Endangered Wildlife Trust

Protecting Forever Together

50 YEARS

50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION,
50 YEARS OF DEDICATION

2022 - 2023
INTEGRATED REPORT



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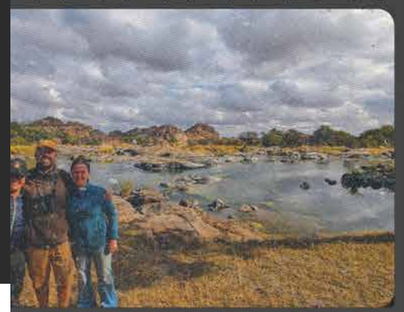
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



The natural and physical sciences provide a rich store of clear facts as to how our planet has evolved through the ages. In recent times, much research has identified and advocated just how we humans are affecting these cycles. Scientific disciplines such as physics, biology and ecology have set parameters against which research and the resultant facts are analysed and evaluated, with clear cause-and-effect parameters driving logical conclusions which inform practical outcomes.

Unlike the natural and physical sciences the social sciences tend not to have such clear parameters and laws which channel discussion and evaluation as decisively as the physical and natural sciences do.

It is my contention that the biggest and potentially most destructive force we have challenging our natural environment is humankinds' inability to order economic regulation with respect to conservation necessities proven by science. Our value system needs to change much more rapidly to enable our generation to have a meaningful impact on "Planet Purity" by putting our collective conservation knowledge into action.

Our challenge as humankind is how we, in a rapidly evolving modern and diverse global society, agree on the economic and political strategies, which incorporate the now starkly obvious environmental realities into a universally accepted plan of action for the conservation of our physical world. The plan must incorporate governance standards to make best use of our scientific and operational capabilities to achieve conservation excellence, including strong and effective sanctions for individual corporations and countries who fail to meet these standards.

It is becoming increasingly evident that it is our socio-economic behaviour which needs to be decisively changed, and a new set of values must evolve at the core of human interaction to eradicate environmental atrocities.

I am convinced that the social sciences will need to play a much-heightened role in conservation to shape the values that we need in order to be pervasive in the global economic and political arenas, if conservation is to be given a fair chance of being effective. We speak daily about human rights, and I suppose, as the apex predator, it is natural for our self-serving views to be given priority. For its own survival and prosperity, humankind needs to shape a set of enhanced rights, which give far more respect to animals and habitats. 50 years ago, these concepts and principles were in their infancy, and the need for the conservation of biodiversity was only just beginning to be recognised.

It is imperative that we find alignment between the socio-political agendas, social sciences and the natural sciences in order to ensure that our knowledge-to-action systems are informing global policy in a way that will secure the long-term functioning of the global ecosystem. Over the last 50 years, the EWT and its multitude of partners in the landscape have been at the forefront of driving targeted conservation efforts in the African context. The next 50 years will be more important than ever as we are witnessing an alarming increase in species extinctions, ecosystem collapses, climate disasters and an erosion of the ecosystem services upon which we humans rely for our daily lives.

It is with great pride that I am able to assure all the followers and supporters of the EWT that this incredible team of conservationists will not only tackle the conservation challenges that loom over the coming decades but will shoot for the stars in terms of their collective impact, to ensure that generations to come can enjoy the beauty and splendour of intact African landscapes and the incredible biodiversity that comes with it.

Over the last year, the team of passionate and dedicated staff of the EWT have continued to excel and, although most of them deserve recognition, a few were honoured with external awards. These include Ashleigh Dore (Wildlife in Trade Programme), who received both a WESSA Award for Youth and a GreenMatter award to support her PhD work. Kulani Nyakane (Carnivore Conservation Programme) also received a commendation from WESSA for his young person's contribution to the environment. Dr Oliver Cowan and, soon-to-be Dr, Josh Weeber also received awards for their presentations at The Conservation Symposium and the South African National Biodiversity Institutes National Student Day, respectively. Internally, at the end of 2022, we recognised the achievements of Dr Gabi Teren's (Programme manager of the year) management efforts in dramatically growing the impact of the NBBN and Bird of Prey Programme as the programme of the year. These are only a few of the many incredible achievements encompassed in this report.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the rest of the EWT board of trustees for their tireless efforts and commitment to ensuring the prosperity of this unique collection of impact-driven individuals that make up the EWT and enable the achievement of the organisations ambitious vision, mission and goals.

Dirk Ackerman
Endangered Wildlife Trust Chair of the Board









MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



From the earliest documented history of human life on Earth, mankind has interacted with nature through a variety of systems and relationships. Though not formalised in its practice by early man, one could contend that our use of, and engagement with nature for food, cover, tools and cultural or religious practice over millennia, form the underpinnings of what would lead to what we could call conservation today.

As hunters and gatherers, humans who depended directly on natural resources for their survival, controlled and managed access to natural resources through systems of religious beliefs and the use of resources by traditional healers. In Africa, there were superstitions against killing certain species like hyena, hammerkop or chameleon and people were prohibited from hunting or eating their totem animals. Scarce or valuable products were given to their leaders as gifts. Areas were demarcated for specific purposes, like religious or tribal gatherings and these included sacred forests, burial sites and hills for ceremonies and rituals. Human beings have therefore been assigning restrictions to the use of various animals, plants and areas for all sorts of reasons, since the dawn of time.

But humans have also been increasingly exploiting the planet's resources, and as human populations have grown, so have our use – and overuse – of many thousands of species, and our depletion of natural systems, globally. To the point where rates of extinction on the planet have been escalating and now threaten to unravel the very fabric of this gloriously diverse, richly wild planet of ours. In response, what has now become known as the Environmental Movement has become a planetary force of its own.

Around the start of the last century, environmental discourse became more formalised and was characterised by issues which map the storyline, such as soil erosion in the 1930s, urban smog in the 1950s, chemicals in the 1960s, resource depletion in the early 1970s, nuclear power in the late 1970s, acid rain in the early 1980s, and the recognition of global ecological issues like ozone depletion and climate change today, documenting a shift in identifying environmental issues from those with local dimensions and impacts to those that form a picture of a planet in peril. It is largely recognised that the Stockholm conference (United Nations Conference on the Human Environment) held in 1972 was the catalyst of formal environmental protection activities globally, and the 1970s were a busy time with a slew of multilateral environmental agreements entering into force, such as wetland conservation (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance/Ramsar, 1971), wildlife trade (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora/CITES, 1973) and migratory species (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species/CMS, 1979).



Signifying increasing internationalisation of environmental issues and a growing realisation that resources are limited and require controlled utilisation and compliance mechanisms to ensure their sustainability.

It is against this backdrop that, back on African soils, an intrepid trio of conservation visionaries recognised the plight of Africa's iconic wildlife and in 1973, embarked on a journey to raise some money, and direct it all into saving perhaps one of the most iconic of all wild animals, the African Cheetah. Little did Clive Walker, James Clarke and Neville Anderson know then, that their desire to safeguard the future of the world's fastest land mammal would evolve into the establishment of one the most effective bastions of the conservation of Africa's wild spaces, wild animals and the communities that depend on both, over the following half a century.

Towards the end of 2023, the Endangered Wildlife Trust will celebrate 50 years of Conservation in Action. In the fifty odd years that have passed since the world kickstarted the environmental movement, countries have signed more and more environmental agreements and millions of community and civil society organisations have been established to empower people and rally society to save our planet – ironically, from ourselves.

However, our planet is not better off for much of what has been done in the past fifty years and many hundreds of thousands of species have been declared extinct during this time. Before we assume that this cannot be possible, consider just this: researchers have identified that it is possible that 15% of the world's 1.25 million mite species had been lost by the year 2020, so for this one taxon alone, we're talking tens to hundreds of thousands of extinctions, a number that researchers predict will continue to rise. Add this to the numerous species of orchids, freshwater fish, amphibians, bats, insects, succulents, trees, reptiles, lichens, mammals and birds that have also been declared extinct in recent times, and one can understand why the race against extinction is not just a catchy phrase.

Turning the tide on extinction is what the EWT has been dedicated to doing, since its inception. For many species our work will perhaps never be done, and they may rely on the relentless focus of the future generations of EWTeam members for The Next Fifty and beyond. But their persistence in their natural habitats, as critical components of the ecosystems that give us all life, is cause for celebration that trumps the EWT just turning half a century old. In fact, 50 years is barely a blip on the screen when one considers for how many millennia these species, that humans have doomed to oblivion, took to evolve, and how their essential role in shaping all lifegiving systems on earth, will now be lost forever. Fifty years is really nothing when it comes to nature, so instead of looking back when we celebrate this milestone, the EWT will be focussing on the Next Fifty and The Next Fifty and beyond. We need to be both future fit as an organisation, with the right skills, capacity, resources and ideas to ensure our own survival, and prosperity; and we need to be keeping a watchful eye on what the future may hold and what that means for the wildlife and wild places, that may need us in decades to come. Many species and ecosystems may be quite common or intact today but with a changing climate, increased pollution, ongoing habitat transformation, deforestation and desertification, over-harvesting and let's face it: increasing human population size which means more and more resource consumption and landuse change, who knows what the future holds for Mother Nature.

Some man-made threats to wildlife, like overharvesting, human-wildlife conflict and land transformation have not changed for centuries, they have just escalated in terms of scope, scale and speed. Futurists, quoted in New Scientist, suggest that we consider threats like genetically engineered viruses, mass offshore power production, demand for the biomass to make biofuel, synthetic bacteria and biomimetic robots, and when we add this to the loss of pollinators, escalating violence and wars, climate refugees, the possibility of nuclear warfare and ramped up climate-related natural disasters, the future world becomes a tricky place for bees, butterflies and bats.

Fortunately, in the past 50 years the EWT has transitioned from working on large mammals only. to addressing the threats facing all of these species, and more. We are proudly working to save the most expansive and diverse list of species and ecosystems in Africa and to be working among the most diverse variety of communities and stakeholders, from big business and rural farmers to traditional healers and school children. What has not changed in 50 years is our responsiveness to change and those in need. Being future fit is also about resilience internally and the EWT is addressing this by nurturing younger talent, modernising our operating systems, and securing our own persistence, through our Fund for the Future. This will ensure that the EWT will be around for many more celebrations like this, and to provide a lifeline for the species, communities and natural systems that need our help.

As you page through the 2023 version of the EWT's Integrated Report, you will come across many examples of how the EWT's approach to conservation has successfully secured the future of numerous species from frogs and golden moles brought back from the edge of extinction to increasing populations of cheetah, cranes and Wild Dogs in South Africa. You will note our robust framework for measuring impact and our continual use of innovation to push knowledge boundaries and generate better results. We hope that you take pride in our growth in both budget and funding spent on projects. We trust that you will celebrate with us, the highs and lows of a year in which global turmoil escalated, and humanity clawed its way back from pandemics and socio-economic instability. But also, a year in which those with passion, commitment, and a calling to safeguard our planet for generations not yet born, were rewarded with results that pack these pages and give us hope.

It has been my privilege and honour to serve at the helm of the EWT as one of only four CEOs in 50 years, for the past 17 years. Prior to this, the EWT was led by great names in conservation like Dr Nick King (2003-2006), Dr John Ledger (1985 – 2002) and of course Clive Walker (1973-1985). Together, with many wonderful people who have gone on to become legends in their own right, we have all had a chance to co-mingle our own life stories into that of the EWT and conservation in Africa. For the generations that will still come, and those who will next pick up the baton. May you write a narrative for The Next Fifty that brings back more life to this planet, keeps our African night skies clear and our savannahs bustling with life.

The EWT began as a flicker of light from a small match struck 50 years ago and today, we burn brightly through the torches carried by all our staff, our trustees, our partners, our associates, our invaluable donors, our communities, our fans and our friends. Without you all, we can only look back, but with you, we embrace the future, robots and all, and stride onward to #TheNextFifty.

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, making this our 50th year of successfully driving conservation action, we are a non-profit organisation with an expanding footprint throughout southern and East Africa, focusing on the conservation of threatened species and ecosystems to the benefit of all. We achieve this by implementing target-driven research and conservation action, supporting community-led conservation, training and building capacity, addressing human-wildlife conflict, monitoring threatened species, and establishing safe spaces for wildlife range expansion. The EWT's team of field-based specialists is spread across southern and East Africa, where committed conservation action is needed the most. We strive to save wildlife and habitats for a world in which both humans and wildlife prosper in harmony with nature.

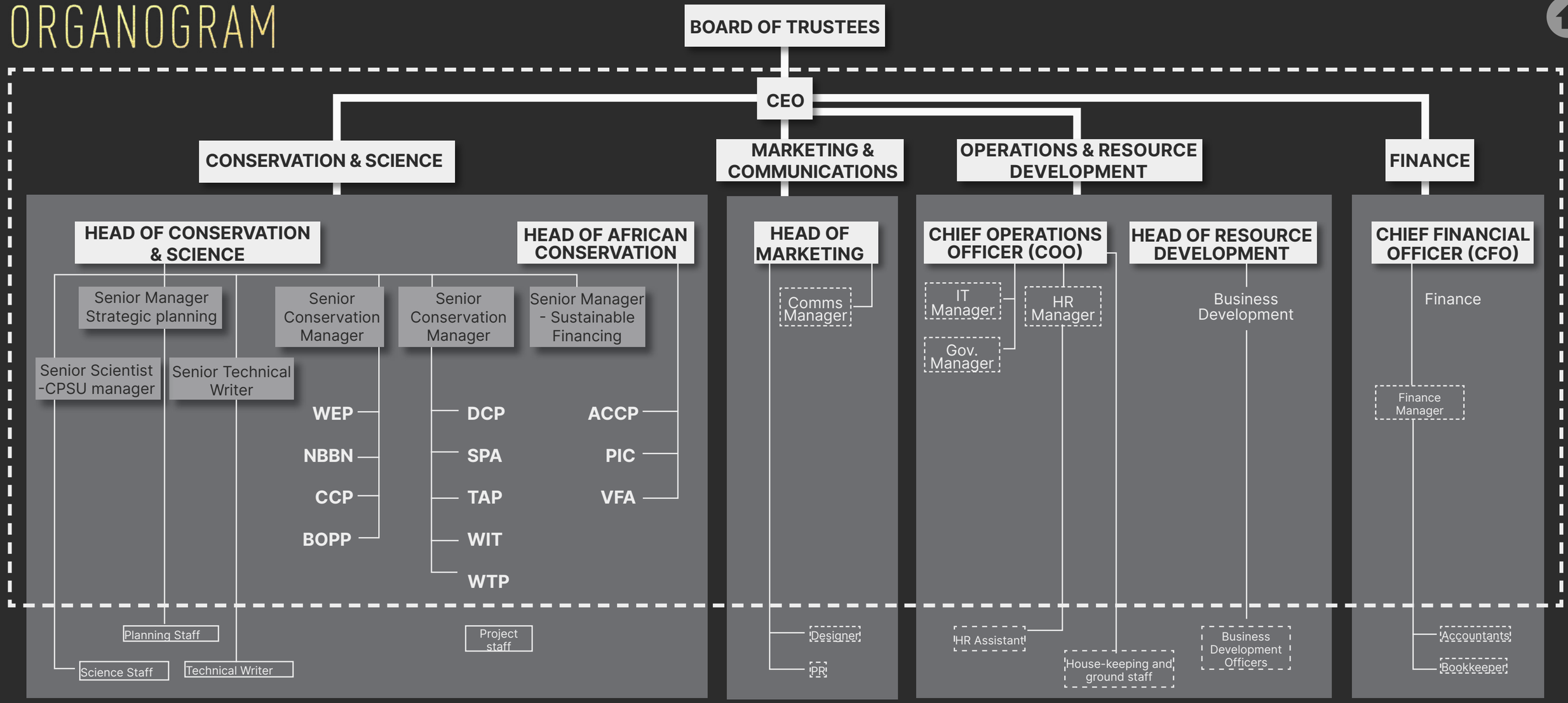
As a public benefit organisation, the EWT communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency.

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 skills and capacity development. 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.

As a beacon of hope for Africa's wildlife, landscapes, and communities, the EWT is protecting forever, together.



ORGANOGRAM



LEGEND

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

Senior Management

Management team

Line reporting

Direct line report

Line report (differs from structure)

OUR STATEGIC IMPACT

With fifty years of dedicated conservation experience, the EWT is entering a new era, with a new strategy aligned to some ambitious global targets. The EWT's Conservation Strategy 2023–2030 focuses on the three Strategic Imperatives that drive our work to conserve threatened wildlife (Saving Species), uphold ecosystem integrity and conserve threatened habitats (Conserving Habitats), and enable biodiversity-friendly businesses, enterprises, and livelihoods (Benefitting People).

These Strategic Imperatives are supported through five High-Level Goals, which define our desired conservation and social impact. We achieve these goals through a growing number of strategic projects under the EWT's conservation programmes, and we report on them using our High-Level Indicators. The EWT's success begins at the project level, and as such, we need to have the ability to scale up project-level success to the organisational level. By successfully monitoring and reporting on the progress towards achieving these goals, the EWT demonstrates a measurable impact to our partners, stakeholders, donors, and the general public. Ongoing financial and practical support from these groups is imperative for the success of the EWT and the work that we do.

By linking these High-Level Indicators to our High-Level Goals, we ensure that it is both possible and practical to report on our goals annually in the EWT's Integrated Report and to inform adaptive management over time.

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 various 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.

124 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

- **54** CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
- **23** JOURNAL ARTICLES
- **22** NEW OR REVISED DATASETS
- **14** TECHNICAL REPORTS
- **9** CONFERENCES OR CONFERENCE SESSIONS
- **2** BOOKS OR BOOK CHAPTERS

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 produced and/or shared over the reporting cycle.

30 DATASETS SHARED

- **11** CONSERVATION PLANS
- **12** EIA's
- **7** FOR RESEARCH







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. Number of target populations and habitats for which threats have been 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.



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 (OECMs).

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

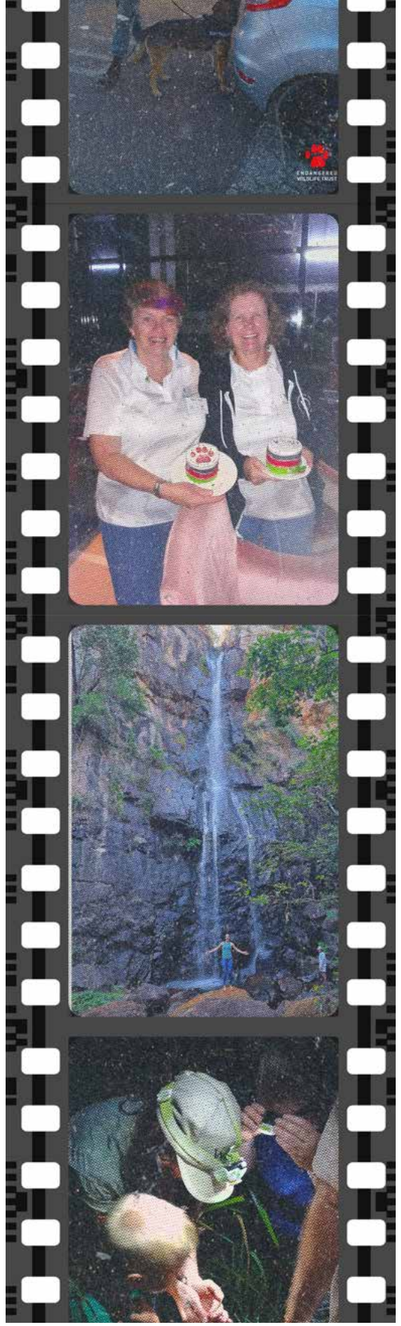
This indicator measures the total land area within priority habitat with increased formal protection and represents the final stage of securing land under protection. An intermediate indicator can be measured as the total land area within priority habitat where landowners have provided letters declaring their consent to proceed with the proclamation or recognition (in the case of OECMs) of new protected areas. This is in recognition 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.

9,202
HECTARES OF LAND WITH FORMAL PROTECTION

8,417
HECTARES OF ADDITIONAL PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT

785
NATURE RESERVES







GOAL 4.
CONSERVATION ACTIONS LEAD TO THRIVING SPECIES AND RESILIENT HABITATS

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.

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.

16
POPULATIONS FOR WHICH ANNUAL CONSERVATION GOALS WERE MET

61,544
HECTARES OF LAND WITH IMPROVED MANAGEMNET

10
CARNIVORE POPULATIONS

3
CRANE POPULATIONS

2
RAPTOR POPULATIONS

1
FROG POPULATIONS

18,233
HECTARES OF ALIEN PLANT CLEARING

43,311
HECTARES OF EROSION CONTROL



GOAL 5.
CONSERVATION ACTIONS AND IMPACTS DRIVE MEANINGFUL CHANGE TO THE BENEFIT OF BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE

Indicator 5a. Number of people whose well-being has directly improved.

This indicator tracks the beneficiaries of EWT activities that deliberately aim to improve the well-being 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.

12,424
PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED WELL-BEING

6,309	4,772	1,277	66
LIVELIHOODS IMPROVED	INDIVIDUALS TRAINING	EDUCATED	LIVELIHOODS PROTECTED

Indicator 5b. Number of businesses or agencies with improved environmental policies and/or operations.

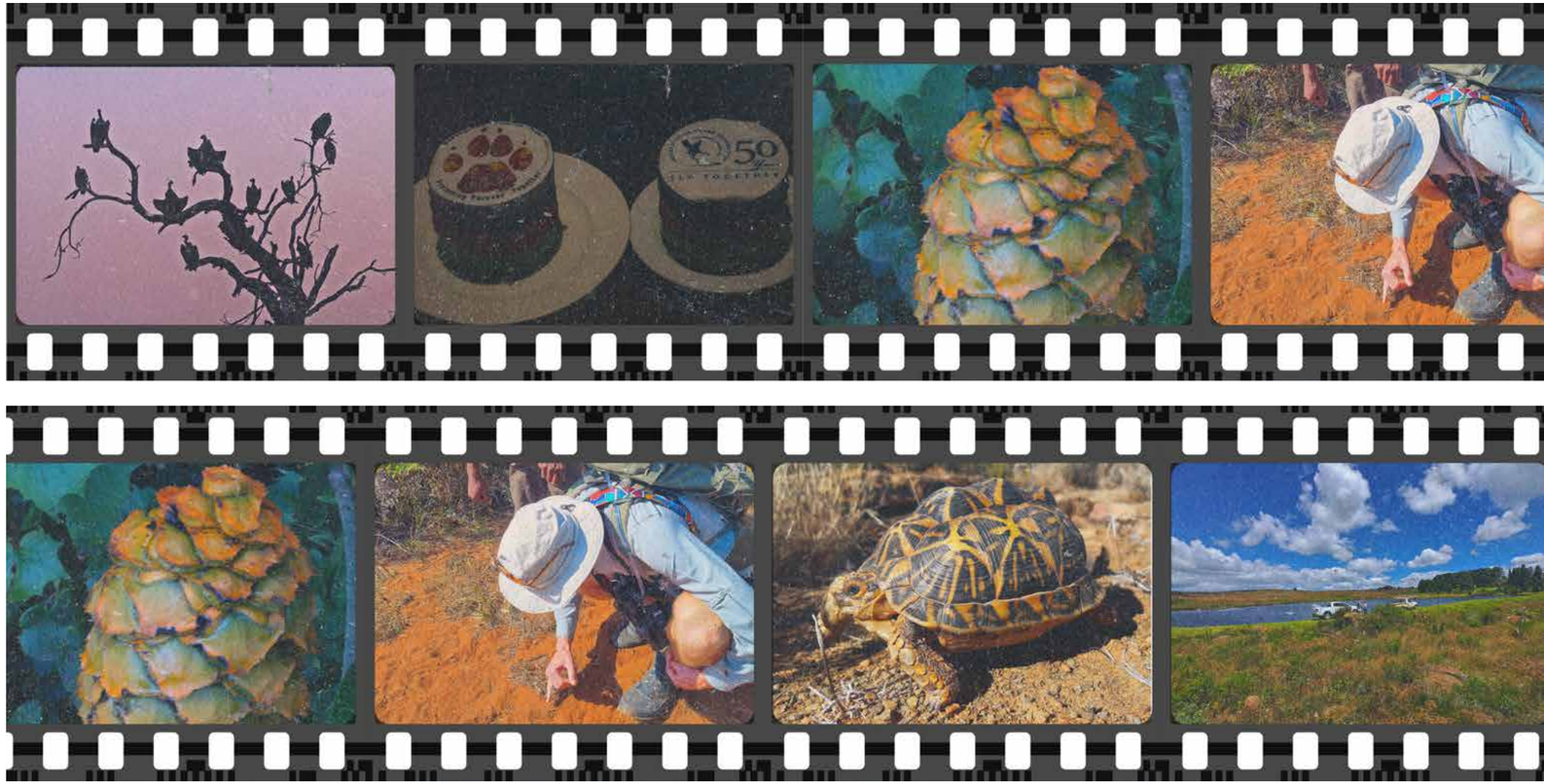
This indicator refers to any organisation or government agency that has improved its business operations or policies for the benefit of biodiversity or the environment due to its interaction with the EWT.

72
BUSINESSES OR AGENCIES WITH IMPROVED POLICIES AND/OR OPERATIONS

THE EWT'S GLOBAL IMPACT

Biodiversity is fundamental to human well-being and progress. Biodiversity provides us with food, medicine, energy, clean air and water, security from natural disasters, recreation, and cultural inspiration. That same biodiversity underlies all systems of life on Earth. Within this context, South Africa is one of the world's 17 mega-diverse countries, and the EWT's work plays a significant role in securing and protecting this life-giving biodiversity and the ecosystems upon which we all rely.

Our targeted conservation work has national and global impact, and our achievements contribute to multiple conservation-related frameworks. These include South Africa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2025) and National Biodiversity Assessment (the primary tool for monitoring and reporting on the state of biodiversity in South Africa), 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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets established by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022 in a global effort to protect and conserve biodiversity.



The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) outlines 23 targets critical to addressing the dangerous loss of biodiversity and restoring natural ecosystems. Our conservation strategy is closely aligned with most of these targets, but most notably targets one, two, three, four, eight, fourteen and twenty-one. These key targets include spatial planning, habitat restoration, protected area expansion, threatened species conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, aligning policy to biodiversity priorities, and ensuring data accessibility for decision-making. In 2023, target three – the so-called "30x30" target – received significant attention globally and within South Africa's conservation sector. This ambitious target aims to identify and safeguard the most important sites for preventing global extinctions by protecting at least 30% of land and seascapes globally by 2030. 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.

WHAT IS THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK?

Click here for more information

While the GBF is not a legally binding agreement, governments like South Africa have signed their commitment towards meeting the GBF targets and updating their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) accordingly. The EWT assists the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) towards updating and aligning the NBSAP to the GBF.

The GBF seeks to respond to the Global Assessment Report of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and many other scientific documents. Together, these documents provide ample evidence that, despite ongoing efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide at rates unprecedented in human history. Linked to this, the GBF sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in our societies' relationship with biodiversity by 2030. This plan is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled. It is built around a theory of change which recognises that urgent policy action is required globally, regionally, and nationally to achieve sustainable development so that the drivers of undesirable change that have exacerbated biodiversity loss will be reduced and/or reversed to allow for the recovery of all ecosystems.



WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 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 agencies, businesses, non-governmental groups, and other entities use to frame their goals and policies. 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. The goals that the EWT contributes to are illustrated on the next page.

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).
- 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.
- The International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Aligning the Endangered Wildlife Trust's projects with GBF April 2023

GBF TRAGETS	African Crane Conservation Programme (ACCP)	National Business And Biodiversity Network (NBBN)	Soutpansberg Protected Area Programme (SPA)	Threatened Amphibian Programme (TAP)	Conservation Planning & Science Unit (CPSU)	People In Conservation Programme (PIC)	Birds Of Prey Programme (BOPP)	Drylands Conservation Programme (DCP)	Wildlife & Energy Programme (WEP)	Wildlife In Trade Programme (WIT)	Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCP)	Wildlife Transport Programme (WTP)	Vultures For Africa Programme (VFA)
1. Spatial planning to prioritize conservation	■	■	■	■	■		■	■			■		
2. Effective restoration of Protected areas	■	■	■	■			■	■					
3. 30 percent of terrestrial areas protected by 2030	■	■	■	■	■		■	■					
4. Halt extinction risks to threatened species	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5. Ensure the sustainable use and trade of wild species			■			■				■			
6. Reduce and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species			■	■									
7. Reduce the impact of pollution from all sources			■	■									■
8. Minimize the impact of climate change	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■				
9. Protect & encourage customary sustainable use	■		■			■							
10. Ensure agriculture & forestry areas are managed sustainably	■	■	■					■					
11. Restore & maintain ecosystem functions and services	■	■	■	■									
12. Increase quality and benfits of green spaces in urban areas					■					■			
13. equitable sharing of benefits that arise from genetic resources			■			■				■			

GBF TRAGETS	African Crane Conservation Programme (ACCP)	National Business And Biodiversity Network (NBBN)	Soutpansberg Protected Area Programme (SPA)	Threatened Amphibian Programme (TAP)	Conservation Planning & Science Unit (CPSU)	People In Conservation Programme (PIC)	Birds Of Prey Programme (BOPP)	Drylands Conservation Programme (DCP)	Wildlife & Energy Programme (WEP)	Wildlife In Trade Programme (WIT)	Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCP)	Wildlife Transport Programme (WTP)	Vultures For Africa Programme (VFA)
14. integrate biodiversity into policies, regulations, planning and developmet	■	■			■		■		■	■	■		
15. ensure that large companies disclose risk & reduce biodiversity impacts		■							■				
16. Ensure that people make sustainable consumption choices		■											
17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, & implement biosafety measures													
18. Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out incentives, harmful for biodiversity		■											
19. Substantially increase the level of financial resources	■	■	■										
20. Strengthen access to and transfer of technology for conservation	■								■				
21. Ensure the best data are accessible to decision makers & practitioners	■	■		■	■	■	■		■		■	■	
22. Ensure participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by local communities	■				■	■				■			
23. Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework	■			■		■							

AFRICAN CRANE
CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

All four of Africa's crane species, the Blue, Grey Crowned, Wattled, and Black Crowned Crane, are all threatened. These species act as flagships for the conservation of wetland and grassland ecosystems they inhabit but also provide essential goods and services for people. The iconic and charismatic nature of cranes appeals to the public and opens the door to collaborative conservation.

The EWT has worked in partnership with the International Crane Foundation (ICF) throughout Africa for the last 30 years – coincidentally, both organisations celebrate their fiftieth anniversaries this year. This 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 support individuals, community groups, and organisations to manage catchments better to benefit both 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.



PROTECTING CRANE HABITAT IN SOUTH AFRICA

The stunning southern Drakensberg mountains span KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and the Eastern Cape provinces in South Africa. These mountains are home to all three species of threatened cranes in South Africa, including 95% of South Africa's Wattled Cranes, 70% of its Grey Crowned Cranes, and 5-10% of its Blue Cranes.

Worryingly, the region is under significant threat from mining, infrastructure development, and agricultural transformation on private and communally owned farms, where most cranes occur. We, therefore, have an urgent need to provide long-term security for these vital crane habitats in the southern Drakensberg and to improve the management of the diverse grasslands and wetlands in this region.

On 27 January 2023, the intent to declare the extension of the Greater Lakenvlei Protected Environment by 7,054 ha was gazetted. The declaration was the culmination of years of work dating back to the original declaration of the Greater Lakenvlei Protected Environment in 2017. A 60-day public participation period followed, and there were no objections to the declaration. Situated at the southern end of the Dullstroom plateau, the Greater Lakenvlei Protected Environment currently covers some 14,305 ha and is home to all three of South Africa's threatened cranes. This extension will create a protected area of just over 21,000 ha.

In addition, our Drakensberg team submitted the documents required for the proclamation of the Eeram Protected Environment, a new protected area that will stretch over 7,398 ha between Warden and Harrismith in the Free State. When proclaimed, it will be the first protected area with confirmed records of the Endangered Botha's Lark. The intent to declare the area was gazetted on 28 October 2022, and again, there were no objections following the public comment period. This area is also vital for the globally vulnerable Sungazer Lizard and cranes living in this protected environment.

Elsewhere, the KwaZulu-Natal Member of the Executive Council (provincial minister) signed into law the proclamation of Ora Nature Reserve on 25 May 2023. This protected area is located near Normandien and comprises 785 ha of pristine grassland and Eastern Mistbelt Forest, which will afford cranes with additional protected habitat.

To build social capital within communities and prevent further wetland degradation, we completed the construction of four spring protection works in KwaMkhize and Mqatsheni villages. These constructions will protect the vulnerable springs from damage due to cattle trampling and solid waste pollution by using a concrete box structure to raise the eye of the spring off the ground, facilitating safe access to clean spring water for hundreds of people. To support the protection of springs and the wise use of rangelands, we are developing a Land-use Planning Community Participatory process whereby we introduce local leaders to the fundamentals of land-use planning. This ensures that development in these areas does not come at the cost of ecological infrastructure, upon which people and cranes still depend.

