
WILDLIFE CRIME CASES

WE DEVELOPED IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR 25 SPECIES THROUGH A SERIES OF 20 VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS INVOLVING MORE THAN 100 SPECIES EXPERTS

Once developed, we presented these impact statements to 116 prosecutors who prosecute wildlife crime cases from South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana. The Mozambique prosecutor workshop is pending. During nine workshops, we worked with the prosecutors to raise awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crimes in southern Africa and create a learning exchange. We introduced the concept of wildlife crime impact statements to the prosecutors, who noted that the statements would assist the court in understanding the severity of wildlife crimes. They also motivated that sensitisation training should be prioritised for other prosecutors, judges, and magistrates. Once all the impact statements are completed, we will distribute them to prosecutors.

This work is made possible by [USAID VukaNow](#).



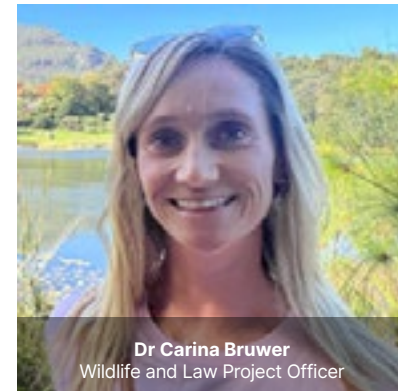
WILDLIFE IN **TRADE** TEAM



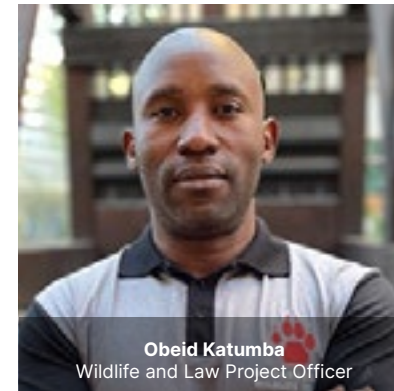
Dr Andrew Taylor
Programme Manager



Ashleigh Dore
Wildlife and Law Project Manager



Dr Carina Bruwer
Wildlife and Law Project Officer



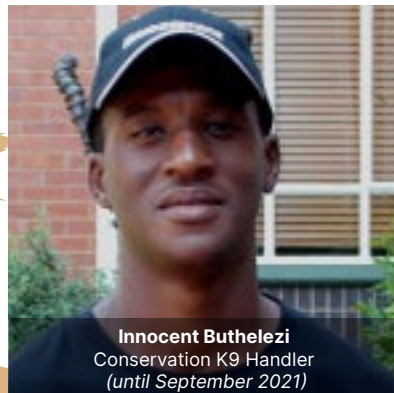
Obeid Katumba
Wildlife and Law Project Officer



Shadi Henrico
Conservation K9 Project Coordinator



Shayen Seebran
Conservation K9 Handler



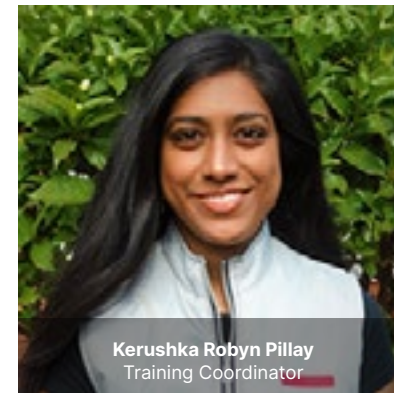
Innocent Buthelezi
Conservation K9 Handler
(until September 2021)



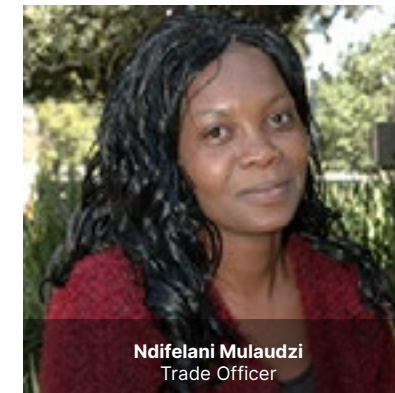
Sean Kelly
Conservation K9 Handler



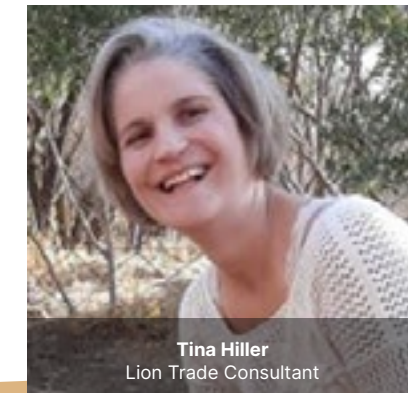
Pierre Purchase
Conservation K9 Handler



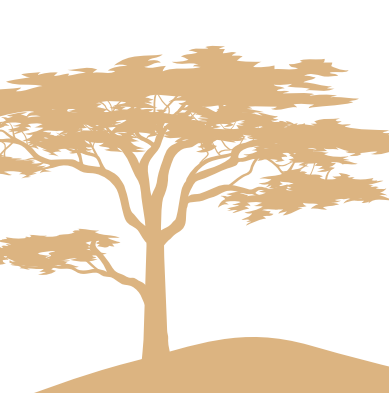
Kerushka Robyn Pillay
Training Coordinator



Ndifelani Mulaudzi
Trade Officer



Tina Hiller
Lion Trade Consultant

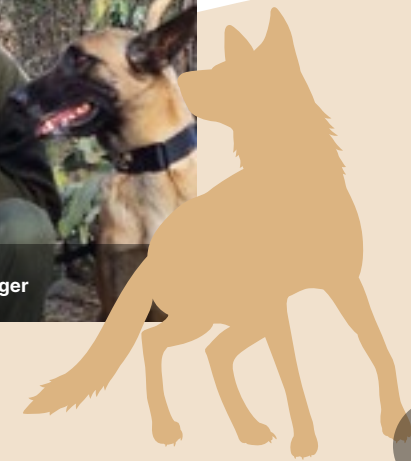
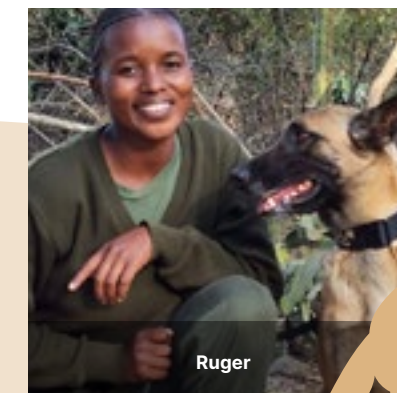
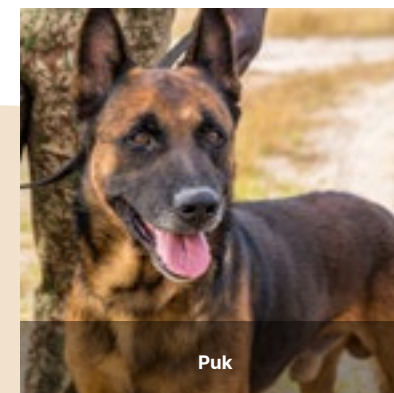
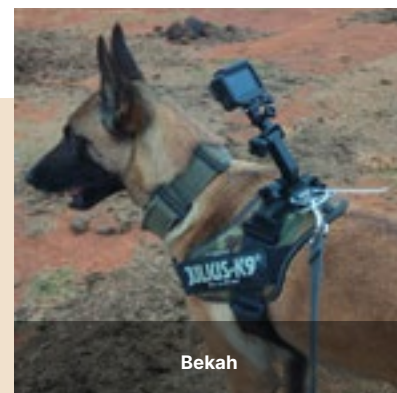
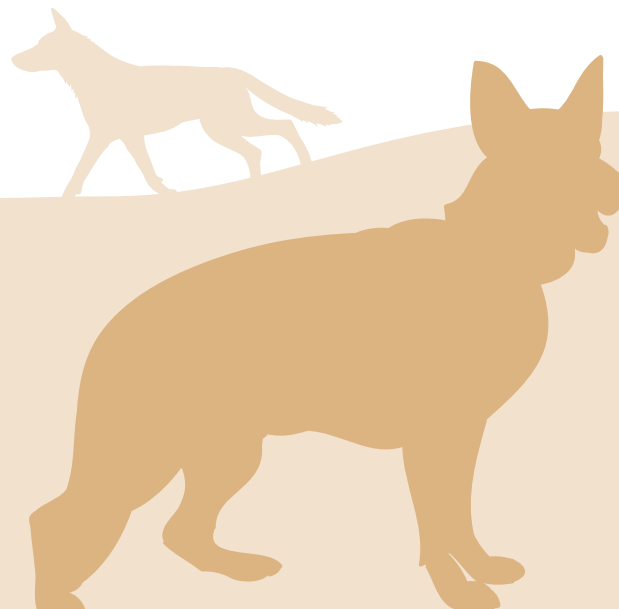
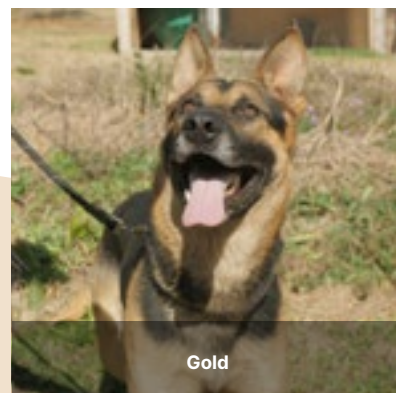
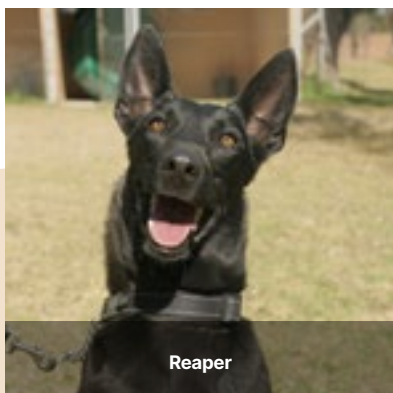
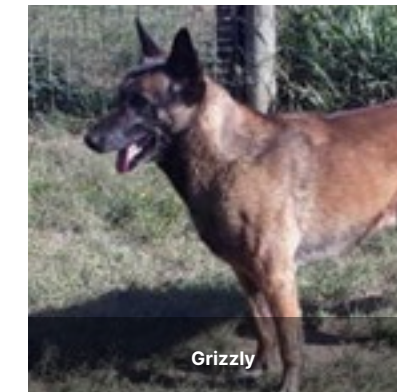
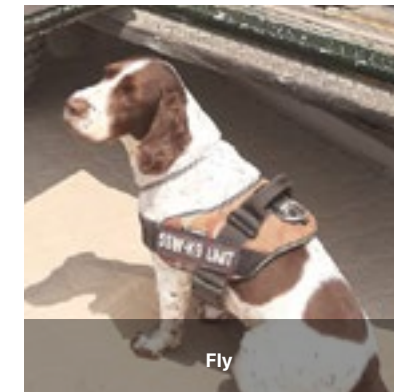
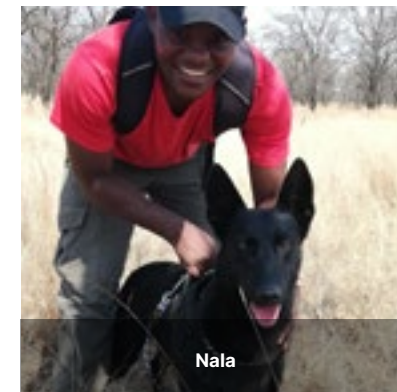
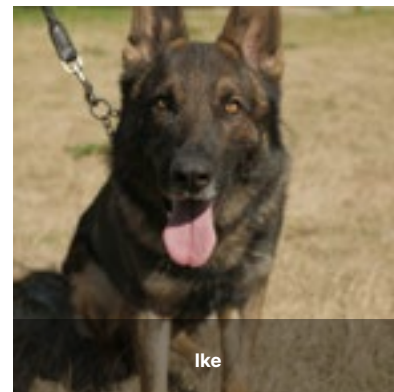
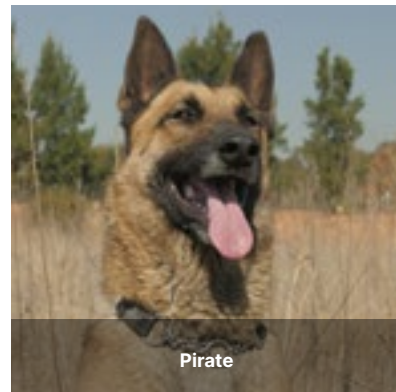
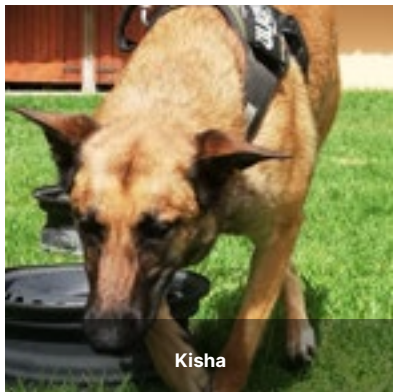
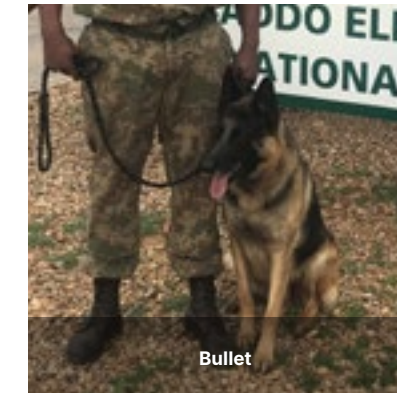
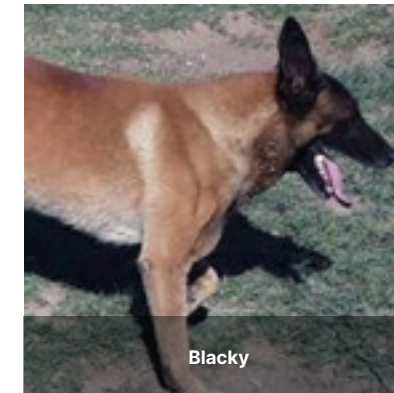
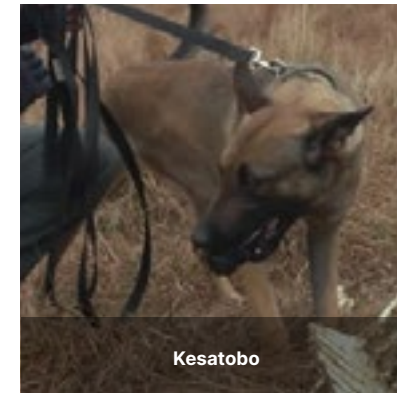
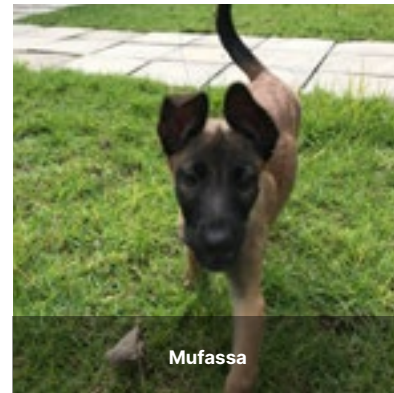
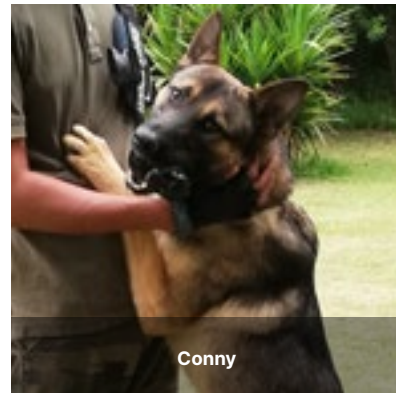
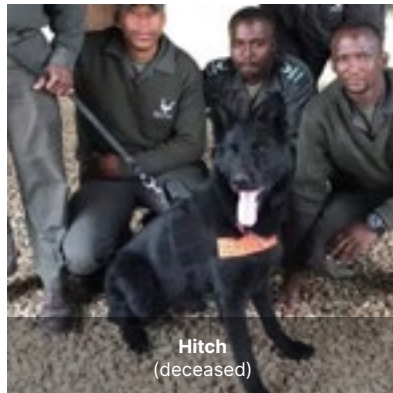


WILDLIFE IN TRADE CONSERVATION K9S

Gauteng based certified in detecting rhino horn, ivory, lion bone, and pangolin scales

Conservation K9s in training

Reserve deployed as detection and/or tracking dogs





WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

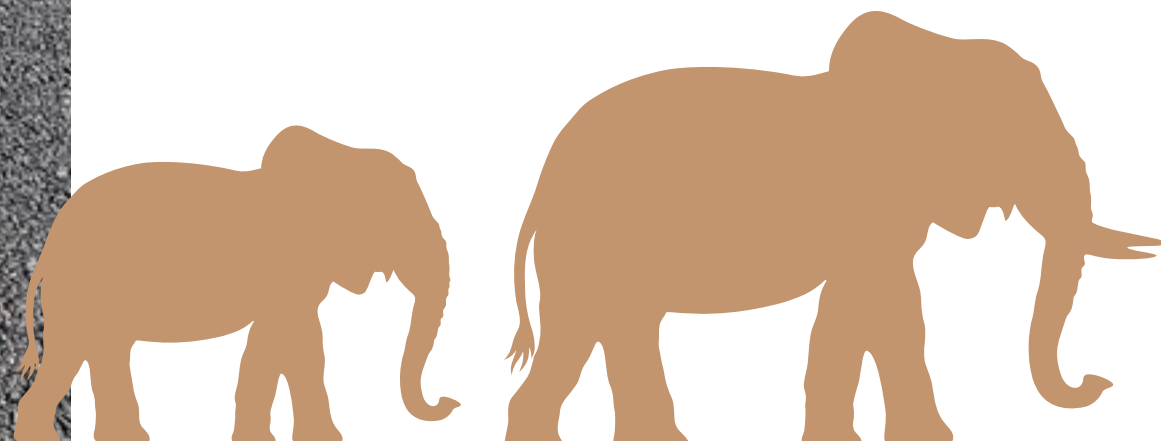
Transport networks are critical elements of human economic development and society. Global rates of network construction will keep rising for the foreseeable future, particularly in Africa, which is comparatively undeveloped. Transportation infrastructure has numerous, diverse – and mostly negative – consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. These impacts include the destruction and degradation of habitat, fragmentation and disruption of wildlife populations, direct impacts from vehicles colliding with wildlife, and secondary impacts such as the accelerated spread of alien species or increased human access to previously remote natural resources and wilderness areas.