To better understand the dynamics of our crane populations and the risks they face, we expanded our aerial surveys from one in KwaZulu-Natal during winter to one each during winter in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape and another in summer in KwaZulu-Natal. As a personnel highlight, one of our team members qualified through the South Africa Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) as a UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) operator. In the future, drone-related techniques will allow us to collect better and more efficient crane nesting-related data.

This work is made possible with support from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Ford Wildlife Foundation, the HCI Foundation, the International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund, the Leiden Conservation Foundation, the African Wildlife Initiative Rapid Action Grant co-funded by IUCN Save our Species (SOS) and the European Union, Millstream Farm, N3 Toll Concession, and Paul L King.

SOUTH AFRICAN CARBON OFFSETS

During the reporting period, the EWT and WeActs' collaborative 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. Through such contracts, landowners agree to manage their land in a conservation-friendly manner and, therefore, allow for the verifiable sequestration of carbon into the soil, which can subsequently be sold to carbon polluters as 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 critical habitats through improved long-term land-use management.

This year, we moved the project forward rapidly by registering 74,800 ha of grasslands with high ecosystem biodiversity values. Linked to this, we have another 55,000 ha under project development. The revenue generated by this novel conservation finance mechanism will bring in critical and sustainable finance, which will incentivise landowners to manage their grasslands and wetlands effectively. The revenue generated will also support the EWT's extension staff, enabling us to provide ongoing support to those landowners who are the custodians of our natural ecosystems. We expect the first issuance of credits from the 74,800 ha under verification to happen during the first half of 2024.

This year, the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project achieved a significant milestone, with the Wild Dog population within this project now exceeding 400 individuals. While this is an incredible achievement, it poses challenges as we now face the task of finding suitable homes for these animals. A pack of 16 Wild Dogs was successfully relocated from Khamab Kalahari Game Reserve to the uMkhuze Game Reserve in April, marking the largest on-road relocation of Wild Dogs to date. Sadly, the pack of Wild Dogs introduced into Liwonde National Park last year died due to a poisoning event in November 2023. This was a conservation disaster in its highest form. But lessons have been learned from this, and efforts to mitigate these threats (e.g. ranger poison training) have escalated across the landscape. Based on a recent comprehensive reassessment of threats, we will undertake a second reintroduction attempt later this year. Even when tragedies present themselves, we must responsibly persist in our conservation efforts.

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



Climate-smart agriculture training in schools

Raised bed and diagonal offset planting to maximize on space

Community working on a spring protection project

Blue Crane breeding in the Overberg Photo credit: Christie Craig

SAVING KENYA'S CROWNED CRANES

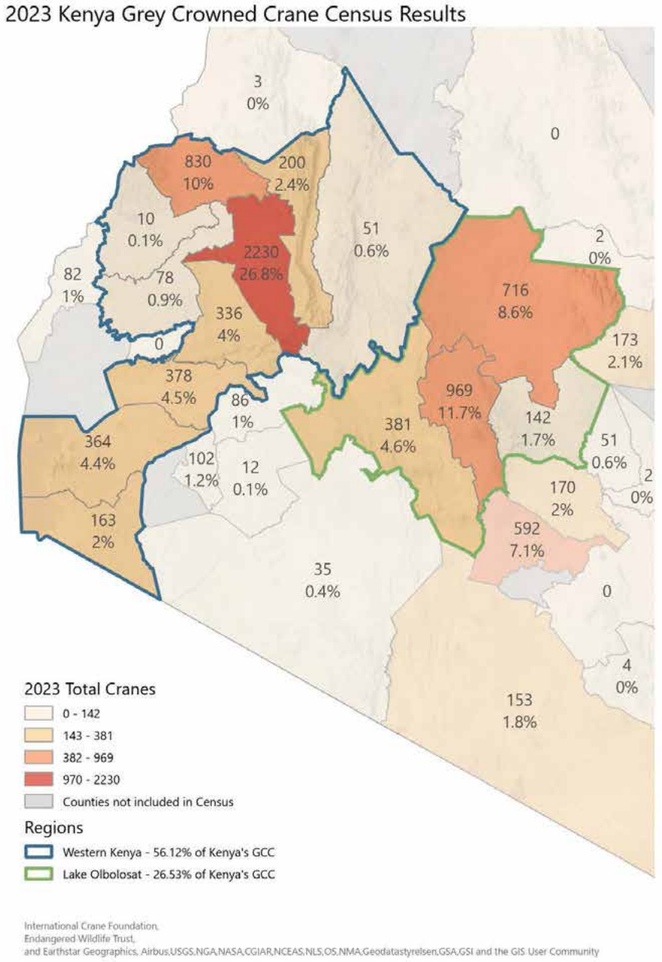
The majestic but Endangered Grey Crowned Crane is at risk of being lost across East Africa in what was once its historic stronghold. Grey Crowned Cranes are the fastest-declining crane species in the world, having declined by 90% in the past 40 years. Protected areas do not effectively safeguard them, as they support less than 10% of the crane population. The remaining 90% of the cranes depend on small pockets of wetlands scattered across East Africa, dependent on the same wetlands on which farming communities depend for their livelihoods. Kenya's western region is critical for the survival of the wetland-dependent Grey Crowned Cranes of East Africa.

In response, our western Kenya project is focused on the current and projected future breeding, flocking and roosting grounds for Grey Crowned Cranes in five western Kenyan counties (Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia, Kisumu, Homa Bay, and Nandi). These counties account for 50% of the Kenyan Grey Crowned Crane population as they contain key wetlands and uplands important for breeding and flocking. 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 indigenous plants, and the introduction of crops and exotic Eucalyptus trees that permanently alter wetland vegetation structure and hydrological function.

Working with our in-country partner, Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO) and other key stakeholders in Kenya, we conducted Kenya's second national crane census in February-March 2023, following on from the original census four years ago. A total of 819 sites across 34 of Kenya's 47 counties were surveyed (compared to just under 300 sites in 2019). We recorded cranes at 426 (52%) of the surveyed sites (with a total count of 8,314). The Kenyan population is currently estimated to lie between 8,500-10,500 birds, suggesting that the population is relatively stable compared to the 2019 census, which estimated 8,000-10,000 individuals.





Clive Walker original artwork

Wattled Crane floater flock survey

Crane nesting using persicaria hydropiper for nest building

Meeting at the KwaMkhize community

Wetland water abstraction for irrigation

We completed the ICF CIF (Conservation Impact Fund) funded Climate-Smart Agriculture project in western Kenya during the 2022 calendar year. As a result of the project's success, we adopted it as one of the key strategies in 2023 and renamed it "Agro-ecological crane friendly practices for small-scale farmers". The strategy aims to assist communities in building more resilient agricultural practices that reduce the impacts of climate change and enhance optimal use of land for agriculture through increased yields, reducing the need to encroach into wetlands. The five main practices being promoted are crop diversification, minimum tillage, kitchen/vertical gardening, composting, and food forests. Under the project, 70 model farmers were trained as trainers through an intensive two-week programme on the adoption and carrying out of climate-smart agricultural practices. The results of our work suggest that the adoption of climate-smart agriculture is a potential solution for the optimal use of small-scale farms due to increased production, as compared to conventional agriculture. This resonates well with farmers due to high nutritional value, increased market value and higher resilience of the practices during low rainfall periods. The project's awareness work has also increased support for other crane conservation interventions such as wetland restoration, reduced disturbance during the breeding season, and higher tolerance of cranes when they flock on farms.

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, the International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund, the Leiden Conservation Foundation, Stiftung Feuchtgebiete (German Foundation for Wetlands), and Pat and Bill Mutch.

"This year marks a significant milestone for the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). It is the 50th anniversary of ICF and EWT, and also the 30th anniversary of their close partnership. The ICF/EWT Africa Crane Conservation Program is one of the most impactful partnerships worldwide, and we deeply value it.

Our partnership began when we organized the African Cranes and Wetlands Workshop in Maun, Botswana in 1993. The workshop brought together colleagues who worked on crane and wetland conservation across Africa. It was the first time such a gathering was organized, and 100 participants from 20 countries attended. Many of the partnerships and projects that were initiated at the workshop are still active today, as we work together in various African countries, such as Senegal, Kenya, and South Africa.

It has been a pleasure to work with the talented staff at EWT for the past 30 years. Kerryn Morrison has been leading the Africa Crane Conservation Program since 2006, and has done an exceptional job in growing our impact for more than 17 years."

- Rich Beilfuss, ICF President

UGANDAN
CRANES AND COMMUNITIES

Just as in Kenya, wetland loss is the leading cause of the decline of Grey Crowned Cranes in Uganda, and the wetlands there are essential for the same reasons and face the same threats. Our work in Uganda aims to empower communities to conserve wetlands and cranes through a holistic, integrated approach. We combine climate-smart agriculture, livelihood creation, habitat restoration, soil and water conservation, healthcare service provision, community capacity development, and community stewardship to enable long-term wetland health for people and cranes.

In September 2022, we provided 152 Ugandan households with training and deterrent materials to mitigate crane crop damage. Our proactive approach helps reduce the unfortunate incidences of retaliatory crane poisoning. Additionally, we established conservation agreements with 11 community groups in the Rukiga and Lwengo districts, safeguarding crucial crane habitats. To further support local communities, we set up 20 rainwater barrels, each holding 10,000 litres of drinkable rainwater, in public venues such as schools, churches, and health centres, ensuring access to clean water.

In November 2022, we conducted a comprehensive crane census in the Rwizi River catchment. Having discovered 3,530 Grey Crowned Cranes, this significant finding guided us to extend our project to five districts in this catchment with notable crane populations.

Starting in January 2023, our efforts expanded to include the districts of Mbarara, Kiruhura, Isingiro, Ntungamo, and Sheema, also within the Rwizi catchment. We have stationed two field officers across these districts to manage our work in these areas effectively.

We have been undertaking water sampling and quality testing along the Rwizi River. Our work from December 2022 to June 2023 assessed River Rwizi's pollution levels and the potential effects on human and ecosystem health. The project was designed around three core work packages: capacity building, water resource evaluation, and awareness through citizen science.

In Rukiga District, southwestern Uganda, our collaboration with partners from the Margaret Pyke Trust and Rugarama Hospital focuses on holistic community outreach. Together, we not only emphasise wetland and crane conservation but also advocate for sustainable livelihoods and family planning. In our sessions, ICF/EWT conservation professionals and Rugarama Hospital nurses join forces. They discuss the intertwined importance of wetlands for health, livelihoods, cranes, and the advantages of family planning. This comprehensive approach is vital in Rukiga, where deep-rooted myths and misconceptions about family planning persist. Some men, influenced by these misconceptions, discourage their female relatives from utilising family planning services, wrongly believing that it might lead to promiscuity or cause diseases like cancer. Similarly, while both genders are involved in livelihood activities, men predominantly attend livelihood training, causing women to miss out on essential information. Our integrated strategy ensures that both men and women receive crucial insights, often introducing them to perspectives they haven't encountered before.

This work is made possible with support from the Aqualia International Foundation, the Darwin Initiative, an anonymous donor, the Dohmen Family Fund, Fondation Ensemble, the Whitley Fund for Nature (through the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association), the Dietrich American Foundation, Joe and Karen Branch, Heather Henson, Sharon Fisher, and Heidi Kiesler.



RWANDA'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK TAKES SEED

Rugezi Marsh, which covers 6,375 ha in northern Rwanda, is the most important site for Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes in Rwanda, hosting 20% of Rwanda's Grey Crowned Crane population (as determined by the latest survey estimates from our partner, the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association). Moreover, Rugezi Marsh is an important site for other wildlife, such as the Grauer's Swamp Warbler, another Endangered species. However, even here, Grey Crowned Cranes had all but disappeared as a breeding species before our project was initiated. Despite the marsh receiving 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. Activities such as livestock grazing, the illegal harvesting of firewood or grass for fodder, hunting, fishing, or harvesting honey by smoking out bees, which (until we started work at the marsh and managed to bring this activity to an end) led to devastating wildfires, have all negatively impacted the health and function of this wetland.



Juvenile Grey Crowned Crane

Portable or vertical gardens

Crane custodians raising awareness
Photo credit: Kathryn Lloyd

GCC roosting on a mango tree

Avocado grafting training

Crane nest on a wheat farm

Since 2012, we have been working 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 and its catchment. To date, we have worked with six out of eight administrative sectors using various effective approaches.

The project received a significant boost in March when the Rainforest Trust agreed to fund our work, partnering with the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA) to elevate Rugezi Marsh to national park status (affording it the highest protection possible). The necessary government approvals, community engagement, and infrastructure improvements will now require a sustained effort through a project to be delivered over the next five years.

In the meantime, our project continues to protect the integrity of the marsh. For example, having noted that women regularly harvest vegetation to make mats for bedding, the project distributed 360 mattresses to 120 women to reduce this impact on the marsh. We also trained 40 Community Crane Ambassadors, whose role is to raise community awareness about crane and wetland conservation.

This work is made possible with support from the Dohmen Family Fund, the Kansas City Zoo, the Leiden Conservation Foundation, and the Rainforest Trust.

FLAT OUT 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 rural people in Zambia and contribute to the national economy of Zambia through fishing, livestock grazing, domestic water supply (including for the capital, Lusaka), and national electricity production (hydropower). Unfortunately, the Kafue Flats is also a threatened landscape due to unsustainable livestock grazing and fishing activity, increasing permanent settlements, alien invasive plants that compromise vital habitats, mining operations, and wildlife poaching and poisoning, particularly since the Covid pandemic and the resultant collapse of international tourism.

Notably, the 20-year co-management agreement to protect the Kafue Flats was signed on 24 April 2023. The parties to the agreement are the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the ICF/EWT Partnership, and WWF Zambia. The entry into this agreement cements this critical partnership and gives us the authority and mandate to ensure and deliver our ambitious goal of a thriving wetland for all.

During November 2022, dry season aerial surveys provided new insights into the status of wildlife and land use on the flats. Our analyses suggest that the decline in Kafue Lechwe numbers has slowed (with estimated numbers of 28,000 in 2015, down to 23,000 in 2018 and 22,000 in 2022). The November survey estimated Wattled Crane numbers to be about 1,500. We have flagged the tracking of cranes as a priority in the coming year to improve our understanding of the fluctuating numbers of cranes, which is most likely due to seasonal movements that have not been well documented.

Law enforcement remains an important activity in protecting the Kafue Flats and its natural resources. During the year, we recorded 20,736 (out of 23,040 planned – 90%) Patrol Man Days by Wildlife Police Officers and Community Scouts. This resulted in 123 arrests for wildlife-related crimes and prosecutions in the Zambian courts. Eighty-nine of those prosecuted were convicted with penalties ranging from imprisonment, fines, community service, or suspended sentences, while 10 suspects were released as they were juveniles; cases for 24 are still pending in the courts. These results are attributed to the increased number of staff on the ground, which led to increased patrol intensity, frequency, and coverage.

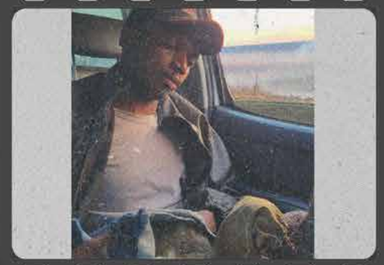
Rescuing a Wattled Crane Chick





Farmer meeting his first Wattled Crane chick

Rescuing a Wattled Crane Chick





Wattled Crane floater flock survey

This work is made possible with support from an anonymous donor, the Dohmen Family Fund, Elephant Charge, the Cara Foundation, the Australian Direct Aid Programme, Jane Hartline and Mark Greenfield, the Taronga Conservation Society Australia, the Dietrich American Foundation, Gordon Andersson, Fondation Segré, the International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund, Jeanne Eloranta Family, WWF Zambia, and the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

UNCOVERING THE SECRETS OF THE BLACK CROWNED CRANE

Under the guidance of our new senior project manager, Mark van Niekerk, we embarked on a high-level status survey of Black Crowned Cranes, the world's least well-known crane species. To better understand and manage Black Crowned Cranes and specifically their breeding grounds in West and Central Africa, we developed a three-fold plan for the species' protection: 1. Conducting range-wide population surveys to determine distribution across the range as well as the primary threats; 2. Developing new community-based conservation projects for Black Crowned Cranes linked to broader wetland management programmes in West and Central Africa; and 3. Securing Black Crowned Cranes in key wetlands across the agricultural landscapes of their range states.

In Senegal, our partners AfriWet Consultants, Etudes et Conseils and Association Nature Koussabel (a fledgling community-based organisation), are working with farming communities in the Casamance delta area to improve awareness and understanding of Black Crowned Cranes amongst local communities and gather critical baseline information about the ecology, threats, and status of Black Crowned Cranes to support our future conservation strategy. This work has been further supported by a PhD student, Sira Doumbia, who is working to identify key threats and community perceptions of Black Crowned Cranes.

Similarly, in Ethiopia, we have partnered with researchers from the Jimma and Madda Wanabu Universities to study community perceptions and ecological aspects of Black Crowned Cranes to refine our conservation strategy in important Black Crowned Crane habitats.

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



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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 savannas 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, as they have social, cultural, and religious importance in 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 bird of prey conservation network. We operate in important raptor spaces across eight of South Africa's provinces and Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Botswana.



CURBING THE IMPACT OF POISONING IN SOUTH AFRICA

With the relentless surge in wildlife poisoning throughout the Greater Kruger region this last year, our programme 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 region 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 a staggering and completely unsustainable 932 vultures from five threatened species killed in the area since January 2019. Since June 2022, the Lowveld Field Officers have delivered Wildlife Poisoning Response Training to a network of key wildlife poisoning respondents, including over 100 individuals from Kruger National Park, Jock Safari Lodge, the Palabora Mining Company (PMC) mine team, groups of students, Marloth Park, Mjejane, and volunteers at Moholoholo Wildlife Rehab Centre.

During this reporting period, the programme played an integral role in the management of three serious poisoning events in the Greater Kruger – which involved the rescuing of over 40 vultures that had survived these devastating events. Our rapid action led to the successful rehabilitation and release of these birds back into the wild.

This work is made possible with support from the Charl van der Merwe Trust, Alu-Cab, and USAID through their VukaNOW Programme, National Geographic Society, and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.



23 vulture carcasses





Vulture release at Moholoholo
Photo credit: Sarah Goodman





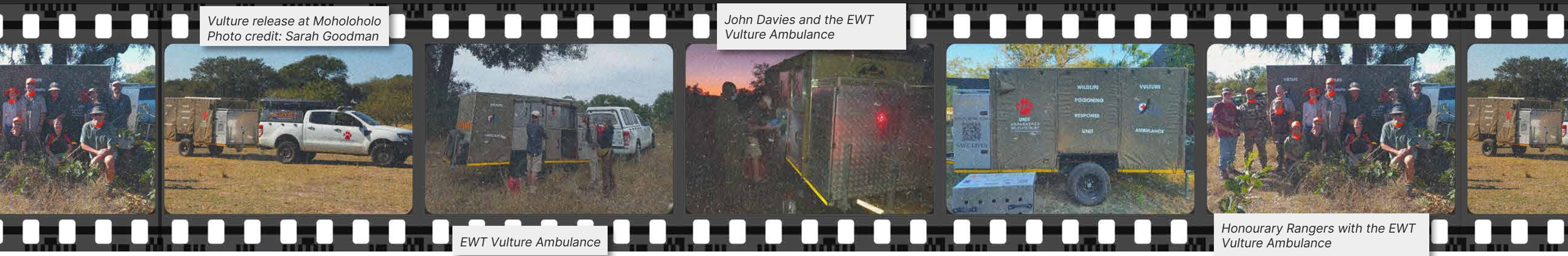


John Davies assists with the autopsy of a White-backed Vulture

VULTURE VETS

A significant capacity challenge related to the effective and efficient response to mass poisoning incidents is the number of wildlife vets and rehabilitators correctly trained and capable of treating birds during mass poisoning incidents and are experienced in overseeing the recovery process. Considering that most wildlife poisoning incidents take place in remote areas with limited resources, it is imperative that practical, repeatable, and effective solutions are implemented on a large scale to improve the effective treatment of surviving birds. Over the last eight years, in collaboration with rehabilitation centres and wildlife veterinarians, we have improved our protocols to the point that we now achieve a 90% survival rate for poisoned birds of prey post-treatment. We have also developed guidelines for post-release monitoring to confirm that our approach is effective in the longer term. We are currently working to establish a network of vets and wildlife rehabilitators throughout southern Africa who are skilled and capable of dealing with poisoning incidents. Our first intervention outside of South Africa included the training of 15 Mozambiquan vets by an avian specialist vet, vulture rehabilitation specialists, and our team in the Karingani Game Reserve, Mozambique. This work functions in concert with the growing number of response teams that we train to manage and mitigate wildlife poisoning events effectively. We aim to expand this network significantly in the coming year.

This work is made possible with support from the Charl van der Merwe Trust, Alu-Cab, National Geographic Society, and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. We are grateful for the involvement of expert wildlife rehabilitators from the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Briner Veterinary Services, WildScapes Veterinary & Conservation Services, and the Dullstroom Bird of Prey Centre.



Vulture release at Moholoholo Photo credit: Sarah Goodman

John Davies and the EWT Vulture Ambulance

EWT Vulture Ambulance

Honourary Rangers with the EWT Vulture Ambulance

VULTURE
911 RESPONSE

With tremendous donor support, we secured funds and built the EWT's very first vulture ambulance, currently stationed in the Greater Kruger region. Here, it is providing a vital service in rescuing surviving vultures at wildlife poisoning scenes. We have stationed this mobile unit strategically within a high-risk area. Doing so has positioned us as first responders for the rescue, transport, and treatment of multiple birds in modular, easy-to-remove crates that can be accessed without disturbing other poisoned individuals. In total, this self-contained unit allows us to treat and move up to 20 vultures at a time, even in the most remote of areas. We have enhanced the efficacy of the ambulance with the inclusion of key medical supplies to assist with the administration of vital first aid to stabilise poisoned vultures at poisoning scenes. Over the reporting period, the ambulance has already been used at two significant poisoning events, saving the lives of over 30 threatened vultures.



Vulture mass poisoning in May 2023 - Limpopo

Tagged Vulture in a tree



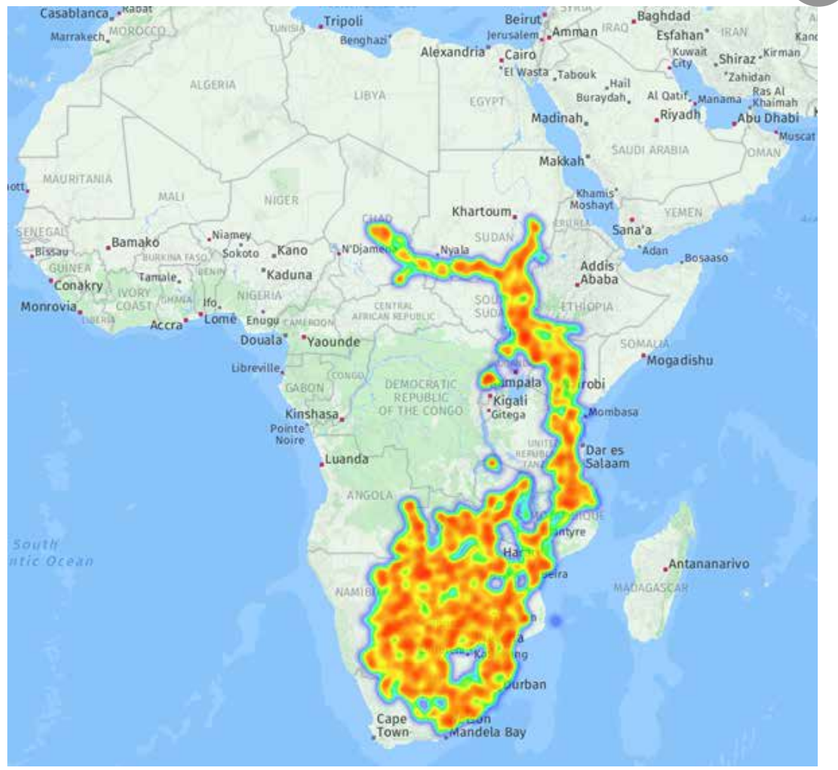
This work is made possible with support from the Roy McAlpine Charitable Foundation, Blue Sky Society Trust, Puy du Fou, Gauntlet Conservation Trust, BEWILD, Branféré, Géants du Ciel and BushWakka.

AN EYE IN THE SKY

In 2022, we initiated our pioneering Eye in the Sky carcass and wildlife poisoning detection project, with its primary focus area in the GLTFCA, which 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 to these events 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 on the ground.

We have enabled and driven the rapid expansion of our Eye in the Sky system across southern and East Africa, which officially went live in August 2022. The system pushes immobility and feeding alerts through to rangers and managers on the ground, enabling them to swiftly monitor and respond to potential wildlife poisoning events and prevent the loss of further wildlife. New partners this year included Gorongosa National Park, Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Limpopo National Park, and Karingani Game Reserve in Mozambique. In South Africa, we welcomed aboard Wildlife ACT (Zululand) and the Jock Environmental Monitoring Unit (in the southern Kruger). This included working with EarthRanger and the North Carolina Zoo to develop a master system to improve the mechanism for rolling the system out with partners across the continent.

Through the continued partnering with our very own Vultures for Africa Programme, we have seen a significant expansion in the network of GPS-tracked vultures across the continent, enabling us to survey even larger landscapes. We now have over 300 GPS-tracked vultures feeding into the system (91 in the greater Kruger region), of which 42 birds have been fitted with trackers over the last 12 months, contributing to over six million vulture positions in our database. Collectively, these vultures help to survey an area of over five million square kilometres. Using near real-time alerts for vulture poisoning and feeding events, the power of this system in detecting poisoning events has exceeded the team's expectations, as we have already pinpointed 11 local poisoning events. This allowed response teams to rescue over 150 vultures to date, rapidly remove the poison sources and decontaminate the scenes. We are confident that with an increased network of tracked vultures within the landscape, complimented by increased capacity for response teams to manage snaring and poisoning events effectively, we can reduce the number of vulture fatalities by approximately 40% in the upcoming year.



The current heatmap indicates the coverage we have obtained through a network of GPS-tracked vultures within poisoning hotspots across Africa

This work is made possible with support from the Briandez Legacy Trust, Charl van der Merwe Trust, Alu-Cab, National Geographic Society, and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. Our work is made more impactful through a key partnerships with Raptors Botswana, South African National Parks, African Parks, Peace Parks Foundation, Gonarezhou Conservation Trust, Niassa Carnivore Project, Chuilexi Conservancy, Niassa Special Reserve/WCS, and an important collaboration with Contemplate Wild and the North Carolina Zoological Society.

ENHANCED SNARE DETECTION

We have found that the Eye in the Sky system also works exceptionally well in detecting snare lines set by poachers to trap bushmeat. Our Lowveld team worked with field rangers from Letaba Ranch Game Reserve on Kruger's western boundary to locate and remove over 550 snares over the reporting period. They also located 114 poaching events, all of which assist in streamlining anti-poaching activities in the area. We also met with the SANParks Honorary Rangers to collaborate with their snare patrol units in northern Kruger. Using the Eye in the Sky system to improve snare detection, over 100 snares have been located and removed from within Kruger National Park, and we have only just started.

This work is made possible with support from the Charl van der Merwe Trust, the Bateleurs, the National Geographic Society, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and important partnerships with the Phalaborwa Natural Heritage Foundation NPC and SANParks Honorary Rangers.



We have been amazed at how well our Eye in the Sky system, using GPS-tracked vultures, can detect snared animals, allowing us to find areas with dense snaring lines set by poachers. This has allowed us to work with rangers to rapidly find snare lines and remove snares – saving countless animals from a cruel, agonising death

"For 50 years, the EWT has been at the forefront of raptor conservation in southern Africa, particularly in safeguarding key raptor habitats by creating raptor-safe spaces. Our Birds of Prey Programme originated with the establishment of one of the first working groups, the Vulture Study Group (VSG), in 1973. Since its inception, the program has expanded its work, and to date, works to conserve 13 different threatened raptor species – through seven projects in six countries – with the aim of improving population trends of threatened birds of prey in southern Africa and ultimately improving the conservation status of priority species."

-Dr Gareth Tate, Programme Manager

VULTURE SAFE ZONES
THREAT REDUCED LANDSCAPES FOR VULTURES

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 significant 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 priority geographic area where we, in partnership with landowners, managers and local communities, use targeted conservation measures to address the key threats to the relevant vulture species in that area. This includes threats such as accidental poisoning and collisions or electrocutions with energy infrastructure.

This year, our teams worked tirelessly to engage with landowners and communities across the Karoo, Kalahari, and Lowveld to establish threat-free vulture safe zones (VSZs). In the Karoo, we now have 95 landowners across 133 properties committed to the concept, working towards making almost 750,000 ha safe for vultures. Here, the team has officially declared three properties covering 7,200 ha as VSZs. In the Eastern Cape, 18 landowners committed (32,107 ha) to becoming VSZs, while the owners of two large properties (42,500 ha) in the Kalahari have also committed to becoming VSZs.

To reduce the risk of vulture poisoning, we have organised a poison removal drive for landowners to hand over chemicals which they do not use (such as old stock dips and herbicides) to a company from Gauteng, which then collects and destroys the chemicals according to regulations. We aim to remove at least 200 kg of poisons from the Karoo VSZ landscape before the end of 2023.

In the Karoo VSZ, landowners face livestock losses, which amount to a considerable loss of income. These losses are often a result of predation by jackal and Caracal. In partnership with Adriaan Oosthuizen, we intend to implement mobile kraaling operations on properties where predation has become an issue. The mobile kraaling system, developed by Adriaan, is predator-proof, adaptable to different landscapes and very simple to move across the property. In so doing, we are assisting these landowners to reduce the threat of predation, thus eliminating the need for poisons to kill these predators.

We have committed ourselves to continue addressing the drivers behind the threat of accidental poisoning in the Karoo.

To address the threat of lead poisoning, we have catalysed 'The Battle of the Bullets'. This awareness event is focused on opening conversations surrounding the aversion to using lead-free bullets, demonstrating the availability of lead-free bullets and, most importantly, promoting a lead-free environment by ammunition users for ammunition users.

Click here to read up on how Vulture Safe Zones benefit human well-being.

Click here to read up on how using lead-free ammunition and creating lead-free environments can help the conservation of vultures.

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



Ruth & Tom O'Sullivan
KVSZ Official

MALOTI DRAKENSBURG VULTURES

The EWT's Maloti Drakensberg vulture work, run in partnership with Wildlife ACT and under the auspices of the Bearded Vulture Task Force, aims to protect the populations of Bearded and Cape Vultures that call the Maloti Drakensberg their home. In Lesotho, we obtained vital support from the local community through their chief in the Mokhotlong region. Here, we received permission to build a feeding site and set up a conservation hub. We have initiated the building of this feeding site and have erected a fence within which we are actively placing supplementary food and bones for the local vultures, which we currently monitor via remote cameras. We have also conducted wildlife poisoning prevention awareness and educational workshops within the Mokhotlong region. This included holding a successful community outreach and education day, where over 150 local community members attended and learnt about the importance of vultures. In the Underberg area, South Africa, we are supporting Wildlife ACT to improve the operating effectiveness of a large feeding site. These feeding sites provide critical, safe food to sustain local vulture populations and bolster their breeding within the Maloti Drakensberg region.

This work is made possible with support from the European Outdoor Conservation Association.

NATIONAL VULTURE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The aim of any Biodiversity Management Plan is to ensure the long-term survival of species in nature. Since 2020, South Africa has been developing a national Biodiversity Management Plan for its vultures. The programme's Dr Gareth Tate and Dr Lindy Thompson have played a key role in drafting and reviewing the first round of public comments received for the National Vulture Biodiversity Management Plan. The plan has now been reviewed, updated, and sent to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment for its final round of comment and drafting. This edges us ever closer to launching the first formal action plan for all vultures in South Africa.

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





Dr Jess Briner doing the autopsy of the Martial Eagle at Moholoholo

MARTIAL EAGLE
ON THE LINE

Martial Eagle populations continue to decline across their African range. Evidence for broadscale population declines has resulted in the recent uplisting of the species to globally Endangered. Although typically a tree-nesting species, it is estimated that over a third of the breeding population of Martial Eagles in South Africa nest on pylons that support powerlines traversing the largely treeless, semi-arid landscapes of the Karoo. This is at odds with the general belief that the species is confined to large, protected areas.

We completed a five-year project focused on the pylon-nesting Karoo Martial Eagle population in South Africa's drylands. Subsequently, the team has submitted recommendations to Eskom to vastly improve the management of this unique population. Eskom, along with all the relevant Karoo landowners, are the custodians of these birds. We plan to work with these stakeholders, translating our research into innovative, applied conservation actions to manage and protect this extraordinary population. The outputs from this work have also been pivotal in providing clear guidelines and mitigation recommendations to ensure Martial Eagle safe wind energy developments across the country. We are currently working with the University of Cape Town and HawkWatch International to develop the very first collision risk map for the species, called the Martial Eagle Risk Assessment Tool (MERA), which we aim to implement in the coming year to guide wind developers and avoid turbines being placed in high collision risk areas.

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

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY
AT MOKALA NATIONAL PARK

The arid parts of South Africa, including the 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. This year marks fifteen years of vulture monitoring and research for our vulture team in the Mokala Area and nearly 30 years in the Kalahari. Energetically led by the team's Ronelle Visagie, we ringed 119 vulture chicks in the Kalahari and Mokala this breeding season.

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

RAPTOR
HEALTH STUDY

Our raptor health study has gained new traction with the arrival of PhD student Fiona Fern in South Africa. Fiona has registered at the University of Pretoria, and she is undertaking a literature review for the introductory chapter of her thesis while waiting for her permits to be approved. Fiona will be looking at the incidence of various viruses, pathogens, parasites, and other health parameters in White-backed Vultures and will be taking samples from other raptor species, where possible, to improve our knowledge of the incidence of disease in our Lowveld birds of prey. This is especially important in light of the current outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza around the world, which have impacted not only waterbird species but also vultures.

This work is made possible with support from the Charl van der Merwe Trust.

FLYING A TIGHTROPE
INITIATING A NEW RESEARCH PROJECT ON BATELEURS

Our team initiated an exciting new project that focuses on filling in important knowledge gaps for the globally Endangered Bateleur Eagle in the Greater Kruger landscape. Like vultures, these eagles scavenge extensively. As such, poisoning is a growing threat to the species. Still in its early stages, this work will be instrumental in improving conservation measures for this imperilled species in southern Africa by allowing us to better understand their movements and, in particular, their habitat use within and outside of protected areas.

This work is made possible with support from the Charl van der Merwe Trust and the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour.



Photo credit: Andre Botha

RIVER RAPTORS

Part of our VSZ work includes monitoring breeding vultures at key sites within each VSZ. In the Lowveld, these sites include Balule Nature Reserve, and in 2022, we worked with Elephants Alive and VulPro to produce a report on the breeding vultures within Balule (and neighbouring Excellence Farm). This report spanned nine years and incorporated data from the three organisations, each working on different properties within Balule.

Linked to this, our work on Pel's Fishing Owls has seen a stabilisation of the population within Balule Nature Reserve, where the loss of riparian forest has led to the loss of territories here over the last decade. There are now three territories still occupied, although only one of these successfully raised chicks. Further afield, though, the population along the Limpopo River is significantly healthier, with 32 confirmed territories and successful breeding recorded at 11 of these. To further aid in the conservation of the species, we have integrated the species into the Raptor Safe Zone process, with specific guidelines for minimising nest site disturbance, as well as the protection of intact riparian forests around known territories.

This work is made possible with support from the Charl van der Merwe Trust.

WANDERING WAHLBERG'S



The movement ecology of intra-African migratory raptors remains poorly understood. The paucity of information about spatial requirements and migratory behaviour of African migrants has implications for our ability to conserve them, develop adequate species management plans, and protect the core spaces they depend on for breeding, foraging, and migrating. This is particularly concerning in the face of rapid environmental and climate change in Africa, compounded by the documented population declines among some vulnerable migratory species. In collaboration with the Peregrine Fund, the Kenya Bird of Prey Trust, and the Mara Raptor Project, we have continued our project, which takes advantage of modern tracking technology and nest monitoring techniques, to develop a comprehensive understanding of the migratory ecology, breeding behaviour and population dynamics of a data-deficient intra-African migratory raptor, the Wahlberg's Eagle; with a specific focus on birds that breed in South Africa. As very little tracking data currently exists for this enigmatic species, we have worked to fill in this critical knowledge gap over the last five years. Together, the research team has successfully GPS tagged 13 individuals across their South African and East African range, and we have co-authored a scientific paper recently submitted for publication, looking at the migration behaviour in the Wahlberg's Eagle – a first of its kind for the species. This research identifies important migration routes and stop-over sites, as well as climatic drivers behind their movements. Application of these findings will enhance how we conserve this migratory African raptor that overwinters in Central Africa and breeds in southern Africa's savannas.

This work is made possible with support from the Charl van der Merwe Trust.

STAFF SECTION

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Programme Manager

John Davies
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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.



CARNIVORE RANGE EXPANSION PROJECT

The Carnivore Range Expansion Project assists partner reserves in southern Africa to conserve and manage threatened populations and restore and re-stabilise carnivore guilds in Africa. This aligns with the global push for Trophic Rewilding of wilderness areas. Trophic rewilding is an ecological restoration strategy that uses species re-introductions to restore top-down food-chain interactions to promote self-regulating biodiverse ecosystems and, through the resultant improved ecosystem integrity, can increase the climate resilience of these landscapes.

CHEETAHS GROW THEIR SPOTS

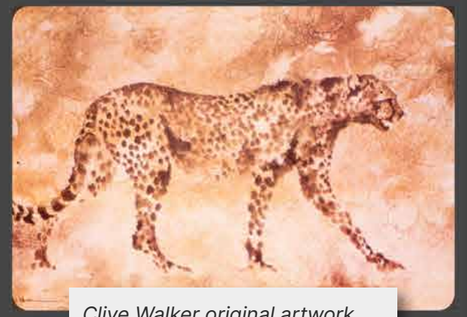
In 2011, the EWT established the Cheetah Range Expansion Project to recover and restore African Cheetah populations across their range to sustainable levels. The past year has focused on strategically building resilient populations within South Africa, strengthening the metapopulation network, and undertaking important planning work in Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique. This included undertaking detailed feasibility assessments, conducting site visits, carefully selecting source populations, and coordinating and undertaking relocations with experienced vets to bolster Cheetah populations. To further ensure long-term population growth and stability, we've been working closely with reintroduction sites to co-develop a toolbox of best practices and provide on-the-ground training and assistance with post-release monitoring. Some of the year's highlights include flying two Cheetah from South Africa to Zambia's Bangweulu Wetlands and assisting African Parks with undertaking a Cheetah feasibility assessment for Akagera National Park in Rwanda.





Clive Walker with captive Cheetah





Clive Walker original artwork





Cheetah relocation

RETURNING WILD DOGS TO WILD SPACES

Since the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project started in 1998, safe space for African Wild Dogs (hereafter Wild Dogs) in southern Africa has increased to over 1.4 million hectares, 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. Subsequently, we introduced another pack in 2019. Today, Gorongosa National Park boasts a population of 170 Wild Dogs. Following this incredibly successful reintroduction, the EWT has coordinated multiple other reintroductions into Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia.

This year, the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project achieved a significant milestone, with the Wild Dog population within this project now exceeding 400 individuals. While this is an incredible achievement, it poses challenges as we now face the task of finding suitable homes for excess animals. A pack of 16 Wild Dogs was successfully relocated from Khamab Kalahari Game Reserve to the uMkhuze Game Reserve in April, marking the largest on-road relocation of Wild Dogs to date.

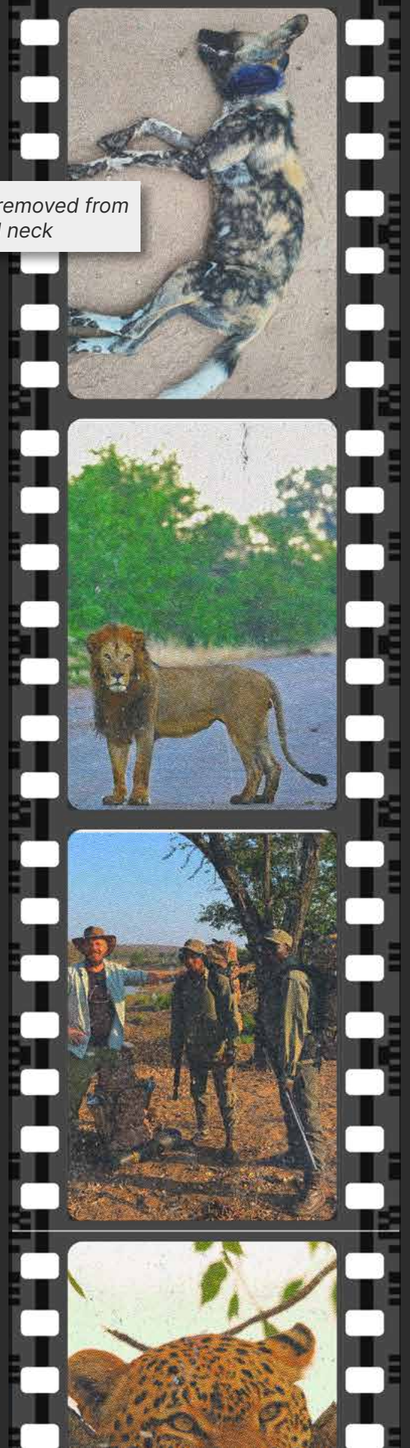
Sadly, the pack of Wild Dogs introduced into Liwonde National Park last year died due to a poisoning event in November 2022. This was a conservation disaster in its highest form. But lessons have been learned from this, and efforts to mitigate these threats (through, for example, ranger poison awareness training) have escalated across the landscape. Based on a recent comprehensive reassessment of threats, we will undertake a second reintroduction attempt later this year. Even when tragedies present themselves, we must responsibly persist in our conservation efforts to expand the range of Wild Dogs.



HEARDING CATS

Given the ongoing success of the Wild Dog Advisory Group (WAG) in guiding the conservation and management of this species, its sister group, the Cheetah Advisory Group (CAG), was established in 2022. The EWT hosted the inaugural Cheetah Advisory Group (CAG) meeting in August 2022. The group is currently being chaired by the EWT's Cole du Plessis and coordinated by Olivia Sievert. One of the group's key objectives is to promote a coordinated approach to ethical and conservation-focused Cheetah management by bringing together expertise and representatives from relevant government departments, reserve managers (private and state) and other stakeholders to benefit Cheetah conservation. The group currently comprises over 300 stakeholders from 95 organisations. Soon after the inaugural meeting, CAG was approached by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) to spearhead the county's Biodiversity Management Plan for Cheetah, also endorsed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). Deliberations from the CAG will feed into the EWT's broader Carnivore Range Expansion Project.

This work is made possible with support from ABAX, African Wild Dog Survival Fund, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Gaie Fergusson, Holtzman Wildlife Foundation, Metro Fibre, Milkywire, National Geographic, Oak Foundation, Painted Wolf Foundation, Painted Wolf Wines, Paul King, PWC, Remembering Wildlife, Seremed, Tandy Foundation, and Tania Ihlenfeldt.



Snare removed from around neck

CARNIVORE RECONSTRUCTION

Zinave National Park sits within the Mozambican section of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA). The park's wildlife, and particularly its carnivores, were devastated in the Mozambican Civil War. Working with the Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC), the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF), and the Mozambique Wildlife Alliance (MWA), we are reconstructing Zinave's carnivore guild. We started with the scavengers, introducing four Spotted Hyaenas in August 2021. Two clans are now present in Zinave. Subsequently, we reintroduced two Leopard in 2022. The female Leopard gave birth to the first Leopard cubs in Zinave earlier this year. In June 2022, we confirmed the presence of a male Lion, the first to naturally recolonise Zinave. Since then, another two male Lions and an adult female with a young subadult have moved in. Through remote camera trap data, we have also confirmed sightings of Black-backed Jackals and Brown Hyaenas, the first reports since the Civil War. Future plans include the reintroduction of both Cheetahs and Wild Dogs within the next few years.

This work is made possible with support from the Oak Foundation.

KRUGER WILD DOGS

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. 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. In the Greater Kruger National Park, efforts to monitor and protect Wild Dog packs have yielded remarkable results. A total of 51 packs have been collared, surpassing our initial target of 30. Implementing the Wild Dog monitoring platform not only allows for effective snare removal but has also resulted in the rescue of ten snared Wild Dogs in just three months.

This work is made possible with support from Boucher Legacy, Eurosteel, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Holtzman Foundation Investec, Inspired Ventures, Jocks of the Bushveld, Metro Fibre, Painted Dog.TV, and Remembering Wildlife.



All packs home ranges

"The founding members of the EWT, Clive Walker, Neville Anderson and James Clarke established the EWT on the basis of a Cheetah conservation project in 1973. In the same year Dr Gus Mills implemented Brown Hyena research in the Kalahari and over a decade later, in 1985, the first African Wild Dog census was initiated in the Kruger National Park. In 1995 Dr John Ledger (CEO at the time) asked Dr Gus Mills to form a Carnivore Conservation Group at the EWT, which is now the Carnivore Conservation Programme".

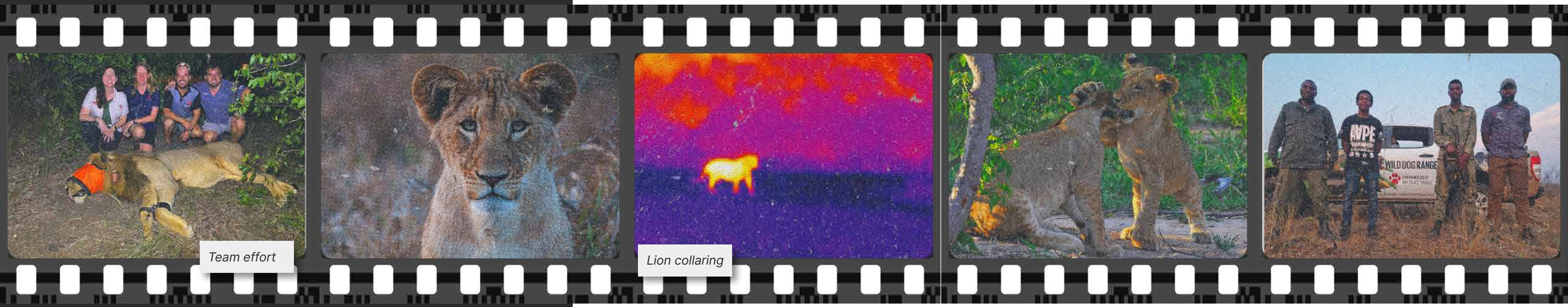
- Derek van der Merwe, Programme Manager

LIONS
IN THE FIRING LINE

In 2020, a collaborative effort involving the EWT, SANParks, ANAC, MWA, and PPF was launched to monitor Lion prides within GLTFCA using GPS satellite collars on individual lions. This initiative was prompted by a surge in targeted poisoning of Lions, potentially linked to the illicit trade in Lion parts. Monitoring Lion prides serves to pinpoint critical zones requiring increased Lion protection across the GLTFCA. Data from the collars help to anticipate Lion movements, facilitating strategic protection efforts.

Despite our concerted efforts, there has still been an escalation in poison-related incidents. Over several months in 2023, eleven Lions fell victim to poisoning and snares in the northern Kruger National Park. Most of these human-induced fatalities transpired along the western perimeter of Kruger National Park. Our Mozambique field officers also discovered a Lion carcass in the adjacent Limpopo National Park (Mozambique) in April 2023. The evidence strongly indicates a deliberate targeting of Lions for their body parts, given the removal of the head, claws, skin and stomach fat — a stark reminder of the illegal wildlife trade. It is not yet known what is driving the spike in Lion poaching.

This work is made possible with support from the Aha Hotels and Lodges, Lion Recovery Fund, Singita Lowveld Trust, The Meterman, and the UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.



Team effort

Lion collaring

WILD DOGS
ON THE LOOSE

Not all Wild Dogs are confined to fenced reserves in South Africa. Over this reporting period, we have become aware of at least four packs that have denned outside protected areas. We work 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 the 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. In August 2022, we successfully collared a male Wild Dog of the Melkrivier pack in the Waterberg. This is one of only two free-roaming packs in the Waterberg, and until now, we have not been able to track this pack – which presently includes three adults, six yearlings and a litter of pups.

Monitoring the pack is critically important given the landowner matrix in the Waterberg: while many landowners fully support the EWT's carnivore work and the presence of Wild Dogs in the landscape, others can be hostile, and the threat of persecution is ever-present.

The Waterberg also hosts the EWT's state-of-the-art Wild Dog holding facility in Welgevonden Game Reserve. In October, two male Wild Dogs from Somkhanda and four female Wild Dogs from Hluhluwe Imfolozi were relocated to this holding facility. This is the first bonding attempt to take place at our holding facility. The pack was successfully introduced into Makalali Game Reserve, close to the Kruger National Park, in December.

This work is made possible with support from Africa's Wild Dog Survival Fund, Alastair Stalker, Colette Carty, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Gaie Fergusson, Lizzie Hide, Lucia van Dyk, Milkywire, Oak Foundation, Painted Dog Conservation, Painted Wolf Wines, Princess Charlene of Monaco, and Relate Richard Bosman, Rob Hibbert, SSU Plant Quarry, Tania Ihlenfeldt, and TNH Fencing.



Collar fitted onto wild dog

Camera trap Census

LIVESTOCK
GUARDIAN DOGS

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 guardian 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 guardian 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 251 livestock guardian dogs with farmers across various commercial and rural communities in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, the Northern Cape, Free State, and KwaZulu-Natal.

Our livestock guardian dog project has successfully reduced losses from protected herds from an average of 6.7 livestock per year to almost zero. Since these farmers no longer lose livestock, they no longer kill carnivores



Waterburg breeding dogs

in retaliation and alert us to snared or killed predators. We worked with ten new farmers experiencing unsustainable livestock losses to carnivores this year, and we placed six new dogs this year. During the reporting period, we significantly reduced livestock losses to these farmers, demonstrating how effective these dogs are and how beneficial the project is for farmers and predators alike. This has generated increasing interest in using livestock guardian dogs among other local farmers.

The EWT's livestock guardian dog breeding facility has been completed, and in the future, the breeding of the dogs will be undertaken by Mokgadi Guardian Dogs, overseen by the EWT. We expect the facility to contribute 10–15 livestock guardian dog puppies to the farming community annually via the EWT.

The EWT played a crucial role in addressing the threat of disease among domestic dogs in the Vaalwater area by coordinating a veterinary campaign. This will help reduce the transmission of diseases from domestic dogs to large carnivores. We led a successful spay campaign in the Leseding township, Vaalwater, in which 154 animals, including 120 dogs and 34 cats, were spayed, easily surpassing our target of 50 individuals.

This work is made possible with support from Bakwena, Bravecto, Briandez Legacy Trust, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Eukanuba, Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme implemented by the UNDP, Gaie Fergusson, and Milkywire and veterinarians.

GLOBAL LEOPARD CONFERENCE

The EWT co-hosted the Global Leopard Conference, together with the Cape Leopard Trust, in March 2023. This conference provided a platform to share lessons relating to Leopards from around the globe. It also allowed collaborative solutions to be discussed and shared to ensure the long-term survival of this ecologically important umbrella species. Leopards may be the most adaptable of the big cats. However, the global Leopard population and distribution is in decline. Many of the threats to Leopard survival occur commonly across the 63 countries where Leopards occur, and those protecting them seek better conservation solutions.

This conference was an opportunity to bring together Leopard specialists, researchers, and conservationists to explore a broad spectrum of topics, including Leopard ecology and the human-wildlife interface, the role of Leopards in art and culture, conservation and management strategies, and leveraging environmental education.

The Global Leopard Conference was planned to create opportunities to enhance leopard conservation through international collaboration and learning exchanges, with over 350 attendees from all over the world. The conference was a resounding success, with calls for the conference to be held every two years.

This work is made possible with support from the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation and Gaie Fergusson.

BADGER-FRIENDLY HONEY



In September 2022, our team completed 24 badger-friendly audits for beekeepers across seven provinces who supply honey to Woolworths. All but one of these beekeepers complied with the audit's criteria, which include measures such as protecting all hives either by raising them above ground level (more than 1.1m), by fastening them to the ground and bolting down the lid of the hive, or completely excluding access to the hives using cages or razor wire fences. Most of the beekeepers who were audited and suffered damage due to Honey Badgers are now protecting their hives effectively against badgers, even if the beekeepers are not using the Badger Friendly Label. Based on a lack of reports of Honey Badgers being persecuted by beekeepers, it can thus be interpreted that the programme has been effective in addressing, creating awareness, and solving the issue of badger killing by beekeepers. Many beekeepers are using their own methods to prevent damage by Honey Badgers and other wild animals, including putting the hives into large cages and modifying the standard raised platforms. This shows that many beekeepers supplying honey to stores, such as Woolworths, are effectively protecting their hives against Honey Badgers.

This work is made possible with support from Woolworths.

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Derek van der Merwe
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CONSERVATION
PLANNING AND SCIENCE UNIT

The EWT'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 support 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 of Conservation Concern and African Lion Database projects. This year, we also launched a revision of the Mammal Red List.

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



SETTING 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.

This year, we continued revising programmatic strategic plans (including in-country plans in Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa for the EWT/ICF Strategic Partnership) and how we monitor and report on impact at an organisational level. We are aligning these strategic plans with our high-level organisational strategy (2023-2030), goals, and donor requirements.

In October, the EWT's Senior Manager: Strategic Planning travelled to Canada to attend the global Conservation Coaches Network (CCNet) Rally. The event provides a platform for CCNet members to connect, share innovations, sharpen their skills, and support conservation practitioners to do better, smarter conservation. At the event, the CMP awarded the EWT/ICF Strategic Partnership, specifically the East African team, first place in its Conservation Standards Photo Story Competition.

As a representative for the EWT, our Senior Manager: Strategic Planning was voted onto the CMP's Board of Directors in December. This has provided the EWT an excellent opportunity to learn more about the business of the CMP and to help guide its direction. We are also leading two CMP learning initiatives funded by the Moore Foundation. These include updating the IUCN/CMP Threats and Actions Classifications and the Conservation Standards Effectiveness and Impact initiative. We also co-facilitated two Alcedo Conservation Getting Started with the Conservation Standards courses, the first of which included six participants from EWT/ICF.

This work is made possible with support from the Moore Foundation.

ETHICS REVIEW

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 four times over the past year to review our conservation projects. In total, the committee has met 24 times and approved 79 projects (57 animal projects and 22 social projects) since October 2018.

We welcomed Dr Jim Taylor, an environmental education specialist, as our second social scientist and Tamaria Motsepe, a marketing and communications specialist, as our second public representative. We thank Jacklyn Cock, who has resigned, for her support over the year. We have not yet replaced her. Samantha Nicholson stepped down as the committee coordinator, Erin Adams replaced Samantha as the interim committee coordinator, and Lesley Helliwell is earmarked to take over in the third quarter of 2023.

Committee Member and expertise (affiliation)	23 August 2022	22 November 2022	07 March 2023	06 June 2023
Dr Ian Little (EWT) - Chair	√	√	√	√
Dr Richard Burroughs – Wildlife veterinarian (University of Pretoria)	√	X	X	X
Dr Jacklyn Cock – Social scientist (University of the Witwatersrand)	√	X	X	-
Dr Kelly Marnewick – Scientist (Tshwane University of Technology)	√	X	√	X
Dr Leith Meyer – Wildlife veterinarian (University of Pretoria)	√	√	√	√
Samantha Nicholson – EWTEC Coordinator (EWT)	√	√	-	-
Erin Adams – EWTEC Coordinator (EWT)	√	√	√	√
Lesley Helliwell – 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)	√	X	√	X
Tamaria Motsepe – Public representative (Independent)	X	√	X	√
Jim Taylor – Social scientist (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal)	X	√	X	X
Number of projects approved				
Animal projects	2	4	3	1
Social projects	2	3	0	3
Standard Operating Procedures	0	0	1	0

AFRICAN LION DATABASE

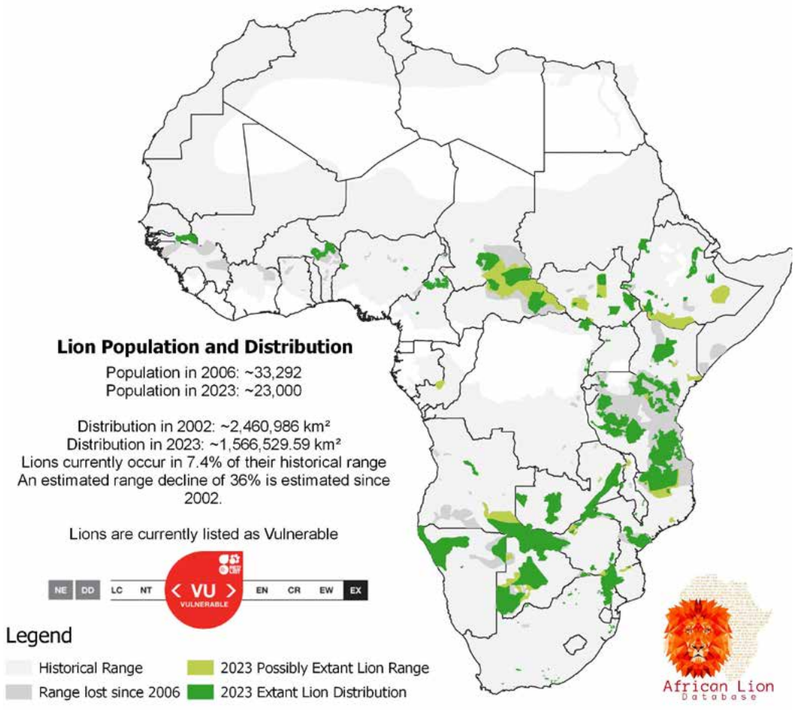
The African Lion Database (ALD), an IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Cat Specialist Group Initiative, is a first-of-its-kind platform for African Lions that collects and consolidates population, distribution, and human-related mortality data across the African Lion's range. The database allows 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. While our ALD work continues to make steady progress, not surprisingly, it has become more challenging to fill the remaining data gaps. In some cases, no data exists, whilst in others, we plan to engage directly with the relevant conservation agencies.

In 2022, we completed a range-wide online threat survey to gather qualitative data from experts in Lion populations on the threats to Lions across their African range. The survey focused on threats to Lions within individual populations, how they are mitigated, and how they differ across regions. We sent the survey to 187 experts and received a 76% response rate. We reported these findings to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as details on the mortality component of the ALD. We found key perceived threats to the species included habitat loss, loss of prey base, and poaching (both direct and indirect). Poaching for Lion parts appears to be localised to areas in southern Africa. Additional outputs included a report on the threats to Lions and a range-wide mitigation and monitoring plan developed using the Conservation Standards and aimed at conservation practitioners across the continent. Disturbingly, we identified an increase in the frequency of the illegal killings of Lions in Mozambique. This potentially negatively impacts local populations in protected areas, including Niassa Special Reserve and Limpopo National Park.



Samantha Nicholson presenting on the ALD at the ACI

Current Lion Distribution



We also used the data from the ALD to update the global Lion IUCN Red List assessment. The ALD manager updated this assessment in collaboration with multiple stakeholders and submitted it to the IUCN, who accepted it in March 2023. Data from the ALD also contributed to a preliminary technical and scientific review on the recovery of the Northern Lion. The Northern Lion, Panthera leo leo, is a Lion subspecies that occurs in West Africa and most of Central Africa and is currently listed as Critically Endangered, indicating a high risk of extinction in the wild.

In May, the ALD Manager gave an update on the ALD at the 2nd Range States meeting for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative. In July, the ALD manager attended the inaugural IUCN African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Kigali, Rwanda. APAC is the first-ever continent-wide gathering of African leaders, citizens, and interest groups to discuss the role of protected areas in conserving nature, safeguarding Africa's iconic wildlife, delivering vital life-supporting ecosystem services, and promoting sustainable development while conserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions. This was a valuable opportunity to network, promote the ALD, and obtain more valuable Lion-related data.

This work is made possible with support from the Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund, National Geographic, 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	60	855	394	19488	3803	522	250
Change (year on year)	0	33%	60	7	1676	2196	52	61

SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN PROJECT

This project began 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 Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's (DFFE) Environmental Screening Tool and additional distribution data on species that are Near Threatened. This will be achieved 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.

This year, we have made good progress with the project, including completing all species modelling aspects. After tireless work between our selves and Compass Informatics, the interactive online LUDS biodiversity map is ready to go live on the SANBI Biological GIS (BGIS) platform. We are particularly pleased with the Biodiversity Tool Report functionality, which allows users to generate and download detailed reports of their chosen area of interest. Accompanying the online map is a detailed metadata document that the EWT will host on our website. The release of the LUDS SCC tool will coincide with the release of SANBI's new and updated BGIS viewer website. Following recent changes to SANBI's sensitive species list

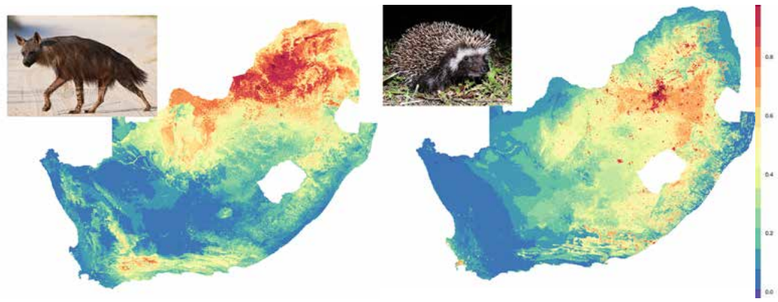


Nucras aurantiaca
Photo credit: Chad Keates

– those species at risk of trade or over-exploitation – we updated the database for the LUDS SCC tool to include an additional 20 species. We have provided the updated database to SANBI, and this version will be used for the official release.

The fieldwork component of the project has commenced with ongoing surveys targeting Data Deficient (DD) and Not Evaluated (NE) amphibian species in the Western Cape. In addition, we conducted a two-week survey for the Data Deficient Orange Sandveld Lizard (Nucras aurantiaca) near Lambert's Bay along the West Coast, alongside collaborators from SANBI and Bayworld Museum. The gruelling fieldwork was worthwhile as we rediscovered this elusive species after 12 years – only the second capture ever! The finding and the fact that the habitat is currently undergoing mineral prospecting generated good press coverage for the species. We anticipate that the data collected during the trip will allow the Orange Sandveld Lizard to be formally listed to an IUCN threat category, which means it will have to be considered during future development proposals. This also means that this unique species will need to be added to SANBI's Environmental Screening Tool, the EWT's Threatened Species No-Go Map, and the new LUDS Biodiversity online map.

Following the successful rediscovery of the Orange Sandveld Lizard, we are finalising plans for the next season of fieldwork to survey several additional Data Deficient species. This includes the Blyde River Flat Gecko, Branch's Rain Frog, Namaqua Sand Frog, and Pennington's Blue Butterfly.



Species Distribution Models for Near Threatened species: Brown Hyaena and South African Hedgehog

This work is made possible with support from the Anglo-American Foundation.

MAMMAL RED LIST REVISION

The Mammal Red List update for South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini kicked off in December 2022, with a two-year timeframe, with initial funding secured from De Beers Group, SANBI and Eskom. Red Lists are recommended to be updated at least every 10 years. To date, there has been progress on obtaining signed Data Sharing Agreements from data providers from the previous Red List assessments. This will allow permission for the use of the data by both SANBI and the EWT for updated Red List assessments and for auxiliary assessments/ uses such as the Environmental Screening Tool, the identification of priority areas for conservation, including Key Biodiversity Areas and Critical Biodiversity Areas in bioregional plans, as well identifying protected area expansion priorities.

We organised Red List workshops for the different mammalian orders, the first of which was held virtually in March 2023. This workshop included antelope, zebra, and elephant species experts. These workshops will help to secure new data and new assessors and will expedite the signing of the outstanding Data Sharing Agreement. The second workshop, for carnivores, was held in June 2023. We plan to have two more workshops, one for small mammals and bats and one for cetaceans (whales and dolphins). We are currently cleaning and standardising the mammal datasets we have received from various organisations to date. These will be incorporated into the Mammal Red List Database assembled during the 2016 revision and subsequent peer-reviewed publications with EWT affiliation.

This work is made possible with support from the De Beers Group, Eskom, and SANBI.

"Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert began her career at the EWT as a student in 1999, she worked her way up the ranks to be the first Head of Conservation and Science where she initiated the Conservation Planning and Science Unit just before she departed the EWT twenty-three years later to take on an exciting new conservation challenge at Conserve Global."

- Dr Lizanne Roxburgh, Senior Manager: Science



STATE OF PROVINCIAL RESERVES

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 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 of these reserves. We analysed data provided to us by SANBI on the protection status of species to determine which provincial reserves are most important for protecting threatened species. We also identified and assessed major management challenges for the provincial reserves to understand where management improvements might have the greatest impact. We undertook targeted surveys and interviews with protected area experts, which we consolidated into the report. Key recommendations include improving the management of poorly run reserves, most notably by recruiting qualified, skilled, and experienced managers and staff members. The report emphasises the urgent measures required to refurbish infrastructure and significantly improve management effectiveness to realise the full tourism potential of these areas. Finally, the report highlights the need for partnerships and collaborations with the private sector, NGOs, and communities to raise funds and to build mutually beneficial relationships between reserves and local communities. The report received considerable media attention, and we are confident our findings will help inform protected area management interventions within provincial reserves that are currently poorly managed and grossly under-resourced.

This work is made possible with support from the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa.