The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife and Transport Programme (WTP) addresses the impacts of transport networks, particularly road and rail, by working with relevant public and private stakeholders to provide planners with science-based advice on minimising the adverse environmental impacts of transport infrastructure. We are currently the only African organisation to do so, putting the EWT at the forefront of this work. The programme works across all South African provinces and collaborates on numerous projects with colleagues worldwide. This year we refined our programme strategy to include an industry partnership focus and are working closely with the **EWT's National Biodiversity and Business Network**. We are focussing our efforts on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) where we can be most impactful.

IN OCTOBER WE **COMMEMORATED** OUR **TENTH BIRTHDAY**



Global conference call

The EWT co-hosted the second **African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE)** in August, with five EWT staff presenting. The conference attracted almost 200 participants from 25 countries, 11 of which were African. Participants attending came from diverse backgrounds, including the engineering, ecology, policy, and finance sectors. Kishaylin Chetty, the Senior Environmental Advisor for Eskom, reiterated, *"The ACLIE conference is an exceptional event that coordinates industry, civil society, government, and specialists to come together to discuss theory and feasibility surrounding linear infrastructure and its practice through Africa. The conference is a founding pillar towards responsible development in Africa."*

In September, we co-hosted the inaugural virtual **Global Congress for Linear Infrastructure and Environment**. With over 100 delegates from 24 countries, the congress aimed to provide a new opportunity for a global gathering directed primarily at linear infrastructure, such as roads, power lines, and fencing, to combine the intellectual content of a scientific conference and the international reach of the United Nations and Sustainable Development Goals.

This work is made possible by **africaMASSIVE**, **Ewaso Lions** and **Grevy's Zebra Trust**, **Road Ecology Centre**, **UC Davis California**, and the **International Conference on Ecology and Transportation**



African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE)



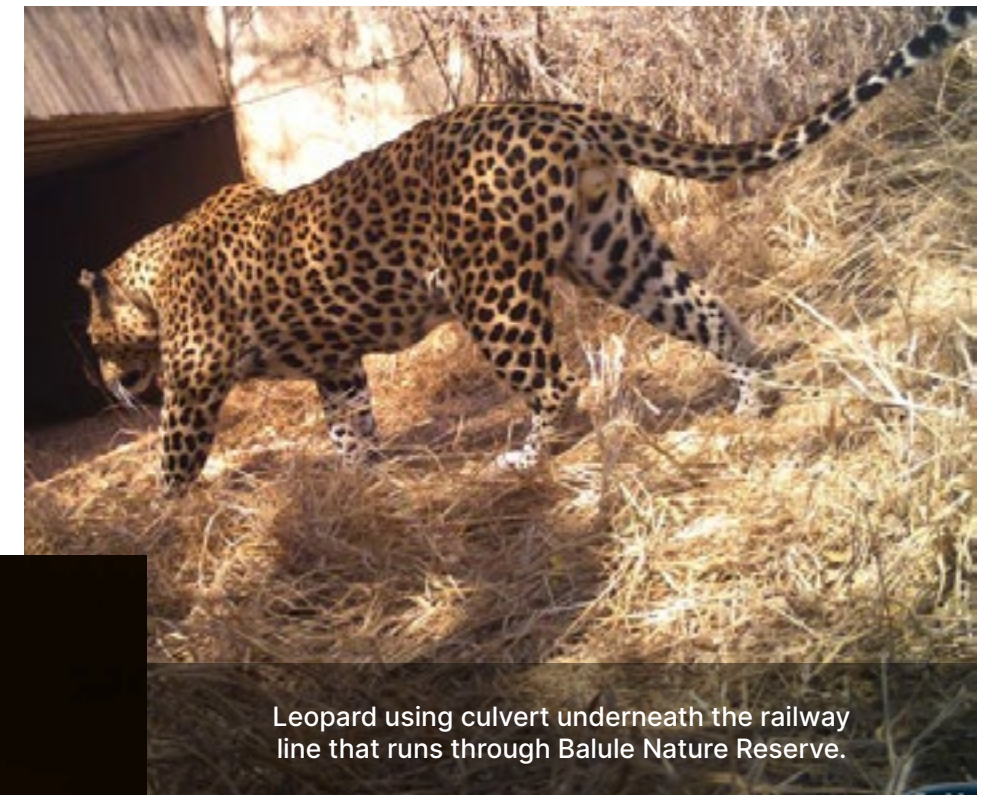
Directing wildlife traffic

The EWT is trialling two methods to reduce wildlife roadkill on the N3TC highway – with the first trial being along the strategic roadway between Johannesburg and Durban. One trial involved the installation of temporary roadside fencing to direct wildlife towards under-the-road culverts/underpasses to cross beneath the road. We are using cameras installed in the culverts to monitor wildlife traffic in these underpasses. Route patrollers have been trained to monitor the cameras, which have recorded several mammals diverting their road crossing to the safer culverts, particularly Servals. Sadly, this is the most common roadkill species recorded on the N3TC. Several mongoose species – particularly Large Grey Mongooses – Cape Porcupines, and Spotted Eagle Owls (presumably hunting for prey) are among several species utilising the underpasses, whilst Barn Swallows were observed roosting in the underpasses. Wildlife using these culverts for safe passage under roads is encouraging, as this may help reduce vehicle-collision risks to several species. We have erected a series of **owl perches** approximately 50 m from the road to deter owls from perching on poles adjacent to the road itself, where they are frequently killed while preying on rodents and other animals on the N3TC. Camera traps installed on these perches have helped identify 14 bird species using them to date, including Barn Owls, Spotted Eagle-owls, Black-shouldered Kites, and Black-headed Herons.

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



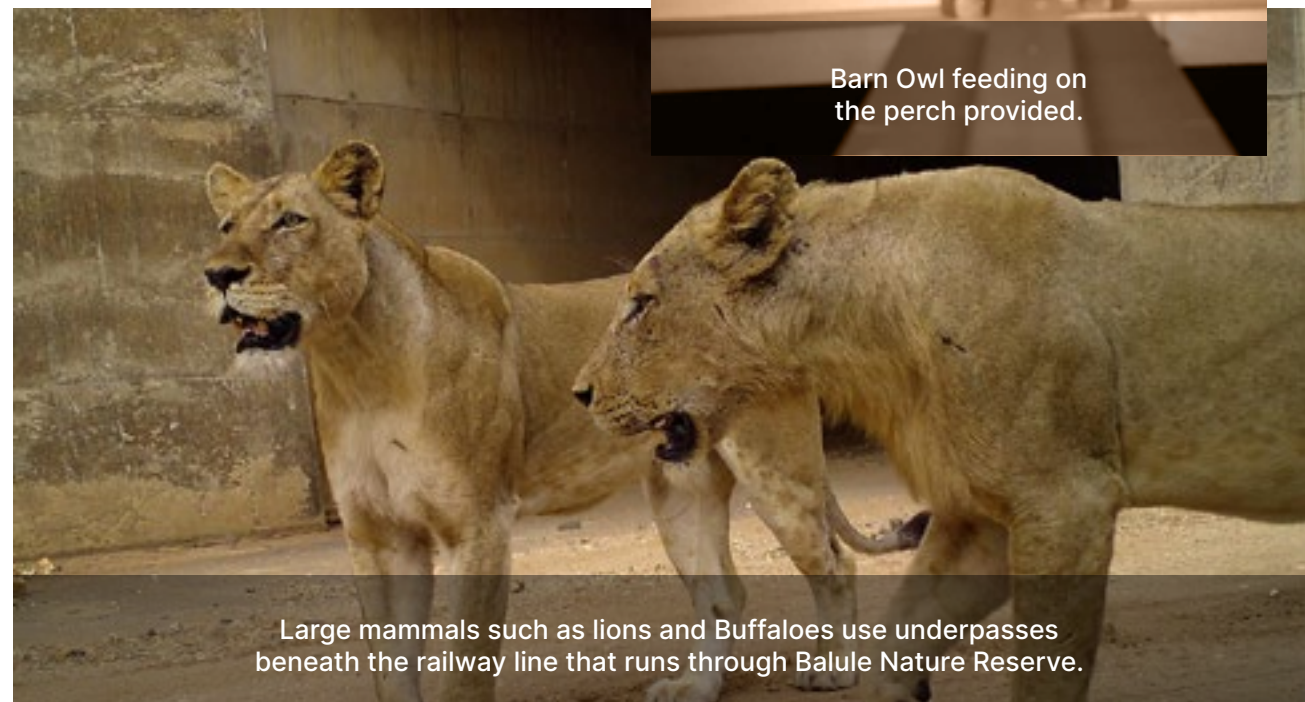
Black-shouldered Kite using a perch installed by the EWT 50 m from the N3TC highway to discourage birds from using roadside poles, which put them at a greater risk of being killed by vehicles.



Leopard using culvert underneath the railway line that runs through Balule Nature Reserve.



Barn Owl feeding on the perch provided.



Large mammals such as lions and Buffaloes use underpasses beneath the railway line that runs through Balule Nature Reserve.



The EWT installs cameras in culverts beneath the N3 between Johannesburg and Durban to record wildlife using the culverts to cross the road safely.



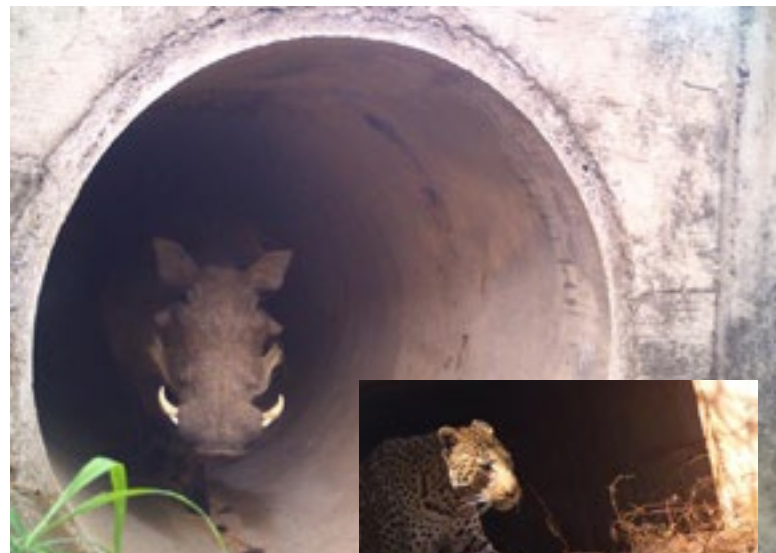
Wildlife lives on the line

Siboniso Thela submitted his MSc thesis to the University of Venda, which examined the seasonal use of roads by wildlife and the mortalities of mammals on the Phalaborwa–Hoedspruit railway line in the Balule Nature Reserve adjacent to the Kruger National Park. His baseline work highlighted that around a thousand vertebrates are killed annually on this 45.3 km stretch of line that transports phosphate and copper from local mines. Hannah de Villiers, an MSc student at the University of the Witwatersrand, advanced Siboniso’s work by evaluating the potential use of underpasses by wildlife along this line. She is processing 72,000 camera-trap images of wildlife – including those of Leopards, Spotted Hyaenas, lions, and Honey Badgers – all using the railway underpasses. To address the implications of train collisions for wildlife, we hosted representatives from **Transnet** in Balule to discuss these impacts, and we are now negotiating a long-term partnership to reduce these impacts.

This work is made possible by the **Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**, **Transfrontier Africa**, the **University of Freiburg**, the **University of the Witwatersrand**, the **University of Venda**, and the Ford Wildlife Foundation.



Hannah de Villiers at one of the underpasses fitted with camera traps to monitor wildlife using these structures to cross safely beneath the railway line in Balule Nature Reserve.



72,000
CAMERA-TRAP
IMAGES OF
WILDLIFE



>1,000 VERTEBRATES
ARE KILLED ANNUALLY ON
45.3 KM OF RAILWAY LINE



Images above are a collection of camera trap images from Balule Nature Reserve.



Signs of the times

This year was marred by several high-profile wildlife deaths on roads in the Kruger National Park. Roadkill victims included Impalas, Spotted Hyaenas, Leopard Tortoises, Black Mambas, and several other reptile species. To address this, we met with **SANParks** to encourage the adoption of 'roadkill hotspot' warning signs as part of our Roads in Parks Project. This long-term awareness campaign has been provisionally approved, and the **SANParks Honorary Rangers** will assist with monitoring the signage. A road ecology expert from Washington State in the United States visited two of our projects in February – Roads in Parks and Vervet Monkey Mitigation – to provide valuable advice on the design of wildlife crossing structures.

This work is made possible by **SANParks**, **Trans African Concessions (TRAC)**, and the Ford Wildlife Foundation



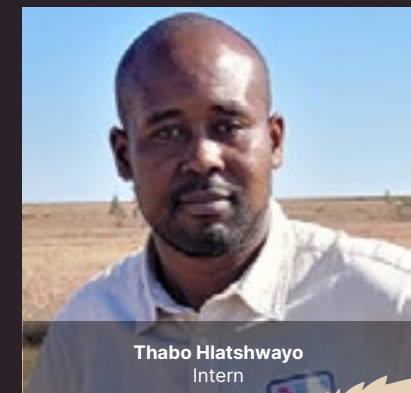
ROADKILL HOTSPOT

50KM

South African NATIONAL PARKS

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

WILDLIFE & TRANSPORT TEAM



THE VOICE OF THE EWT

The EWT's Communications and Marketing Department connects the work of the EWT and the outside world. We are the custodian of the brand – both internally and externally – and we collaborate with all EWT staff members to create a unified voice for the organisation.

The department ensures increased brand awareness and enhanced reputation through engaging and authentic content. Internally, we are the go-to department, creating a cohesive storytelling culture and increasing support for programmes through improved communication and expanded reach. We work with the programmes and other departments to streamline collaborative processes and create systems to ensure that any requirements of donors and partners are considered at all times. We are constantly adapting our approaches and looking at new resources that can help us increase our productivity and reach to maximise the impact of our outputs. Examples include time tracking and project management software and plugins for the EWT website for Search Engine Optimisation that increases our rank on search engines and analysis the efficacy of our communication outputs.

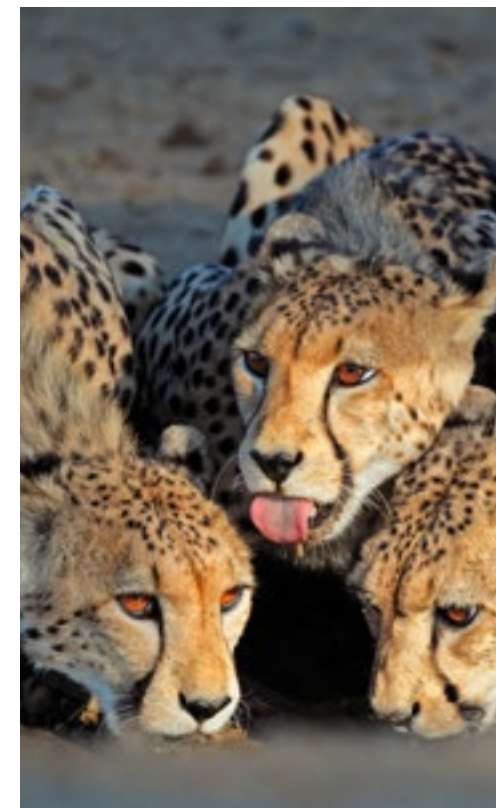
As a support service function of the EWT, the Communications and Marketing Department's work is made possible by our framework donors, including Artifact Advertising, Barloworld, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Deloitte, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, and Speedspace.

Turning up the volume for conservation communications

This year has been one of change and growth. In response to ever-changing and evolving communication approaches, platforms, and technologies, the EWT's Communications and Marketing team overhauled our communications strategy by conducting a SWOT analysis to identify aspects of the strategy and work plan to be prioritised to maximise our reach and impact in target audiences. We identified our digital presence as our most significant weakness and prioritised this aspect of our strategy and work plan for the year. The Communications and Marketing Department also grew from two team members to three to ensure that we could implement the updated strategy effectively.