BANKING OUR DATA

The EWT's Biodiversity DataBank is a centralised repository of all the biodiversity data that the EWT collects. The 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, the African Crane Database, and multiple smaller programmatic databases. It houses 32 data tables from eight of the EWT's programmes.

In the past year, we have uploaded multiple new datasets to the DataBank, including camera trap surveys for Riverine Rabbits, a survey of threats to Lions across Africa and data on crane ringing, amongst others. Several of our databases, including the Riverine Rabbit, Kloof Frog, and Wildlife Poisoning ones, have undergone major updates.

DATA HUNGRY

The CPSU 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, including:

- Reports of trash dumped into wetlands.
- Record of responses to carnivore call-up surveys in Kruger and Limpopo National Park.
- Data to inform the detection training for our working dogs.
- Records of Lion mortality incidents for incorporation into the African Lion Database.
- Tracking of the effectiveness of sniffer dogs in detecting various succulent plants.
- Survey data for dwarf tortoises in the Karoo.
- Record of visits to private properties to grow a database of landowners interested in conservation.
- Tracking the benefits of providing bean and potato seeds to community members.
- Testing water clarity in East Africa.



OTHER PROGRAMMES AND PARTNER SUPPORT

The CPSU provided critical 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 is critical to inform strategic adaptive management. Programme support this year included:

- A plethora of strategic GIS-related support work. These included providing substantial GIS support to the National Business and Biodiversity Network for their biodiversity footprinting projects. Within the Karoo, we developed regional climate projections and current renewable energy spatial plans. We also modelled distribution maps for the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise, Speckled Dwarf Tortoise, and localities of Endangered Cape Stag Beetles. For the EWT's amphibian-related work, we produced species distribution model outputs for the Overberg sub-population of the Western Leopard Toad, the Pickersgill's Reed Frog in KwaZulu-Natal, and the invasive Asian Toad. We developed a series of summary statistics and graphs as a first step in analysing the long-term monitoring dataset for Kloof Frogs, which is housed in the Biodiversity DataBank. This also included counting eggs in photos of Kloof Frog egg clumps. Finally, the team produced an updated biodiversity stewardship map and associated metrics for the EWT.
- Presenting and participating in a productive workshop hosted by SANBI to discuss the setting up of a National Species Specialist Group. The purpose of this group will be to co-ordinate expertise across taxonomic groups in the country, to support government and facilitate science-based decision making, and the development of policies that will contribute towards halting the loss of species.
- Developing an Alien Invasive Control and Management Plan for Tutuka Power Station to support the EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme and Eskom's strategic partnership.
- Developed a four-by-four km grid cell map of Limpopo and Kruger National Park for camera trap placement to determine Lion occupancy.
- Producing an ecological niche model for Wattled Crane breeding sites in South Africa for the African Crane Conservation Programme, for use in a planning workshop.
- Assisting the Wildlife in Trade Programme with training on the IUCN Red List for their online permitting training course.
- Working with the GIS staff at the International Crane Foundation (ICF) to create a decision-making tool for the African Crane Conservation Programme's Kenya team to decide which areas to expand their work into.
- Creating a data dashboard that highlights the location and type of conflict and mortality incidents involving cranes in Africa.



Painted Reed Frog and Pickersgill's Reed Frog Photo credit: Cherise Acker

Lion collaring

Tortoise habitat transformation

NBBN site visit - SASOL

Kloof Frog Egg Clump Photo credit: Cherise Acker

CPSG REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

The EWT hosts the southern and East Africa Regional Resource Centre (RRC) of the IUCN's Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG). This centre positions us as a leading planning resource in the region and enables us to leverage strategic partnerships and develop strategic species and landscape-level projects.

The RRC acts as a link to the CPSG, actively interrogating planning needs in the region and establishing a network of partners to support this work. We worked with partners towards species plans for several species this year. The Wattled and Blue Crane species plans are in the early stages of development, and we are supporting the Western Leopard Toad and Pickersgill's Reed Frog Biodiversity Management Plans.

Key material contributions included:

- Indian Ocean Humpbacked Dolphin
- Bearded Vulture
- Pangolins
- African Penguin

This work is made possible with support from the Leiden Conservation Foundation.

INDIAN OCEAN HUMPBACK DOLPHIN

The Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin is the most threatened cetacean species in southern African waters. This can be attributed to its small and restricted range and high overlap with human threats such as fishing (as bycatch), pollution, and habitat degradation. Today, a small and decreasing population remains, with fewer than 500 individuals thought to occur along the entire South African coastline. To avoid the continued decline of this species, we need a good understanding of the threats it faces and the development of an integrated and nationally coordinated management and action plan to mitigate threats. To this end, planning continues with the SouSA consortium (derived from the species Sousa plumbea in South Africa), a formalised network of scientists and conservationists that was established in 2016 to combine knowledge and research efforts and make coordinated decisions with the aim of conserving this unique dolphin species. We have assembled a core organising team to develop and implement the planning process, with stakeholders from SouSA, national and provincial government, and the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board. These stakeholders bring important knowledge of the species and will have a significant influence on the successful implementation of the actions that will ultimately be identified in the plan. Notably, during the CPSG Annual Meeting in Tenerife, Spain (in October 2022), the CPSG RRC Coordinator met with other members of the CPSG Development Programme, as well as the Vortex modellers, who will be part of this dolphin organising team. The scope of work for this project includes a comprehensive threat analysis and Population Viability Analyses (PVA). These will both inform the third component of the planning process, which is a stakeholder workshop to identify priority actions to mitigate threats and assign responsibilities and time frames. This document will then be used to compile a Biodiversity Management Plan for this species. We are currently pursuing funding for project implementation.

BEARDED VULTURE

The Bearded Vulture is regionally Critically Endangered and is not well represented or conserved in protected areas in Lesotho and South Africa. Accordingly, conservation measures need to be implemented across the species' range in these regions. This year, we completed the Bearded Vulture PVA report, working with Jamie Copsey (CPSG) and Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert (Conserve Global), who carried out the Vortex modelling. Critically, the PVA estimates that only 62 birds (20 breeding pairs) will remain in the wild in 50 years' time. Based on this report, the recommended strategy includes securing the current wild population through threat mitigation, coupled with supplementation from an ex-situ population. The recommendations from the report will be used to update the Bearded Vulture Recovery Strategy and Action Plan (for Lesotho and South Africa).

PANGOLINS

More pangolins fall victim to the illegal wildlife trade than any other mammal. This includes the three species that occur in West Africa, and Temminck's Pangolin in southern Africa. The protection of these species is of considerable concern. In March 2023, at the request of the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group, the CPSG Regional Coordinator facilitated a West Africa Regional Pangolin Conservation Workshop. Funding from Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and the West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development (WABiLED) enabled this workshop to take place in person in Accra, Ghana. The workshop was attended by over 70 delegates from range countries (including Ghana, Liberia, Cameroon, Gabon, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinee, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Togo), and representatives from NGOs and other organisations that support this work. Interest was expressed to have CPSG support in future planning work. Similarly, in April 2023, we facilitated a pre-planning workshop as part of the process to develop the Southern Africa Regional Pangolin Conservation Plan. The workshop went well, with substantial, robust engagement from stakeholders. A follow-up survey has been sent to assess stakeholder perspectives of the workshop. Planning for an in-person stakeholder workshop to develop this plan further is underway.

AFRICAN PENGUIN

This Endangered penguin's population is in serious decline, largely due to food shortages resulting from shifts in the distributions of prey species, competition with commercial fishers, and environmental fluctuations. The EWT has been working with conservation partners through multiple DFFE-led processes to negotiate with the small pelagic fishing industry to close areas adjacent to penguin breeding colonies to fishing. In so doing, penguins will have less competition with the fishing industry for sardine and anchovy. Unfortunately, no agreement could be reached, and the Minister appointed an independent panel to review the science of these fishing closures and to develop recommendations. The EWT participated in this panel process, together with our conservation partners, and in parallel to ministerial engagements on the matter along with various other CEOs in the environmental sector. At the timing of this report, it was unclear how the recommendations made by the panel – including the implementation of fisheries no-take zones – would be interpreted and implemented by the minister.



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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. Fortunately, the Karoo remains largely intact, with natural rangeland forming the foundation for its small-stock meat and wool production systems. However, agricultural practices unsuited to this harsh but sensitive landscape have had lasting impacts, including a reduction in species diversity and widespread soil erosion.

This sensitive landscape is also under increasing pressure from various developments, and the effects of climate change compound this. The EWT's Drylands Conservation Programme is the only conservation 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.

Through the implementation of our new programme strategy, our work is expanding to include several new, elusive drylands species. This has allowed us to explore new sites, collaborate with new partners, communicate with new stakeholders, and create renewed excitement around conserving the biodiversity and landscapes of the succulent Karoo, a globally recognised biodiversity hotspot.



CONSERVING LANDSCAPES, SECURING LIVELIHOODS

Sustainable Land Management is about finding the best land use for a given landscape. This often means a holistic approach that addresses environmental and social challenges. We are working with local landowners and CapeNature to realise a common vision for the establishment of the Greater Anysberg Conservation Area (near the town of Touwsriver), with the Anysberg Nature Reserve – a World Heritage site – forming the core area.

Altogether, five neighbouring properties, totalling approximately 16,000 ha, are in the process of being declared nature reserves as part of the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. These private nature reserves will become a buffer to the Anysberg Nature Reserve and will expand safe spaces for iconic dryland species such as Leopards, Aardvarks, Aardwolves, Honey Badgers and, of course, one of our flagship species, the Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit.



Working with CapeNature on Riverine Rabbit conservation

Setting camera traps

Speckled Dwarf Tortoise Photo credit: JP le Roux

Lettaskraal training

The Endangered Karoo Dwarf Tortoise is also known to occur in this area, and we will focus on addressing possible threats to this species as part of our new programme strategy. Further, both the Fynbos and Succulent Karoo Biomes, which make up most of this landscape, are world-renowned for their incredible botanical biodiversity. Fynbos represents the smallest but one of the most diverse plant kingdoms in the world, while the Succulent Karoo is the most biodiverse arid area on the planet.

As part of the Greater Anysberg Conservation initiative, we initiated a skills development project aimed at catalysing entrepreneurship opportunities with members of the Touws River community. We partnered with the Lettas Kraal Nature Reserve, which neighbours the Anysberg Nature Reserve, to make this opportunity a reality for ten community members. Student training is taking place at the Lettas Kraal Education Centre, built specifically to facilitate community development. We started these training sessions in May 2023 and, since then, have hosted monthly training sessions. Experts in various environmental and ecotourism fields are assisting with the training. The first training session introduced the students to basic computer literacy to equip them with the skills to study courses online. Computers were sponsored by Lettas Kraal and the EWT. Subsequently, the team also hosted courses on SLM, camera trapping, and mammal identification.

This work is made possible with support from the Anglo-American Species Conservation Fund, Ford Wildlife Foundation, and the Lettas Kraal Nature Reserve.

PROTECTING THE BOKKEVELD'S BIODIVERSITY

In collaboration with the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform's (DAERL) Stewardship Unit, we carried out an intensive biodiversity survey on Papkuilsfontein, located near Nieuwoudtville on the Bokkeveld Plateau. Papkuilsfontein is a commercial sheep farm well known for its first-class guest house accommodation and mountain biking routes. The farm is in the process of being declared a Protected Environment, aimed at securing the protection of the unique biodiversity on this property for future generations.

The biodiversity survey was carried out with the help of several volunteers, including botanists from SANBI's Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW), who developed comprehensive species lists for Papkuilsfontein.

We also registered a project on the online iNaturalist platform, a citizen science initiative that involves members of the South African public in the surveying, monitoring and conservation of wildlife. This allows visitors to Papkuilsfontein to contribute their sightings. Over 1,679 observations were logged by EWT staff and volunteers during the survey. Of special interest at Papkuilsfontein are the 100-plus species of solitary bees, recorded by world-renowned bee expert Dr Michael Kuhlman, and the growing list of Mantid species being compiled by a North-West University team. The expanding species list shows what can be done when a concerted effort is made by volunteers, specialists, NGOs, and the provincial conservation authorities to address the gap in biodiversity information on properties prioritised for conservation.

The construction of a via ferrata climbing route on Papkuilsfontein was completed in February 2023. With this unique tourism product, we aim to diversify income on this commercial livestock farm with significant biodiversity value, helping to provide benefits throughout the year.

This work is made possible with support from the Table Mountain Fund



Papkuilsfontein biodiversity survey

Guy Palmer Small mammal ID from owl pellet remains

THE DAY OF THE JACKAL

Our team worked together with the EWT's Birds of Prey and Carnivore Conservation Programmes, the Cape Leopard Trust, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, and CapeNature to host a successful predator information day in Prince Albert titled Jakkals uit die bos gesels. The aim was to share best practices for managing predators on farms. Usually, these conversations evoke a great deal of emotion. However, the workshop was presented in a great spirit of collaboration and set a new standard for difficult conversations.

On the Bokkeveld, we also worked with the Cape Leopard Trust, DAERL, and CapeNature to present the Cape Leopard Trust's Living with Nature workshop to the farmers. Carnivore conflict is a complex and emotional subject and is best dealt with by taking a solutions-based approach that includes all stakeholders.

This work is made possible with support from the Global Environment Facility, managed by the United Nations Development Programme in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the Northern Cape Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

DRIVING NEXT LEVEL DETECTION

Since 2016, Jessie the Border Collie has assisted the team on numerous projects. Unfortunately, cancer took Jessie from us in September 2022 when she died from lymphoma. She was more than "just a dog," but a once-in-a-lifetime special soul. She and her owner/handler, Esther Matthew, travelled the country together, working on diverse wildlife conservation projects. Jessie left a huge paw-print on the world of conservation. In her final months, she helped start the training of a new conservation warrior, Delta, who has developed into the most incredible two-year-old, certified scent detection worker. Delta has taken up Jessie's mantle and assists our team on many conservation projects. These include the identification of Riverine Rabbit scats and surveys for highly threatened dwarf tortoise species. This work will help speed up the difficult and slow process of finding tortoises in rugged terrain. In March 2023, working with our Wildlife in Trade Programme, she started her detection training for succulent plants that are in high demand for illegal trade by collectors.

This work is made possible with support from the Ford Wildlife Foundation, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Tania Ihlenfeldt, the Turtle Conservancy, and the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP).



Predator Info Day
Jakkals uit die bos gesels

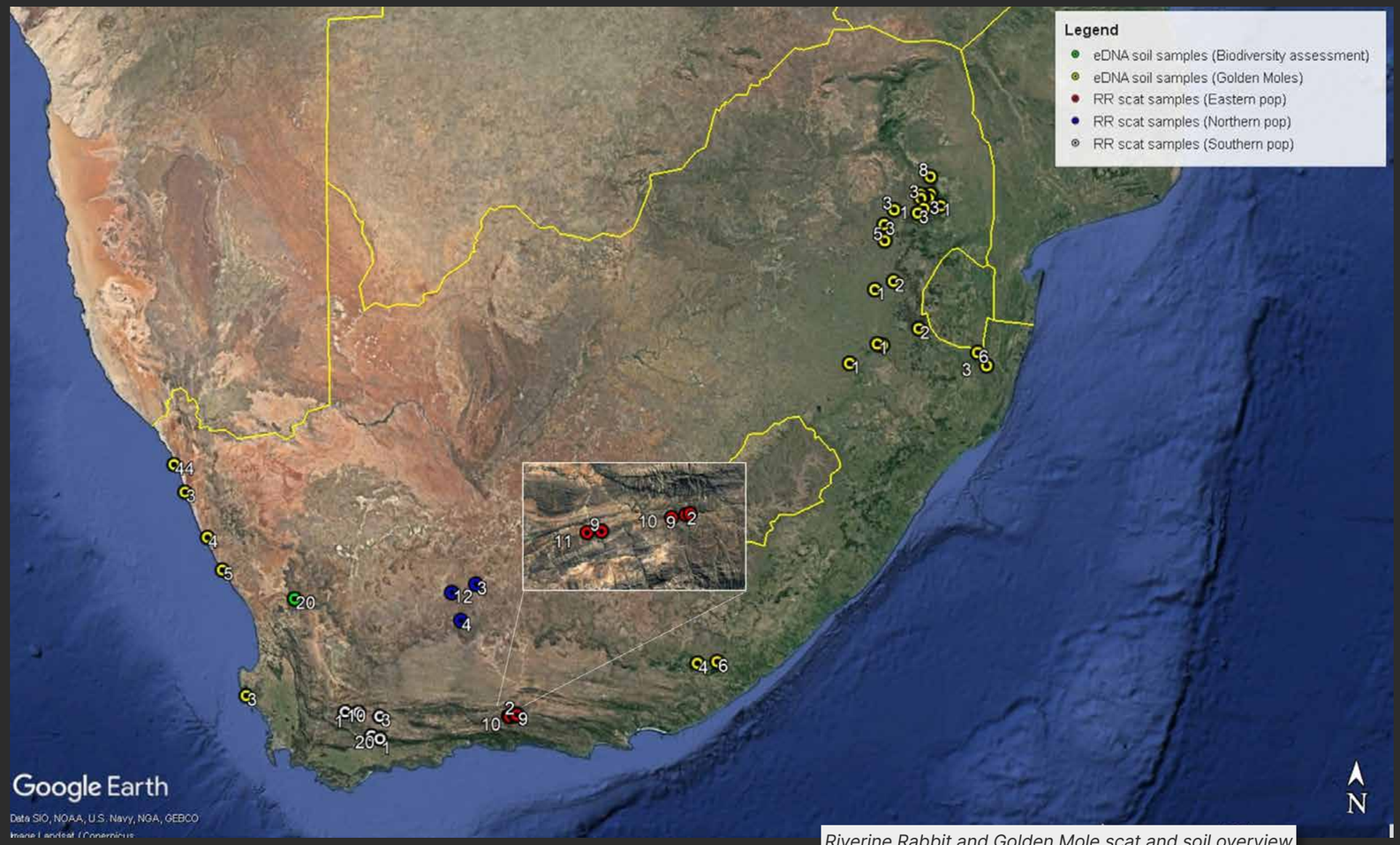
Jessie, Golden Mole indication
Photo credit: Esther Matthew

Delta and Esther Matthew
Photo credit: Nathanael Stanek

PROTECTING "RABITATS"

Originally, the Drylands Conservation Programme focussed on the Riverine Rabbit. Today, two decades later, the programme has evolved to include conservation initiatives that serve several dryland species. Riverine Rabbits are a particularly challenging species to study and conserve. We have, therefore, accelerated our efforts to better understand their geographic distribution and any potential geographic links between the three sub-populations, as well as gather genetic material to investigate genetic diversity and connectivity between these sub-populations. This year, we surveyed properties where our camera traps have previously detected Riverine Rabbits, as well as additional sites where we might uncover new populations, either through reported sightings or due to suitable habitat. Delta, our scent detection Border Collie, assists us in finding Riverine Rabbit scat, from which we extract DNA for genetic analysis.

Over the past year, we collected 117 scat samples from four properties representing the northern sub-population, seven representing the southern, and five representing the eastern sub-populations. Ultimately, the insights we gain from the population genetic analyses of these samples will help to inform and guide the conservation management of the species. For the northern population around Loxton, distributional information will guide where developments, including renewable energy and mining, conflict with Riverine Rabbit presence. For the southern and eastern populations, this information will help us expand the protected area network, prioritising areas with viable Riverine Rabbit populations.



Riverine Rabbit and Golden Mole scat and soil overview

This work is made possible with support from the Anglo-American Species Conservation Fund, Ford Wildlife Foundation, and the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP).

FINDING GOLD IN THE SAND

Animals continuously shed skin and other cells which contain their DNA. Through groundbreaking research done by the EWT's Dr Samantha Mynhardt, we can identify species presence simply by collecting soil that contains this environmental DNA (eDNA). This approach is revolutionising our ability to detect elusive species, particularly golden moles – one of the most endangered groups of mammals on the planet – along South Africa's arid West Coast. This novel approach is allowing us to completely redefine our understanding of the distribution of species, leading to the discovery of a potentially new species of golden mole and the rediscovery of a species believed to be extinct. We will publish our exciting findings as soon as they are ratified by the scientific community.

We have collected additional eDNA samples from various potentially suitable localities along the West Coast, including the Namaqua National Park and West Coast National Park, to assess species distributions at a finer scale. In addition, we are working towards conserving a critical site for the conservation of golden moles at McDougal's Bay (Port Nolloth) by formalising its protection and supporting the Richtersveld Local Municipality in the management of this site. Given the enormous development pressure and transformation of habitat along the West Coast, we are in a race against time to secure habitat and to better understand some of the country's most threatened species.

This project is made possible with support from the Ford Wildlife Foundation, Prince Bernard Nature Fund, and a Rainforest Trust Rapid Feasibility Grant.



Golden Mole fieldwork West Coast

Cryptochloris wintoni

GOLDEN MOMENTS

We finalised the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) EDGE Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) for golden moles, which will now be distributed to stakeholders. This MsAP is the first of its kind for golden moles and results from a culmination of fieldwork around South Africa, including several workshops with stakeholders from the private and government sectors. We produced two golden mole posters as outputs for the SSC EDGE project. The two posters outline the MsAP for protected and unprotected areas, respectively and are targeted at various conservation authorities and stakeholders to inform better decision-making.

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

DWARF TORTOISES

With 13 tortoise species, South Africa is the most tortoise species-rich country globally. Of these 13 tortoise species, nine occur in the Karoo region. Worryingly, populations are declining at alarming rates, particularly the dwarf tortoises. We have focussed our conservation efforts on two species of dwarf tortoise, the Speckled Dwarf Tortoise and the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise. The Speckled Dwarf Tortoise holds the title as the world's smallest tortoise, with adults measuring only roughly 10 cm long.

We are working hard to locate the remaining populations of these two species and to work with landowners to implement conservation actions. This is a race against time as populations continue to decline rapidly. The causes for this decline include habitat loss to agriculture, development and mining, habitat degradation, severe droughts, and illegal collection for the pet trade. In addition, indications are that unsustainable levels of predation – by the increasing numbers of Pied Crow in the Karoo – is also severely impacting populations and might be the key driving force behind the population declines.

Tortoise detection is challenging as they are experts at hiding amongst rocks and crevices. We are employing novel detection techniques, which include the use of our scent detection dog and eDNA sampling, to locate these tortoises. One challenge we face is the rapid degradation of eDNA in arid conditions. In May 2023, we started to tackle this in collaboration with Stellenbosch University, working with a student to employ these novel survey methods for tortoises and other terrestrial species using eDNA.

To bolster our tortoise conservation efforts, we have joined forces with the Turtle Conservancy, a conservation organisation that helps protect threatened turtles, tortoises, and their habitats worldwide and Dr Victor Loer from Dwarf Tortoise Conservation. Our conservation work on tortoises is further bolstered through a partnership with the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund to secure habitat for tortoises on the Bokkeveld plateau.

This work is made possible with support from the IUCN Species Conservation Fund, Rainforest Trust, and the Turtle Conservancy.

ALL A FLUTTER

Worldwide, butterflies are in trouble, especially in South Africa. We have 21 Critically Endangered species out of an incredible 799 species in the country (more than half of which, 418, are endemic and 78 are threatened). Working closely with the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa (LepSoc Africa) and the Brenton Blue Trust, we are targeting six butterfly species in the Western Cape, where we work with landowners, conservation partners (the Bio Nerds), and local communities to protect butterfly habitats. In February 2023, we identified new locations of the Endangered Worcester Copper, Aloeides lutescens. We anticipate that critical butterfly areas will be amongst the first sites where the EWT uses Conservation Servitudes to enhance the formal conservation of privately owned areas for threatened species.

This work is made possible with support from the Disney Conservation Fund and the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.



Karoo Dwarf Tortoise likely predated by crows
Photo credit: Bonnie Schumann

ENVIRONMENTAL

DNA AS A BIOMONITORING TOOL

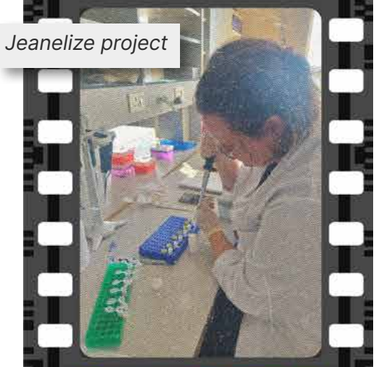
This year, we continued our work towards developing an eDNA biomonitoring tool. This will facilitate the detection of rare or elusive species and complement existing monitoring approaches. In collaboration with Stellenbosch University, we are attempting to broaden the application of the tool by testing our ability to detect several elusive wildlife species using eDNA from soil samples. This is a ground-breaking approach using a technique that, to date, has been largely restricted to aquatic applications. The first phase of our project involves comparing the species we detect from eDNA soil samples to those we detect on camera traps at the same sites. We are also interested in making the tool accessible to various conservation stakeholders, such as landowners and environmental impact assessors. To this end, we are developing an eDNA sampling protocol, which we will share with these stakeholders. We are also training youth from the local Touws River community in eDNA sample collection to assess the potential accessibility and scalability of the tool.

This work is made possible with support from the Anglo-American Species Conservation Fund and Ford Wildlife Foundation.





Jeanelize project



Collecting scat for eDNA





Jeanelize project



Tortoise scan





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Scent Detection Dog

"The scope and impact of the Drylands Conservation Programme has grown in leap-years since its inception as a single-species, Karoo-based programme in the early 2000s. The conservation achievements of the team are wide-ranging and their commitment inspiring, giving me hope for the persistence of our beautiful and fragile arid ecosystems and biodiversity."

- Johan du Plessis, Programme Manager

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 a positive force for conserving biodiversity in South Africa and beyond.

Companies would not be able to operate without functional biodiversity or ecosystems 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 businesses to identify and manage the risks and opportunities resulting from their interactions with nature. 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.

This work is made possible with support from 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.



BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROTOCOL GLOBALLY RECOGNISED AS BEST PRACTICE



One of the NBBN's focuses is to help companies measure, track, and report on their 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 their negative impacts, and increase market share. Every company has negative impacts (like transforming habitats), while many have positive impacts (like restoring wetlands).

The NBBN developed the Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol), which was released in 2021 as the first standardised accounting framework for organisations to consolidate a company's net impacts on ecosystems and species. It aims to reduce negative impacts by providing companies with an accounting and reporting framework, which helps consolidate their biodiversity impact data across value chains and jurisdictions. Increasingly recognised as the international biodiversity footprint accounting standard by, for example, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), EU-funded ALIGN project, and CDSB Biodiversity Guidance, the BD Protocol is being used by companies in the mining, energy, forestry, and retail sectors, as well as by municipalities.

This year, the NBBN undertook biodiversity footprints for Glencore Ferroalloys, Sasol, and the Shoprite Group, South Africa's largest retailer – a first of its kind in the retail sector. We embarked on a partnership with Anglo-American to conduct biodiversity footprint assessments of all their operational and non-operational sites around the world to assist them in meeting Net Positive Impact Targets. We conducted a follow-up footprint assessment for Sibanye-Stillwater, critical in tracking progress towards meeting science-based targets. The company has once again disclosed all their impacts and trends.

Following their footprint assessment, Glencore recognised the value of the BD Protocol for consolidating information across different ecosystems, operations, and countries and asked the NBBN to develop a corporate biodiversity accounting and target-setting training course. This course will be translated into five additional languages and mainstreamed across all operations in over 35 countries across the globe for the world's largest commodities trader.

Our strategic partnership with Mondi to mainstream biodiversity into managing their forestry operations has kicked off with site visits to work with their staff to conduct rapid assessments of species found on their land holdings. During these site visits, in just six hours, we recorded 457 species. We also met with members of their group ExCo to discuss biodiversity at a strategic level and have begun the pilot of their biodiversity footprint before delving deeper into using biodiversity accounting to track the management of ecosystems and species on their properties.

Click here to watch a video of our strategic partnership

NBBN SHINES
AT INTERNATIONAL POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

The NBBN has made marked progress through driving international policy ambition when it comes to business and biodiversity, with Programme Manager Dr Gabi Teren attending the COP15 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada, in December 2022. The result of this event was the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which will direct the 196 signatory countries to meet the four global goals and 23 targets towards restoring and conserving biodiversity. Further information for decoding the new international agreement is available here in the EWTs Conservation Matters.

As a major role-player, Big Business was represented by over 1,000 companies, the first time they had turned up in force for a biodiversity COP, and there were three dedicated days of business and finance in the official UN business and biodiversity forum. In recognition of the NBBN's growing global status, Dr Gabi Teren acted as the Master of Ceremonies (MC) over two days. Watch her opening address here as she implored companies, CEOs, economists, and ministers to take biodiversity seriously.

The NBBN was also fortunate to be granted an official side event, one of only ten Africa-specific ones out of 180 events. We hosted this side event in partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) and the UNDP, supported by SANBI and BirdLife South Africa. We pushed hard to engage DFFE negotiators to demonstrate how partnering with the private sector and NGOs can enable and enhance the implementation of the new Global Biodiversity Framework.

We also launched our position paper on what makes a good quality biodiversity footprint at COP15. This tackled the tricky question of whether a company can be truly 'nature positive'. We presented at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) side event on the EWT's Biodiversity Disclosure Project ratings.

"The scope and impact of the Drylands Conservation Programme has grown in leap-years since its inception as a single-species, Karoo-based programme in the early 2000s. The conservation achievements of the team are wide-ranging and their commitment inspiring, giving me hope for the persistence of our beautiful and fragile arid ecosystems and biodiversity."

- Dr Gabi Teren, Programme Manager

MAKING CORPORATE BIODIVERSITY DISCLOSURE A PRIORITY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Target 15 of the Global Biodiversity Framework requires countries to encourage companies to measure and disclose their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and this has spurred global momentum around disclosure standards and frameworks. The EWT recognised the need to raise awareness of biodiversity disclosure years before COP15, with the first publication of the Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP) ratings of biodiversity mainstreaming performance of the JSE in 2018. This year, we published our fourth annual report for the 2021-2022 reporting period, covering 267 JSE-listed companies and 27 State-owned Enterprises (SOEs). Overall, recognition of biodiversity (i.e. achieving any score above zero out of 32) has risen from 22% of 354 companies in 2020 to 35% of 294 companies in the 2021 reporting period. The results, however, suggest that fewer companies are now disclosing or implementing biodiversity action plans, with average scores for this specific question lower than in previous years.

WHO ARE THE TOP PERFORMING COMPANIES OF THE JSE?

We launched the 2021-2022 report on International Biodiversity Day at an event in Johannesburg attended by business, government, and conservation sectors.

In recognition of the importance of this topic to the government, the opening address was given by Minister Barbara Creecy. We are partnering with national government to form business advisory groups on how South Africa can best meet the business-related targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in a project with Business for Nature.

To further enable companies to navigate this complex world, the NBBN has released a disclosure frameworks tracker highlighting which frameworks follow best practices for biodiversity accounting.

The NBBN has continued working with some of the biggest companies, building capacity, breaking international barriers, and hosting important events to assist and enable companies to make biodiversity their business.

Watch this video for more



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Hannah de Villiers
Project Manager

Dr Joël Houdet
BD Protocol Lead

Brad Nelson
Biodiversity Disclosure Project Coordinator

PEOPLE
IN CONSERVATION

The 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 people and the environment, we believe that people and biodiversity can co-exist despite mounting pressures on the environment and our natural resources. Our projects are implemented in Gauteng, Limpopo, North West, and KwaZulu-Natal. We also support other EWT programmes across southern and East Africa and Senegal.



COMMUNITIES AND STEWARDSHIP IN THE SOUTPANSBERG

The Soutpansberg is a Strategic Water Source Area and forms part of the Limpopo River Water Management Area. The EWT established the Medike Nature Reserve in the western Soutpansberg and is working with partners – primarily other landowners on the mountain – to develop an integrated conservation management strategy for the region. To ensure local communities benefit from these conservation efforts, we co-develop and implement various projects with people from Kutama, a peri-urban settlement adjacent to the EWT's Medike Mountain Reserve in the western Soutpansberg, Limpopo. Our projects in this community include Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Education for Sustainable Development initiatives in schools, Biodiversity Stewardship, and sustainable agriculture.

The programme and the EWT's Soutpansberg Protected Area Programme team are engaging with Communal Property Associations (CPAs) and other landowners in the western Soutpansberg to improve the management of natural resources in this highly biodiverse area through the implementation of sound land management practices and sustainable development strategies. This year, we held introductory meetings with three of the four CPAs in the area and members of the Buysdorp Management Committee. The Soutpansberg Protected Area team and this programme also co-hosted a workshop on Biodiversity Stewardship for communal and private landowners.

This exciting project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of landowners to improve the management of their natural resources and, in so doing, contribute to the conservation of the rich biodiversity of the Soutpansberg and the ecosystem services these mountains provide. We are also strengthening social cohesion in the area through collaboration, networking and the sharing of experiences and opportunities.

This work is made possible with support from Ford Wildlife Foundation and UNDP Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Fund.

"There are no silver bullets but, despite the challenges, I have seen lives and peoples' relationships with nature transformed through Community-based Conservation approaches. The passion of conservationists can only go so far; if we don't ignite a similar passion and enable more sustainable lifestyles in collaboration with the people living in areas of high conservation value, no amount of effort or resources to save the biodiversity either inside or outside protected areas will be successful in the long-term."

- Dr Jenny Botha, Programme Manager

COMMUNITY FARMING
IN THE SOUTPANSBERG

The EWT held a five-day training course on regenerative agriculture to support smallholder vegetable farmers living in the western Soutpansberg to improve long-term sustainability and climate resilience. 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 thrive in the long term as they grow in capacity and resilience.

Partnering with the Limpopo Department of Agricultural and Rural Development (LDARD), we held three highly successful one-day training courses for Kutama cattle owners in August 2022. Trainers included Pieter Botha and Jenny Botha from the EWT, Talifhani Mmbi (Director of the Talifhani Farming Foundation), Tshilisi Netshilume (Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism: LEDET), who led talks on nutrition and animal husbandry.



Cattle owners animal husbandry risk management training at Kutama

This was followed by a participatory risk assessment with the cattle owners and afternoon practical sessions. Over 20 cattle owners attended each of the one-day training courses. The cattle owners in Kutama have been hard hit by prolonged drought, which, together with diminishing availability of water and grazing, is leading to challenges in managing the health and productivity of their herds. Since the course, the cattle owners have maintained the size and health of their herds. The real test of the efficacy of the training will come during the next drought, when the results of the training will be monitored again.

The programme also held an extremely successful training course on regenerative agriculture for 23 farmers from Kutama in October 2022. Vegetable farmers in Kutama struggle with poor water and soil resources and cannot afford pesticides and fertilisers to improve crop productivity. From an environmental perspective, reducing chemical inputs reduces agricultural impact and risks to human health, particularly if application prescriptions are not followed. The farmers also tend to produce similar crops, catering for a limited market, which limits their income-generating options. Regenerative agriculture places great emphasis on soil health, which, over time, reduces the amounts of pesticides and fertilisers that are required. The course included modules on business management and the establishment of cooperatives, as well as water and soil conservation, climate resilience, seedling production, seed storage, and best practices in the application of pesticides. The diverse audience included 14 youth farmers and members of the Ndouvhada CPA. An ambitious subset of this broader group has initiated a cooperative and is establishing a pilot plot on the CPA farm. They are also independently seeking training on management and governance of cooperatives and business management and actively engaging with the LDARD and other organisations for additional support

This work is made possible with support from the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation, Ford Wildlife Foundation, and the UNDP Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Fund.

GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE

We continue to support schools through our Guardians of the Future project. This included a wonderful tree-planting demonstration at a primary school and a preschool in Kutama.

The programme also developed a new Education for Sustainable Development module and, together with representatives from Bakwena N1N4 Toll, introduced the Guardians of the Future and a module on the function and value of wetlands to educators and over 315 learners from three schools in Hammanskraal. This was the first experiment that the grade 6 learners had ever conducted or experienced and highlighted again the value of children learning by doing. The Guardians of the Future activities also include games and puzzles, with lesson plans that incorporate other resources to stimulate children's curiosity and love of learning. Each school received a resource kit and posters to enable them to implement the teaching module independently. Educators reported that learners were far more engaged in the lesson than usual and that concepts that had previously been difficult for them to conceptualise were far clearer than they had been before the implementation of the teaching module. Each school requested additional support going forward to enable them to incorporate additional modules into their teaching plans.

This work is made possible with support from Bakwena N1N4 Toll and Ford Wildlife Foundation.



Each school receives a resource pack



Grade 6 learners conducting their first experiment





Bakwena Hammanskraal



THE BIGGER PICTURE

We conducted a training course entitled "Strengthening partnerships for conservation action, approaches, techniques, and tools" for the EWT/ICF partnership teams in Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya in early 2023. The course aimed to consider the impacts of different engagement processes on the outcomes and impacts of socio-ecological projects and to introduce the teams to a suite of participatory tools designed to strengthen community collaboration in the development and implementation of projects. The work included implementing workshops with community partners in both Uganda and Kenya to provide these teams with experiential training and to assess the groups' governance and training needs. We continue to provide additional mentorship and e-training sessions to support the East African teams.

The programme implemented a similar five-day training course with attendees from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Kruger-To-Canyons (K2C), and other partners at the Lowveld Botanic Gardens. The workshop aimed to introduce course participants to a variety of facilitation tools to boost the participation of community partners during the planning and implementation of projects. The programme also provided partners with guidance and facilitation support during the implementation of two community planning workshops to ensure that local communities were fully integrated into the development of management plans to reduce human pressures on six Red Listed medicinal plant species highly valued for their use in traditional medicine. High harvesting levels, together with other human impacts, are leading to many of these and other species facing significant pressures in the wild.

This work is made possible with support from the Dohmen Family Fund.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Millions of young women in South Africa still lack access to sufficient menstrual products despite the Department of Education subsidising the provision of one-use sanitary pads to schools.

The programme implemented a second women's health project in two secondary schools in the western Soutpansberg. The initiative included talks and discussions on women's health and providing women's health kits to over 630 grade 8–12 learners from three secondary schools. The kits included reusable sanitary pads, a bucket, and cleaning materials. This project ensures that girls can attend school with confidence at all times and substantially reduces sanitary waste, which in under-served communities, is often discarded in the veld or rivers and streams. Schools also lack sanitary disposal facilities, so our project supports them in maintaining hygienic ablution amenities.

This work is made possible with support from the Ford Wildlife Foundation.

PAPER-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 continued engaging with traditional healers in the Soutpansberg and are expanding the project to encompass traders and harvesters in the identification and implementation of conservation measures. Many have expressed interest in cultivating fast-growing species, particularly those that can be harvested sustainably, with three traders in Limpopo markets already having initiated Pepper-bark tree orchards. We are currently identifying additional species for incorporation into the project and developing permitting systems with conservation authorities in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng to enable us to begin the distribution of trees to markets in these regions.

This work is made possible with support fromthe Fondation Franklinia, Ford Wildlife Foundation, and Munich Re



Handing out womens health Kits at Kutama Secondary

Preparing for womens health at Kutama Secondary School

Over 785 girls received womens health kits at Mmilige Secondary School

Womens health awarenss session at Kutama Secondary School

STAFF SECTION

Dr Jenny Botha
Programme Manager

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. 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 process. 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 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 protect critical water catchments and culturally significant sites. Through this, 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 PEOPLE AND BIODIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN SOUTPANSBERG

Through the Biodiversity Stewardship process, the EWT works with landowners and communities to establish one large, protected area corridor across the western Soutpansberg. Biodiversity Stewardship is based on voluntary commitments from landowners to manage their properties in a conservation-friendly manner and to 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.

The first phase of Biodiversity Stewardship included 17 registered landowners with just under 22,000 ha between them submitted to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), with a Notice of Intent to Declare a Nature Reserve gazetted in December 2021. While we wait for the outcome and final decision by the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of LEDET, the team have continued to enlarge the protected area.



Community engagement *Stewardship workshop*

This year, with follow-up funding from Fondation Franklinia, we have engaged additional landowners to join the Biodiversity Stewardship process and initiated a second phase of protected area expansion in the region. We are now in negotiations with a further five landowners, as well as one Community Property Association (CPA) showing interest. This could potentially increase the proposed protected area by 16,000 ha.

The SPA secured funding through the Taronga Conservation Society for implementing Conservation Servitudes (an alternative contractual mechanism for securing biodiversity on priority properties) with at least two landowners, connecting Medike to the Luvhondo Nature Reserve on the far west of the mountain. A draft Conservation Servitude Agreement has been circulated, with initial comments returned. Landowners were introduced to the concept during regular association meetings and are willing to proceed with this process. This will be a focus area for the remainder of the year, with landowners completing management plans and reviewing a Conservation Servitude Agreement.

This work is made possible with support from Fondation Franklinia and Taronga Conservation Society.

SYSTEM UPGRADE

The EWT owns the Medike Nature Reserve in western Soutpansberg, where our reserve manager and field rangers are based. The property has needed repairs and upgrades since we bought it, and this year, we made exceptional progress in turning things around. This included building a 4.2 km stretch of 4x4 road linking Medike West and East through rugged mountainous terrain, named the 'Thomas Wilson Pass'. The roadway was officially opened in December 2022.

The team completed additional infrastructure upgrades on several buildings on the reserve, including re-thatching Pioneer Cottage and transforming it into our new reception and Medike office, along with a new slab on the front veranda and steps. We also upgraded thatching at the outside bathroom at Ficus House and installed new ceilings and insulation at Ficus House. The Stone Cottage and Ficus House are being upgraded for tourism accommodation, and they will now focus on upgrading campsite and rondavel ablutions for tourists. Houses are being painted, woodwork varnished, plumbing fixed, and generally being neatened up. We look forward to receiving an influx of ecotourists, visiting conservationists and others to Medike this coming year.



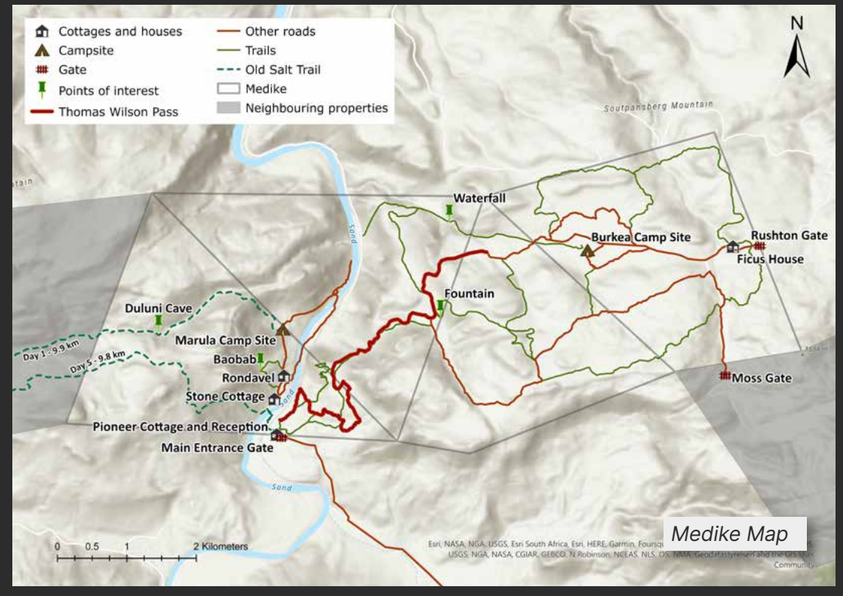
Assembly point maintenance Medike West

Inserting a ceiling in Medike East

SPA all together in our 'new' office at Medike

Road maintenance on Thomas Wilson pass

This year, the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project achieved a significant milestone, with the Wild Dog population within this project now exceeding 400 individuals. While this is an incredible achievement, it poses challenges as we now face the task of finding suitable homes for these animals. A pack of 16 Wild Dogs was successfully relocated from Khamab Kalahari Game Reserve to the uMkhuze Game Reserve in April, marking the largest on-road relocation of Wild Dogs to date. Sadly, the pack of Wild Dogs introduced into Liwonde National Park last year died due to a poisoning event in November 2023. This was a conservation disaster in its highest form. But lessons have been learned from this, and efforts to mitigate these threats (e.g. ranger poison training) have escalated across the landscape. Based on a recent comprehensive reassessment of threats, we will undertake a second reintroduction attempt later this year. Even when tragedies present themselves, we must responsibly persist in our conservation efforts.



Medike Map

All Medike-related infrastructure upgrades were generously funded by Des Sacco and Doug Wilson.

RESTORING CRITICAL HABITATS FOR THREATENED SPECIES

The alien clearing team continues to work on removing invasive alien plants from riverine habitats across the Soutpansberg. This year, the team worked on properties of Wallace Dale, Morning Sun, Leshiba, Medike's Sand River and Luvhondo Nature Reserve. In addition, they have also conducted follow-up work on the property Crewe, one of the previously cleared sites. The team have cleared over 21 different species of invasive alien plants, from *Lantana camara* to Opuntia spp, to the big, thirsty invasive Eucalyptus spp. and *Acacia mearnsii*. They have cleared nearly 11 ha of low to medium-density tree stands and conducted follow-up work on a further 11 ha. It is essential to limit the spread of invasive alien plants by responding rapidly to new invasions, such as the emergence of Lantana and Bugweed at Wallace Dale. Once these species become established, they can completely transform landscapes. Early detection and rapid response are thus critical to limiting this impact in the future.

We are also starting to see some good natural regeneration happening at previously cleared sites. In particular, on the property, Crewe, where young indigenous forest species are beginning to emerge, such as *Searsia chirindensis* and *Syzigium cordatum*, indicating that this site will one day return to indigenous riverine forest. We will continue to monitor the site closely in the years to come to see how this forest recovers.

This work is made possible with support from the Baker family and Fondation Franklinia.

THE SOUTPANSBERG'S FIVE-STAR TRAIL

The Old Salt Trail consists of two loops of hiking trails, traversing 100 km of mountainous terrain across stewardship properties. Established between Schoemansdal and Mount Lajuma on the western Soutpansberg, we planned several routes, including a slackpacking option (the western loop) on the trail. This five-day trail is a spectacular and challenging experience for any hiking enthusiast. This year, the Green Flags Trails team assessed the slackpacking western loop of the Old Salt Trail, hiking its length in early August 2022.

The assessors were very impressed with the trail and happy with what they experienced. The team has completed the final reports and ratings, with the assessors recommending the Old Salt Trail slackpacking trail for Green Flag status. In addition to this, the team rated the trail five-star for landscape diversity and four-star for scenic value. Having received official accreditation as a Green Flags Trail, we are now working with the EWTs marketing team and landowners to get the trail up and running and ready for the winter hiking season. We have already hosted Grant Christie of hiking specialists ItchyFeet, on the season's first Old Salt Trail slackpacking hike.

The Thomas Wilson Pass hosted guests, too, of the 4x4 kind. We welcomed the Land Rover Defender Trophy enthusiasts to the Soutpansberg, who spent a night at Medike East. They used the newly upgraded Thomas Wilson Pass to traverse the mountain. In total, we entertained 17 vehicles and 35 guests for the night, with these Land Rover aficionados in awe of the mountain and our spectacular new road.

This work is made possible with support from Douglas Wilson and the F E van Pletzen/L Steynberg Trust.



Prickly pear clearence

Eucalyptus tree stump herbicide treatment

Alian invasive plant Identification at HQ

RANGERS
WORTH THEIR SALT

Our rangers in the Soutpansberg are crucial to conservation action on the ground, as 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. Often, 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.

This year, four Soutpansberg Rangers trained on Medike Nature Reserve found employment on neighbouring properties. This is a fitting testimony to their dedication to protecting these mountains. All four come from neighbouring communities and had little or no ranger experience before joining the EWT. The training that we provided has allowed us to see a widening of ranger support for the area. Our team is rigorous in our approach to ranger practices, and the rangers have now revised their Standard Operating Procedures and improved fire breaks around infrastructure.



Rangers learning dog handling and patrol

Rangers receiving new gear from Bundu Tech

Snake handling course

One of our young rangers, Rotondwa Sithagu, was awarded a full scholarship to attend the Durrell Conservation Trust's Endangered Species Management course in Jersey. This was an incredible experience for him, where he learnt valuable lessons in leadership, the Conservation Standards, and Endangered species management. Lessons that he can now bring back to the Soutpansberg and share with his peers.

Our rangers are also talented trail runners, with Khathu Mukhumeni and Sengani Ramalamula taking part in the Uitsoek Mountain Marathon 21 km challenge. Both were podium finishers out of 60 entrants in their distance, with Khathu coming 2nd and Sengani 3rd.

In addition, we also welcomed a trial period with our Conservation Canine Unit in Medike. The intention is to use dogs to assist in detecting snares. Shayan Seebran and one of our conservation canines, Pirate, spent a couple of weeks on Medike as part of a pilot project and assisted in conducting anti-poaching patrols across Medike and Wallace Dale properties. The project will be planned out in further detail, with the canine unit returning to Medike later in the year.

In recognition of their achievements, the Soutpansberg Rangers were awarded the Honeybee Award at the EWT's annual awards ceremony.

This work is made possible with support from the Baker Family, Fondation Franklinia, Quiver Tree Lodgings, Taronga Conservation Society, and Wild Estate.

THE GREATER KRUGER FINANCING STRATEGY

In December 2022, the SPA was awarded a contract as part of a consortium of partners working to develop a sustainable financing strategy for the Greater Kruger Region as part of the Greater Kruger Strategic Development Plan. The consortium includes Conservation South Africa (and Conservation International), Rand Merchant Bank and ENSAfrica. The project is led by Conservation South Africa, with the EWT providing sustainable financing consulting services with a focus on biodiversity finance.

The strategy is in the advanced stages of development, with a draft strategy being presented to potential investors and, so far, receiving positive feedback. This short-term consulting project will end in August 2023, when it will be presented to Kruger National Park to explore ongoing alignment and collaborative opportunities across the landscape.

This work is made possible with support from the UNDP and World Bank and in partnership with SANParks Kruger National Park.

STAFF SECTION

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Medike Reserve and Eco-Tourism Manager (until March 2023)

Dr Darren Pietersen
Medike Reserve and Ecology Manager

Cyrintha Joubert
Water Conservation Project Coordinator

Vumbhoni Clyde Kubayi
Junior Water Ranger Intern (until September 2022)

Klaas Madzhie
Field Ranger (until September 2022)

Shumani Makwarela
Senior Field Ranger and Water Ranger Team Leader

Lufuno Willington Mavhandu
Junior Water Ranger Intern (until September 2022)

Michael Modimana
Water Ranger

Tharollo Mthisi
Field Ranger

Khathutshelo Mukhumeni
Senior Field Ranger

Samual Mukhumeni
Field Ranger (until September 2022)

Pfuluwani Oscar Musevhula
Field Ranger

Shumani Edward Mutenda
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Luvhengo Ramabulana
Field Ranger (until September 2022)

Sengani Ramalamula
Junior Water Ranger Intern

Michael Sithagathagha
Junior Water Ranger Intern

Rotondwa Sithagu
Research Assistant and Field Ranger

"The Soutpansberg is also unique amongst South African centres of endemism in supporting the largest higher order diversity of vascular plants"

- Dr Norbert Hahn

THEATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME

Amphibians are the most threatened vertebrates on Earth, and this trend continues to worsen, with the latest global assessments showing 41% of species as being 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 worldwide priority. In South Africa, over 20% of our 134 frog species fall within threatened categories.

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 protect the critical freshwater and terrestrial habitats on which these herps (and humans) depend. We do this by improving the management of important amphibian and reptile habitats, implementing restoration activities, using research to monitor species and habitats to support conservation action, and promoting human behavioural change that reflects increased knowledge and recognition of the importance of frogs and their habitats in South Africa and beyond.

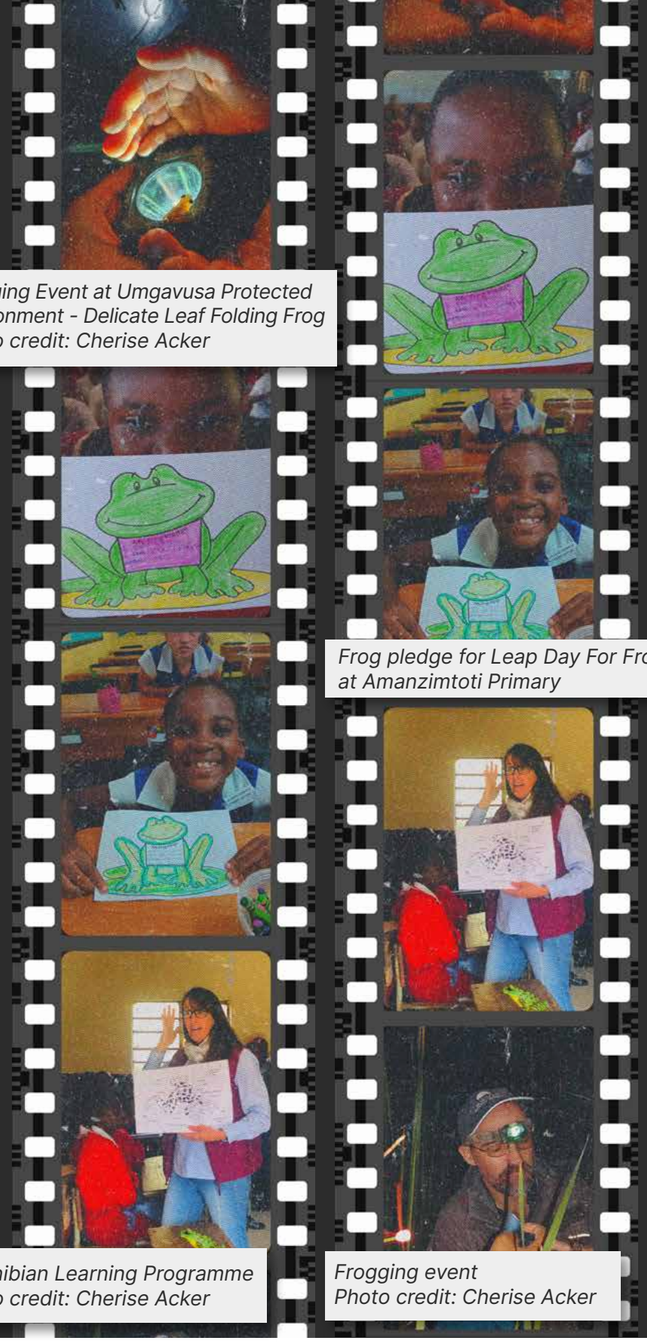
While focusing on enhancing species and habitat protection, ecosystem integrity and driving innovative research to understand these systems better, we also collaborate extensively with the communities in each of the landscapes in which we work. We currently run eight projects across three provinces (the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal), focusing on thirteen threatened or Data Deficient flagship frog species. Since 2018, we have also worked on one of Africa's most threatened snake species, the Albany Adder, by working 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 the study of these groups is combined into the field of herpetology.

TEN YEARS
OF FROGGING!

While the EWT celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2023, the Threatened Amphibian Programme celebrated its 10th year in September 2022. The programme started as a one-woman band of "The Frog Lady", as Dr Jeanne Tarrant is endearingly known – with one project and one grant in 2012. Today, our core team includes 11 full-time froggers and two external team members from the Bionerds, who collaborate on several of our projects. In addition, our conservation work is also linked to four MSc research projects through four different universities. We are working to protect more than 30,000 ha across 12 different habitat types where flagship herp species occur.



Frogging Event at Umgavusa Protected Environment - Delicate Leaf Folding Frog
Photo credit: Cherise Acker

Frog pledge for Leap Day For Frogs at Amanzimtoti Primary

Amphibian Learning Programme
Photo credit: Cherise Acker

Frogging event
Photo credit: Cherise Acker

FROGGIE
FESTIVITIES

In August 2022, we participated in the Happy Earth Festival, hosted at Pietermaritzburg Botanical Gardens, where we engaged with over 1,300 learners on frog biology, beliefs, and importance. During February 2023, we ran our tenth Leap Day for Frogs, with the theme #CelebrateFrogs, reaching over 3,000 people directly through over 15 events and outings. Another 165,000 people engaged in the festivities through our social media campaign. Furthermore, as part of the EWT's 50th anniversary celebrations, we share a fun frog fact each #FrogFriday throughout the year.

This work is made possible with support from Anglo American - Positive Biodiversity Outcomes Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the European Union, and Synchronicity Earth.

THE GHOSTS OF TABLE MOUNTAIN

In September 2022, we launched an exciting short film, The Ghosts of Table Mountain, at Jack Black's in Cape Town. The film, produced by Fishwater Films, highlights research and conservation work through a multi-stakeholder project on the plight of the Critically Endangered Table Mountain Ghost Frog – a species known only from a handful of streams on Table Mountain's slopes. Led by the EWT's Josh Weeber, the film is a collaboration between the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South African National Parks (SANParks), Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, and CapeNature.

We continue to build a good relationship working with SANParks Honorary Rangers from Table Mountain National Park, including a successful site visit to Skeleton Gorge in July 2022. As a result, the Honorary Rangers agreed to fund and implement the construction of two boardwalks. These are important structures as they will help reduce siltation and other impacts on these streams from walkers, which negatively impacts the stream's water quality for Table Mountain Ghost Frogs. During May 2023, the first of these boardwalks was installed at a stream crossing on Table Mountain.

This work is made possible with support from the Anglo American - Positive Biodiversity Outcomes Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation and Synchronicity Earth. Partners involved in the project include CapeNature, the City of Cape Town, Freshwater Research Centre, SANBI, SANParks, and the University of Cape Town.



Forest stream
Photo credit: Joshua Weeber

In the field doing ghost frog surveys

Heleophryne rosei
Photo credit: Joshua Weeber

Ghost frog habitat
Photo credit: Joshua Weeber

Heleophryne rosei
Photo credit: Joshua Weeber

A TALE OF TWO LEOPARDS

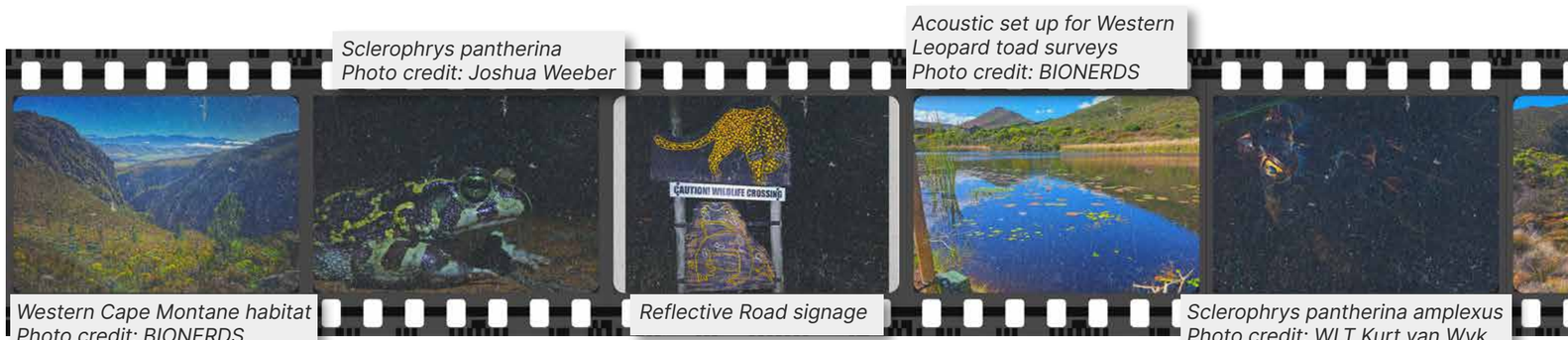
In June 2021, in partnership with the Cape Leopard Trust, we publicly launched the Tale of Two Leopards project. The project focuses on two iconic species in the Western Cape's Overberg region at the southern tip of Africa: the Leopard and its amphibian namesake, the Endangered Western Leopard Toad. The project aims to support conservation efforts for these two species and the threatened fynbos habitats they inhabit by improving knowledge about their occurrence and by creating a green corridor through landowner agreements with resultant improved landscape management. To this end, the partnership has extended to include the Grootbos Foundation towards achieving the vision of the Agulhas Green Corridor. This project aims to bring stakeholders together across various conservation disciplines to support biodiversity conservation in the region.

Spotted ON THE ROAD

Since the project's inception, collaboration with local organisations, landowners and communities has been key in facilitating new research. This included large-scale Leopard camera trap surveys and toad surveys, using cutting-edge technologies and innovative conservation actions to address critical threats. These have been communicated and shared with local communities through environmental education campaigns and outreach events, reaching over 1,500 people.

In July 2022, we held our Spotted on the Road campaign to raise awareness about the importance of driving cautiously to prevent vehicle collisions with wildlife. We selected five high-risk locations for specially designed road signs featuring reflective Leopards and Western Leopard Toads. The unveiling of the signs, which Cape Town-based artist Bryan Little created, was accompanied by media publicity and a public engagement event in Stanford.

This work is made possible with support from Anglo American - Positive Biodiversity Outcomes Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Rainforest Trust, Synchronicity Earth, and conducted in partnership with Bionerds, Cape Leopard Trust, and CapeNature.



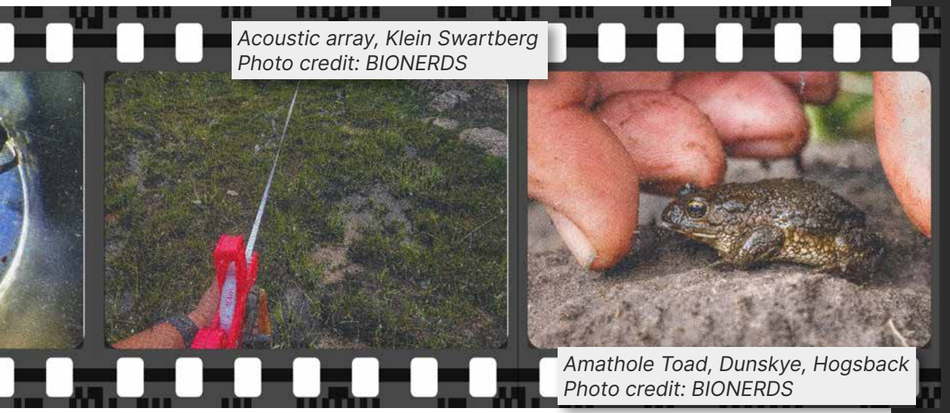
Western Cape Montane habitat
Photo credit: BIONERDS

Sclerophrys pantherina
Photo credit: Joshua Weeber

Reflective Road signage

Acoustic set up for Western Leopard toad surveys
Photo credit: BIONERDS

Sclerophrys pantherina amplexus
Photo credit: WLT Kurt van Wyk



Acoustic array, Klein Swartberg
Photo credit: BIONERDS

Amathole Toad, Dunskye, Hogsback
Photo credit: BIONERDS

Amathole monitoring
Photo credit: BIONERDS



Data Deficient Moonlight Mountain Toadlet, Boskloof
Photo credit: BIONERDS

Arthroleptella villiersi
Photo credit: Joshua Weeber



Acoustic array deployment, Klein Swartberg

EAVESDROPPERS

The highest number of threatened frog species in South Africa occur in the Western Cape, often with tiny ranges. Detecting these little amphibians is tricky, and we use acoustic listening devices in an approach called Passive Acoustic Monitoring to help us. This year, we used sound surveys for Western Leopard Toads, Rough Moss Frogs and Micro Frogs in the Overberg, Western Cape. These surveys include presence/absence data and setting up microphone arrays to determine species density across the sites where we have recorded presence. We are thrilled to report a recovery of the Rough Moss Frog population on Klein Swartberg. This is in response to the ecological burn we helped implement last year to eradicate the severe pine invasion that was threatening the species' habitat and has caused a population crash in the previous decade. Elsewhere, we eavesdropped for signs of the Amathole Toad in the Eastern Cape's Amathole Mountains.

The Rainforest Trust has significantly boosted our Western Cape work, with grants to protect frog habitat, and through IUCN Red List processes to support the identification of priority sites for protection. Numerous new localities for target species have been confirmed through the project, including enough data to inform the conservation status of the Data Deficient Moonlight Mountain Toadlet. 6 new Rough Moss Frog populations have been documented since the beginning of the 2023 breeding season on the Klein Swartberg, and multiple new localities for the Critically Endangered Amathole Toad have been confirmed. This information will feed into the current Red List assessment updates, which, for many of the 300 species being assessed, will be the first assessments in over 10 years. This process is also spearheading the 3rd Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA3).

This work is made possible with support from Anglo American - Positive Biodiversity Outcomes Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the European Union, Rainforest Trust and Synchronicity Earth.

PROTECTING IMPORTANT AMPHIBIAN AREAS SECURES WATER RESOURCES

Declaration of the first nature reserve dedicated to the Critically Endangered Rough Moss Frog is well underway on the Wilde Hondeness property on the Klein Swartberg. Final steps are also in place for the declaration of the Mount David site for the Moonlight Mountain Toadlet. Both sites will afford much-needed habitat protection for 2 of the Western Cape's rarest frog species.

Our habitat protection efforts were rewarded in KwaZulu-Natal, where the 128 ha Umgavuza Protected Environment was proclaimed along the North Coast in May. Through the national Biodiversity Stewardship Programme, this is the first protected area to be declared for the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog.

3 sites in the Amathole Mountains, Eastern Cape, totalling over 7,500 ha, qualified for Nature Reserve status and were presented to the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency's (ECPTA) Review Panel in early June 2023. The ECPTA approved a further 2,000 ha site in the Amatholes for Nature Reserve status and has entered the Intention to Declare phase of the process. These sites fall within a critical Strategic Water Source Area for the Eastern Cape province.

This work is made possible with support from Anglo American - Positive Biodiversity Outcomes Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Action Grant, co-funded by the European Union, Rainforest Trust and Synchronicity Earth and is in partnership with Bionerds, CapeNature, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Fynbos Trust, and Klein Swartberg Conservancy.