Photo credit: Tyrone McKendry



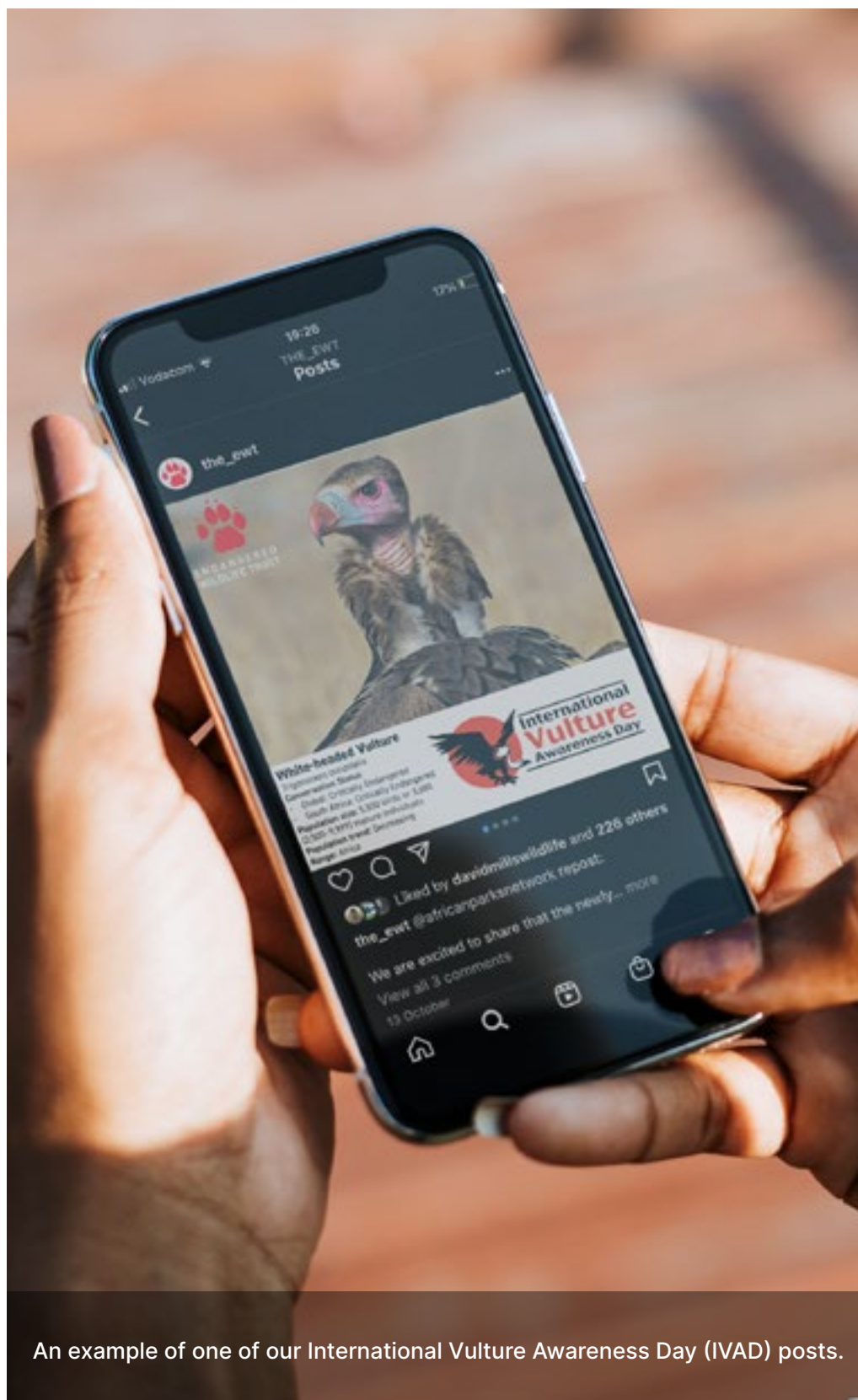
Communication campaigns

To celebrate the strong women in conservation and beyond, we ran a Women's Month campaign on social media throughout August. We profiled our female staff members, the women our male staff members admire, and the roles females of the species play in nature. Wild Earth also produced and flighted a video of our EWT women in action on DSTV.

We used the landmark relocation of Wild Dogs to Malawi and a campaign for Wild Dog Day in August as an opportunity to showcase our Wild Dog Range Expansion Project across as many platforms as possible. The relocation was announced through a joint media release with African Parks and across our social media platforms. It was covered by **The Guardian** in the UK and other news outlets, and Cole du Plessis, project lead, was also interviewed by Mark Pilgrim on Hot 102.7 FM. We also acknowledged and thanked all donors and partners involved in a series of posts, and as part of our Wild Dog Day campaign, we shared a video interview with Cole.

In September, we celebrated International Vulture Awareness Day (4 September) via social media posts and a **media release**. Our Birds of Prey Programme Manager, Dr Gareth Tate, appeared on a children's radio show to discuss vultures and their importance to healthy ecosystems. We also ran a World Rhino Day campaign for 22 September, consisting of various media posts, a dedicated **webpage**, a radio interview with Dr Andrew Taylor on Mix FM, and a colouring-in competition.

October is National Transport month, and this past year we ran a campaign with our Wildlife in Transport Programme showcasing stories on the programme's work from around the country. These stories were accompanied by calls to action for people to drive slower, be aware of their



An example of one of our International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) posts.

surroundings and animals on or near the road, and report incidents involving wildlife via our RoadWatch App. We helped the Business Development unit promote the Rhino Peak Challenge, profiling all participants and encouraging people to donate. This year was an enormous success, raising over R1 million for conservation.

In February 2022, we celebrated World Wetlands Day (2 February) with social media posts highlighting the importance of wetlands and what the EWT is doing to conserve and restore them. We formatted the posts to suit each platform, and the campaign included imagery, videos, and interactive Did you know polls on Twitter to increase engagement with the audiences. We ran our annual campaign for Leap Day for Frogs (28 February) throughout February. This year, we focused on the myths, legends, and superstitions about frogs and how to address people's perceptions and negative attitudes towards frogs. Our call to action was for people to send in stories or myths they have heard about frogs under the hashtag #froglore for us to debunk and reduce negative associations with frogs.



An example of one of our Leap Day for Frogs posts.

World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in February each year. This year, we celebrated it on 19 February and focused on raising awareness around the threats to Pangolins from the illegal wildlife trade. In March 2022, a Conservation K9 Cadet in Training joined our Wildlife in Trade Programme's K9 team and became an overnight social media sensation when we put out a call for ideas for his name. The name selected was Mufassa. Additional days acknowledged and celebrated on social media in March included World Wildlife Day (3 March), on which Dr Gareth Tate was a panellist on the WSIS TalkX Radio Show, Global Recycling Day (18 March), and World Water Day (22 March).



Bearded Vulture. Photo credit: Andre Botha.



Can you find the rabbit hiding among the lilies in Nieuwoudtville? An example of one of our Riverine Rabbit Easter Hunt social media posts.

We promoted a fun Riverine Rabbit Easter Hunt in April to raise awareness about the elusive Riverine Rabbit and how tricky it is to find them. The call to action for this campaign was for people to send sightings of these rare rabbits to our DCP team. The campaign reached over 30,000 people on social media. We were featured on Wild Earth's Afternoon Sunset Live Drive and Fireside Chat on Earth Day (22 April). The European Outdoor Conservation Association held a competition for funding in April, with the winner selected by public vote. Our Birds of Prey Bearded Vulture Project was nominated, and we promoted it via email, social media, and radio. We won the competition and the €50,000 for Bearded Vulture conservation. We received 2,108 votes out of 5,735 across four projects. The referral of engagement was split as follows: 730 clicks from the mailer and 2,280 clicks from socials.

One of our larger campaigns this year was our Biodiversity (is your business) Day campaign. The NBBN conducted the first full biodiversity footprint of all operations in the USA and SA for Sibanye Stillwater, and we held an event on 20 May 2022 to launch the report ahead of Biodiversity Day on 22 May. We produced a one-page summary of the report, numerous videos about what a **biodiversity footprint** is, and a guide to the **Biological Diversity Protocol** used to measure them.



Ongoing campaigns

We continue weekly Science Saturday posts and have given them a makeover. They are now presented as interactive polls on our Instagram Science Highlights Reel

We also continue our Thankful Thursdays to express gratitude to our donors and supporters.

The Kruger National Park Wild Dog and Cheetah Census, a collaboration between the EWT and the Tshwane University of Technology, continues with regular calls for visitors of the park to submit photos of Wild Dogs and Cheetahs.



Advertising

We secured space for several digital adverts on AdReach's digital street pole boards on Sandton and William Nicol drives in Johannesburg and finalised a large, sponsored three-panel billboard for the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMI). SB Outdoor also flighted large digital billboards designed by Artifact Advertising on Bedfordview and Woodmead drive in Johannesburg.

We procured street pole space in KwaZulu-Natal (Musgrave, Morningside, and Stamford Hill) with a combined traffic flow of 2,180,257 vehicles and Pretoria (Hennospark and Pretoria Central) with a traffic flow of close to 400,000. We were also featured on digital street poles in Johannesburg (Hurlingham View, Parkmore, Riepenpark, Hyde Park, and Hurlingham Gardens) with a traffic flow of 2,023,399. The Advertising Value Equivalent of the boards was R137,460.

EWT adverts appeared in **Trail Mag** and the **EcoLogic Awards Magazine**.

Andy Tinker, the publisher of the Kruger Park Maps, promoted the EWT's Cheetah and Wild Dog census, and the EWT's work, in the latest Kruger Park Map book, which was released in October 2021. In addition, an EWT article was accepted for publication in the spring edition of The Kruger Magazine. The article is a two-page spread and carries information on the census, Kruger stores, and the EWT stock.



Communication collaborations

We were fortunate to work with many media partners this year, who helped us produce professional multimedia content to communicate our messaging and increase our brand exposure effectively.

Facilitated by EWT Trustee Lloyd Madurai, the EWT communications team and Hot 102.7 produced a radio advertisement to increase the EWT's brand exposure and call for regular donations to fund our critical conservation work. Hot FM aired the advert throughout June 2021. This advert will be translated into other languages and aired on other radio stations throughout the country.

Waterbear included two more of the EWT's videos on **our profile on their site**. Lesoba Difference developed an impressive video on our Drylands Conservation Programme's work in the Karoo. **Watch this here**. WildEarth (Television and online channel broadcasting live safaris) assisted us in producing a short video for Women's Month in August. This 30-second advert focussed on the women of EWT and flighted on DSTV throughout August and across our social media channels. Wild Earth also produced a World Wildlife Day video aired on Wild Earth TV (DStv channel 183) on 3 March 2022.

We collaborated with the following partners to create project videos:

Linda Smit Wildlife Impressions and **Karingani Game Reserve** – The release of four Cheetahs onto Karingani

African Parks – The relocation of 14 African Wild Dogs from South Africa and Mozambique to Malawi

Peace Parks TV produced videos on the **Cheetah Relocation to Maputo Special Reserve**



The EWT in the media

The EWT published 32 public articles on its blog platform, Conservation Matters, and received extensive media coverage during the reporting period, including features and mentions in print, online, and broadcast media. The most frequent repeat publishers of EWT content were IOL, The Green Times, South Coast Herald, South Africa Today, My Durban, and Bizcommunity. We were featured in over 30 print publications (repeatedly in some) worldwide, reaching audiences of more than 31 million people. Examples include the Associated Press, Mail and Guardian, Business Tech Africa, Getaway Magazine, Cape Times, The Citizen, the Guardian, Southern and East African tourism update, Nigeria Sun, The Times, the Sowetan, Kruger Magazine, Pet Prints, and the Daily Mail.

Our share of voice was 49.63% compared to our three closest “competitors”.



OUR SHARE OF VOICE WAS
49.63%

COMPARED TO OUR THREE CLOSEST “COMPETITORS”

PUBLISHED 32 BLOG POSTS

ON OUR CONSERVATION MATTERS PLATFORM

MENTIONED IN OVER 800 ONLINE ARTICLES

POTENTIAL REACH ARTICLES = 1.98 BILLION

ESTIMATED ADVERTISING VALUE EQUIVALENT OF COVERAGE

FOR JULY 2021—JUNE 2022 = R17.93 MILLION

COUNTRIES WHERE COVERAGE WAS RECEIVED

SOUTH AFRICA 59%

UNITED STATES 26%

JAPAN 3%





UNITED KINGDOM 3%

SWITZERLAND 3%

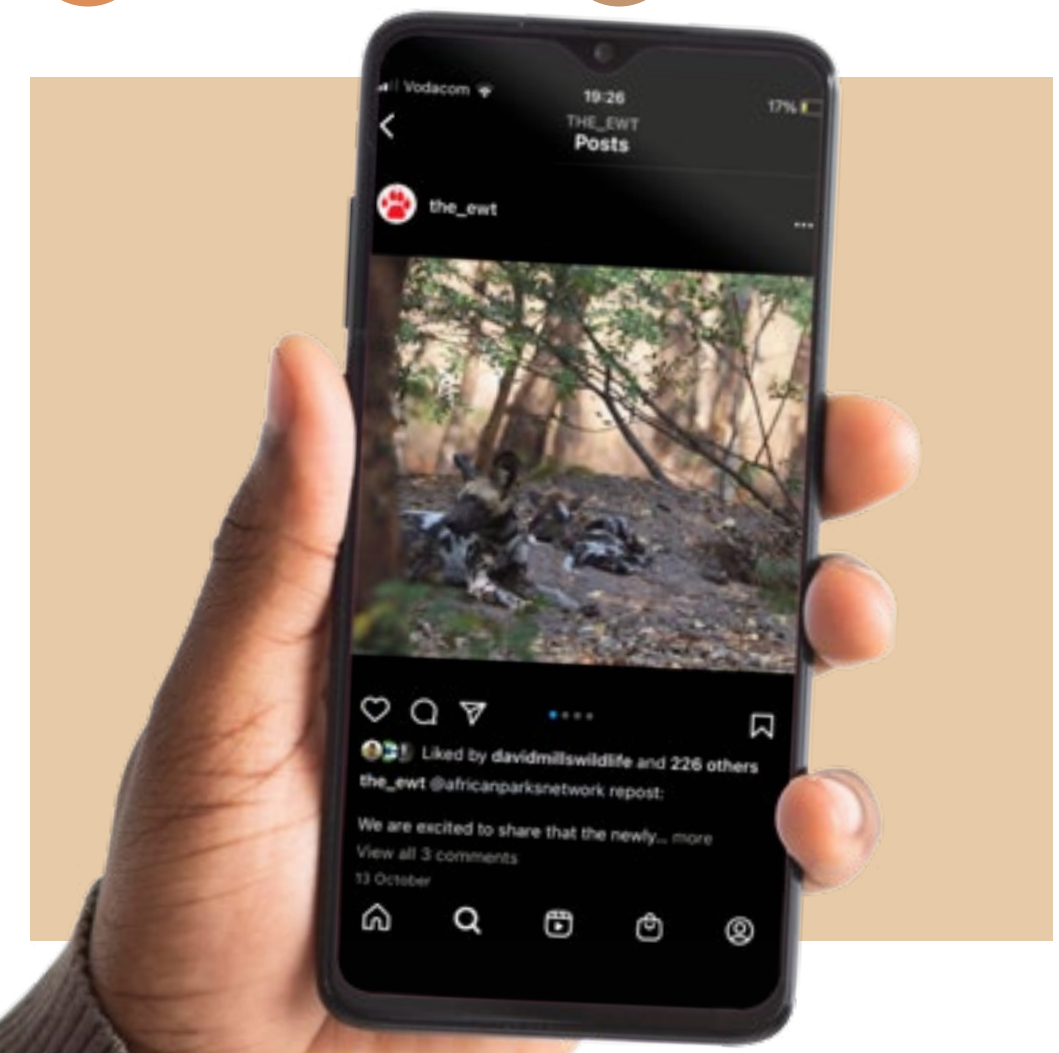
INDIA 2%

OTHER 4%

SOCIAL MEDIA

				
30 JUN 2021	42,933	11,029	2,159	19,472
30 JUN 2022	49,408	11,441	2,705	22,060
INCREASE	13%	4%	20%	12%

 **61 FOLLOWERS**  **2,886 FOLLOWERS**





Ten media releases were distributed to the media in this reporting period.

Celebrating a decade of successful Wild Dog conservation 20 July 2021

African Wild Dogs return to Malawi 29 July 2021

Farmers lead the way in cultivating solutions to climate change 26 August 2021

Ninety landowners help vultures to reclaim their Karoo home 3 September 2021

Drones are making waves with a new way to whale watch 16 September 2021

The world's first state-of-the-art African Wild Dog holding boma 20 October 2021

Constitutional Court dismisses coal mining company's bid to start mining 12 November 2021

A mountain of hope for the biodiversity and people of the Western Soutpansberg 6 December 2021

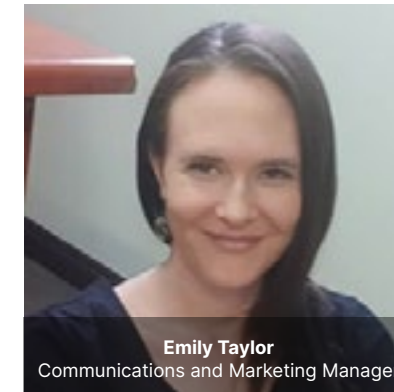
Less than 25% of South African businesses consider their impacts on nature 9 December 2021

Securing critical water sources and grassland habitat for protection in the Free State, South Africa 28 January 2022

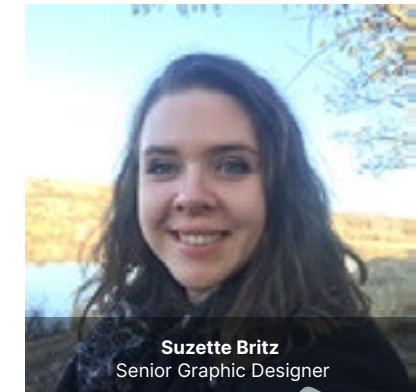
Cheetahs introduced to Karingani Game Reserve will boost Mozambique's population 20 May 2022

A world first for business – the disclosure of a company's global biodiversity footprint 30 May 2022

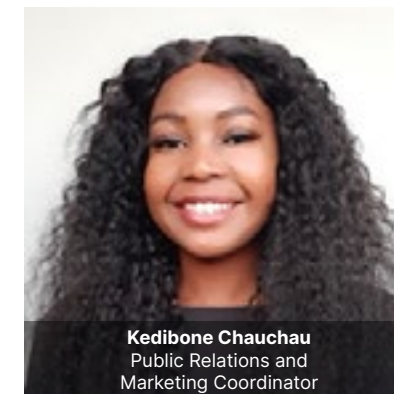
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



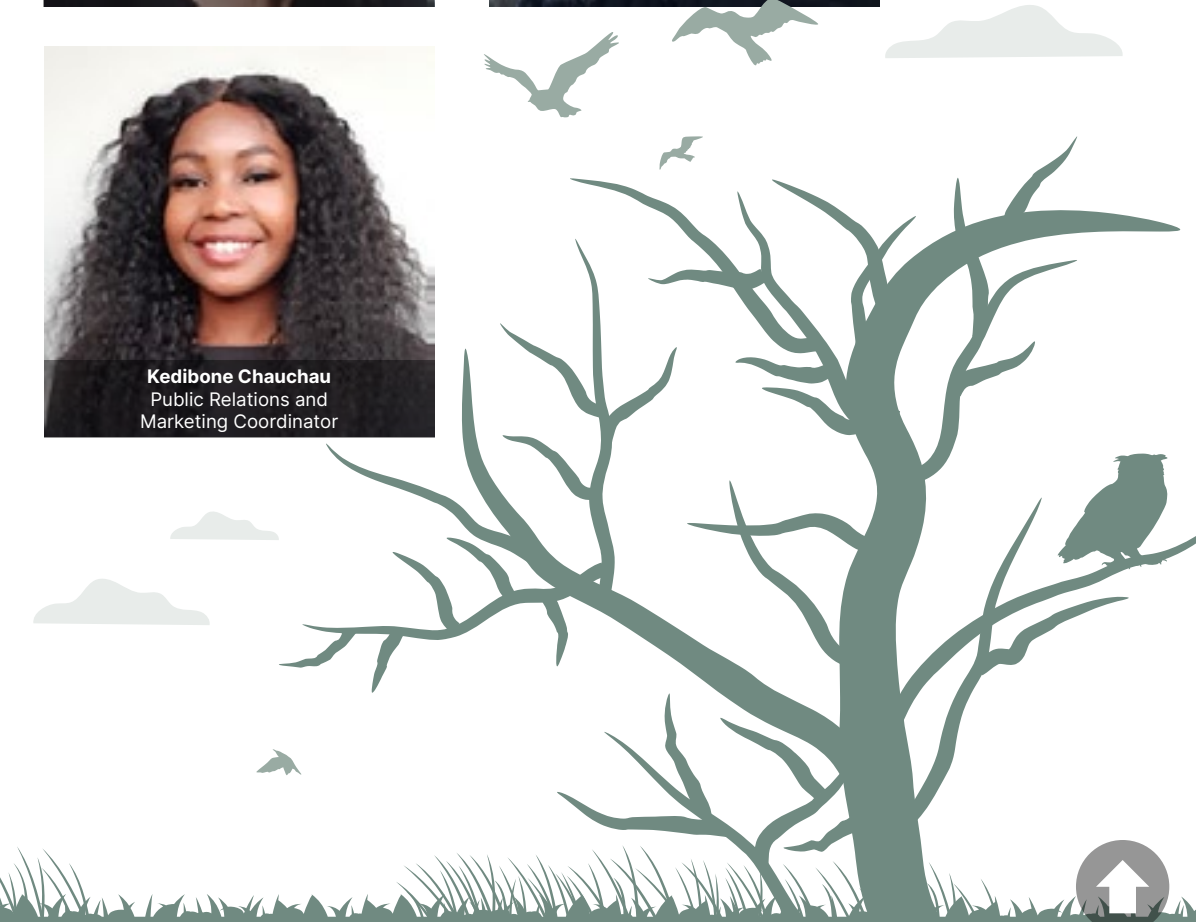
Emily Taylor
Communications and Marketing Manager



Suzette Britz
Senior Graphic Designer



Kedibone Chauchau
Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator



FUNDING OUR WORK

Our support services are funded by the EWT's framework donors, including Artifact Advertising, Barloworld, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Deloitte, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, and Speedspace.

Income streams

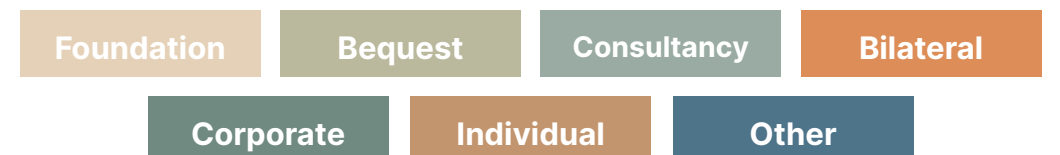
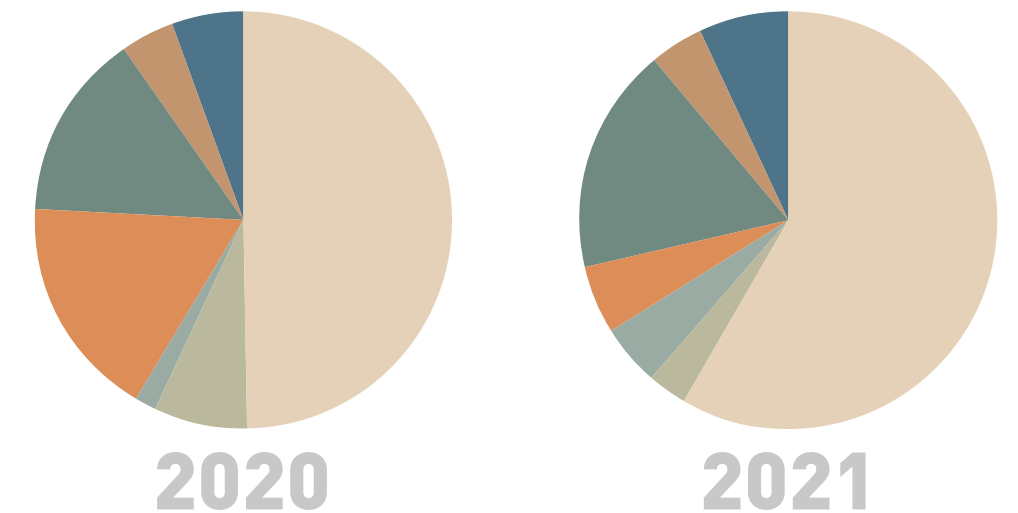
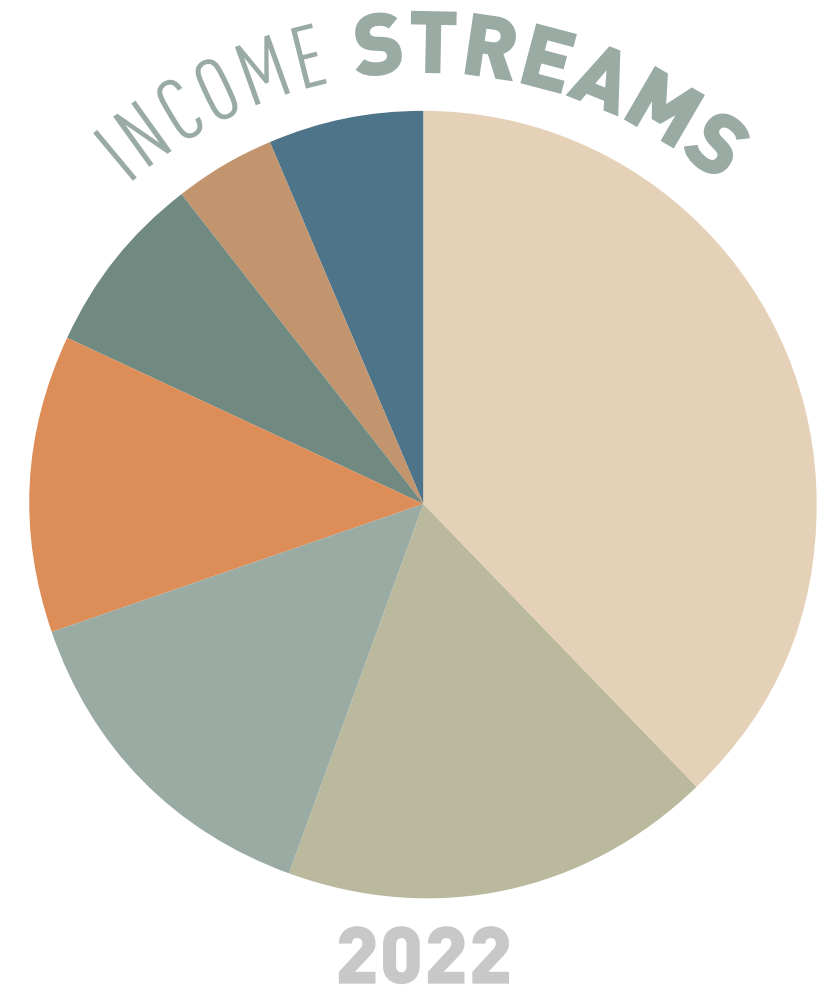
The EWT's income for project activities was the second highest on record, increasing on our 2020/2021 income. Encouragingly, the increase in funding compared to the previous year suggests a post-lockdown improvement in income generation.

This year, income streams were more balanced than previously, with several funding sources contributing substantially to our revenue. Foundational income continues to represent the EWT's most important income stream, contributing 38% of our 2021/22 revenue. However, we recorded a 20% reduction in trust and foundational income over the reporting period. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, trusts and foundations were pivotal in tiding the EWT over this troubled period. This decrease in foundational funding was largely offset by an increase in bilateral (government) income from 5% of revenue last year to 12% through 2021/22.



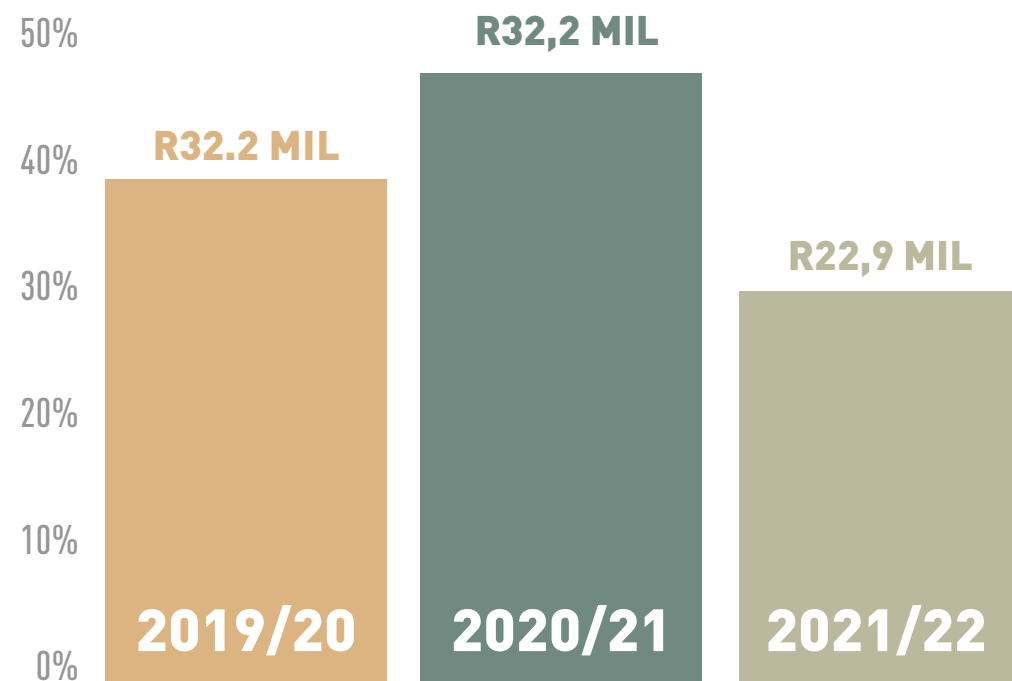
Bequest income was the second-most substantial income stream this year, thanks largely to a generous bequest by the Evans estate. The realignment of Eskom's income – our third largest funder – from corporate to consultancy income accounted for consultancy work representing the third most important income stream, coupled with our USAID Power Africa programme engagement. Conversely, at 8%, corporate income dropped to its lowest level in recent years.

Philanthropic contributions from individuals remain hugely important to the EWT, as they are mostly unrestricted and cover critical expenses often not secured by project-specific donations. This individual income remained steady, year-on-year.



Foreign versus local income

The proportion of foreign income received by the EWT decreased by 30% year-on-year. However, some international organisations, such as the UNDP Global Environment Facility, USAID Power Africa, USAID through the WWF South Africa Khetha Programme, Anglo American, and USAID VukaNow, chose to pay us directly in rands. Even so, many donors contributed to our foreign income, most notably from the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union countries. Our most significant foreign donors and partners included the International Crane Foundation (through our Strategic Partnership), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the UK-based Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge, each contributing over R2 million to specific projects. In contrast, we received more Rand (ZAR) income than in any previous year.



The percentage of foreign versus local (ZAR) income we received decreased by 30% in 2022, which equates to almost R10 million. Conversely, we received more local income than ever before.

GetWild

Tourvest Retail Destination, the suppliers of the SANParks shops, purchased EWT branded items for all the Kruger National Park shops. This relationship has given us good brand marketing while boosting our GetWild income. GetWild is the EWT's range of branded clothing and accessories that supports our conservation initiatives, also available to order through the **EWT's E-shop**.



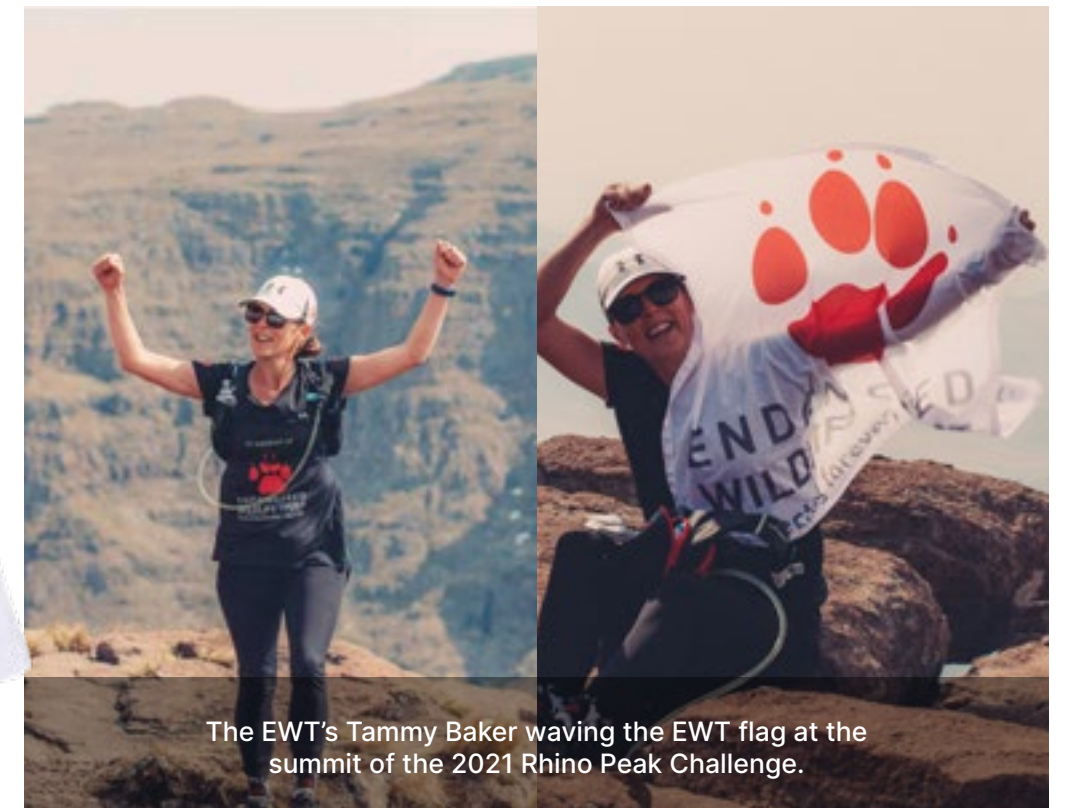
South African
NATIONAL PARKS



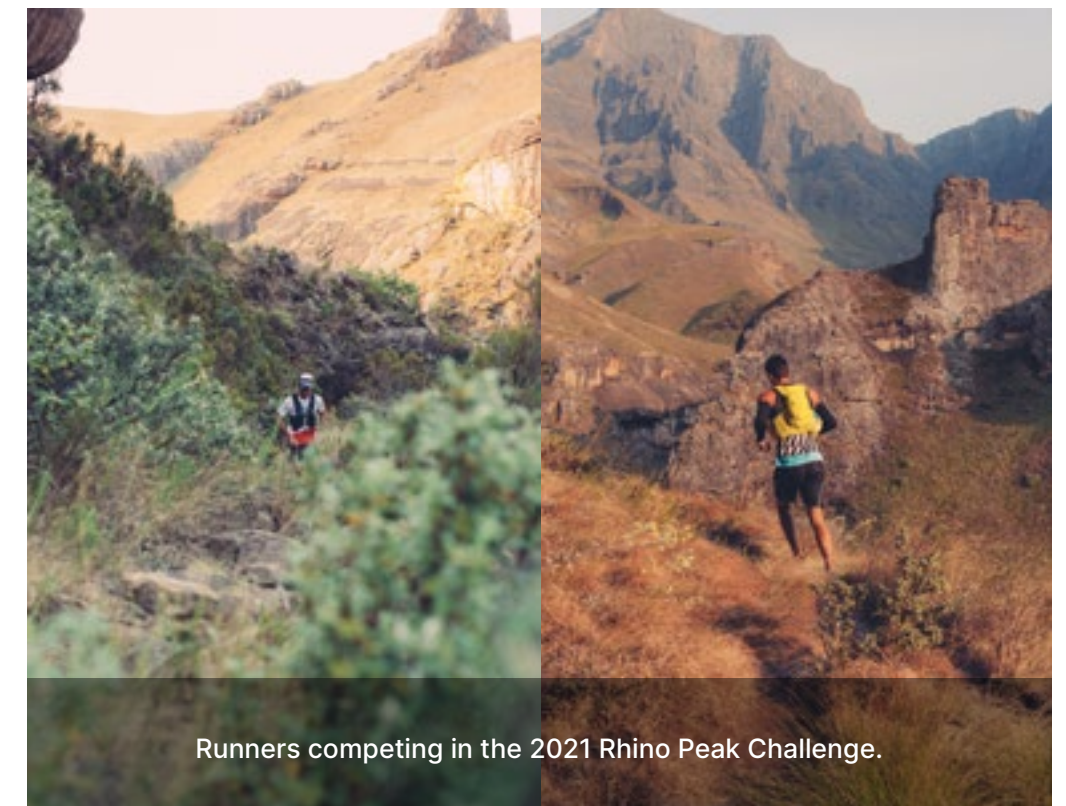
Events

This year, we hosted four golf days, and thanks to our loyal golfers, all four were a great success. These included Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Malelane (adjacent to the Kruger National Park), and our annual Johannesburg Golf Day.