Data Deficient Moonlight Mountain Toadlet, Boskloof
Photo credit: BIONERDS



Umgavusa Protected Environment



Arthroleptella rugosa
Photo credit: Joshua Weeber





Installing Acoustic monitoring devices

CONFERENCE CONSERVATION FORUMS FOR FROGS

While conferences are great places to showcase our conservation work, network with like-minded individuals, and develop conservation strategies, they are rarely associated with in-the-field conservation successes. The 2022 Conservation Symposium, for which EWT is a key partner, proved otherwise. Here an EWT-led frogging outing resulted in the unexpected discovery of a previously unknown Pickersgill's Reed Frog site.

During the year, the TAP team (including students) presented 18 formal talks related to project work at seven conferences. At the African Amphibian Working Group Conference held in Windhoek, Namibia, attendees from across the globe presented their work in amphibian research and conservation specific to African amphibians, providing excellent networking opportunities. In January 2023, we attended the Herpetological Association of Africa's conference in Hoedspruit. Dr Jeanne Tarrant was invited as a keynote speaker, highlighting years of amphibian conservation and research in South Africa. Our team delivered six presentations on our work and hosted a preliminary Red Listing workshop as part of our lead role in undertaking the next Red List assessments for southern Africa's frogs. Some 30 experts from the amphibian community attended the workshop, including streamed presentations from our partners, the Amphibian Red List Authority in the United States.

This work is made possible with support from Rand Merchant Bank, Synchronicity Earth, and Whitley Fund for Nature.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO PROTECT PICKERSGILL'S REED FROG

Pickersgill's Reed Frog, an Endangered species known only from the KZN coast, is the first frog species for which a Biodiversity Management Plan for Species (BMP-S) has been gazetted and implemented in South Africa. Together with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, we drafted this plan, and over the past 5 years, we have been a key partner in implementing many of the actions outlined therein. The main aim of the BMP-S is to support activities that reduce threats to the species. Improved knowledge of species distribution resulted in a Red List assessment downlisting to Endangered in 2016, and through the BMP-S, continued coordinated actions have been carried out by 18 organisational stakeholders between 2017 and 2023. Of the 16 activities outlined in the BMP-S, 65% are on track; 17% are complete, 12% are planned, and 6% have minor issues, demonstrating the strength of the collaborative nature of the plan and that proper planning supports species conservation. This project employs 9 people directly in the vicinity of Pickersgill sites to support conservation activities that benefit the species and its habitat. The BMP-S is now being updated for the next five years of implementation, with lessons learnt and emerging threats being considered. The case study of Pickersgill's Reed Frog contributes to the growing body of evidence that participatory planning and implementation supports species recovery and the achievement of global targets to reverse threatened species declines.

This work is made possible with support from Anglo American - Positive Biodiversity Outcomes Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Rainforest Trust, Synchronicity Earth, and conducted in partnership with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, SANBI, Joburg Zoo, and DFFE.



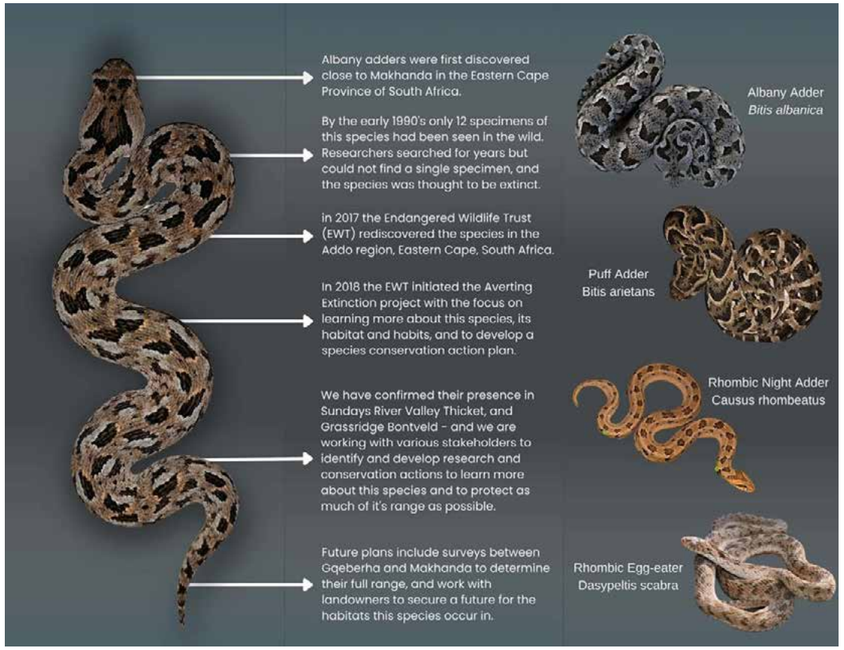
Painted Reed Frog
Photo credit: Cherise Acker

Painted Reed Frog and Pickersgill's Reed Frog
Photo credit: Cherise Acker

"If I am very honest, growing up, frogs did freak me out a bit! I never imagined a career focussed on amphibians, but being open to research on frogs for my post-graduate degrees meant that not only did I become fascinated in learning about these species, but also about the extinction plight they face. I am extremely fortunate to have been able to build on the work of my studies through my career with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. I continue to learn something new on most days and feel truly privileged work in amphibian conservation. I hope to inspire similar journeys, especially in girls, who might have a fear or phobia of frogs! Frogs represent healthy freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems, without which life as we know it would not persist. My hope is that through my work, we will be able to protect these important species, and the vital resources they represent, long into the future."

- Dr Jeanne Tarrant, Programme manager





A HARD TO FIND SPECIES - THE ELUSIVE ALBANY ADDER

The Albany Adder is 1 of 9 South African dwarf adder species, occurring within a very small range in the Eastern Cape and is 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 habitat transformation, including mining, alien plant infestation, and agriculture, threaten the snake's specialised thicket and grassland habitat. Severe drought over the last 9 years has stressed these areas even further. Since 2020, we have pursued formal habitat protection, critical in securing this Endangered snake's survival. The area protected will be the first known Protected Area dedicated to protecting a snake species. We continue to work with ECPTA to streamline these processes. A research project was undertaken to assess detection and capture methods, improve knowledge of occupancy and detection probabilities, and assess the threat of road mortalities for this species. Detection of the species is incredibly low, below 1%, despite considerable effort. Confirmation of the species' presence in thicket habitat within Addo National Park has also given hope for a more secure future for the species. This year, we also undertook surveys at the type locality for the species in the vicinity of Grahamstown (now Makhana), where the Albany Adder was first described in 1937 by Dr John Hewitt. Gaining access to the site has been notoriously difficult, with the landowner turning away all other researchers since 2010! Unfortunately, this survey did not uncover any new records, but further effort is required to confirm the absence from the site.

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

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VULTURES
FOR AFRICA

African vulture numbers have declined drastically over the last 40 years, with 4 out of 11 species now listed as 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 reduces the imminent risk of extinction of African vultures by focussing 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 we 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's Vulture Specialist Group.

Vultures for Africa operates in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and all Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries except for the Democratic Republic of Congo. This year, we added Chad and Niger 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.

This work is made possible with support from the Hawk Conservancy Trust and other partners in the countries we work in. These partners include BirdWatch Zambia, Caring for Conservation, Zambia Carnivore Programme, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, Raptors Botswana, The Peregrine Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, Niassa Carnivore Project, Chuilexi Concession, Gonarezhou Conservation Trust and the Uganda Conservation Foundation.



WILDLIFE POISONING RESPONSE

The team conducted wildlife poison training with 195 rangers from the Kafue National Park in Zambia and the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, increasing the number of field personnel trained in Africa since 2017 to 4,361. We conducted three more wildlife poisoning response training workshops in Malawi, Mozambique, and Botswana to a total of 86 field personnel. Further afield, in West Africa, we extended our wildlife poisoning response training footprint by conducting the first workshop of its kind at the Zakouma National Park in Chad to a group of 34 staff members from African Parks in late March.

This work is made possible with support from Investec, the USAID VukaNow Project, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

VULTURE TRACKING

We expanded our tracking sample of vultures in Zambia by a further 25 African White-backed Vultures in the Liuwa and Kasanka National Parks, the Bangweulu Wetlands and the Munyamadzi Concession in the Luangwa Valley. This represents the first substantive work done on vultures in either these national parks or the Bangweulu Wetlands. In Zimbabwe, we also completed the first satellite-tracked sample of 10 African White-backed Vultures in the Gonarezhou National Park, working with ZimParks and the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust. In Malawi, we completed a sample of 20 satellite-tracked African White-backed Vultures in the Liwonde National Park in early November 2022. Here, we also recorded what is believed to be the first Egyptian Vulture to be reported from Malawi since at least 1930. Along with an additional 20 units deployed in Uganda in March 2023, the total number of tracking units deployed on vultures in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, and Uganda has increased in the reporting period to 118 individuals. These birds contribute to our Africa-wide expansion of the Eye in the Sky system. They will be used to assist in the earlier detection of poisoning incidents in the landscape and to respond to them more rapidly.

This work is made possible with support from our partners, the Uganda Conservation Foundation, Caring for Conservation, BirdWatch Zambia, the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, Wildlife Conservation Society, Niassa Carnivore Project and the Chuilexi Concession/Fauna and Flora.



African White-backed Vulture, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda
Photo credit: André Botha

African White-backed & Lappet-faced Vulture Juveniles Boundary Road, Gonarezhou NP, Zimbabwe
Photo credit: André Botha

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Programme manager, André Botha, facilitated a planning workshop towards the drafting of a national raptor conservation action plan for Oman in the Middle East. The plan will provide a blueprint to support the conservation of vultures and other raptor species, such as migratory Steppe Eagles and Sooty Falcons in the country. André was also re-elected as Director Southern Hemisphere to the Board of the Raptors Research Foundation and will serve in this capacity until 2025.

André travelled to Cambodia to assist with further vulture tagging and training staff from the local partner, Rising Phoenix. They managed to double the tracking sample of vultures (now four White-rumped Vultures) in southeast Asia in April/May 2023.

The EWT was invited to lead in conducting the mid-term implementation review of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures that its signatories adopted in October 2017. André – who was also the overarching coordinator for the drafting of the plan – will lead this process, working with drafting partners, the Vulture Conservation Foundation, BirdLife International, and the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group.

Our team is working towards assisting Sahara Conservation with the development of basic vulture monitoring skills at its sites in Chad and Niger following a successful site visit to the Ouadi Achim Fauna Reserve in April. The first work linked to this project will commence in February/March 2024.

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



Western Banded Snake Eagle, Bangweulu Wetlands, Zambia
Photo credit: André Botha

Hooded Vulture, Munyamadzi, Zambia
Photo credit: André Botha

Lappet-faced & Ruppell's Vulture, Zakouma National Park, Chad
Photo credit: André Botha

"The Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP) was formally adopted at the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). André Botha (the EWT) was appointed Overarching Coordinator of the Vulture MsAP in August 2016. He has worked closely with the CMS Raptors MoU, BirdLife International, the Vulture Conservation Foundation, and members of the Vulture Specialist Group of the IUCN, to develop this roadmap for the conservation of 15 species of Old World vultures. This Vulture MsAP was the catalyst for what is now the Vultures for Africa Programme."

-André Botha, Programme Manager

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CMS Vulture MsAP Mid-term Implementation Review Intern

Kulani Nyakane
Community Field Officer

WILDLIFE
AND ENERGY PROGRAMME

Established through a strategic partnership between the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Eskom in 1996, the Wildlife and Energy Programme is the longest-running of its kind in Africa. The programme aims to reduce the impacts of energy infrastructure on wildlife. Together, we have successfully addressed some of the many threats posed by wildlife interactions with energy infrastructure.

Energy infrastructure can have devastating effects on wildlife, particularly through power line collisions and electrocutions. Conversely, these collisions and electrocutions can have severe economic impacts due to interrupted power supply and infrastructure damage. The EWT continues to positively influence the wildlife management policies of energy utilities, including the recording and mitigation of incidents. We help reduce impacts on wildlife, improve the quality of supply to customers, and ultimately phase out problematic processes and hardware that negatively affect wildlife across Africa.
We achieve this by:

(i) The curation of a database to map and quantify the risks and track the implementation of mitigation measures intended to reduce wildlife mortalities related to the energy sector in South Africa.

(ii) Improving the efficiency of power line marking by working with Eskom Distribution and Transmission to install bird flight avoidance devices using drones and other means.

(iii) Implementing interventions such as proactively retrofitting existing electrical infrastructure to prevent negative wildlife interactions.

(iv) Researching and developing innovative solutions to prevent wildlife interactions.

The EWT also positively influences renewable energy developments and their associated infrastructure, such as power lines and roads, through participation in National Regulatory Services (NRS) working groups, the South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA) and the Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group (BARESG).

The programme operates across all South African provinces. Based on our extensive experience and lessons in South Africa, we now engage and advise electrical utilities in Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, and even Australia.



FLEET EXPANSION

Drones, or unmanned aerial systems (UAS), are a relatively new technology that the EWT has been quick to adopt for its many potential conservation applications. The EWT is a fully licenced drone operator and has acquired two drones, both registered with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), and each is suited to different flying missions. We have held a UAS Operating Certificate (UASOC) with the SACAA since 2021, and in 2023, two new pilots were trained, doubling the number of licensed drone pilots available within the EWT. Originally used to develop the drone power line marking system, these drones now provide diverse services for the various EWT programmes and other conservation stakeholders.

In September 2022, we assisted 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 census in Hermanus, close to Cape Town. These aerial images assist the MRI in identifying individual whales, and the photos taken by the drones contribute to the body condition study currently in progress at the university.

We assisted the EWT ACCP and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands to map and photograph Wattled Crane breeding sites. Between August 2022 and March 2023, drones were used to find active bird of prey nests to help identify sensitive areas that proposed renewable energy developments should avoid. In April 2023, we conducted a drone-based game count at an Eskom power station using a thermal imaging sensor. Our other drone services include vegetation surveys, aerial photography, videography, and mapping. Contact the EWT Drone Unit at droneunit@ewt.org.za for more information.


Three Southern Right Whales




Whale boat


Multiple animals on nature reserve


Drone in the escarpment



DRONE LINE MARKING GOES GLOBAL

As the effectiveness of power line markers to prevent bird collisions gains more recognition worldwide, power utilities are seeking safer, more cost-effective ways to install these devices to their hardware. Our team travelled to Tasmania, Australia, in November 2022 to demonstrate the drone line-marking system to a local power utility, Tasnetworks. The system uses a drone to remotely attach line markers to power lines, cutting costs considerably and improving worker safety (the operation is traditionally performed by a technician working out of a helicopter).

This follows our successful demonstration in June 2022, in which the EWT showcased how a UAS can be used to attach bird flight diverters to a 400kV power line at the Eskom Academy of Learning. Eskom engineers were impressed with the system, acknowledging the significant cost-saving and elimination of safety risks presented by this method.

WEAVING A SOLUTION

Eskom often experiences line faults and outages caused by Red-billed Buffalo Weavers building nests on power line insulators, an issue that the EWT is investigating. We made repeat visits to the Red-billed Buffalo Weaver project site on the Spitskop-Mamba distribution line near Northam, where we recommended the installation of nesting platforms. Our observations show that the Red-billed Buffalo Weavers are now using the platforms to build nests away from the insulators, and power line performance has been dramatically improved since the project's inception.

A similar research project on crow nests has also demonstrated positive results. The A-frame Crow Nest Exclusion Project seeks to prevent crows from building nests on critical areas of wooden distribution poles. The nest exclusion devices proved successful, and as a result, crows cannot rebuild their nests with these devices in place. These solutions will help improve the electricity supply quality on the affected feeders, protect wildlife, and reduce Eskom's maintenance costs.



GROWING THE PARTNERSHIP

The EWT assisted Eskom Distribution with second-level wildlife reviews (audits) to assess the installation of mitigation products against EWT recommendations to Eskom. These annual reviews help the partnership continuously improve the incident management procedure and fill gaps in implementing the recommendations to make power lines safe for wildlife.

Similar to reviews for Eskom Distribution, we completed the first-ever mitigation 'verifications' for Eskom Transmission at three sites in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. This important work confirms that Eskom's mitigation actions align with engineering instructions and recommendations from the EWT to prevent repeat incidents.

"Its been wonderful to see the WEP go from strength to strength over the years, always remaining at the cutting edge of this challenging conservation field. Their work is becoming more relevant by the day due to challenges such as the energy crisis and climate change. I wish the WEP team well as you continue onwards and upwards...!"

-Jon Smallie, WEP Programme Manager (2007-2011)

BLIND-SIDED

The globally Endangered Ludwig's Bustard is one of the southern African species most affected by power line collisions. The impact of power line 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. 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.

Attaching bird flight diverters to shield wires is the most practical mitigation measure to prevent power line collisions. Previous research has found that bird flight diverters effectively reduce collisions in the Karoo for several collision-prone species, except for bustards. To investigate this phenomenon, in September and October 2022, our team travelled to Nieuwoudtville in the Northern Cape, where we captured 4 Ludwig's Bustards for the Karoo Ludwig's Bustard Project. We fitted the birds with GPS tracking devices, and they are faring well. This is a great relief considering the high risk of capture myopathy (death through excessive stress) witnessed in a previous study on this species. Fascinatingly, the tracking data revealed recently that these birds have been moving north-east of Calvinia, mainly in the dead of the night. These nighttime movements affect how we think about bustard collisions and how to reduce them - a critical breakthrough towards protecting these unique birds.



Crowned crane collision with powerlines

EWT and Eskom Field work team

Field investigation with Stakeholder

SERE STORY

The Sere Wind Farm – commissioned in 2015 as Eskom's first operational wind energy facility – is situated along the West Coast of South Africa. The EWT and Eskom Strategic Partnership is in the 8th year of post-construction biodiversity impact monitoring at the wind farm. This programme is unique as all wildlife impacts associated with the wind farm infrastructure are monitored continuously to determine the need for additional mitigation measures to reduce wildlife impacts. The EWT Sere team's main objective is to search for bird and bat carcasses found under the turbines and the 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. The results from this detailed study will inform detection probabilities and improve mortality estimates across other renewable energy infrastructure across the country.

GREEN LIGHT FOR WILDLIFE

The team supported Eskom on several conservation issues that negatively affected their operations or infrastructure. These included training and awareness sessions regarding the appropriate management of human interactions with jackals and monkeys at power stations. In addition, small mammal burrows and bird nests at transmission sites can pose a structural risk to towers and lead to faults. We supported Eskom with recommendations for safely closing the burrows to strengthen the tower foundations and to safely remove bird nests while ensuring Eskom adhered to provincial regulations.

We also recommend solutions to Eskom and landowners for relocating threatened eagle nests that result in regular line trips and pose a fire risk while ensuring that breeding attempts are not compromised.



Incendent with powerline involving a Vulture

Zerbas and cooling towers

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WILDLIFE IN TRADE

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and unregulated legal trade are significant threats to biodiversity at both local and global scales. The purpose of the EWT 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 and local people. The programme works mainly in South Africa but also has projects in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, and Tanzania.



CONSERVATION CANINES

One of the EWT's contributions to preventing wildlife crime in South Africa is the deployment of conservation canines to detect wildlife contraband and track poachers. Our well-established conservation canine unit 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.

Since 2012, the EWT has been providing certified conservation canines and related support to 6 reserves, including in the Eastern Cape and the Lowveld region of Limpopo Province. These reserves were identified as being critical in the fight against rhino poaching, and we deployed 6 conservation dogs to these reserves to either work as tracking or detection dogs. Our canine team also provided support at Rietvlei Nature Reserve, where handlers Shay and Sean, supported by 4 detection dogs, assisted with stop-and-go searches of vehicles. The dogs successfully found declared (legal) firearms during the screening.

In May 2023, the canine team started training for new projects in response to emerging threats to other traded species. Poaching of succulents has escalated significantly over recent years, and the team has been training the detection dogs to identify and locate the presence of threatened Karoo succulent plants. Once fully trained, the teams will be deployed to work at roadblocks, with courier companies and key points of entry and exit, to lead to the apprehension of succulent poachers and traders.

Further, the team is working to determine whether detection dogs can locate wire snares more efficiently than human rangers, a project we are rolling out in the Soutpansberg Protected Area. Wire snares are used extensively within and outside of protected areas for the illegal poaching of wildlife, primarily for bush meat but also for traditional medicine.

This work is made possible with support from Genesis K9, Global Conservation Force, MSD Health, IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Action Grant and the European Union, the Mohamed bin Zayed Conservation Fund, MyPlanet Rhino Fund, Platinum Life, Relate Trust, Rogz, Royal Canin, Scent Imprint, Tomlin family, Taronga Zoo, Tourvest, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



OH RATS!

Wildlife trafficking remains a major global threat to many species. Wildlife trafficking shows no signs of abating, in part because there are many avenues through which organised criminals can move contraband. Oceanic shipping is a major route through which illegal wildlife products are moved, and large seaports along the African coastline are the hubs through which wildlife is transported. These seaports are difficult to police because they are large, bustling, and plagued by notoriously difficult access. Detecting illegal wildlife products in the thousands of shipping containers that pass through these ports every week is a monumentally difficult task.

A method which shows much promise for addressing the need to search shipping containers effectively and speedily is using Giant Pouched Rats trained to detect wildlife products. Over the last five years, we have partnered with APOPO, a renowned Tanzanian-based organisation, to test the efficacy of using rats to locate wildlife contraband smuggled in shipping containers. We have previously reported that APOPO has successfully shown that the rats can detect wildlife products, but they have not yet been tested under actual working conditions. In February 2023, APOPO successfully trialled the rats in the port of Dar es Salaam, suggesting a high potential to use this method to bolster anti-trafficking law enforcement in African seaports. The EWT will continue to work with APOPO to support their progress and secure the investment already made in this novel approach.

This work is made possible with support from GIZ, and the Pangolin Crisis Fund (Wildlife Conservation Network).

BACKING RHINOS IN THE NORTH WEST

The North West Province is a stronghold for Black and White Rhino conservation during these difficult days of declining national populations. With the support of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds, we are assisting the provincial authorities to prevent poaching and grow their rhino populations for the species' long-term survival. We are doing 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 roads, fence lines and reserve areas to aid in the detection of poacher incursions; 3) deploying an EWT conservation canine and handler team to detect wildlife contraband and to track poachers; and 4) improving ranger morale by upgrading their accommodation.

Over the last year, we deployed licence plate recognition cameras at key sites on roads leading to rhino reserves, which will detect suspicious vehicles potentially transporting rhino horns or poachers. These cameras provide critical intelligence to reserve security and provide an early warning system to law enforcement officers, ready to prevent wildlife crime. We also deployed camera traps inside a reserve to detect illegal incursions and direct anti-poaching teams to areas where they are needed.

This work is made possible with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



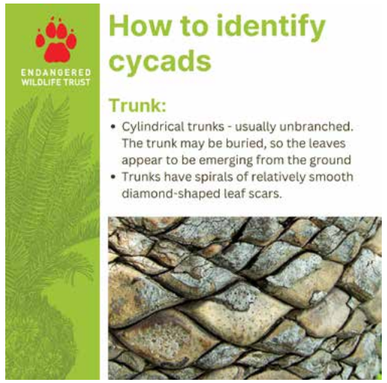
PROTECTING THREATENED CYCADS

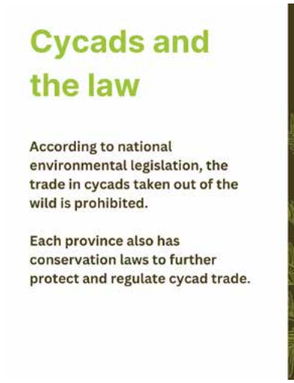
In our endeavour to combat the illegal harvesting of Encephalartos cycads in South Africa, and with funding support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we employed a multifaceted approach to improve the conservation status of this highly threatened plant genus. To strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system, we developed an online cycad identification and enforcement refresher training course that will empower law enforcement officials to tackle cycad crimes. Furthermore, we hosted a webinar featuring Senior Advocate Bukz Coetzee to educate state prosecutors and magistrates about the importance of prosecuting cycad-related offences. To raise public awareness about the plight of indigenous cycads, we created and distributed educational A3 posters providing information on permitting requirements for indigenous cycads and how to differentiate indigenous from exotic cycad species. We also published articles in gardening magazines (the Gardener Magazine, Die Tuiner Tydskrif, and SA Homeowner) and shared cycad-related on social media to spread the message. In the Eastern Cape, we deployed camera traps to photograph potential poachers and send warning messages to law enforcement officials responsible for cycad conservation. We plan to deploy radio-frequency technology that detects when plants are moved and should give real-time alerts when someone tries to remove a wild cycad from the ground.

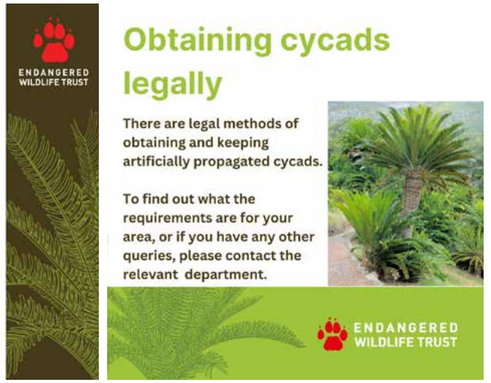


A dedicated communications campaign provided details on ensuring that cycad owners have relevant permits for their plants, especially for threatened species, and only purchase from permitted suppliers.

This comprehensive multi-pronged strategy bolsters enforcement capacity and fosters a broader understanding of preserving South Africa's protected cycad species among diverse audiences, aligning with the EWT's mission to safeguard the nation's natural heritage for future generations.









This work is made possible with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

WILDLIFE AND LAW

The Wildlife and Law Project plays both a collaborative and a watchdog role in pursuing our goal of responsible and ethical decision-making, which supports ecological sustainability. We work closely with government to address legal and governance challenges. One of the key focus areas of the project team over this reporting period was to strengthen decision-making in relation to wildlife. Our team implemented a first-of-its-kind online permit training course for provincial permitting officials. Led by our training coordinator, Dr Kerushka Pillay, this course comprised governance, the environmental legal framework, the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA), and more. The training comprised theory-based presentations and open discussions, enabling participants to gain valuable insights into the challenges in permitting processes, share knowledge, and explore ways to overcome challenges. Participants were provided with practical case studies and scenarios to hone their skills in effectively assessing permit applications and making better-informed decisions. Upon completion of the course, permitting officials received a certificate and are now equipped with the skills to make decisions that meet the objectives and spirit of administrative action that is lawful, reasonable, procedurally fair, and environmentally conscious.

This targeted training course represents another significant step in empowering authorities and permitting officials to safeguard South Africa's biodiversity. We also operationalised our Empowering Good Governance through Information project, kickstarted with creating an environmental law website with content on law and policy relating to land, air, water, and species (LAWS). We translated content into four languages.

Finally, we completed an extensive review of the current national and provincial legal framework applicable to biodiversity and developed several recommendations to strengthen biodiversity-related law in South Africa. Under this review, we assessed whether the legal framework is adequate and integrated regarding the ecological sustainability of natural resources. We have commenced engaging with relevant government departments to explore opportunities to strengthen biodiversity-related law in South Africa.

In our watchdog role, we challenge decisions that undermine the Constitutional environmental right and environmental rule of law. The project team's focus over this reporting period was to challenge the inclusion of wild animals in the Animal Improvement Act 62 of 1998 (AIA). The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD, previously the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) published two amendments (on 10 June 2016 and 10 June 2019, respectively) of the AIA Regulations whereby several wild animal species were declared as "Landrace breeds (indigenous and locally developed)" and/or "locally adapted and regularly introduced breeds (other declared breeds)" for the AIA.

These wild animal species include Black Wildebeest, Blue Duiker, Blue Wildebeest, Bontebok, Gemsbok, Impala, Oribi, Red Hartebeest, Roan Antelope, Sable Antelope, Springbok, Tsessebe, Cape Buffalo, Blesbok, Cape Eland, Kudu, Waterbuck, Nyala, Bushbuck, Klipspringer, Common Duiker, Red Duiker, Steenbok, Cape Grysbok, Sharp's Grysbok, Suni, Grey Rhebok, Mountain Reedbuck, Lechwe, Burchell's Zebra, Cape Mountain Zebra, Hartman's Mountain Zebra, Giraffe, White Rhinoceros, Black Rhinoceros, African Lion and Cheetah.

The AIA allows intensive breeding, manipulation of animals, crossbreeding and colour selection in captive conditions. The EWT opposed the listing of all wild animals under the AIA, as this does not contribute to their conservation in the wild but would instead promote intensive breeding in captive environments for many of our wild animals for non-conservation purposes. In January 2020, we launched an application in the North Gauteng High Court to review the decision to list wild animals in the Animal Improvement Act (AIA). The case was heard in February 2023, with judgment in our favour, determining that the 2016 and 2019 listings of wild animals of the AIA Regulations be set aside. The court also ordered DALRRD to pay the EWT's legal costs in the matter. This judgment has halted the inclusion of all species of wild animals from being managed like farm animals under the AIA.

This work is made possible with support from the British High Commission, Christo Reeders Attorneys, the Finnish Embassy, the Lewis Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ENVIRONMENTAL 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 past year, we developed an understanding of the full extent of harm experienced where wildlife offences occur, 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 in 2024.

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.

The Wildlife in Trade Programme was created by merging three initiatives within the EWT: the Skills Development Programme, the Rhino Project, and the Wildlife Ranching Project. Adam Pires, now with TRAFFIC, was the first Programme Manager for WIT. The Wildlife in Trade Programme aims to prevent illegal wildlife trade and improve the benefits of legal and sustainable

"At EWT, we take pride in our Wildlife in Trade Programme, which is dedicated to eradicating illegal wildlife trade, including the trafficking of rhino horns and other precious wildlife specimens. We are committed to understanding the supply chains of this illicit trade and equipping all stakeholders with the essential skills and knowledge necessary to combat threats to our precious wild populations of animals and plants."

- Adam Pires, WIT Programme Manager (2016-2018)

Putting restorative justice into action, our Environmental Restorative Justice Pilot Project will test restorative justice processes on wildlife crimes in Sabi Sand Nature Reserve, Manyeleti Game Reserve and surrounds, and offences occurring in or near Kruger National Park until August 2024.

Ashleigh Dore actively engaged on the project in international fora such as the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law Conference and the four-part webinar series on the value of exchanging learning with the crime science sector hosted by Fauna & Flora International. We also published a book chapter reflecting our learnings in this project thus far in the Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Restorative Justice.

The full citation is: Dore, A., Hübschle, A., Batley, M. (2022). Towards Environmental Restorative Justice in South Africa: How to Understand and Address Wildlife Offences. In: Pali, B., Forsyth, M., Tepper, F. (eds) The Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Restorative Justice. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-04223-2_14.

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

A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

When humans are victims of a crime, their voices may be heard in court through victim impact statements that detail the effects of the crimes on the victim and their families. When the victim is a wild animal or plant that cannot speak for itself, this is not possible, so people must speak up on their behalf. In response, we developed a series of wildlife crime impact statements (explanatory notes describing the impacts of illegal activities on wildlife populations to enable prosecutors to understand the extent of the impact of these activities), which involved coordinating with species experts for 25 illegally traded species across southern Africa. We closed this project in August after working with experts and state prosecutors from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Mozambique. There has been much interest and support from prosecutors and already some uptake in the use of the statements in court cases. This work received a further boost, with TRAFFIC Madagascar requesting information about wildlife impact statements to help them bolster awareness amongst their judges.

This work is made possible with support from USAID VukaNow.

STRENGTHENING MOZAMBIQUE CUSTOMS AGAINST ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Through funding from the UK Government's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, the Wildlife in Trade Programme developed and implemented an online training programme aimed at bolstering the Mozambique Customs Agency with the capacity to combat wildlife smuggling and illegal trade. This was the culmination of two years of preparation, which involved engaging with the Mozambican Revenue Authority (Customs) and the International Cooperation Directorate. The resultant course, titled "Flagship Species Identification Training Programme (FSITP)," is an online three-month course, which offered flexibility to its 60 participants to complete the equivalent of a four-day or thirty two-hour in-person training at their own pace and time. This innovative online training programme featured three key modules: 1) Introduction to Wildlife Trade, 2) Species Identification, and 3) Law Enforcement Procedures, which aimed to improve how customs officials operate on the frontlines of wildlife protection. The training, which has enjoyed prior success in South Africa, encompassed theoretical and practical components, complete with assessments available in both English and Portuguese. By training customs officials to identify CITES-listed species and offering a robust platform for knowledge sharing, this initiative enhances Mozambique's ability to combat illegal wildlife trade and contributes to broader conservation efforts. This project represents a significant step towards safeguarding Mozambique's biodiversity and economic sustainability.

This work is made possible with support from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs through their Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.