The 2021 Rhino Peak Challenge (RPC) was our most successful event yet and is growing from strength-to-strength. The Rhino Peak Challenge raised over R1.27-million in total, with our ambassadors, and the EWT's team, raising more than R700,000.



The EWT's Tammy Baker waving the EWT flag at the summit of the 2021 Rhino Peak Challenge.



Runners competing in the 2021 Rhino Peak Challenge.



Donating to the EWT

The EWT achieved a Level 4 Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) rating this year. This reflected significant growth in our management and skills development elements. Besides good citizenship and working together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the EWT has a 95% Socio-Economic Development (SED) rating, allowing corporates to receive their full five SED points on their (B-BBEE) scorecard. The EWT can also offer an 18A tax-exemption certificate to corporates and individuals who give bona fide donations.

B-BBEE ELEMENTS	2019/20 POINTS	2020/21 POINTS	YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH
Management control	3.74	6.7	79%
Skills development	12.27	21.97	79%
Enterprise and supplier development	35.38	46.63	32%
Socio-economic development	5	5	Max points score year-on-year



Bequests

We are always grateful to those who remember the EWT in their last will and testament by pledging to continue supporting the conservation of threatened species. We received bequests from M.A. Kwan, L.H. Wiehuizen, B.J. Brown, B.A. Nicholson, and the B.G Evans estates. To honour the memory of the individuals who included us in their wills, we established a Memory Forest at our Conservation Campus in Midrand, where we plant an indigenous tree in honour of each legacy left to the EWT. The popularity of the Memory Forest resulted in the introduction of a Living Legacy section to the forest. The trees in this section honour those who have included the EWT in their will. The forest will grow into a beautiful, tranquil spot on our campus where loved ones can visit and remember those they have lost.



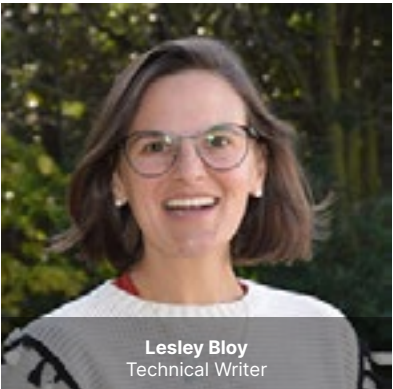
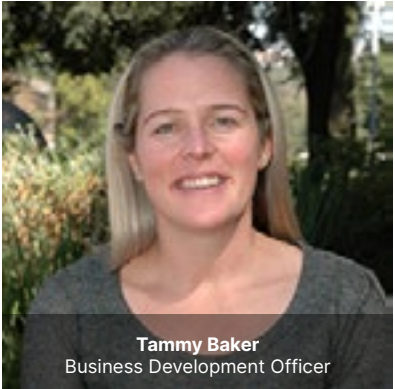
Planting a tree in the EWT's Memory Forest in Midrand.



Our loyal supporters

Different ways to give include debit order, stop order, PayFast, and GivenGain, and monthly donations through **MySchool and MyPlanet cards**. Our partnership with the **King Baudouin Foundation** in the United States has allowed our American donors to receive tax certificates on our behalf for donations made in U.S. Dollars.

OUR FUNDRAISING TEAM



OUR PASSIONATE PEOPLE

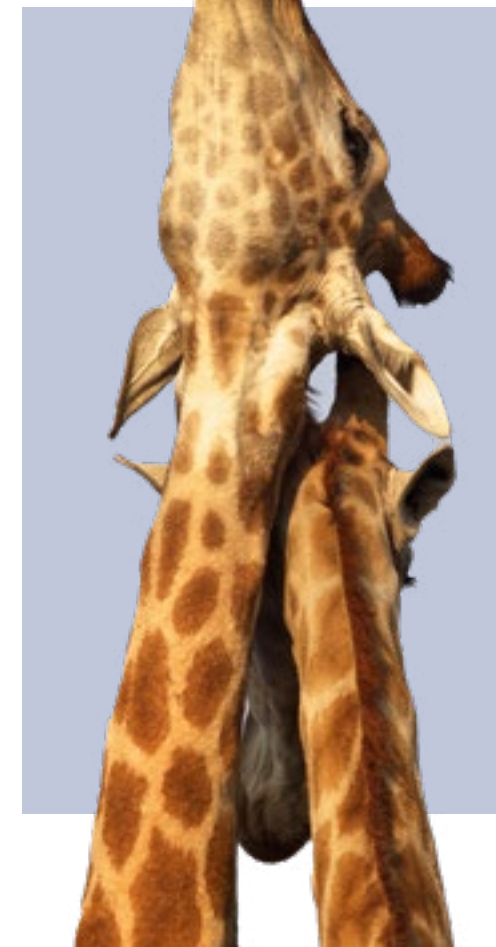
The EWT is a people-inspired organisation. Our staff members and their strength, talent, passion, and energy remain our most essential and valued assets. As such, the Human Resources Department works to support the EWT's Mission and Vision, enabling a progressive and equitable work environment that attracts and retains EWT team members.

The EWT's Human Resource operations

Year on year, the EWT staff numbers have remained stable.

Table 1: Total number of staff employed by the EWT from 2019–2022 and the percentage of staff in support services and programmes

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF	PERCENTAGE OF STAFF PER DEPARTMENT
2019/20	105	Support Services Staff 17%
		Programmatic Staff 83%
2020/21	104	Support Services Staff 19%
		Programmatic Staff 81%
2021/22	110	Support Services Staff 18%
		Programmatic Staff 82%





Workforce demographics

Our long-term success depends on our capacity to attract, retain, and develop a multicultural and multigenerational team of employees to ensure the EWT's ongoing and sustainable growth.

Table 2: The demographics of staff employed by the EWT each year between 2018 and 2021

YEAR	AVERAGE AGE (YEARS)	MALE	FEMALE	AFRICAN	WHITE
2019	37.2	49%	51%	48%	52%
2020	38.0	50%	50%	46%	54%
2021	38.6	49%	51%	46%	54%
2022	39.1	49%	51%	49%	51%



Employment Equity

As leaders in conservation, the EWT strives for a workforce that reflects the country's demographics. Achieving employment equity is not only a social imperative but also allows us to harness the rich diversity of ideas and perspectives of our country's people.

The EWT continues to progress in realising employment equity goals throughout the organisation. Although we still have much to do in reaching our own diversity goals. We believe that strategically and sustainably implementing employment equity will foster greater opportunities and benefits for the EWT and society, and we remain committed to the process.

Table 3: progress towards achieving our targeted demographic breakdown against our actual demographic figures on 30 June 2022

PERIOD	MALE				FEMALE				TOTAL	
	African %	Coloured %	Indian %	White %	African %	Coloured %	Indian %	White %	Male %	Female %
Target figures as per EE Plan	21%	1%	1%	20%	16%	6%	1%	33%	43%	57%
Actual figures as of 30 June 2022	26%	0%	1%	20%	15%	5%	2%	29%	49%	51%

ABOVE TARGET
NO CONCERNS

ABOVE TARGET
CONCERNING

BELOW TARGET

TARGET ACHIEVED



**ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST**
Protecting forever, together.



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

Our BBBEE Score was Level 4 in our 2021/22 rating period. Our next BBBEE audit is scheduled for October 2022.

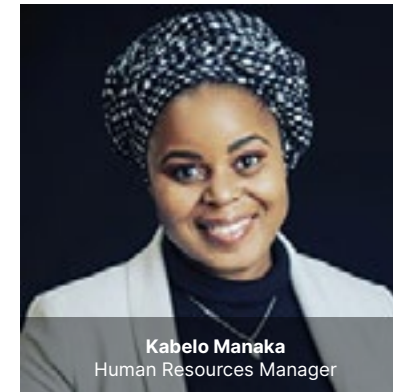
Talent Management

The EWT acknowledges that its greatest asset is its employees. Its robust talent management strategy has continued to attract, develop, and retain excellent skills.

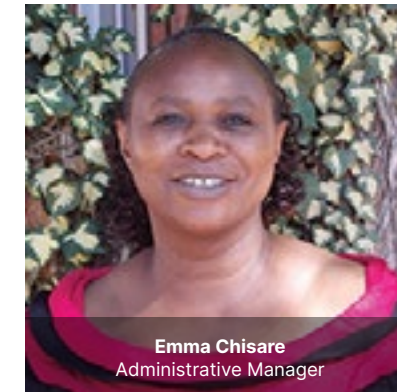
The EWT registered two unemployed learners for a twelve-month NQF level 2 learnership programme and two employed learners on an NQF level 4 in the 2021/22 reporting period. Through our monthly Conservation Forum, the EWT prides itself on giving employees opportunities to develop their skills, learn new topics, and broaden their knowledge. This platform also encourages employees to address challenges as a team by learning from each other and working with colleagues with greater expertise in unfamiliar fields.

Another platform is the annual EWT Conservation Week, where all staff meet for team building, sharing achievements and challenges experienced throughout the year. Annual staff awards are also handed out during this week.

HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

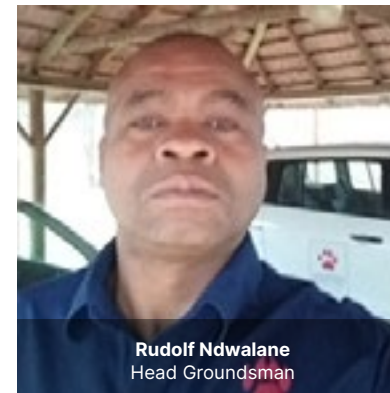


Kabelo Manaka
Human Resources Manager

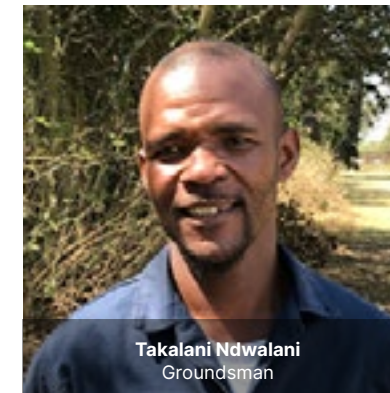


Emma Chisare
Administrative Manager

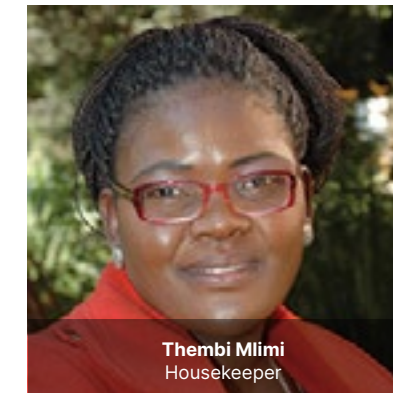
ADMIN AND MAINTENANCE TEAM



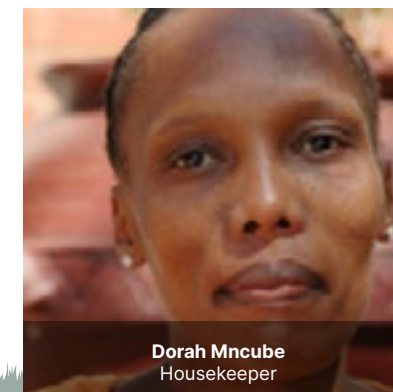
Rudolf Ndwane
Head Groundsman



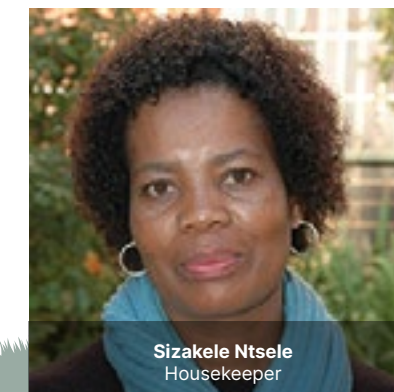
Takalani Ndwani
Groundsman



Thambi Mlimi
Housekeeper



Dorah Mncube
Housekeeper



Sizakele Ntsele
Housekeeper



ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE

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

Annual General Meeting

The 47th EWT AGM took place on 25 November 2021 and was held with eight Trustees attending in person at the EWT Conservation Campus in Midrand and ten via a virtual platform. We received five apologies.

The meeting noted that there had been no Trustee resignations in the year under review (1 July 2020–30 June 2021) and no proposals to elect new Trustees.

Dirk Ackerman and Paul Smith's current three year terms of office as Chairperson and Treasurer respectively will continue until the 2023 AGM, in accordance with the Trust Deed. Antony Wannell will also continue as Vice Chair until the 2023 AGM.

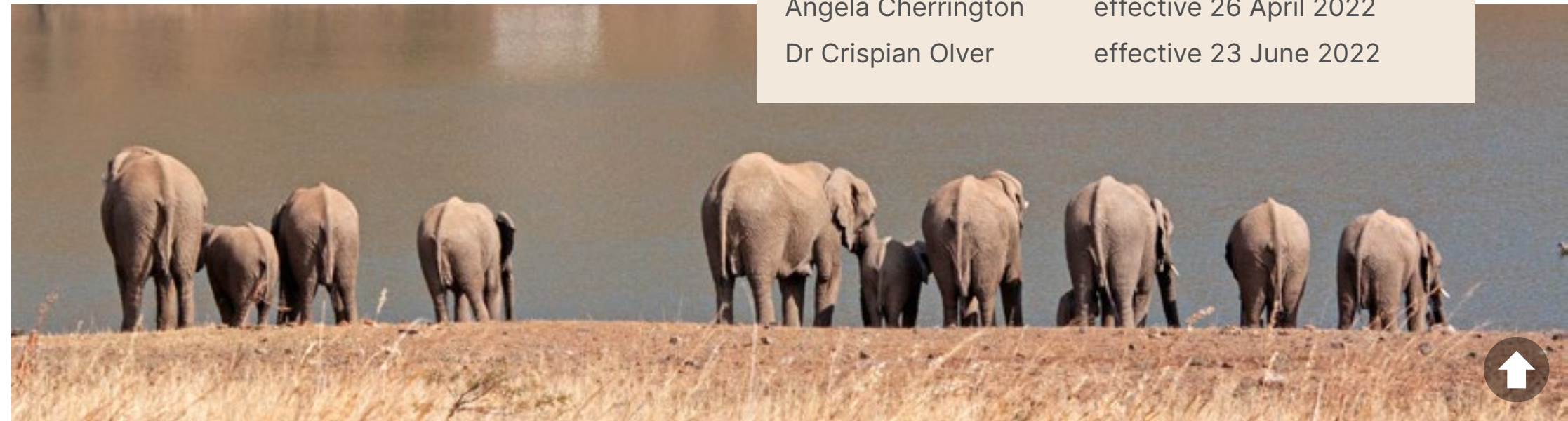
The AGM voted to ratify the Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2021, as audited by Deloitte. The Trustees voted to retain Deloitte as the auditors of the Trust.

Board and Committees

As per the Trust Deed, the Board administers the affairs of the Trust, performing oversight of the management function of Executive Management staff. At the start of this reporting period (1 July 2021), the Board consisted of 23 Trustees, including the CEO as an ex officio member. The Board met four times during this financial year and undertook activities per its Charter to fulfil its Work Plan, which is developed and adopted annually on a calendar-year basis. In line with the principles of excellent corporate governance, the Board evaluates its own performance in relation to its Work Plan at the end of every year.

The following Trustees resigned during the reporting period:

Sharmila Govind	effective 9 March 2022
Angela Cherrington	effective 26 April 2022
Dr Crispian Olver	effective 23 June 2022



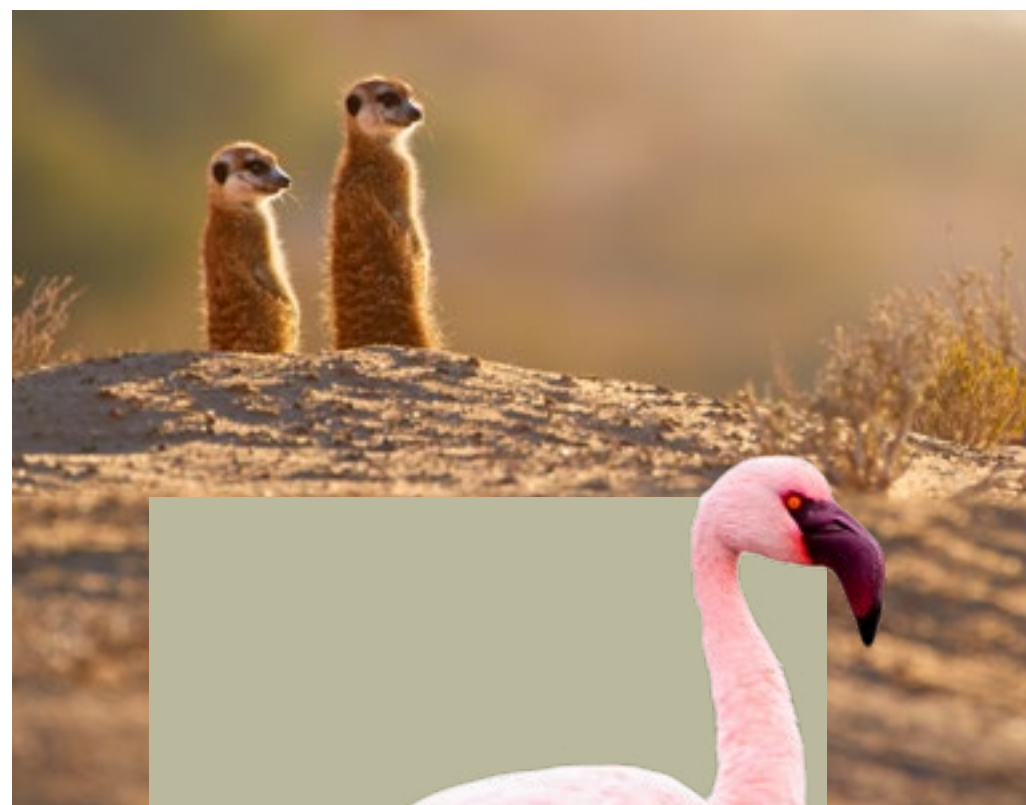


Table 4: Board meeting attendance during the period 2021/2

Board	23 Sept 21	25 Nov 21	21 Mar 22	23 Jun 22
Dirk Ackerman – Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
Antony Wannell – Vice Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paul Smith – Treasurer and AC Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
Angela Cherrington – resigned 26/4/2022	✗	✓	✗	NA
Anthony Diepenbroek	✓	✓	✗	✓
Abdul Mohamed	✓	✗	✗	✗
Prof. Barry Ackers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christo Reeders	✗	✓	✓	✗
Dr Crispian Olver – resigned 23/6/2022	✗	✓	✓	NA
Douglas Ramaphosa	✗	✓	✓	✓
Joanna Goeller	✓	✓	✓	✓
Karin Ireton (SEC Chair)	✗	✓	✓	✓
Lesego Rammusi	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lloyd Madurai	✗	✗	✓	✓
Dr Luthando Dziba	✓	✓	✓	✗
Mike Esterhuysen	✗	✓	✓	✓
Mpho Sono	✗	✓	✓	✓
Muhammad Seedat	✓	✓	✓	✓
Praxedis Hwindingwi	✓	✗	✓	✓
Roshael Hoosen (REMCO chair)	✗	✓	✓	✓
Sharmila Govind – resigned 9/3/2022	✗	✗	NA	NA
Valli Moosa	✗	✓	✓	✗
Yolan Friedmann – CEO – ex officio	✓	✓	✓	✓
In attendance – Mandy Poole Head of Finance and Governance	✓	✓	✓	✓

The Board Committees assist the Board in the administration of the affairs of the Trust.



Audit Committee

The Audit Committee (AC), which voted to change its name from the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) at its March 2022 meeting, was established under Clause 23.1 of the Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014. The Chair is Paul Smith, as Treasurer, for the term 2020-2023. The AC adopts an annual Work Plan for every calendar year and self-evaluates at the year's close. The AC met four times this 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.

Lesego Rammusi resigned from the AC to take up a position on the SEC.

Table 5: Audit Committee meeting attendance during the period 2021/22

Audit Committee	21 Sept 21	25 Nov 21	25 Mar 22	15 Jun 22
Paul Smith – Treasurer and Chair – ex officio	✓	✓	✓	✓
Abdul Mohamed	✓	✗	✓	✓
Antony Wannell	✓	✗	✓	✓
Prof Barry Ackers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mpho Sono	✗	✗	✓	✓
Muhammad Seedat	✓	✓	✓	✓
Neil Morris	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prax Hwindingwi	✓	✗	✓	✓
Yolan Friedmann – CEO – ex officio	✓	✓	✓	✓
In attendance – Mandy Poole Head of Finance and Governance	✓	✓	✓	✓



Social and Ethics Committee

The Social and Ethics Committee (SEC) voted to change its name from Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee (SERC) at its March 2022 meeting, following the Board's establishment of the Remunerations Committee (REMCO) and met three times through the financial year as noted below. The SEC works to an annual Work Plan.

Sharmila Govind resigned during the year under review, effective 8 March 2022



Remuneration Committee

The Board established the Remuneration Committee (REMCO) at its March 2022 meeting, and it held its inaugural meeting on 15 June 2022. Roshael Hoosen was elected Chair of the REMCO, and its other members are Dirk Ackerman, Prof. Barry Ackers, Muhammad Seedat and Yolán Friedmann, CEO - ex officio. Mandy Poole, Head of Finance and Governance, was in attendance.

Table 6: Social and Ethics Committee meeting attendance during the period 2021/22

Social and Ethics Committee	21 Sept 21	18 Nov 21	8 Mar 22	21 Jun 22
Karin Ireton - Vice Chair and Acting Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
Douglas Ramaphosa	✓	✗	✗	✓
Lesego Rammusi	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mike Esterhuysen	✓	✓	✗	✓
Paul Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roshael Hoosen	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sharmila Govind – resigned 9/3/2022	✓	✗	✗	NA
Yolan Friedmann – CEO – ex officio	✓	✓	✓	✓
In attendance – Alison Jänicke Head of Resource Development	✓	✓	✓	✓

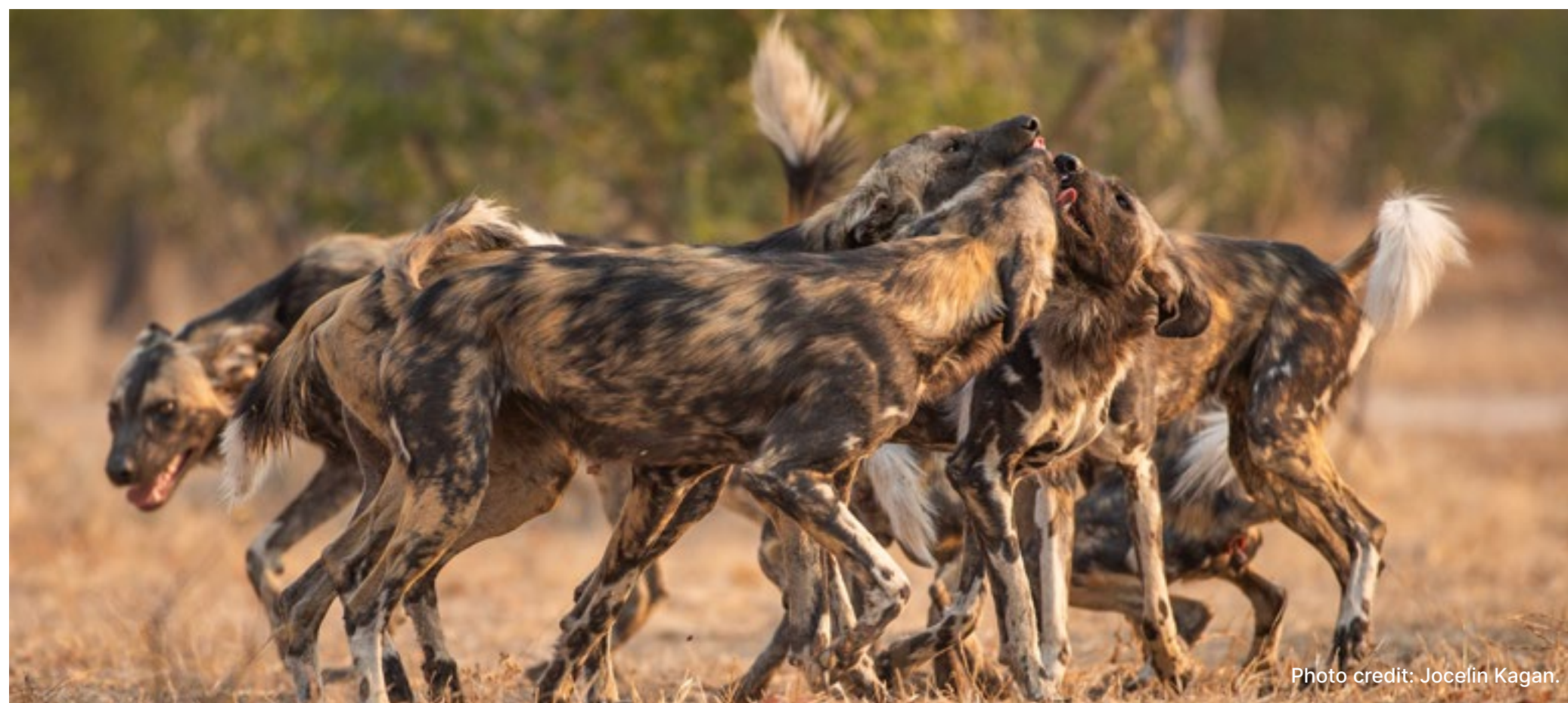


Photo credit: Jocelin Kagan.



Internal structures

Executive Management Team: The EWT Executive Management Team consisted of Yolán Friedmann (CEO and Chairperson), Mandy Poole (Head of Finance and Governance), Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert (Head of Conservation), Alison Jänicke (Head of Resource Development), Kerry Morrison (Senior Programme Manager: Africa), Constant Hoogstad (Senior Programme Manager: Industry Partnerships) and Dr Ian Little (Senior Programme Manager: Habitats). The team generally met on a weekly basis, subject to schedules and holidays. Agenda items focussed on strategic matters, governance and compliance, financial performance, resource development –(human and financial), physical infrastructure (properties and equipment), operations and IT, communications and branding, partnerships, and new ventures.

Conservation Management Team: The EWT Conservation Management Team (CMT) met ten times during the financial year. Support Services and Programme Managers attended these meetings, focusing on conservation, research, ethics, operations, and 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 well-being and sustainability are also discussed from a programme/project perspective.

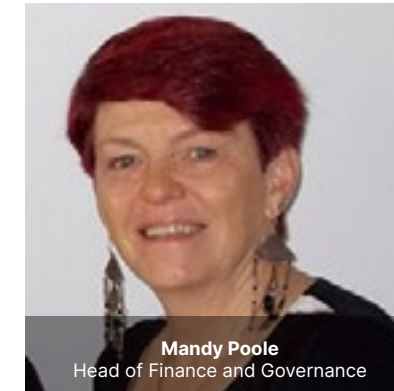
Conservation Forum: The EWT Conservation Forum (CF) met ten times in the financial year. These meetings are for all staff, with field-based staff joining the meeting using internet-based video meeting platforms. The CF provides a forum for information-sharing between field and head office-based staff and seeks to promote a greater understanding of one another's portfolios of work. Guest speakers often attend to raise awareness of issues outside of the EWT's fields of expertise. Meetings are recorded for staff to listen to if they cannot attend in real-time.

Compliance

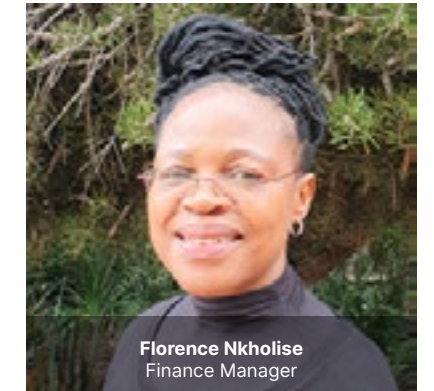
The EWT regularly reviews its internal policies and procedures to ensure that the Trust is compliant with and progressive in its application of all external and statutory requirements.

In the financial period under review, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr has provided invaluable legal assistance, particularly regarding the issuance of new Letters of Authority by the Master of the High Court.

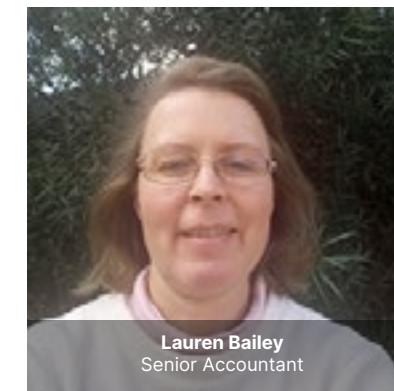
FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE TEAM



Mandy Poole
Head of Finance and Governance



Florence Nkholise
Finance Manager



Lauren Bailey
Senior Accountant



Melissa Govindsamy
Senior Bookkeeper



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent Auditor's Report To The Trustees Of The Endangered Wildlife Trust



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

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the summary statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended, and summary notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of The Endangered Wildlife Trust for the year ended 30 June 2022. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 8 November 2022.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the financial statements. However, the summary financial statements are misstated to the equivalent extent as the audited financial statements of The Endangered Wildlife Trust for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Summary Financial Statements

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

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 02 November 2022.

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

Trustees' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

Deloitte & Touche
Registered Auditor
Per: F Coovadia
Partner
8 November 2022



National Executive: *R Reddam Chief Executive Officer *GM Berry Chief Operating Officer *JW Eshun Managing Director Business UN Makhulu Chief People Officer *N Sing Chief Risk Officer *P Theophanides Chief Sustainability Officer *NA le Riche Chief Growth Officer *ME Tshabalala Audit & Assurance *AM Babu Consulting *A Oduko Financial Advisory *G Rammeo Risk Advisory *D Kubeka Tax & Legal *DP Nkomo Chair of the Board

A full list of partners and directors is available on request.

* Partner and Registered Auditor

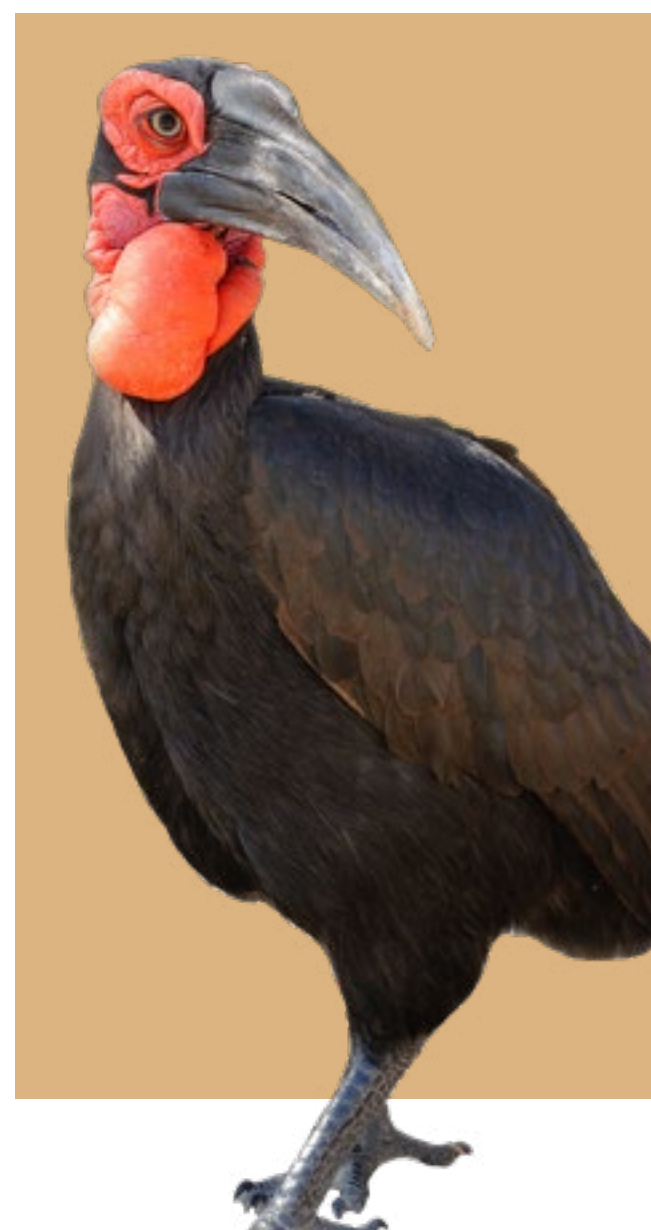
B-BBEE rating: Level 1 contribution in terms of the DTI Generic Scorecard as per the amended Codes of Good Practice

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



Summary statement of the EWT's financial position as at 30 June 2022

	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	R	R
ASSETS		
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Land holdings and Buildings	24,377,448	24,253,765
Property and equipment	5,637,730	3,900,616
<i>Total non-current assets</i>	<u>30,015,178</u>	<u>28,154,381</u>
Current assets		
<i>Accounts receivable</i>	9,152,145	1,149,550
E-shop stock in hand	93,576	125,509
Cash and cash equivalents	49,250,575	51,684,092
Total current assets	<u>58,496,296</u>	<u>52,959,151</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>88,511,474</u>	<u>81,113,532</u>
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
<i>Trust funds</i>		
Accumulated funds	12,022,805	8,925,281
Non-distributable reserves	28,720,752	27,033,160
<i>Total Trust funds</i>	<u>40,743,557</u>	<u>35,958,441</u>
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	1,158,566	2,015,945
Funds held on behalf of other organisations	3,049,960	3,911,463
Deferred revenue	42,677,837	38,428,236
Leave Provision	881,554	799,448
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	<u>47,767,917</u>	<u>45,155,091</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	<u>88,511,474</u>	<u>81,113,532</u>



Summary statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2021

	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	R	R
Revenue	70,603,359	57,536,419
Expenses	(67,505,835)	(57,418,914)
Total Comprehensive Operational (Deficit)/ Surplus for the year	<u>3,097,524</u>	<u>117,505</u>
<i>After charging:</i>		
Depreciation		
Owned and leased assets - charged to income	331,424	230,739
- charged to non-distributable reserves	1,637,411	1,584,001
	<u>1,968,835</u>	<u>1,814,740</u>
<i>and after crediting:</i>		
Interest received – bank deposits	1,928,065	1,314,376
<hr/>		
Accumulated funds at beginning of period	8,925,281	8,807,776
Accumulated funds at end of period	<u>12,022,805</u>	<u>8,925,281</u>



Notes to the summary financial statements

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Revenue

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

1.2 Deferred revenue

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

1.3 Land Holdings

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

1.4 Vehicles and equipment

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

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

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

Vehicles	20% straight-line
Equipment	33.3% straight-line

Donated artwork is not depreciated.

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

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



1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.6 Provisions

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

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

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

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

1.7 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Accounts receivable are stated at amortised cost.

Financial liabilities

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

Accounts payable are stated at amortised cost.

1.8 Trust funds

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

1.9 E-Shop Products

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

They are however shown as a separate item on the Balance Sheet.