MEASURING SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable use (SU) of wild species and biological resources is one of the three pillars of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It forms an essential part of sustainable development in the Global South. It has been responsible for much of the growth of wildlife populations on private and community land in southern African countries. Without it, the continued ability of government, private sector, and community actors to manage wildlife populations, incentivise conservation, and tolerate human-wildlife conflict will be negatively affected. In some cases, wildlife use is a key component of national or local economic development. An important omission in the continued development of sustainable use has, however, been an inability to measure its effectiveness and a lack of regulatory frameworks to govern its use. For example, there are few globally recognised standards overseeing the links that exist between wild animal resources, zoonotic disease risks and animal welfare. As a result, the emerging Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework now includes targets to ensure that the use of biodiversity is not only sustainable and legal but also safe.

In partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), TRAFFIC and EPIC Biodiversity, the EWT Wildlife in Trade Programme is developing an assessment framework that will enable policymakers and practitioners to verify if the use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe. Starting in October 2022, the partnership has developed a draft framework by drawing on components of several pre-existing frameworks that consider the ecological, economic, and social sustainability, well-being, safety, and legality of wildlife use. This work is being conducted under the guidance of an expert advisory group, including wildlife health specialists, economists, social scientists, and conservationists.

This work is made possible with support from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs through the Darwin Initiative Innovation Fund and a subgrant with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

STAFF SECTION

Dr Andrew Taylor
Programme Manager

Ashleigh Dore
Wildlife and Law Project Manager

Dr Carina Bruwer
Wildlife and Law Project Officer (until August 2022)

Obeid Katumba
Wildlife and Law Project Officer

Shadi Henrico
Conservation Canine Project Coordinator

Shayen Seebran
Conservation Canine Handler

Sean Kelly
Conservation Canine Handler (until March 2023)

Dr Kerushka Robyn Pillay
Training Coordinator

Ndifelani Mulaudzi
Trade Officer (until August 2022)

CONSERVATION CANINES

Detection:
Hitsch, Remi, Kisha, Reaper, Fly, Bullet

Tracking:
Kisha, Kesatobo, Nala, Bekah, Ruger, Puk, Grizzly, Blackie, Pirate

Retired:
Basil, Condor, Heddi, Vito, Spike

WILDLIFE
AND TRANSPORT

Transport networks are critical elements of human economic development and society. Global rates of infrastructure construction will keep rising for the foreseeable future, particularly in Africa, which is largely 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 vehicle collisions 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 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 to minimise the adverse environmental impacts of transportation infrastructure. We are currently the only African organisation to do this, putting the EWT at the forefront of this work. The programme works across all South African provinces and collaborates on numerous projects with partners worldwide. In October 2022, we commemorated a decade of addressing wildlife-transport impacts.



RESEARCHING
WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORT

This year, the programme continued its rich research work, contributing to several research outputs. Highlights included our paper, Greening the Transport Sector by Mainstreaming Biodiversity, which we presented at the South African Transport Conference in Johannesburg. This was the only paper presented on the environmental impacts of transport and is a leap forward in engaging the industry, as was our paper, Transport and the Environment – A Green Partnership, presented online at the Advances in Civil and Ecological Engineering Research Conference in China. Our chapter for the Development Corridors Partnership book, Impact Assessment for Corridors: From infrastructure to development corridors, was published. The chapter provided a South African perspective of wildlife mitigation examples for roads, rail, and power lines.

The programme also presented a session on the impacts of linear infrastructure on biodiversity at the Conservation Symposium in Scottburgh, KwaZulu-Natal. We presented five EWT projects, with Dr Bibi Linden (a postdoc at the University of Venda) winning the best presentation award for her talk on primate mortalities on power lines and roads in South Africa. We worked with other researchers globally to develop the 1st Global Primate Roadkill Database (GPRD) as a comprehensive, standardised repository to document incidents of primates killed by vehicular collisions. By the end of the reporting period, the database included over 2,800 roadkill incidents involving at least 107 primate species from 41 countries. This included our contribution to the journal Animals titled Road Infrastructure and Primate Conservation: Introducing the Global Primate Roadkill Database.

Along with 2 other international road ecology experts, Programme Manager Wendy Collinson was the guest editor for the scientific journal Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution for a research topic, "Ecological Impacts of Transportation Networks at Large Extents". There have been over 21,000 views of the 7 published papers in the journal. Our paper, Keystone opportunities in the Anthropause, was one of these published papers.

This work is made possible with support from Bakwena N1N4 Toll Concession, N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited (N3TC) and Trans African Concessions (TRAC N4).



A HIGHER DEGREE

PhD candidate Thabo Hlatshwayo presented his research on amphibian roadkill in the Soutpansberg at the Infra Eco Network Europe Conference (online in Romania). Thabo also published his first scientific paper in the African Journal of Herpetology. Over two seasons, he found 248 road-related amphibian deaths, belonging to eight amphibian species within the Soutpansberg's roads. He found most of these fatalities were adjacent to water bodies, with fewer located in human-modified landscapes. This study is the first to explore the extent of amphibian roadkill in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve. It presents an inventory of amphibian species at risk from roads in the western Soutpansberg. The findings provide important baseline data, indicating that some amphibians use roads to navigate between intact habitat fragments when they disperse. We recommend that roads be made safer with structures such as road verge barrier fencing combined with amphibian crossing tunnels.

Siboniso Thela successfully passed his MSc degree through the University of Venda, which looked at seasonal use and mortalities of mammals along the Phalaborwa – Hoedspruit railway line in Balule Nature Reserve. Using camera traps, he captured almost 17,000 photographs of wildlife near the line. He also recorded 99 incidents of rail-related wildlife deaths, with Impalas being the most common casualty. His study represents the first baseline study, in a protected area, of the impacts of railways on African wildlife. Some interesting animal behavioural traits that emerged included that Giraffes, Impala, and Lion are less active around the railroad in the wet season than in the dry season. At the same time, Spotted Hyaena are more active around the railroad in both open grassland and woodland than in mixed shrubland habitat intersected by the railroad.

This work is made possible with support from 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.



Large Spotted Genet crossing the N4 beneath the underpass

Thabo undertaking camera trap fieldwork on the TRAC N4

Thabo downloading owl perch data on the N3 highway

Spotted Eagle Owl using the owl perch

EXPANDING ALONG THE HIGHWAY

By being at the forefront of global research, we provide science-based international best practice advice. We do this by training road-route patrol teams for scientific data collection. We have trained nearly seventy route patrollers in roadkill data collection and species identification. We use the resulting data to identify areas in South Africa where biodiversity is most at risk from transport infrastructure development and several at-risk target species.

We expanded our roadkill mitigation trials on the N3 highway to include the TRAC N4 route as part of Thabo Hlatshwayo's PhD. This included camera traps placed in the underpasses to record wildlife movement beneath the road. Thabo recorded several mongoose species using these structures and Cape Porcupines and Servals – the latter being one of the mammals most killed on our roads. Understanding Serval movements will guide intervention methods that may ultimately reduce road mortalities. This includes roadside fencing that acts as a funnel towards underpasses – an option we are trialling on the N3 highway in KwaZulu-Natal. Our roadkill mitigation project on the N3 also provides alternative owl perches to deter owls from the highway. Baseline monitoring data show that Barn and Spotted Eagle Owls are the most frequently killed owl species on our roads (out of 10 recorded owl species, these two species account for 36% and 31% of road deaths, respectively).

This work is made possible with support from Bakwena N1N4 Toll Concession, N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited (N3TC), Trans African Concessions (TRAC N4), and the Ford Wildlife Foundation.

TAKING OFF

The team has been working at Lanseria International Airport, conducting baseline assessments of the risks posed by wildlife to aircraft and how the airport currently mitigates those risks to find sustainable solutions that benefit biodiversity and people. Working with the Fire and Rescue Service, we undertook almost 160 site inspections at Lanseria International Airport. These inspections recorded 52 bird species in the vicinity of the runway and five mammal species. Common bird species included the African Scared Ibis and Crowned and Blacksmith Lapwings. Almost 70% of birds identified before our training were recorded as either unknown or 'lapwing' species - our training of personnel in species identification has resulted in more robust species classification and more rigorous inspections of the airfield.

Lessons learned over the last decade in methods for gathering roadkill baseline data across the country will enable us to record bird strike incidents at Lanseria International Airport more accurately. Doing so will allow us to establish suitable mitigation measures at the airport to reduce impacts on wildlife and aircraft.

This work is made possible with support from the Ford Wildlife Foundation and Lanseria International Airport.



Serval ready to cross the N4 beneath the underpass

Lanseria Tower Control

Bird expert

Thabo facilitating TRAC training

SLOW DOWN FOR WILDLIFE!

In April 2022, our wildlife warning signs were installed in the Kruger National Park. This forms part of a 10-year project that involved examining driver behaviour in protected areas and testing types of signs that are most impactful for modifying driver behaviour. The SANParks Honorary Rangers are assisting with monitoring the signs in the Kruger National Park. We trained almost 450 honorary rangers in roadkill data collection so that they could monitor the effectiveness of the signs. These data will be analysed and interpreted to inform future road sign placement and planning.

This work is made possible with support from SANParks, SANParks Honorary Rangers, and the Ford Wildlife Foundation.

"The discipline of Road Ecology was unknown in South Africa, until the Wildlife and Transport Programme began gathering wildlife-road-mortality data in 2009. Understanding of the negative impacts of roads on biodiversity and the mitigation measures that can be applied, has made the WTP and its supporters the pioneers of Road Ecology in Africa"

- Wendy Collinson, Programme Manager



Large Spotted Genet ready to cross the N4 beneath the underpass

Thabo and his team from N3TC ready to take up an owl perch



Road ecology training with N3TC

STAFF SECTION

Wendy Collinson-Jonker
Programme Manager

Thabo Hlatshwayo
Programme Intern and PhD student

Ndifelani Mulaudzi
Field Officer (until May 2023)

Shumani Makwarela
Field Officer

THE VOICE
OF THE EWT

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

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

This work is made possible with support from the EWT's framework donors, including Artifact Advertising, Barloworld, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Deloitte, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, and Speedspace.



A NEW YEAR WITH A NEW AND EXCITING APPROACH

We welcomed the 2023 new year with excitement and exuberance as we readied ourselves to celebrate the significant half-century milestone. This started with a revamp of how the department operates. We identified engagement tools in the form of content buckets for social media, made up of a set of themes or topics under which we can branch out to create more engaging and meaningful posts that reach a broader range of audiences.

By utilising content buckets, we have the ability to organise our social media posts into distinct pillars. This will aid us in our efforts to broaden our content, reach a wider spectrum of users, and maintain balanced exposure across all programmes featured in our social media campaign.



DAYS OF OUR LIVES

In celebration of World Lion Day and Wild Dog Day in August, we launched a “Battle of the Carnivores” on social media to raise money for the carnivore programme. In total, we raised over R47,000 for Wild Dog and Lion conservation. Subsequently, we acknowledged and thanked all donors and partners involved in this series of posts.

On the 4th of September, we celebrated the annual International Vulture Awareness Day. Following a mass poising incident at the Kruger National Park, the Birds of Prey Programme launched a fundraising campaign to build a much-needed Vulture Ambulance. To bolster their campaign, we created an infographic that shows how they work around the clock to save vultures and a landing page to help raise funds. Posts reached over 36,000 people and had over 3,000 interactions.

In September, we held this year’s World Rhino Day Public Speaking Competition at the new Lapalala Wilderness School, adjacent to the Lapalala Wilderness. Recently Completed, this centre of excellence is a brilliantly designed off-grid campus. This year, 63 learners from 37 schools participated in the competition, from a base of only ten learners in 2016.

On the 2nd of February, we celebrated World Wetlands Day with social media posts highlighting the importance of wetlands and what the EWT is doing to conserve and restore them. The Threatened Amphibian Programme’s Community Environmental Officer, Nonku Nzama, joined several other organisations (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and Westville Conservancy) at Imbalala Park on the KZN South Coast for a World Wetlands Day event, where we shared how important frogs and wetlands are to all of us.

World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the 3rd Saturday in February each year. This year, we centred the day around education and the youth. Eden College Grade 5 students visited our campus for a morning of education and fun with the Wildlife in Trade Programme and the communications team to learn about the importance of protecting species and to meet the conservation canines. Crawford Sandton students took the initiative to host a bake sale and donated the proceeds to the EWT.

A MONTH TO CELEBRATE

We ran a Women's Month campaign on social media throughout August to celebrate the strong women in conservation and beyond. We championed our female staff members, the women at the forefront of conservation, and the roles females of the species play in nature.

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 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 close to R800 000 for conservation.

The Threatened Amphibian Programme launched its EWT 50th year celebration campaign, sharing 50 frog facts throughout the year. The frog fact dissemination aims to educate people on the wonder and glory of these unique little creatures in a bid to address people's misperceptions and negative attitudes towards frogs. The first 10 Frog Facts reached 342,663 people and had an engagement rate of over 3,356 (number of likes).

EWT 50TH MERCHANDISE

The communications and marketing team have taken over the running of the E-shop and created an exciting new range of merchandise in honour of our 50th anniversary. The E-shop will be used as a marketing tool and no longer relied on to generate income.

Find our EWT's 50th-anniversary merchandise here.



We created new branded equipment that the entire EWTeam is enjoying

COMMUNICATIONS 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 102.7FM produced a radio advertisement to increase the EWT's brand exposure and call for regular donations to fund our critical conservation work. HOT 102.7FM aired the advert throughout July 2022. This advert will be translated into other languages and aired on different radio stations throughout the country.

ADVERTISING

Our street pole adverts in KwaZulu-Natal, Johannesburg, and Tshwane were flighted until the end of August. We are negotiating to continue using their digital boards for free and chasing other leads within this space.

African Safaris placed a banner advert on its website and published a media release about our Vulture Ambulance campaign. We also featured in a double-page spread in the Eco-Logic E-zine.

Provantage is one of Africa's largest media companies. The EWT secured an arrangement with them for advertising airtime on their TV screens. This includes site access and advertising in 12 domestic and international airports within Africa and the UAE, with exclusive rights at all nine Airport Company South Africa's (ACSA) airports.

Our Google Ad grant provided advertising on Google Search feeds to the value of R12,757 (US$736), resulting in 551 Interactions at an interaction rate of 7.42%, with 7,420 impressions. An impression is when a user sees an advertisement. An impression occurs when a user opens an app or website and an advertisement is visible.



Provantage Airport adverts flighting EWT Campaign



Double-page spread in the 2022 Eco-logic E-zine



ENVIRO24

A sustainable development network called Enviro24 has a network that consists of an Eastern Cape broadcast TV channel called Mpuma Kapa TV (on DSTV 260), five radio stations (over 400,000 listeners), connected TVs in the Nelson Mandela Bay region (over 40,000 viewers), and social community website. The network broadcasts several EWT features, including:

- Karoo Forever Video
- The Forgotten Mountain Video
- The EWT 2019 advert on Mpuma Kapa TV

PAINTING THE TOWN GREEN

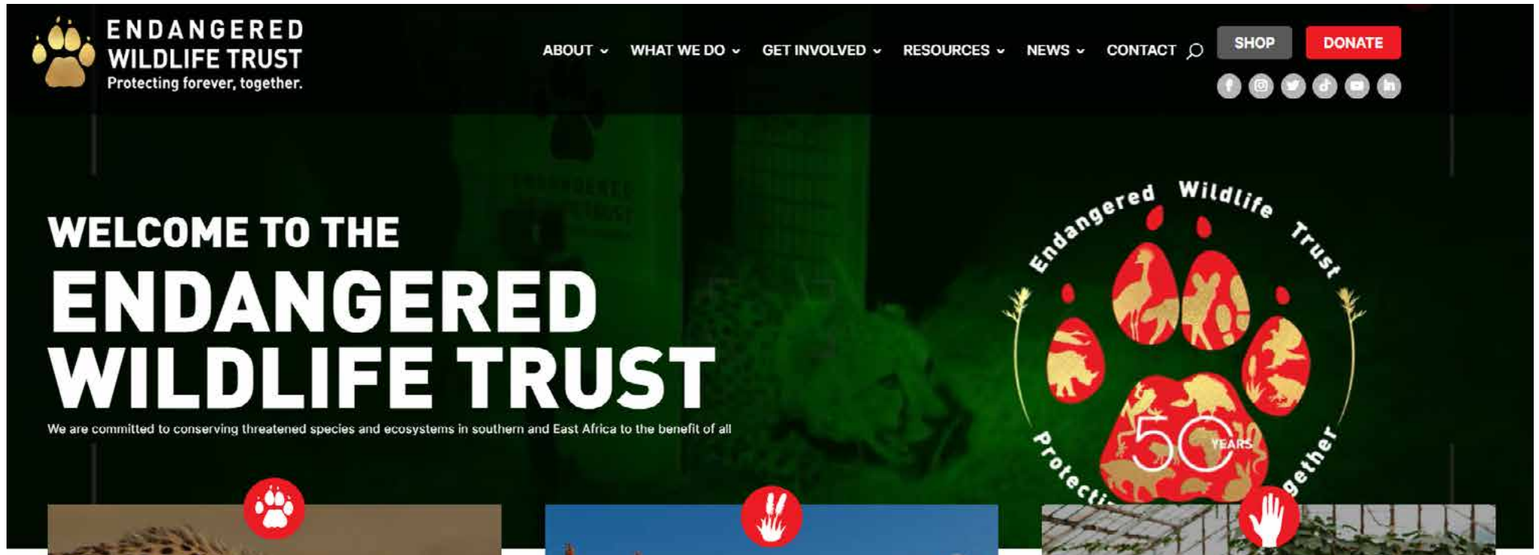
Jinja Outdoor is a boutique outdoor advertising company specialising in unlocking and developing billboard opportunities. The EWT secured billboard space through Jinja Outdoor on the major M1 highway in Gauteng. All our billboards feature our focal species inspired by the disappearing series.

BrandIQ also sponsored billboards.



WEBSITE

We have launched the redesigned and revised EWT website. The new site has a fresh and professional look and significantly improves user experience, content quality, search engine optimisation and performance





OUR STORY

Since 1973, the Endangered Wildlife Trust is dedicated to conserving threatened species and ecosystems in southern and East Africa to the benefit of all. To achieve this, our strategy focusses on three strategic imperatives: Saving Species, Conserving Habitats, and Benefitting People.

+110 PACK MEMBERS

13 PROGRAMMES

21 COUNTRIES

MEDIA COVERAGE

FARMER'S WEEKLY
Our "Don't let them disappear" campaign was featured in Farmer's Weekly.

EMBASSY DIRECT:
THE AMBASSADORS HANDBOOK
10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
The Ambassador's Handbook is a high-quality annual publication which serves as a directory to the African Expat community and is also the face of a very influential networking structure in South Africa. The networking events include interacting with various Chambers of Commerce and other fundraisers and social meet and greet events throughout the year, where members can network with Diplomats, Ambassadors, business leaders and other influential personalities. We are excited to announce that the EWT has an advert placement in this milestone edition on the back inside cover.

STAFF SECTION

Sizie Modise
Head of Marketing

Suzette Britz
Graphic Designer

Kedibone Chauchau
Public Relations and Social Media Coordinator

Emily Taylor
Communications Manager

MEDIA RELEASES

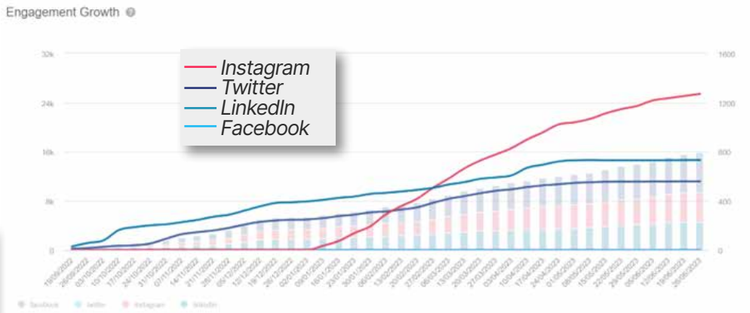
11 media releases were distributed to the media in this reporting period:

- Mass poisoning a devastating blow to vulture populations. But they're fighting back – 19 August 2022
- Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus confirmed as the cause of rabbit and hare deaths across the Western and Northern Cape – 18 November 2022
- The EWT launches a world of wildlife accessible to all – 14 November 2022
- Reports of rabbit and hare deaths across South Africa's Western and Northern Cape – 11 November 2022
- The EWT rediscovers a long-lost lizard in the Western Cape – 13 January 2023
- One&Only Cape Town dedicates a brand new luxury suite to the conservation of the Table Mountain Ghost Frog – 18 January 2023
- The Endangered Wildlife Trust successfully prevents wildlife in South Africa from being legally managed as livestock – 21 February 2023
- First-Ever Global Leopard Conference to shine conservation spotlight on Leopards – 6 March 2023
- The state of South Africa's provincial reserves raises concerns for biodiversity – 21 April 2023
- A wake-up call to business as the Endangered Wildlife Trust releases the latest Biodiversity Disclosure Project Ratings of South African Companies – 23 June 2023
- South Africa to play a pivotal role in achieving an ambitious new global goal to sustain life as we know it – 9 June 2023

SOCIAL MEDIA



The above fields are designed to help obtain insights into data by monitoring key metrics. These fields contain aggregate values, in this case, our engagements on social media



FUNDING
OUR WORK

This work is made possible with support from the EWT's framework donors, including Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Barloworld and Speedspace.



INCOME STREAMS

The EWT has generated more income year-on-year, increasing on our pre-COVID income levels in 2019/20, suggesting a full recovery from the impact of the pandemic in terms of our funding streams.

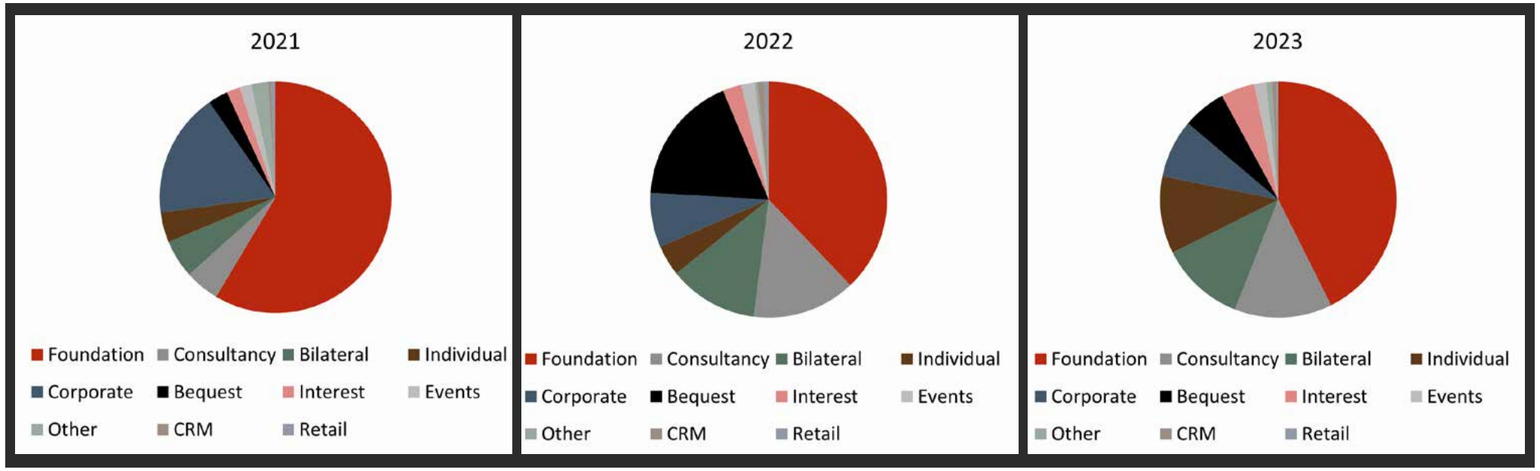
This year, our income streams were well-balanced, with several funding sources contributing substantially to our revenue. Foundational income continues to represent the EWT's most important income stream for projects, contributing 43% of our 2022/23 revenue. We recorded an R7.4 million increase in trust and foundational income over the reporting period. Bilateral income remained steady year-on-year, contributing 12% of our income over the last two years. This was the third most important income stream through this financial year. USAID provided significant bilateral support to the EWT through its Khetha and Vuka Now programmes. Corporate CSI revenue remains steady at 8% of total income, following a period of continual decline over the last eight years.

Bequest income declined relative to the previous few years. We remain grateful for every bequest we receive due to the lasting conservation legacy it provides. We thank the following for their generous gifts received by the EWT: the Estate for Late D.R Wessels, D.L Whal, L. Levy, E. Beemsterboer, M.P Wides, P.A Marais, and T. Hohmann.

Philanthropic contributions from individuals remain important to the EWT as they are primarily unrestricted and cover critical expenses, often not secured by project-specific donors. This year, individual contributions more than doubled, thanks mainly to generous donations by Des Sacco and Sally Dufour.

OUR LOYAL SUPPORTERS

Different ways to give include debit orders, stop orders, PayFast, 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. We extend a special thanks to Assore Limited, Barloworld KLB, Levego, Relate, Livingstone, FWF, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Deloitte, and Trappers for their enduring and invaluable support. Their long-term commitment to the EWT is greatly appreciated.



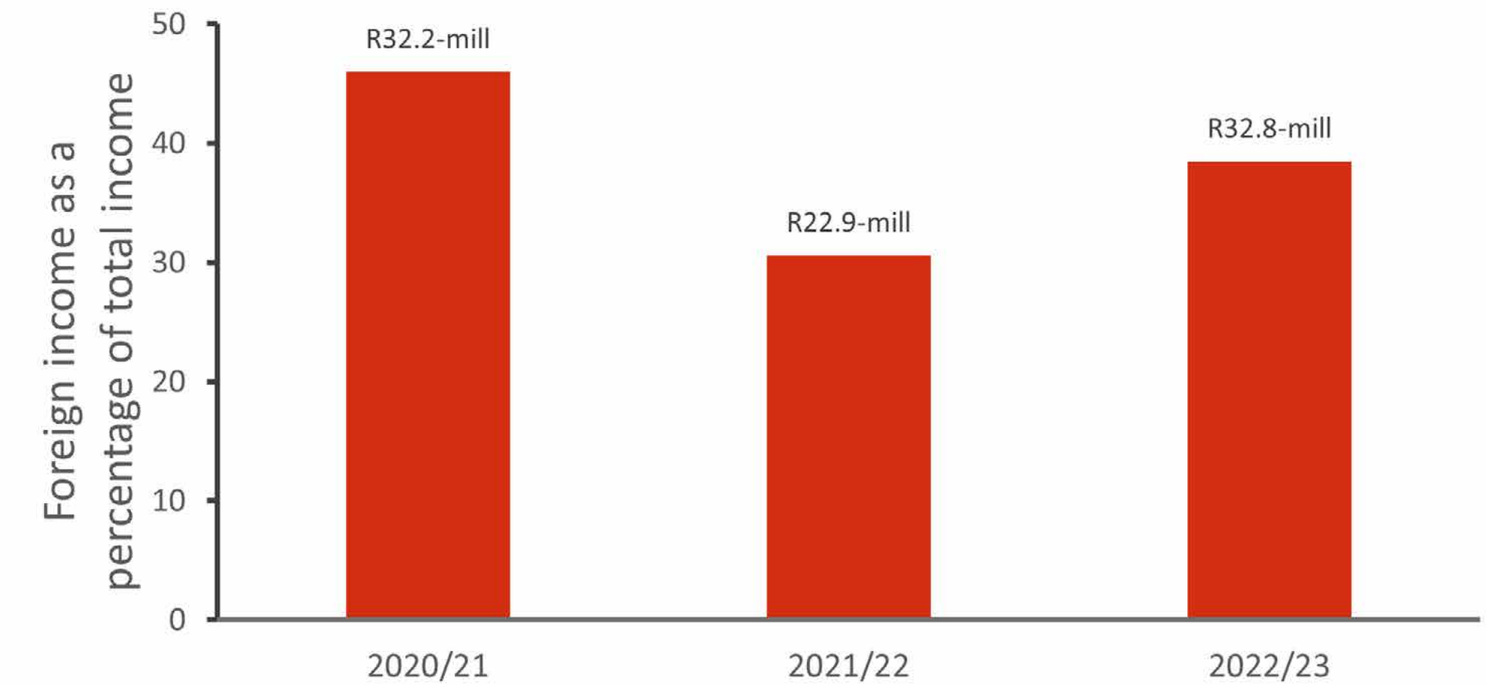


Chenin the den

Ford Wildlife Foundation EWT Ranger

FOREIGN VERSUS LOCAL INCOME

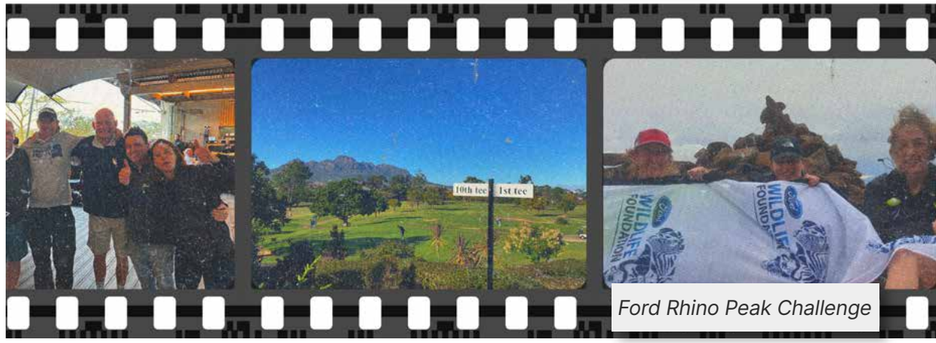
The proportion of foreign income the EWT received increased by 8% year-on-year. Many donors contributed to our foreign income, notably from the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union countries. Our most significant foreign donors and partners included the International Crane Foundation (through our Strategic Partnership), the Rainforest Trust, and the USAID Vuka Now programme. Rand (ZAR) income was comparable to last year's figures, with the Han Hoheisen Charitable Trust and Anglo-American Foundation being our most generous local donors.



The percentage of foreign versus local (ZAR) income we received increased by 8%, which equates to almost R10 million



Ford Wildlife Foundation and Fords



Ford Rhino Peak Challenge



Extra Mile

Ford Rhino Peak Challenge

EVENTS

This year, all our events increased their income year-on-year. These included hosting two successful golf days in Stellenbosch and Johannesburg. We want to extend our thanks to our loyal golfers who have been unwavering in their support. We were also again involved in, and a recipient of proceeds from, the annual Rhino Peak Challenge in November; linked to this, we thank all the organisers, runners, their sponsors, and the support of the Running Man and Ford.



Grant Bush Legends

Craig Olivier fourball

Byron Bush legends



Ballito golf day

Longest day fourball

DONATING TO THE EWT

This year, the EWT achieved a Level 4 Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) rating. This reflected significant growth in our management elements, with our Skills and Enterprise and Supplier Developments remaining similar to last year. 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	2020/21 points	2021/22 points
Management control	6.70	11.62
Skills development	21.97	21.79
Enterprise and supplier development	46.63	45.16
Socio-economic development	5	Max points score year-on-year

STAFF SECTION

Alison Jänicke
Head of Business Development

Tammy Baker
Business Development Officer

Lesley Bloy
Technical Writer

Dr Tim Jackson
Senior Technical Writer

Rebecca Mabuza
Business Development Administrator

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 voluntarily. The EWT Management thanks the Trustees for giving their time freely and contributing to the Trust's governance and strategic direction.



TRUSTEE MEETINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The 47th EWT AGM took place on 6 December, 2022 with sixteen trustees, including the CEO as ex-officio board member in attendance. We received four apologies.

The year under review at the AGM was from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022; there was one resignation this year and no proposals to elect new Trustees.

Dirk Ackerman and Paul Smith's current three-year terms of office as Chairperson and Treasurer, respectively, continued, and in accordance with the Trust Deed, they will remain in office until the 2023 AGM. 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 2022, 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, the Board consisted of 20 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 Board Committees assist the Board in the administration of the affairs of the Trust.

Board meeting attendance during the period 2022/23

Board of Trustees	29 September 2022	6 December 2022	30 March 2023	29 June 2023
Dirk Ackerman – Chair	√	√	√	√
Antony Wannell – Vice Chair	√	√	X	√
Paul Smith – Treasurer and Audit Committee Chair	√	√	√	√
Anthony Diepenbroek	√	X	X	√
Abdul Mohamed	√	X	X	√
Prof Barry Ackers	√	√	√	√
Christo Reeders	X	√	√	X
Douglas Ramaphosa (resigned 22 February 2023)	X	√	N/A	N/A
Joanna Goeller	√	√	√	√
Karin Ireton (Social and Ethics Committee Chair)	X	√	√	√
Lesego Rammusi	X	√	√	√
Lloyd Madurai	√	X	X	X
Dr Luthando Dziba	√	X	X	X
Mike Esterhuysen	X	X	X	X
Mpho Sono	√	X	X	√
Muhammad Seedat	√	√	√	X
Praxedis Hwindingwi	√	X	√	√
Roshael Hoosen (Remuneration Committee Chair)	X	√	√	√
Valli Moosa	X	√	√	X
Yolan Friedmann – CEO – ex officio	√	√	√	√
Mandy Poole – CFO	√	√	√	√
Hayley Elwen – COO	N/A	N/A	√	√
Lesego Moloko – Senior Governance & Compliance Manager	√	√	√	√

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Paul Smith, as Treasurer, chaired the Audit Committee (AC) 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, particularly the approval of the annual budget for the financial year and continual monitoring of performance against this budget.