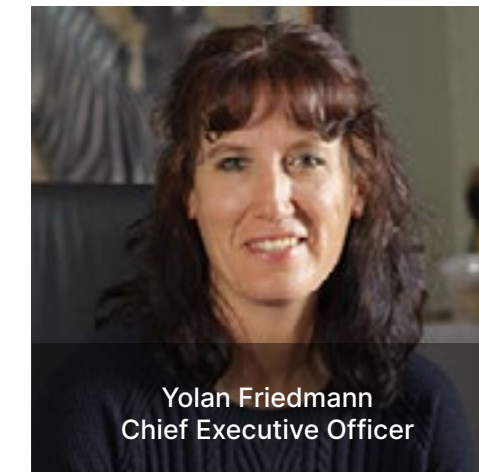
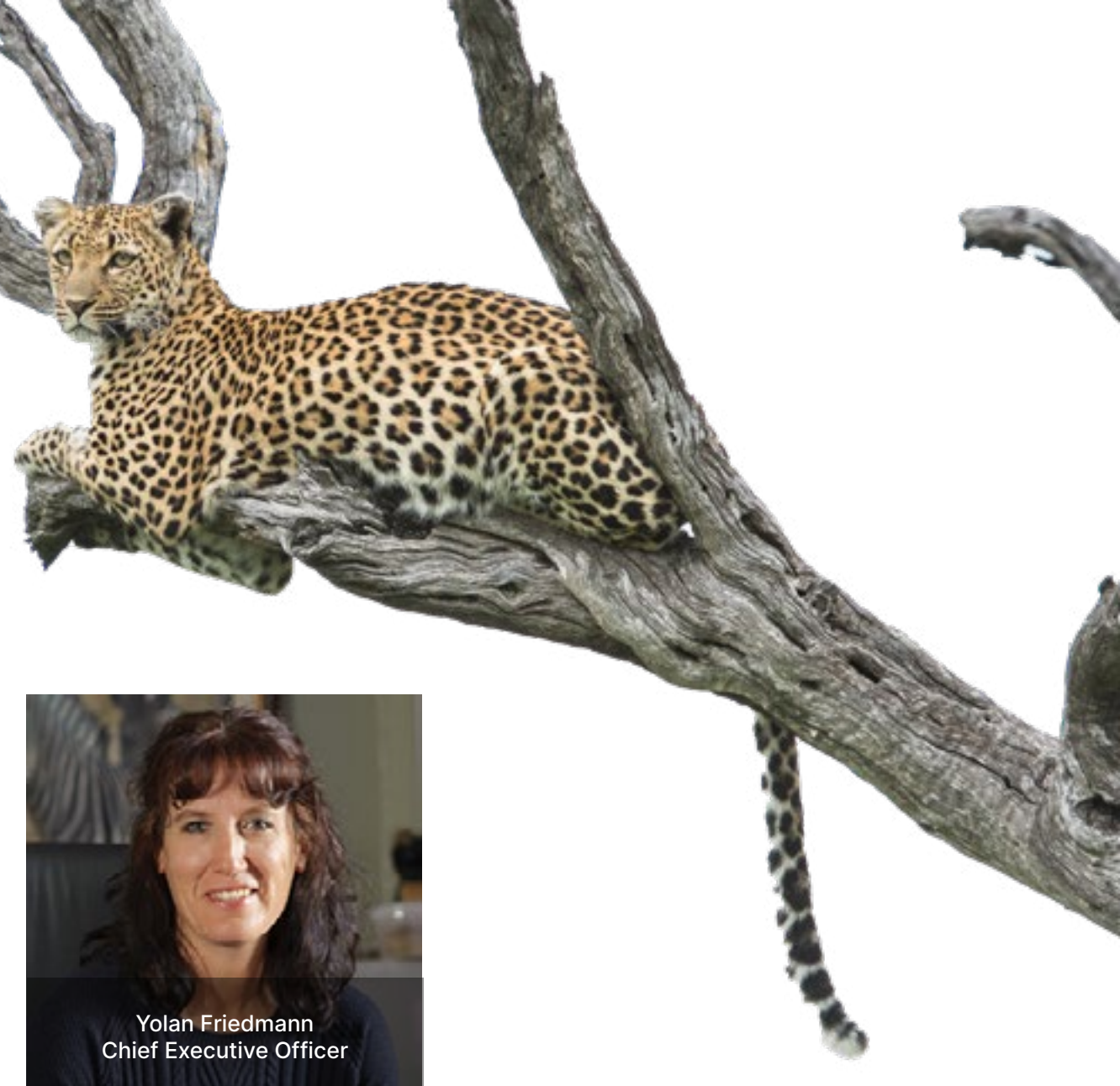


AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

External recognition

Our staff are regularly recognised, both internationally and nationally, for their outstanding contributions towards conservation. These awards are well-deserved acknowledgements for our staff and are an important indicator of our conservation credentials. The EWT is very proud of the following staff who were recognised in the past year for their conservation excellence:

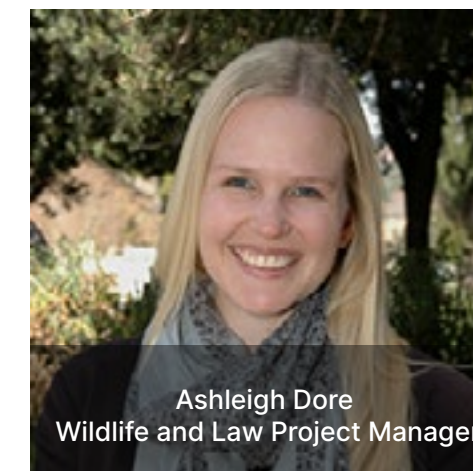
- **Eco-Logical Intelligence Award: Yolán Friedmann** (CEO) received the Intelligence Award. In its tenth year now, the annual Eco-Logic Awards hosted by The Enviropaedia, celebrate individuals, organisations and communities that positively contribute towards a sustainable world. Yolán was recognised for her dedication throughout her professional life to conservation and advocating for environmental justice, good governance, and leadership development in the sector.
- **Mail and Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans 2022: Ashleigh Dore** (Wildlife in Trade Programme) was recognised in the Justice and Law category, and **Sam Nicholson** (Conservation Planning and Science Unit) in the Environment category. The awards celebrate young South Africans on their journey to positively impact the world through future-focused innovation and passion, leaving an indelible mark for generations to come. Ashleigh and Sam shone through a field of over 3,000 nominations.



Yolán Friedmann
Chief Executive Officer



Samantha Nicholson
African Lion Database Manager



Ashleigh Dore
Wildlife and Law Project Manager



Internal awards

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

Programme of the Year: **Conservation Science Unit**

Programme Manager of the Year:
Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi
EWT/ICF Strategic Partnership

Conservation Achiever of the Year: **Matt Pretorius**
Wildlife and Energy Programme

Conservation Supporter of the Year: **Finance Team**
(Florence Nkholise, Lauren Bailey and Melissa Govindsamy, Cynthia Chigangaidze)

Thabo Madlala Award: **Lara Jordan**
African Crane Conservation Programme

Honey Badger (fiercest field officer): **Cole du Plessis**
Carnivore Conservation Programme

Maluti Award (managing conflict situations):
Derek van der Merwe
Carnivore Conservation Programme

Media Award: **Conservation Science Unit**

Newcomer of the Year: **Gabi Teren**
National Biodiversity and Business Network

Pawprint Brand Ambassador Award:
Frank Jackson – Business Development
Jeanne Tarrant – Threatened Amphibians Programme

Special Acknowledgement: **Ashleigh Dore**
Wildlife in Trade Programme

CEO Award: **Cole du Plessis**
Carnivore Conservation Programme

Ten Years Long Service Awards:
Matt Pretorius
Wildlife and Energy Programme

Dorah Mncube
housekeeper

Bonnie Schumann
Drylands Conservation Programme

Vincent van der Merwe
Carnivore Conservation Programme

Derek van der Merwe
Carnivore Conservation Programme



WHO WE WORK WITH

Partners

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

- AfricaMassive
- African Carnivore WildBook
- African Parks
- AfriWet Consultants Etudes et Conseils, Senegal
- Amphibian Survival Alliance
- Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC, Mozambique)
- Anglo-American (PLC)
- APOPO (Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling) (Belgium/Tanzania)
- Artifact Advertising
- Ashia Cheetah Conservation
- Associated Private Nature Reserves
- Association Nature Koussabel, Senegal
- Bakwena Platinum Toll Concessionaire
- Balule Nature Reserve
- Bateleurs
- Bionerds
- BirdLife Botswana
- BirdLife South Africa
- BirdLife Zimbabwe
- BirdWatch Zambia
- BlyOlifant Private Nature Reserve
- BTE renewables
- Burera District, Rwanda
- Business for Nature
- Cape Leopard Trust
- CapeNature
- Capitals Coalition
- Caring for Conservation
- Centre of Applied Pet Ethology (COAPE) SA
- Christo Reeders Attorneys
- Chuilexi Concession (Mozambique)
- City of Cape Town
- Cleveland Zoo
- Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO), Kenya
- Conservation Coaches Network



Preparing a Cheetah for translocation to Maputo Special Reserve in Mozambique. Photo credit: Ashia Cheetah Conservation



- Conservation Measures Partnership
- Conservation Outcomes
- Conservation South Africa
- Contemplate Wild
- Convention on Migratory Species Raptors Memorandum of Understanding
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)
- Douglas Wilson
- Dwarf Tortoise Conservation
- East African Energy Programme
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)
- Enviro Wildfire
- Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
- Esri South Africa
- EThekweni Municipality (Biodiversity Management Department)
- European Union
- Eurosteel
- Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust
- Ezemvelo KZN Honorary Officers
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)
- Fauna and Flora International
- F E van Pletzen/L Steynberg Trust
- Fishwater Films
- FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology
- FreeMe Wildlife
- Ford Wildlife Foundation
- Freshwater Research Centre
- Fynbos Trust
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Genesis K9
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
- Global Conservation Force
- Global Environment and Technology Foundation
- Global Environment Facility Protected Area Programme
- Global Environment Facility Sustainable Land Management (GEF5 SLM) Project
- Global Partnerships for Business and Biodiversity (GPBB) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (Zimbabwe)
- Government of Zambia
- Hawk Conservancy Trust
- Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park
- I3A
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College – Kitabi
- International Crane Foundation (ICF)
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park
- IUCN Save Our Species
- Ivan Carter Foundation
- Kaingo Game Reserve
- Karkloof Conservancy
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Kloof Conservancy
- Kimberley Veterinary Clinic
- Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (KCWCG)
- Klein Swartberg Conservancy
- Kruger National Park
- Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve
- KZN Trail Running
- Lesoba Difference
- Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (Malawi)
- Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism
- Mafube Coal
- Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve
- Mammal Research Institute: Whale Unit
- Manor House, Kenya
- Margaret Pyke Trust
- Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- Mondi South Africa
- Mozambique Wildlife Alliance
- MSD Health
- N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited (N3TC)
- Namibia Animal Rehabilitation and Research Centre
- Nandi County Government, Kenya



- Karingani Game Reserve
- Karkloof Conservancy
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Kloof Conservancy
- Kimberley Veterinary Clinic
- Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (KCWCG)
- Klein Swartberg Conservancy
- Kruger National Park
- Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve
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- Mondi South Africa
- Mozambique Wildlife Alliance
- MSD Health
- N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited (N3TC)
- Namibia Animal Rehabilitation and Research Centre

- Nandi County Government, Kenya
- National Geographic
- National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO)
- Natural Capital Coalition
- NatureMetrics
- Niassa Carnivore Project
- North West Parks and Tourism Board
- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL)
- Northern Cape Raptor Conservation Forum
- Nupen Staude de Vries attorneys
- One Health Forum
- Overberg Crane Group
- Pathfinder International
- Peace Parks Foundation
- The Peregrine Fund (UK)
- Puy du Fou
- PWC Africa
- Quiver Tree Lodgings
- Raptors Botswana
- Red-Cap Renewable Energy
- re:wild (formerly Global Wildlife Conservation) (USA)
- Relate Trust
- Remembering Wildlife
- Robyn Ansell Art





- Rukiga and Lwengo district local governments, Uganda
- Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association
- SANParks
- SANParks Honorary Rangers
- Scent Imprint
- Shoprite
- Sibanye-Stillwater
- Somkhanda Community Game Reserve
- South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Parks
- Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)
- Tech for Conservation
- The Wild Foundation (US)
- Thrive, Kenya
- Timbavati Private Nature Reserve
- Trans African Concessions (TRAC)
- Transfrontier Africa
- Transnet
- Trans Nzoia County Government, Kenya
- Trappers
- Uasin Gishu County Government, Kenya
- Uganda Conservation Foundation
- Uganda Ministry of Wildlife, Tourism, and Antiquities
- Uganda Wildlife Authority
- Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Umzimvubu Catchment Alliance
- Verdant Environmental
- Vhembe Biosphere Reserve
- Waterbear
- Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative
- WeAct
- Welgevonden Game Reserve
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture
- Wild Earth
- Wild Estate
- Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve
- Wildbook
- Wilderness Foundation
- Wildlife Act
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
- Wildlife Conservation Network
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Woolworths
- WWF South Africa
- WWF Zambia
- Zambian Carnivore Programme
- Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife

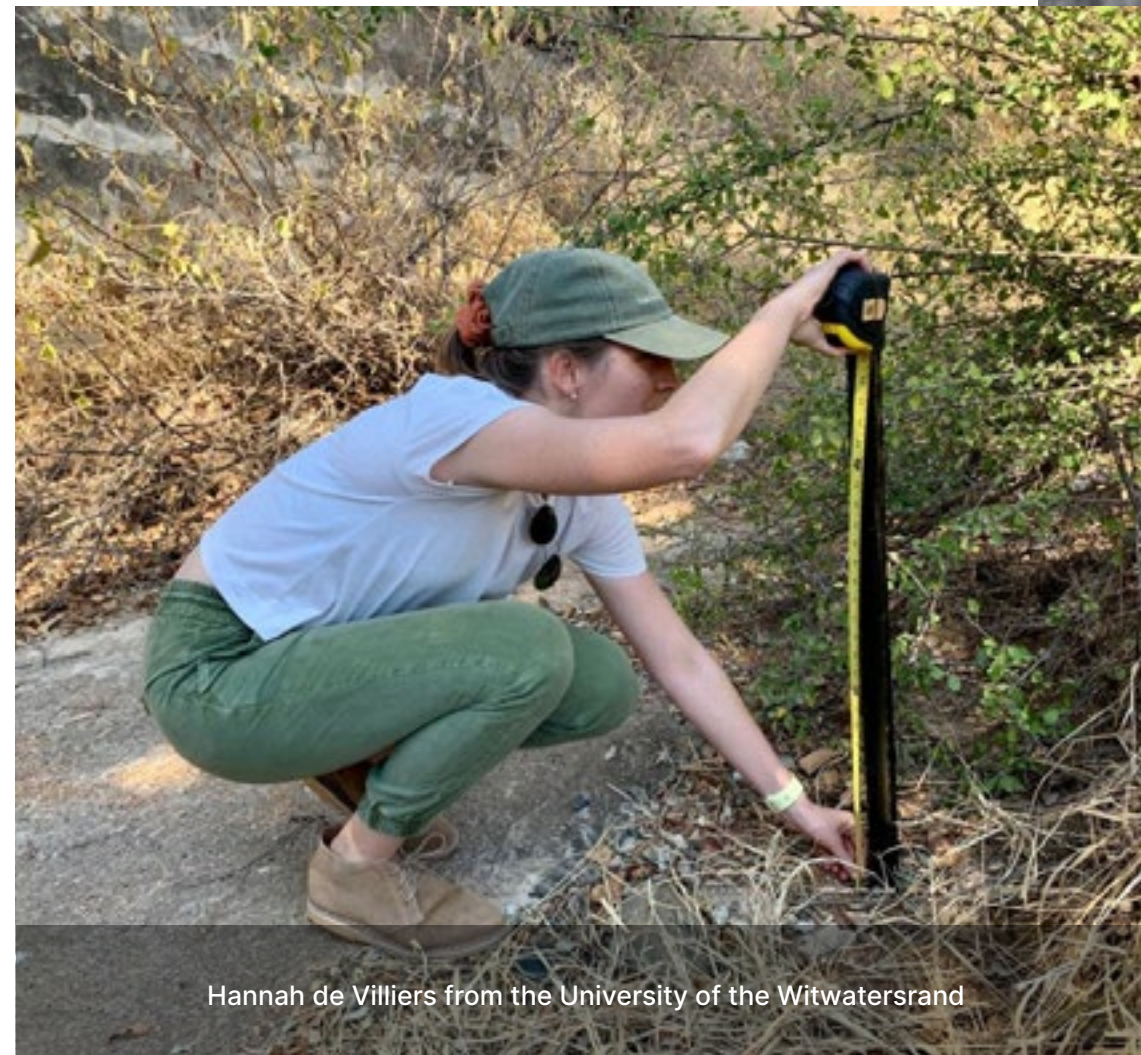


In addition, through our action on the ground across most of the country, we work closely with all relevant national and provincial conservation departments and agencies.

Our efforts to ensure that our work is based on sound scientific methods, and contributes to knowledge in the conservation sector, mean that we have forged strong relationships with a diversity of academic institutions, and many staff have formal associations with universities. Our academic partners include:

- Alterra Wageningen University (Netherlands)
- Boise State University (USA)
- Durham University (UK)
- Jimma University (Ethiopia)
- Liverpool John Moores University (UK)
- North-West University
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Tshwane University of Technology
- University of California, Davis
- University of Cape Town
- University of Cheikh Anta Diop op Dakar (Senegal)
- University of Edinburgh (UK)
- University of Freiburg (Germany)
- University of Johannesburg
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- University of Mpumalanga
- University of Maryland (SESYNC)
- University of Pretoria

- University of South Africa
- University of Stellenbosch
- University of Venda
- University of Wisconsin (USA)
- University of the Witwatersrand



Hannah de Villiers from the University of the Witwatersrand



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

The EWT is a long-standing member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation comprising approximately 1,400 government and NGO members. During the year under review, the EWT's Head of Conservation, Dr Ian Little, continued in his role on the IUCN South Africa National Committee, and maintained his position as the Regional Chair for East and southern Africa for the Commission on Ecosystem Management and also represented the EWT on the Temperate Grasslands Specialist Group, and the Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship Group, of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). Wendy Collinson was also an active member of several specialist groups of the WCPA related to connectivity and road ecology.

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

- Afrotheria Specialist Group (Dr Andrew Taylor, Chair).
- Amphibian Specialist Group (Dr Jeanne Tarrant, Co-Chair Habitat Protection Working Group; Regional Chair, southern Africa).
- Canid Specialist Group, and its subsidiary, the Wild Dog Advisory Group (Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert).
- Cat Specialist Group, and its subsidiary, the African Lion Working Group (André Botha; Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, Yolan Friedmann, Samantha Nicholson).
- Conservation Planning Specialist Group (André Botha; Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, Kerry Morrison, Dr Lauren Waller).
- Crane Specialist Group (Kerry Morrison, Chair).

- Hornbill Specialist Group (André Botha, Dr Gareth Tate).
- National Red List Alliance (Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, Coordinating Body).
- SA-Plant Specialist Group (Dr Jenny Botha)
- Species Monitoring Specialist Group (Dr Lizanne Roxburgh).
- Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group (André Botha).
- Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (Andrew Taylor)
- Vulture Specialist Group (André Botha, co-Chair, Dr Lizanne Roxburgh).
- Lagomorph Specialist Group (Cobus Theron).

Ashleigh Dore became a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law and participated in several workings groups of this Commission.



Dr Jeanne Tarrant teaching local communities about frogs and wetlands.



Declaration of Interest database

André Botha Vice-Chair of the Technical Advisory Group of the Convention on Migratory Species' (CMS) Raptors MoU; CMS Working Group on the Prevention of Wildlife Poisoning (and served on its Lead Task Force); Working Group for the Prevention of Wildlife Poisoning in southern Africa; Director, Board of the Raptors Research Foundation; Over-arching Coordinator, CMS Vulture MsAP; DFFE National Vulture Task Force; National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group; National Lead Task Team

Dr Andrew Taylor Extraordinary Lecturer, Dept. of Production Animal Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria; IUCN Species Survival Commission Afrotheria Specialist Group; National Wildlife Forum, Dept. of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment; GDARD Biodiversity Forum

Ashleigh Dore IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law; European Union of Restorative Justice: Environmental Restorative Justice Working Group; GEF6 Steering Committee; National Cycad Task Team; DFFE Advisory Committee on matters related to the management, breeding, hunting, and handling of elephant, Lion, Leopard and rhinoceros

Cath Vise Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve Association; Baobab Foundation

Cherise Acker Vice-chair, KZN Wetland Forum; Conservation Symposium Steering Committee; KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Working Group; Isipingo and Amanzimtoti Catchment Management Forum

Cole du Plessis KZN Wild Dog Management Group

Constant Hoogstad CMS Energy Task Force

Esther Matthew IUCN Lagomorph Specialist Group; 2021 Dog Scent Technology (PTY) LTD; National Geographic Society Explorer; Amphibian Survival Alliances: Future Leaders for Amphibian Conservation

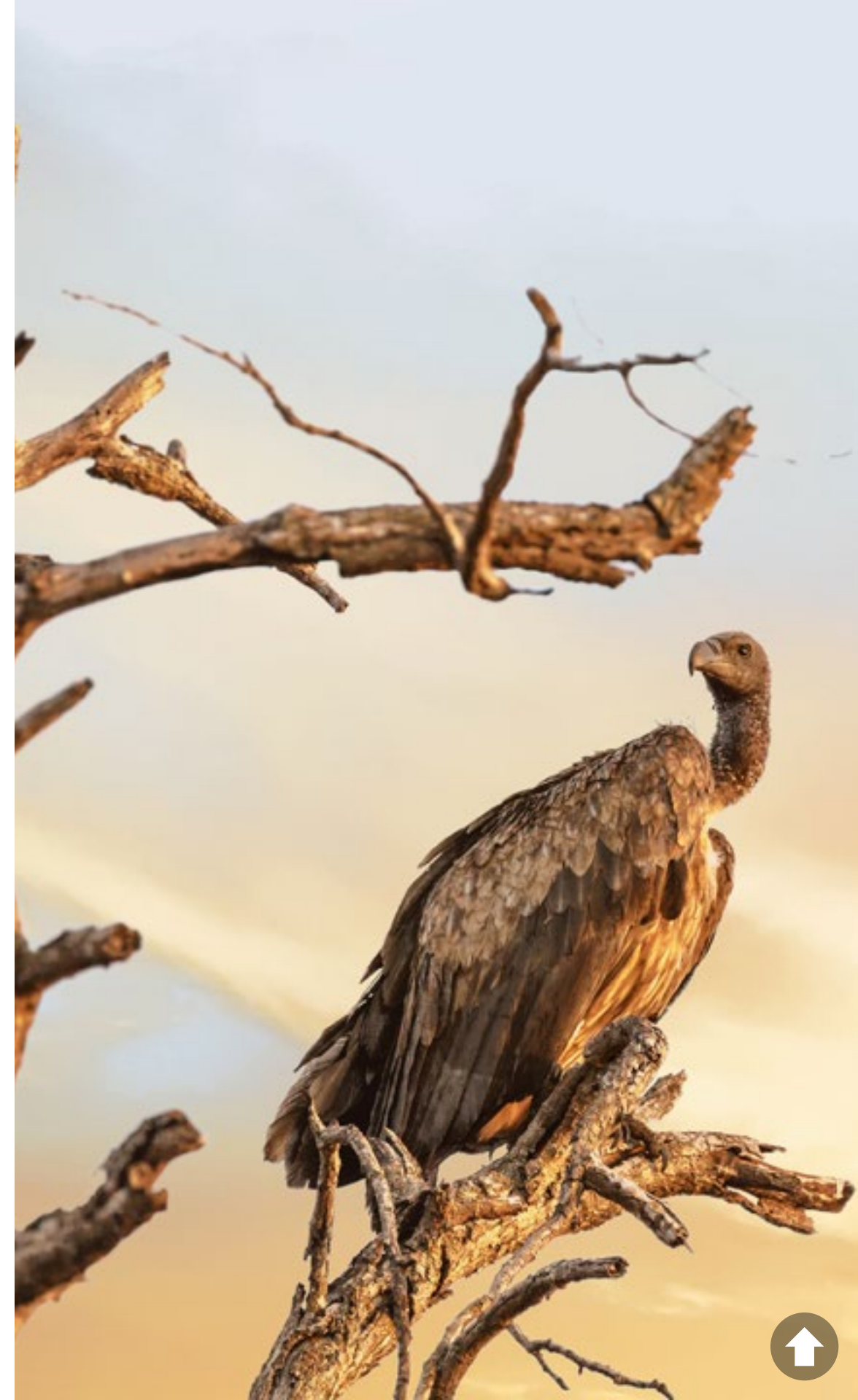
Dr Gabi Teren Wits University, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences; Elephant Specialist Advisory Group (ESAG)

Dr Gareth Tate DFFE National Vulture Task Force; South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING) Steering Committee; Bearded Vulture Task Force; Research Associate: FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town; Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group, South Africa; National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group; National Lead Task Team

Grant Beverley Wild Dog Advisory Group

Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert Alliance for Zero Extinction; UNISA Nature Conservation Programme; IUCN Species Survival Canid Specialist Group; IUCN Task Force on Family Planning; IUCN East and Southern Africa Regional Committee; Conservation Measures Partnership; IUCN Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development; IUCN South Africa National Committee; Eugène Marais Chair of Wildlife Management, Mammal Research Institute, University of Pretoria; IUCN Species Survival Commission Conservation Planning Specialist Group

Dr Ian Little Non-executive director of the Biodiversity Law Centre; IUCN CEM Biosphere Reserves Thematic Group; East and Southern Africa regional chair for the IUCN Commission On Ecosystem Management; National Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group; IUCN CEM Ecosystem Restoration Thematic Group





Dr Jeanne Tarrant IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group; Amphibian Survival Alliance Global Council representative; African Journal of Wildlife Research; Frontiers in Environmental Science; IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group; Conservation Symposium Scientific Committee; Chair, Sungazer Working Group (South Africa); Committee Member, Herpetological Association of Africa; Associate Editor for African Journal of Wildlife Research and Journal of Herpetology

Dr Jenny Botha SSCN Plant utilisation and sustainable use; IUCN-SSC Southern African Plant Specialist Group Meeting; SANBI Medicinal Plant Working Group

Johan Du Plessis Bird and Renewable Energy Specialist Group

Joshua Weeber South African Regional Reptile Specialist Group; WITS Animal Research Ethics Committee

Kerryn Morrison IUCN Species Survival Commission Crane Specialist Group; African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement's International Grey Crowned Crane Working Group

Dr Lindy Thompson IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group; Bearded Vulture Task Force; DFFE National Vulture Task Force; National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group; National Lead Task Team

Dr Lizanne Roxburgh IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist group; IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group; AEW Technical Committee

Lourens Leeuwner Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group; South African Bat Association Assessment Panel; African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology; Global Conference for Infrastructure and Ecology; African Protected Areas Congress; Envirotech Care Group

Megan Murison Conservation Measures Partnership Integrated Reproductive Health and Conservation Learning Initiative

Sam Nicholson University of KwaZulu-Natal; African Lion Working Group; EWT Ethics Committee; Wild Dog Advisory Group; National Action Lion Task Team (NALTT); Lion Management Forum - South Africa; IUCN Species Survival Commission Cat Specialist Group

Wendy Collinson Infrastructure Ecology Network Europe (IENE); African Protected Areas Congress Committee for Infrastructure; South African Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) Research Committee; IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA); Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group; IUCN Transport Working Group; Transportation Research Board (TRB); Infrastructure Ecology Network Europe (IENE) Governing Body; Infrastructure Ecology Network Europe (IENE) Scientific Expert Committee (SEC); African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE); Global Congress for Linear Infrastructure and the Environment (GCLIE); International Conference for Ecology and Transportation (ICOET: Steering and Programme Committee); Research Fellow: South African Research Chair in Biodiversity Value & Change, University of Venda; African Rail Ecology Research Group

Yolan Friedmann Ford Wildlife Foundation; SANParks Board; SANParks Board Conservation and Socio-economic Transformation Committee; Board Member, Tourism Conservation Fund; Environmental Subcommittee and Just Transition Working Group, Business Unity South Africa (BUSA); Advisory Board, Global Change Institute (University of the Witwatersrand)

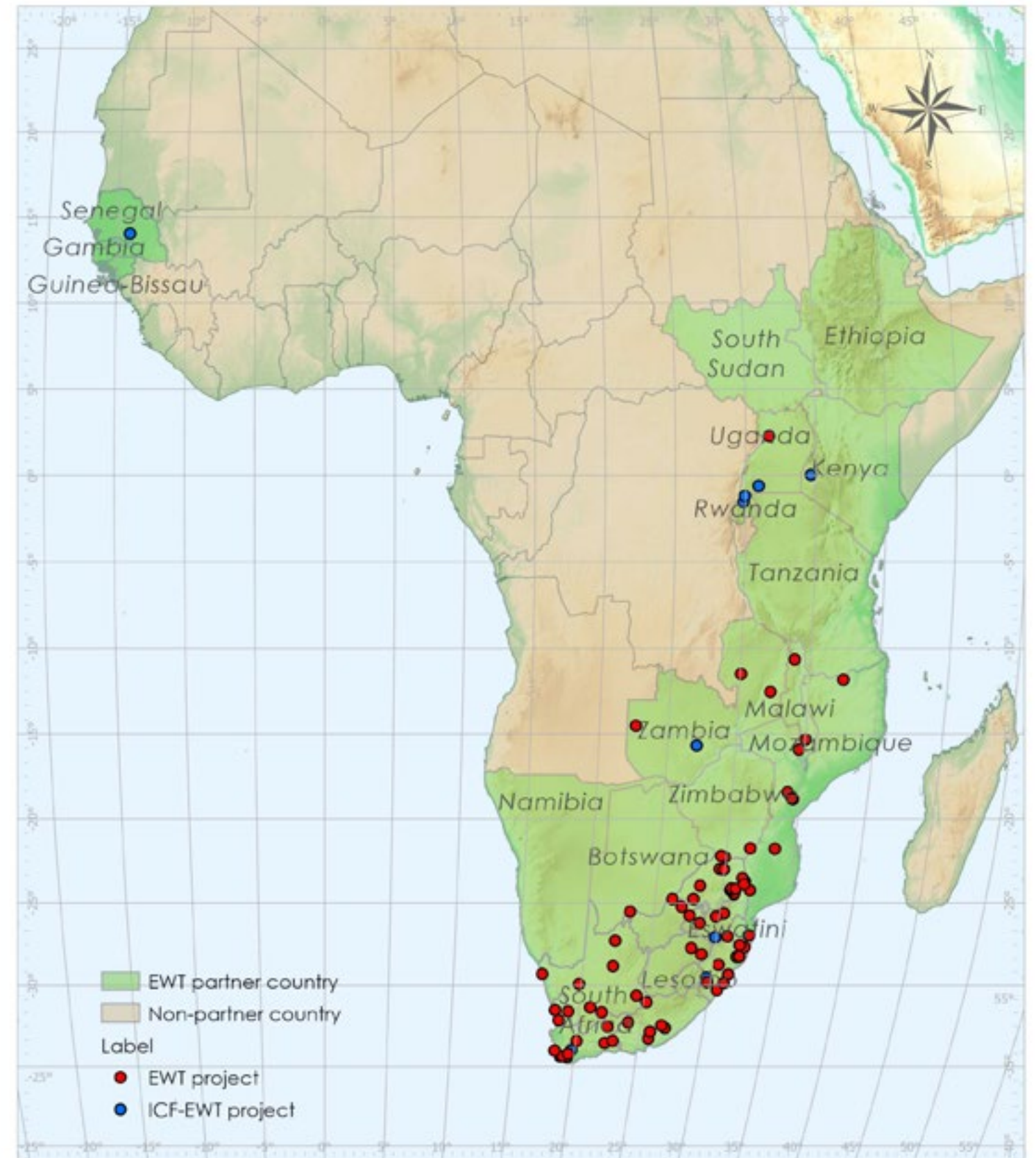


WHERE WE WORK

The EWT's Head Office (pictured here) is situated in Johannesburg but our staff are active across all of South Africa's nine provinces. We also work across 20 other countries in Africa, both through in-country partnerships and as part of the work we do under the International Crane Foundation (ICF)/EWT Partnership.



Our Conservation Campus in Midrand, proudly sponsored by the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust and Rand Merchant Bank, with Metro Fibre, Ryobi, Speedspace, Standard Bank, the Meter Man, Tiletoria, and Wigget Architects.



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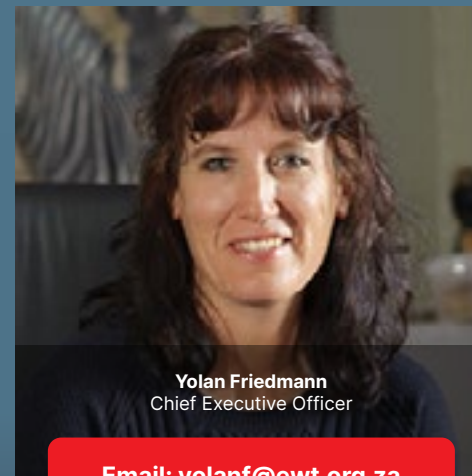


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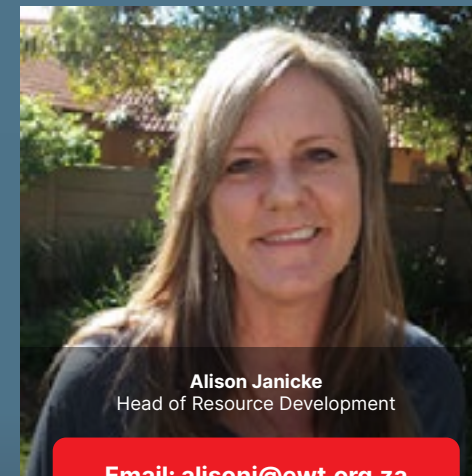
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EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



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Chief Executive Officer

Email: yolanf@ewt.org.za



Alison Janicke
Head of Resource Development

Email: alisonj@ewt.org.za



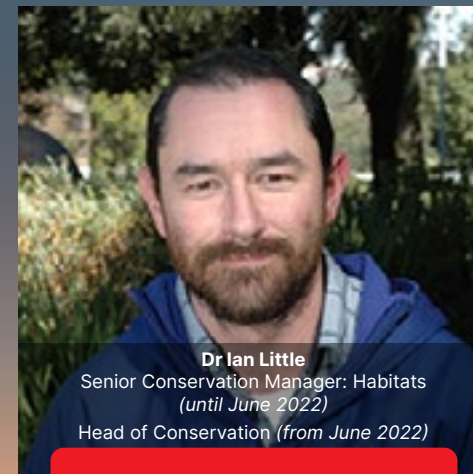
Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert
Head of Conservation
(Until June 2022)



Mandy Poole
Chief Operations Officer

Email: mandyp@ewt.org.za

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

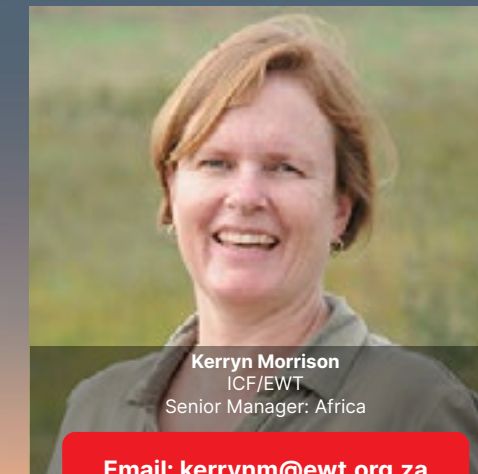


Dr Ian Little
Senior Conservation Manager: Habitats
(until June 2022)
Head of Conservation (from June 2022)

Email: ianl@ewt.org.za



Constant Hoogstad
Senior Manager:
Industry Partnerships
(Until June 2022)



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Senior Manager: Africa

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