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

Audit Committee	29 September 2022	24 November 2022	28 March 2023	12 June 2023
Paul Smith – Treasurer and Chair – ex officio	√	√	√	√
Abdul Mohamed	√	√	X	√
Antony Wannell	√	√	√	√
Prof Barry Ackers	√	X	√	√
Mpho Sono	X	√	X	√
Muhammad Seedat	√	X	√	√
Neil Morris	√	√	√	√
Prax Hwindingwi	√	√	X	√
Yolan Friedmann – CEO – ex officio	√	√	√	√
Mandy Poole – CFO and Lauren Bailey – Finance Manager	√	√	√	√

Audit Committee meeting attendance during the period 2022/23

SOCIAL AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

As noted below, the Social and Ethics Committee (SEC) met four times throughout the financial year. The SEC works to an annual work plan.

Social and Ethics Committee meeting attendance during the period 2022/23

Social and Ethics Committee	22 September 2022	24 November 2022	25 March 2023	22 June 2023
Karin Ireton - Chair	√	√	√	√
Douglas Ramaphosa (resigned 22 Feb 2023)	X	X	N/A	N/A
Lesego Rammusi	√	√	√	X
Mike Esterhuysen	√	X	X	√
Paul Smith	√	√	√	√
Roshael Hoosen	√	√	√	√
Yolan Friedmann – CEO– ex officio	√	√	√	√
Hayley Elwen – COO	X	X	√	√
Kabelo Manaka	√	√	√	N/A
Alison Jänicke	√	√	√	X

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Remuneration Committee (RC) met during the financial year, as noted below. The other six-monthly meeting matters were dealt with via email correspondence. The RC works to an annual work plan.

Social and Ethics Committee	22 June 2023
Roshael Hoosen – Chair	√
Dirk Ackerman	√
Barry Ackers	√
Muhammad Seedat	√
Yolan Friedmann – CEO– ex officio	√
Hayley Elwen – COO	√

Remuneration Committee meeting attendance during the period 2022/23

INTERNAL STRUCTURES

Executive Management Team:
The EWT Executive Management Team consisted of Yolan Friedmann (CEO), Mandy Poole (Chief Finance Officer), Hayley Elwen (Chief Operations Officer), Dr Ian Little (Head of Conservation), Alison Jänicke (Head of Business Development), and Kerryn Morrison (Senior Programme Manager: Africa). The team generally met on a weekly basis, subject to schedules and holidays.

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 programmatic issues.

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 virtually where relevant. 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.

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

The EWT systematically reviews its internal policies and procedures, ensuring seamless alignment with external statutes and requirements. This consistent practice showcases the Trust's dedication to regulatory adherence and exemplifies its proactive approach to embracing progressive benchmarks. The EWT established a dedicated compliance and governance portfolio headed by Lesego Moloko, Senior Governance and Compliance Manager, demonstrating its forward-thinking ethos. This function operates under the guidance of Hayley Elwen, the Chief Operating Officer, ensuring ethical practices, risk mitigation, regulatory alignment, and effective governance. In the period under review, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr provided invaluable legal assistance, particularly regarding the issuance of new Letters of Authority by the Master of the High Court.



STAFF SECTION

Mandy Poole
Chief Financial Officer

Lauren Bailey
Senior Accountant; Finance Manager (From February 2023)

Melissa Govindsamy
Senior Bookkeeper

Florence Nkholise
Finance Manager (Until January 2023)

Lesego Moloko
Senior Governance and Compliance Manager

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of the Endangered Wildlife Trust





Deloitte.

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South Africa

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

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 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 2023. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 1 December 2023.

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 2023.

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 1 December 2023.

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 innote 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
1 December 2023

MAKING AN IMPACT THAT MATTERS since 1845

National Executive: *R Redfearn Chief Executive Officer *GM Berry Chief Operating Officer JW Eshun Managing Director Businesses LN Mahluza Chief People Officer *N Sing Chief Risk Officer AP Theophanides Chief Sustainability Officer *NA le Riche Chief Growth Officer *ML Tshabalala Audit & Assurance AM Babu Consulting TA Odukoya Financial Advisory G Rammego Risk Advisory DI Kubeka Tax & Legal DP Ndlovu 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 2023

	30 June 2023 R	30 June 2022 R
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Land holdings and Buildings	24,377,448	24,377,448
Property and equipment	5,637,730	5,637,730
Total non-current assets	30,015,178	30,015,178
Current assets		
Accounts receivable	1,061,497	9,152,145
E-shop stock in hand	53,591	93,576
Cash and cash equivalents	68,009,696	49,250,575
Total current assets	69,124,784	58,496,296
TOTAL ASSETS	99,862,003	88,511,474
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Trust funds		
Accumulated funds	13,126,877	12,022,805
Non-distributable reserves	29,480,231	28,720,752
Total Trust funds	42,607,108	40,743,557
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	3,435,232	1,158,566
Funds held on behalf of other organisations	5,101,070	3,049,960
Deferred revenue	47,625,614	42,677,837
Leave Provision	1,092,979	881,554
Total current liabilities	57,254,895	47,767,917
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	99,862,003	88 511 474

Summary statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2023

	30 June 2023 R	30 June 2022 R
Revenue	79,736,685	70,603,359
Expenses	(78,632,613)	(67,505,835)
Total Comprehensive Operational (Deficit)/Surplus for the year	1,104,072	3,097,524
After charging:		
Depreciation		
Owned and leased assets - charged to income	522,849	331,424
- charged to non-distributable reserves	2,113,694	1,637,411
	2,636,543	1,968,835
and after crediting:		
Interest received – bank deposits	3,887,085	1,928,065
Accumulated funds at beginning of period	12,022,805	8,925,281
Accumulated funds at end of period	13,126,877	12,022,805

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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.

OUR ENTHUSIASTIC EMPLOYEES

The EWT is its people. We could not achieve success without our exemplary teams on the ground. The Human Resources Department works to support the EWT by developing a cohesive and progressive team. Our staff members and their talent, skills, passion, and energy remain our most valued assets. We offer an environment that nurtures innovation, creativity and commitment, and enables excellence.







THE EWT'S HUMAN RESOURCE OPERATIONS

Year on year, the EWT team member numbers have remained relatively stable:

Year	Total staff (n)	Programme staff	Support staff
2020/21	104	81%	19%
2021/22	110	82%	18%
2022/23	102	80%	20%

Total number of staff employed by the EWT from 2020–2023 and the percentage of staff in support services and programme

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

Our long-term success depends on our capacity to attract, retain, and develop a multi-skilled, multicultural, and multigenerational team of employees to ensure the EWT's ongoing and sustainable growth. Our team consists of Boomers, Gen X'ers, Millennials, and now Gen Z'ers.

Year	Average age (years)	Male	Female	Black	White
2019/20	38.0	50%	50%	46%	54%
2020/21	38.6	49%	51%	46%	54%
2021/22	39.1	49%	51%	49%	51%
2022/23	40.5	43%	57%	47%	53%

The demographics of staff employed by the EWT each year between 2020 and 2023

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

As conservation leaders, the EWT recognises the importance of achieving real transformation within the organisation and the conservation sector. A diverse employee base is a social imperative and 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, and we remain committed to the process.

We have achieved several ongoing Employment Equity (EE) objectives and remain focused on further improvement. A new EE plan has been developed for the period 2023-2028.

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

Through the 2022/23 rating period, our B-BBEE Score was Level 4.

TALENT MANAGEMENT

This year, the EWT registered two unemployed learners for a twelve-month NQF level 2 learnership programme.

We are proud that several of our team achieved the next level in their career goals, including:

- Mark van Niekerk: MBA, Hult International Business School.
- Dr Tamanna Patel: PhD (Ecological Sciences), University of the Witwatersrand.
- Rebecca Mabuza: Generic Management NQF level 5, Training Force.
- Lesego Moloko and Kerushka Pillay received NQF level 5 training.

The EWT works in partnership with several local and international universities, and we supported or (co-) supervised 18 students in various conservation-relevant fields.

Through our monthly **Conservation Forum**, the EWT prides itself on giving employees opportunities to develop their skills, learn new topics, and broaden their knowledge.

In our regular **Contact Week** sessions, four programmes at a time bring their field officers together at our Conservation Campus. Contact weeks provide an opportunity for field staff to meet, share skills, and receive targeted training.

At the annual **EWT Conservation Week**, all staff meet for team building, sharing achievements and challenges experienced throughout the year. Annual staff awards are handed out, and the 2022-2023 winners were as follows:

- Programme of the Year: Bird of Prey Programme.
- Programme Manager of the Year: Dr Gabi Teren – National Biodiversity and Business Network.
- Conservation Achiever of the Year: Pieter Botha – African Crane Conservation Programme; Kulani Nyakane – Carnivore Conservation Programme.
- Conservation Supporter of the Year: Tammy Baker (Fundraising), Rudolf Ndwalane and Takalani Ndwalani.
- Thabo Madlala Award (for compassion and caring): Dr Kerushka Pillay – Wildlife in Trade Programme.
- Honey Badger (fiercest field officer): Bonnie Schumann – Drylands Conservation Programme; Mwape Sichilongo – International Crane Foundation/African Crane Conservation Partnership.
- Honeybee Award (the sometimes-unseen hard-working teams): Soutpansberg Rangers.
- Maluti Award (managing conflict situations): Kabelo Manaka – Human Resources.
- Media Award: Soutpansberg Protected Area.
- Trail Blazer Award: Matt Pretorius – Wildlife and Energy Programme.
- Newcomer of the Year: Lesley Bloy – Fundraising.
- Pawprint Brand Ambassador Award: Bradley Gibbons – African Crane Conservation Programme.
- Special Acknowledgement: Dr Tim Jackson.
- CEO Award: Kerryn Morrison.
- Long Service Award – ten years: Wendy Collinson-Jonker, Amos Letsoalo, Dr Jeanne Tarrant, Emily Taylor, Cobus Theron.

STAFF SECTION

Human Resources Team:

Emma Chisare
Human Resources Administrative Manager

Information Technology Team:

Yves Manana
Information Technology Manager

Koketso Ndhlazi
Information Technology Intern

Admin and Maintenance Team:

Rudolf Ndwalane
Head Groundskeeper

Takalani Ndwalani
Groundskeeper

Thembi Mlimi
Housekeeper

Dorah Mncube
Housekeeper

Sizakele Ntsele
Housekeeper

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

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

- **Ashleigh Dore** (WIT) - WESSA Award for Youth, was recognised as the winner in its Youth Award category. Through this award, WESSA acknowledges a young person under the age of 35 years who has made outstanding contributions to environmental conservation and/or education. Ashleigh was recognised for her "passion for conservation and outstanding contributions at the national level in environmental justice, law and governance, and environmental legal education and skills development. She is an inspiration to South African youth, and WESSA is proud to associate ourselves with her as an environmental leader in restorative justice and genuine commitment to protecting species and together 'Caring for the Earth'."

- **Kulani Nyakane** (CCP) - WESSA commendation for Youth received a commendation for his outstanding contribution, passion and dedication towards carnivore conservation in Southern Africa. WESSA salutes his training of hundreds of rangers in responding to wildlife poisonings and raising conservation awareness and responses amongst communities experiencing human-carnivore conflict.

- **Joshua Weeber** (TAP) - **South African National Biodiversity Institute, National Student Day; Centre for Statistics in Ecology, the Environment and Conservation, University of Cape Town**. He won first place at both meetings for his presentations on the Table Mountain Ghost Frog. Josh is studying for his PhD on this Critically Endangered amphibian through the University of Cape Town and is a key member of the TAP team.

- **Dr Oliver Cowan** (CPSU) - **The Conservation Symposium**. Presentation about the 2023 release of the EWT's new No-go Mapping tool and the new Land Use Decision Support (LUDS) online map won the award for best online presentation. The Conservation Symposium provides a platform to facilitate the sharing of ideas and lessons and for co-creating solutions to contemporary conservation issues in Africa. Serving as a bridge between conservation practitioners, scientists, and policymakers in a conducive environment to solve real-world problems. EWT staff are regularly amongst the 200-plus delegates who attend this annual event. In addition, Bibi Linden – a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Venda, working with the EWT's Wildlife and Transport Programme – won the best presentation award for her talk on primate mortalities on power lines and roads in South Africa.

- **Ashleigh Dore** (WIT) - **GreenMatter**. Ashleigh was awarded a 2023 GreenMatter Fellowship, supported by the Harry Crossley Foundation, Lewis Foundation and GreenMatter. The Award is made for PhD level postgraduate study at Stellenbosch University or University of Cape Town. In making the award, GreenMatter identified Ashleigh's skills as a lawyer with an environmental specialism. The award will provide Ashleigh the opportunity to fully engage in tackling biodiversity issues as she undertakes her PhD through the University of Cape Town alongside peers who share in that commitment.

WHO
WE WORK WITH

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



STATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC), Mozambique
- Africa's Wild Dog Survival Fund
- AfricaMassive
- African Carnivore WildBook
- African Parks
- AfriWet Consultants Etudes et Conseils, Senegal
- Amathole District Municipality
- Amphibian Red List Authority
- Amphibian Survival Alliance
- Anglo American
- Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling (APOPO), Belgium/Tanzania
- Artifact Advertising
- Ashia Cheetah Conservation
- Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR)
- Association Nature Koussabel, Senegal
- Balule Game Reserve
- Bateleurs
- Bedari Foundation
- Bio-Bridge Initiative (Convention on Biological Diversity)
- Bionerds
- BirdLife International
- BirdLife Botswana
- BirdLife South Africa
- BirdLife Zambia
- BirdWatch Zimbabwe
- BlyOlifant Private Nature Reserve
- Boavida Kennels
- BTE Renewables
- Burera District, Rwanda
- Business for Nature
- Cape Leopard Trust
- CapeNature
- Caring for Conservation
- Carr Foundation
- Cennergi
- Centre of Applied Pet Ethology (COAPE)
- Cheetah Outreach
- Christo Reeders Attorneys
- Chuilexi Concession, Mozambique
- City of Cape Town
- Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr
- Colette Carty
- Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO), Kenya
- Conservation Coaches Network
- Conservation Measures Partnership
- Conservation International Foundation South Africa
- Conservation Outcomes
- Conservation South Africa
- Conservation South Luangwa, Zambia
- Contemplate Wild
- Convention on Migratory Species Raptors Memorandum of Understanding
- Copenhagen Zoo
- Crane Conservation Volunteers (CCV)
- De Beers Group
- Deloitte
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's (DFFE)
- Douglas Wilson
- Dullstroom Bird of Prey Centre
- East African Energy Programme
- Echo Africa
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)
- EdgeAcoustics
- Elephant Charge, Zambia
- Enviro Wildfire
- ENS Africa
- Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
- eThekwini Municipality (Biodiversity Management Department)
- European Union
- Eurosteel
- Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust
- Ezemvelo KZN Honorary Rangers
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)
- Fauna and Flora International
- Fishwater Films
- FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology
- Ford Wildlife Foundation
- Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- Freshwater Research Centre
- Fynbos Trust
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Genesis K9
- Glencore Ferro-alloys
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
- Global Conservation Force
- Global Environment Facility Protected Area Programme
- Global Environment Facility Sustainable Land Management (GEF5 SLM) Project
- Gonarezhou Conservation Trust, Zimbabwe
- Gorongosa Project, Mozambique
- Government of Zambia
- Green Dogs Conservation
- Grootbos Foundation
- Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
- Hawk Conservancy Trust
- Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park
- I3A
- Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College – Kitabi, Rwanda
- International Crane Foundation (ICF)
- ISimangaliso Wetland Park
- IUCN Species Survival Commissions Amphibian Specialist Group
- IUCN Species Survival Commissions Vulture Specialist Group
- Ivan Carter Foundation
- Johannesburg Zoo
- Kafue Flats Man and Biosphere Reserve Committee
- Karkloof Conservancy
- Kaingo Game Reserve
- Karingani Game Reserve
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Kimberley Veterinary Clinic
- Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (KCWCG)
- Kleinswartberg Conservancy
- Kololo Game Reserve
- Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve
- KZN Trail Running
- Lapalala Wilderness
- Leiden Conservation Foundation
- Lesoba Difference
- Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (Malawi)
- Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism
- Lion Recovery Fund
- Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve
- Mammal Research Institute: Whale Unit
- Manor House, Kenya
- Marataba
- Margaret Pyke Trust
- Metro fibre
- Milkywire
- Millstream Farm
- Ministry of Tourism, Zambia
- Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia
- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Zambia

- Mohololo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- Mokgadi Guardian Dogs
- Mondi Group
- Mozambique Wildlife Alliance
- Mpumulanga Tourism and Parks Agency
- MSD Health
- MyPlanet Rhino Fund
- Namibia Animal Rehabilitation and Research Centre
- Nandi County Government, Kenya
- National Geographic
- National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO)
- National Lotteries Commission
- National Zoological Gardens of South Africa
- Natural Capital Coalition
- NatureMetrics
- National Museums of Kenya
- 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
- North Carolina Zoological Society
- Nupen Staude de Vries attorneys
- One Health Forum
- Outliers Coffee Roasters
- Overberg Crane Group
- Painted Dog Conservation Inc.
- Painted Wolf Wines
- Park Shop
- Pathfinder International
- Peace Parks Foundation
- The Peregrine Fund, UK
- Platinum Life
- Quiver Tree Lodgings
- Rainforest Trust, USA
- Raptors Botswana
- Red-Cap Renewable Energy
- Relate Trust
- Remembering Wildlife
- Robyn Ansell Art
- Rugarama Hospital, Uganda
- Rukiga and Lwengo district local governments, Uganda
- Running Man Adventures
- Rwanda Development Board
- Rwandan Environment Management Authority
- Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association
- Sahara Conservation
- SANParks
- SANParks Honorary Rangers
- Sasol
- Scent Imprint
- Sibanye-Stillwater
- Somkhanda Community Game Reserve
- South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Parks
- Speedspace
- SSU Plant Quarry
- Tech for Conservation
- Thrive for Good Institute, Kenya
- Timbavati Private Nature Reserve
- Tour du Valat
- Turtle Conservancy
- Turtle Survival Alliance
- Traditional Leaders of the Kafue Flats, Zambia
- Transnet
- Trans Nzoia County Government, Kenya
- Uasin Gishu County Government, Kenya
- Uganda Conservation Foundation
- Uganda Ministry of Wildlife, Tourism, and Antiquities
- Uganda Wildlife Authority
- Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre
- UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- USAID
- Waterbear
- Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative
- We Act
- Welgevonden Game Reserve
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture
- Wetlands International
- Whitley Fund for Nature
- 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
- Wildlife Research Training Institute, Kenya
- WWF South Africa
- WWF Zambia
- Zambian Carnivore Programme
- Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife
- Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP)

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
- Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda
- North-West University, SA
- Tshwane University of Technology, SA
- University of California, Davis, USA
- University of Cape Town, SA
- University of Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal
- University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya
- University of Edinburgh, UK
- University of Freiburg, Germany
- University of Johannesburg, SA
- University of KwaZulu-Natal, SA
- University of Maryland (SESYNC), USA
- University of Pretoria, SA
- University of Stellenbosch, SA
- University of Saint Etienne, Jean Monnet, France
- University of Venda, SA
- University of the Witwatersrand, SA
- University of Eldoret, Kenya
- University of Zambia, Zambia

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 staff were represented in the following IUCN roles:

Andre Botha: Working Group for the Conservation of Ruppell's Vulture in the Mediterranean region.

Ashleigh Dore: IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.

Claire Relton: The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP).

Dr Ian Little: IUCN South Africa National Committee member and EWT vote holder; Regional Chair for East and southern Africa for the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM); CEM Temperate Grasslands Specialist Group; Biosphere Reserves Thematic Group; Ecosystem Restoration Thematic Group; Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship Group, of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

Kerryn Morrison: IUCN Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force.

Kishaylin Chetty: IUCN WCPA Protected Area Sustainable Finance Network, Biodiversity and Protected Areas Network, Climate Change Network, Sustainable Finance Specialist Group, East and Southern Africa; IUCN CEM Nature Based Solutions Thematic Group, Climate Change and Biodiversity Policy and Practice Thematic Group.
Lourens Leeuwner: IUCN Powerline Working Group.

Wendy Collinson: Several specialist groups of the WCPA and the IUCN Transport Working Group.

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, Samantha Mynhardt)
- Amphibian Specialist Group (Dr Jeanne Tarrant - Co-Chair Habitat Protection Working Group; Regional Chair, Afrotropical Realm)
- Animal Health Specialist Group (Andre Botha)
- Bustard Specialist Group (Matt Pretorius)
- Cat Specialist Group and its subsidiary, the African Lion Working Group (André Botha; Yolan Friedmann, Samantha Nicholson)
- Conservation Planning Specialist Group (Andre Botha; Kerryn Morrison, Lara Jordan, Lauren Waller)
- Crane Specialist Group (Kerryn Morrison - Chair, Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi, Christie Craig, Lourens Leeuwner)
- Hornbill Specialist Group (Andre Botha, Dr Gareth Tate)
- Lagomorph Specialist Group (Cobus Theron, Esther Matthew)
- Pangolin Specialist Group (Dr Darren Pietersen, Dr Lara Jordan)
- Penguin Specialist Group (Dr Lauren Waller)
- Skink Specialist Group (Dr Darren Pietersen)
- Snake Specialist Group (Dr Darren Pietersen)
- Southern African Plant Specialist Group (Dr Jenny Botha)
- Species Monitoring Specialist Group (Dr Lizanne Roxburgh)
- Stork, Ibis, and Spoonbill Specialist Group (Andre Botha)
- Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (Dr Andrew Taylor)
- Vulture Specialist Group (Andre Botha - Co-Chair, Dr Lizanne Roxburgh, Dr Lindy Thompson).

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



EWT STAFF AFFILIATION DATABASE

Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi	Regional Coordinator, East Africa African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Grey Crowned Crane International Working Group.
André Botha	Vice-Chair of the Technical Advisory Group of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); 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; CITES NDF Working Group – Birds.
Andrew Taylor	Extraordinary lecturer, Department of Production Animal Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria; National Wildlife Forum, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment; GDARD Biodiversity Forum.
Ashleigh Dore	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; Wild Dog Advisory Group; Sungazer Working Group.
Bradley Gibbons	Sungazer Working Group; Botha's Lark Working Group.
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.
Claire Relton	Biodiversity & Family Planning Task Force; Conservation Coaches Network - Africa Regional Network; Conservation Measures Partnership Board of Directors; Conservation Measures Partnership.
Cole du Plessis	KZN Wild Dog Management Group; Wild Dog Advisory Group; Cheetah Advisory Group.
Constant Hoogstad	CMS Energy Task Force.



Damian Walters	SANBI National Vegetation Map Committee.
Darren Pietersen	Research Associate, Mammal Research Institute, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria; Editor: African Herp News; Committee member, Herpetological Association of Africa; The Biodiversity and Development Institute; Percy FitzPatrick Institute ReptileMAP Virtual Museum; Editor, Herpetology Notes.
Derek van der Merwe	Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative; Wild Dog Advisory Group; Cheetah Advisory Group.
Emily Taylor	Noetzie Conservancy Owners Association.
Esther Matthew	Dog Scent Technology (PTY) LTD; National Geographic Society Explorer; Amphibian Survival Alliances: Future Leaders for Amphibian Conservation.
Gabi Teren	University of the Witwatersrand, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences; Elephant Specialist Advisory Group (ESAG); African Conference on Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE); CBD Global Partnerships for Business and Biodiversity; The Capitals Coalition Value Commission; IPBES Lead Author of the Business and Biodiversity Assessment.
Gareth Tate	DFFE National Vulture Task Force; South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING) Steering Committee; Bearded Vulture Task Force; National 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; Black Harrier Task Force; National Geographic.
Grant Beverley	Wild Dog Advisory Group; Cheetah Advisory Group.
Ian Little	Non-executive director of the Biodiversity Law Centre; National Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group and Legal Reference Group; National Biodiversity Offsets Working Group; chair of the EWT Ethics Committee (EWTEC).
Griffin Shanungu	Scientific and Technical Review Panel Focal Point for Zambia, Ramsar Convention. Member of the National Biodiversity Committee (Zambia).
Jeanne Tarrant	Amphibian Survival Alliance Global Council representative; African Journal of Wildlife Research; Frontiers in Environmental Science; Chair, Sungazer Working Group (South Africa); Committee Member, Herpetological Association of Africa; Associate Editor for the African Journal of Herpetology, African Journal of Wildlife Research and Journal of Herpetology.
Jenny Botha	SSCN Plant utilisation and sustainable use; SANBI Medicinal Plant Working Group; Venetia Artisanal Charcoal Incubation Programme Project Steering Committee.
Johan Du Plessis	Bird and Renewable Energy Specialist Group.
Joshua Weeber	South African Regional Reptile Specialist Group; WITS Animal Research Ethics Committee.
Kerryn Morrison	African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement's International Grey Crowned Crane Working Group.
Kerushka Pillay	Centre for Functional Biodiversity (CFB), University of KwaZulu-Natal; Zoological Society of Southern Africa.



Kishaylin Chetty	National Vulture Task Force; Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); International Association of Impact Assessment; South African Council for Natural and Scientific Professions; Institute of Directors South Africa.
Kulani Nyakane	Koru camp (NPC).
Lara Jordan	Karkloof Conservancy; Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Honorary Officer (Lions River).
Lauren Waller	Research Associate, Department of Biodiversity & Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape; DFFE Seabird Technical Team (a scientific WG set up under DFFE's Top Predator WG); Small Pelagic Scientific Working Group.
Lesego Moloko	Southerners Beekeepers Association; Sandton Toastmasters Club; Central Gauteng Athletes - Audit Committee; Thusanang HIV/Relief NPO.
Lindy Thompson	Bearded Vulture Task Force; DFFE National Vulture Task Force; National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group; National Lead Task Team.
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; EWT/Mondi Partnership Steering Committee.
Mark van Niekerk	Jean Monnet University, Saint Etienne.
Mwape Sichilongo	Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA); BirdWatch Zambia.
Obeid Katumba	Mthembu CC Attorneys; Ministerial Task Team for Voluntary Exit Options for the Captive Lion Industry.
Oscar Mohale	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Energy Task Force (CMS ETF); Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group (BARESG); National Vulture Task Force; African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE); NRS 114 (Requirements for Bird Mitigation Interaction Devices for use on overhead electrical infrastructure); NRS WG 116 (Guide for designing wildlife-friendly overhead distribution lines); International Council on Large Electric Systems (CIGRE Southern Africa); American Chamber of Commerce in South Africa (AMCHAM) Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability Forum; South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA).
Richard Berridge	African Bird Club.

Ronel Visagie	Northern Cape Raptor Conservation Forum; Mokala National Park SET Working Group and Environmental Conservation Working Group.
Samantha Mynhardt	Stellenbosch University.
Sam Nicholson	University of KwaZulu-Natal; African Lion Working Group; 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); Infrastructure Ecology Network Europe (IENE) Governing Body; Infrastructure Ecology Network Europe (IENE) Scientific Expert Committee (SEC); African Protected Areas Congress Committee for Infrastructure; Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group; Transportation Research Board (TRB); 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; Frontiers in Ecology & Evolution - Conservation and Restoration Ecology, Lanseria International Airport – Airport Wildlife Committee.
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); Advisory Board, Ford Wildlife Foundation.



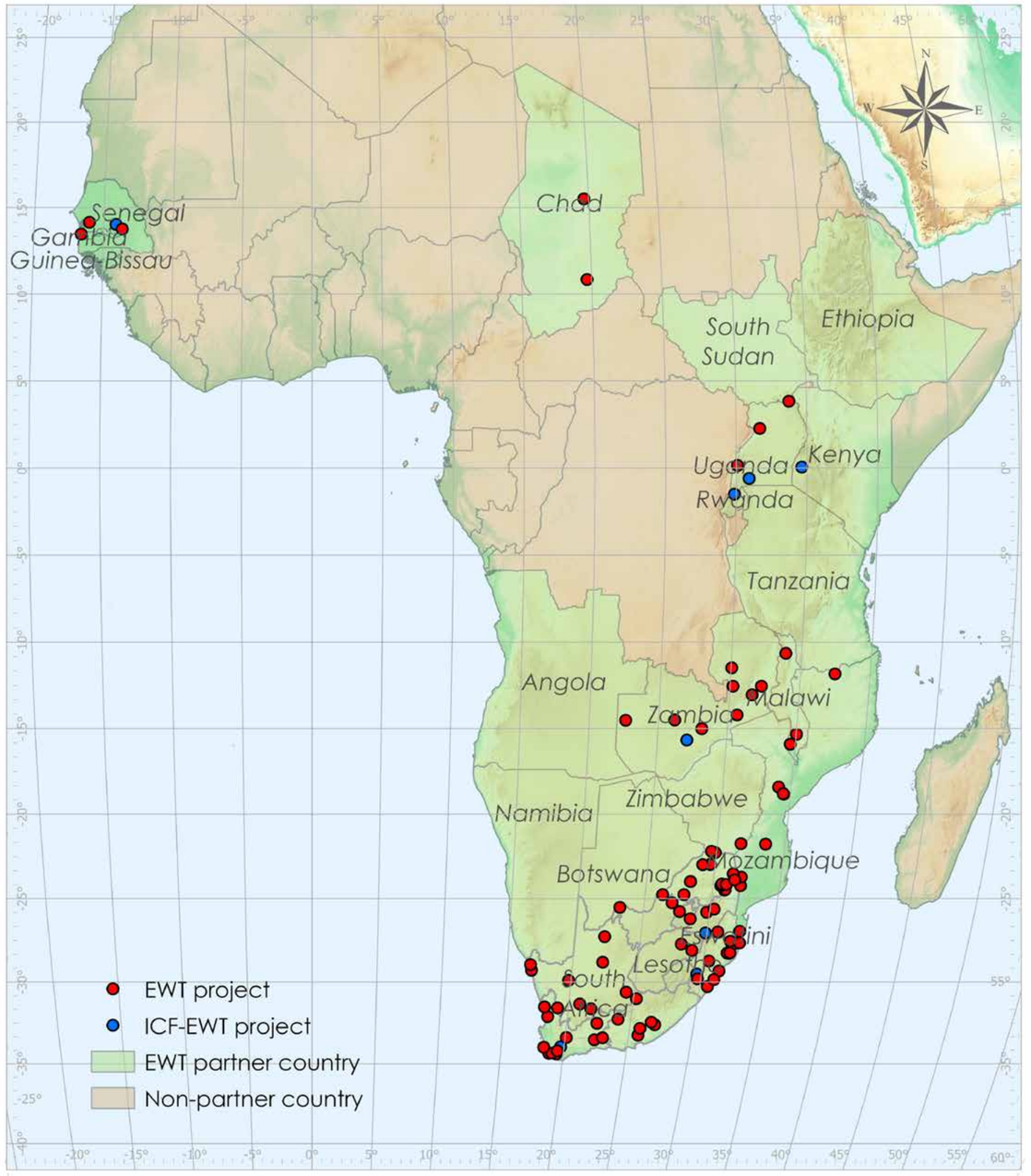
Several of the EWT represent us as members of the **Game Rangers Association of Africa:** Andre Botha, Mark van Niekerk, Rotondwa Sithagu, Khathutshelo Mukhumeni, Klaas Madzhie, Tharollo Mthisi, Samual Mukhumeni, Pfuluwani Oscar Musevhula, Luvhengo Ramabulana, Shumani Makwarela, Richard Ndou, Shumani Edward Mutenda, Michael Modimana, Vumbhoni Clyde Kubayi, Lufuno Willington Mavhandu, Sengani Ramalamula, and Michael Sithagathagha.

Linked to this, we also have several staff representing the EWT as members of the **Field Guide Association of Africa:** Mark van Niekerk, Rotondwa Sithagu, Khathutshelo Mukhumeni, Tharollo Mthisi, Shumani Makwarela, and Sengani Ramalamula.

WHERE
WE WORK



The EWT's Head Office 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.









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EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Yolan Friedmann
Chief Executive Officer

Dr Ian Little
Head of Conservation

Hayley Elwen
Chief Operations Officer

Mandy Poole
Chief Financial Officer

Alison Jånicke
Head of Business Development

Kerryn Morrison
ICF/EWT Senior Manager: Africa

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Cobus Theron
Senior Conservation Manager

Kishaylin Chetty
Senior Manager: Sustainable Financing

Lourens Leeuwner
Senior Conservation Manager

This report was prepared by Yolan Friedmann, Dr Ian Little, Dr Tim Jackson, Sizie Modise, and Jo Bert

The EWT is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation, registration number 015-502 NPO and PBO registration number 930 001 777.
The EWT is 501 (c)(3) compliant, US IRS Reg. EMP98-0586801.
The EWT is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact.